



The Navhind Times - Viva Goa

Goan Achievers Award Ceremony

The achievers stand tall!

As the curtains fell on the second edition of The Navhind Times VIVA GOA Goan Achievers Awards ceremony, we celebrate the accomplishments of the winners who have done Goa proud with their achievements

The desire to excel is what separates outstanding achievers from the rest of the lot. Everybody has their own reasons to strive to be the best or to make a difference in the world. Some may choose to do it silently, some may be vocal about it to garner the support of the masses. Whatever the reason, what makes these people stand out is in the end, their achievements.

And it is the desire to highlight such achievements that gave birth to the concept of the 'The Navhind Times VIVA GOA Goan Achievers Awards' two years ago. One of the jobs of the media is to spread awareness of good deeds to the people, and when two media houses, the 50 year old, most widely read Goan English newspaper, 'The Navhind Times', and Goa's first and only lifestyle magazine, 'VIVA GOA', came together, there result was the Goan Achievers Awards, to not only spread awareness about the achievement of Goans, but to also honour them on a public platform.

The first step to this public platform was of course, the voice of the public. This is the reason 50 per cent of the weightage for the selection of the winners lie in the hands of the public. This year too, the awards had a voting round, which was

open to the public. Votes were cast in the traditional ballot way as well as online on the Goanachievers.com website. To make sure the votes were tallied by a strictly neutral agency, the management of The Navhind Times and VIVA GOA chose to rope in Goa's premier management institute, the Goa Institute of Management (GIM) as the official tabulator.

As a balance to popular appeal, the management formed a jury comprising of eminent Goan personalities to make an informed and critical evaluation of the nominees and then cast their own vote. This vote constituted the remaining 50 per cent of the final tally which was used to decide the winners in each category.

This combination was used in seven categories. The three remaining categories, that is, Woman of the Year, Man of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement, were decided based on a consensus reached by the jury and the management of The Navhind Times and VIVA GOA. There was no public voting for these three categories.

The decision in all three categories was unanimous. The winner of the Woman of the Year award, Aisha De Sequeira, has successfully made a career in financial services and has worked her way up the corporate ladder. She currently heads Morgan Stanley's Investment Banking operations in India and was just three days prior to the awards function, named as joint CEO of Morgan Stanley India. She has also been featured in the Business India list of 20 most powerful women in India. Such accomplishments make her a truly worthy inspiration for women and Goans alike.

The next unanimous decision was for the Man of the Year award, the Chief Minister of Goa, Manohar Parrikar. He's the first IIT-ian to become a head of an Indian state, which in itself speaks volumes about the man. He successfully planned and implemented the BJP's rise to power in the state and has consistently, despite numerous challenges, delivered on his election promises, which included abolishing the state VAT on petrol, making the prices of petrol one of the cheapest in the country, starting social welfare schemes like Laadli Laxmi and Griha Adhar. Incidentally, Parrikar is also won this year's CNN-IBN Indian of the Year for Politics.

Julio Ribeiro, India's Supercop, received this year's Lifetime Achievement Award. He is well-known for his role as the Police Commissioner of Mumbai and later as the Director General of Punjab Police during the worst years of terrorism in Punjab. Commenting on his win, Ribeiro said, "What is a Lifetime Achievement? The winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award last time, Kishori Amonkar continues to perform on stage, but me, I used to be a policeman. I can no longer work as a policeman! But having said that, it feels good to be honoured for the work you have done. Even though it was my grandparents who shifted to Mumbai and I was born and brought-up there, I feel my Goan roots are what is

responsible for the strong sense of duty and responsibility that my parents inculcated in me, which is what has helped me reach the place and be the person that I am today.”

The Navhind Times, which incidentally celebrates its 50 years, released a book to commemorate the occasion. Titled ‘The Navhind Times: 50 Years of Reporting Goa’, the book was unveiled by the Chief Guest, Governor Bharat Vir Wanchoo in the presence of the Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar, the Chairman and Managing Director of the Dempo Group Shrinivas Dempo, Executive Director & CEO of The Navhind Times Mrs. Pallavi Dempo, Editor of Navhind Times Arun Sinha and the Editor and Publisher of VIVA GOA Kedar Dhume.

Commenting on the awards, Shrinivas Dempo, said, “Returning as we are to the bi-annual celebration of Goan Achievement, it is once again time to rejoice, time to reflect and time to celebrate Goan accomplishments means to those of us gathered here today. There was a great sense of achievement that swept us at the end of the awards last time. This year, looking at all the expectant faces of those gathered here, I can safely say that we have met, if not exceeded the expectations of Goan society.”

Kedar Dhume added, “I’m sure our nominees and winners don’t really need awards to tell them they’re doing a fantastic job, but we find that as a society, it is part of our duty to recognise those who go a step further. All our nominees are indeed winners as they have put the welfare of the state before self and have not been motivated by personal ambition but by their abiding love and concern for Goa.”

The audience was entertained by the brilliant humour of famous stand-up comedian, Vikram Sathaye and the dazzling dance performance of the Prince Dance Group from Odisha. Former Miss World and Bollywood star Diana Hayden played host for the evening, striking the right balance between glamour and elegance. Nana Patekar, who had flown in to Goa even though he was shooting in Poona made a big impression with the audience with his recital of a ‘Shayari’ when requested to deliver his favourite dialogue in his powerful voice. The Chief Guest, The Governor of Goa, Bharat Vir Wanchoo in his speech to those gathered stressed on the importance of the media and how they play an important role in communicating of what is happening around us to the people.

It was a glittering function attended by the who is who in Goa. An evening which will be remembered for long!!!