



# RAINBOW

Newsletter of Priyadarshni Academy

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## **SHRI BALASAHEB THACKERAY** *Fond Memories .....*



Seen at the 19th September 1996 Dinner are (from left) Mr. Nanik Rupani, Mr. Balasaheb Thackeray, Chief of the Shiv Sena, Mr. Hari Harilela, renowned overseas Indian, and Mr. Pramod Navalkar, Minister for Cultural Affairs, Maharashtra.



Mr. Chandrakant Vaidya, brother of late Smt. Meenatai Balasaheb Thackeray, receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award for Social Welfare, which was bestowed on Smt. Thackeray posthumously, from Mr. Manohar Joshi, Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Also seen in the picture is Mr. Nanik Rupani.



Shri Balasaheb Thackeray releasing Mr. Nanik Rupani's biography at Matoshree on 12th May 2006. In the picture are Mr. Rupani and his daughter, Ms. Reena Rupani.

***Shri Balasaheb Thackeray was not only a friend, guide, and philosopher for Shri Nanik Rupani but also a good supporter of Priyadarshni Academy. In the first photograph referred to above which was hosted by the Academy, Shri Thackeray urged overseas Indians to invest in Maharashtra.***

***Late Smt. Meenatai Balasaheb Thackeray received Priyadarshni Academy's Lifetime Achievement Award for Social Welfare (posthumously) at Priyadarshni Academy's 12th Anniversary Biennial Global Awards in 1996 from Shri Manohar Joshi.***

***In Memory of the late leader, Priyadarshni Academy has decided to name its future annual Marathi Literary Awards as Balasaheb Thackeray Memorial Marathi Literary Award.***



*Global Awards, Sept 18, 2012*



*Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla receiving the award from Mr. Gulam Nabi Azad. In the middle is Mrs. Radhika Nath*



*Chevalier Nirj Deva-Aditya receiving the award from Mr. Dilip Walse-Patil*



*Dr. Samir Brahmachari receiving the award from Mr. Anil Deshmukh*



*Dr. Jeane Devos receiving the award from Mr. Gulam Nabi Azad*



*Mr. Juan Schiaretta receiving the award from Mr. Dilip Walse-Patil*



*Ms. Deepika Padukone receiving the award from Mr. Gulam Nabi Azad*

## Chairman's Message



**P**riyadarshni Academy's 28th Anniversary Global Awards event in the Regal Room, Trident, Nariman Point, Mumbai, on September 18, was, according to every dignitary who graced the occasion -- and there were plenty of them -- a truly global and unique event in that the

distinguished awardees included those from as far away as Argentina and Mexico, countries that are rarely in the reckoning of the Indian mind, and from every conceivable discipline.

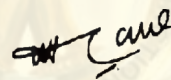
It was also memorable because a nearly 500-strong audience of leaders from various walks of life was in attendance despite the fact that the event was held the

day before the most religious occurrence in Mumbai, the Ganesh Chaturthi.

Chief Guest Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Honorable Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, lauded the event as unique among awards functions, citing the gallery of achievers with roots in different parts of India, Sri Lanka/UK, Belgium, Mexico, and Argentina.

Young MPs, Mr. Milind Deora and Mr. Piyush Goyal, were felicitated for their induction in the Union Cabinet and appointment as Member of the Rajya Sabha respectively.

My heartfelt thanks to the Managing Committee, the Global Awards Advisory Committee, and other supporters who helped make the event so unforgettable.



Nanik Rupani



Dr. Jacques Rogozinski receiving the award from Mr. Carlos Magarinos



Mr. Aditya Puri receiving the award from Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad



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*These images are artistic representation only.*

*List of Global Awardees & Awards Titles*

GLOBAL AWARDEES	TITLE
Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla Chairman, Aditya Birla Group Mumbai, India	Harish Mahindra Memorial Global Award for Outstanding Contributions to Globalization of Indian Industry
Dr. Samir Brahmachari Director General, CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) and Secretary, DSIR New Delhi, India	Priyadarshni Academy's 28th Anniversary Global Award for Outstanding Contributions to Science-led Inclusive Innovation
Chevalier Thakur Niranjan Deva-Aditya DL KMCO FRSA Member of European Parliament	Priyadarshni Academy's 28th Anniversary Global Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Development
Dr. Jeanne Devos (Belgian) Co-ordinator, National Domestic Workers Movement, Mumbai, India	Ramkrishna Bajaj Memorial Global Award for Outstanding Contributions to Protecting the Rights of Domestic Workers
Ms. Deepika Padukone Actress Mumbai, India	Smita Patil Memorial Award for Best Actress
Mr. Aditya Puri Managing Director, HDFC Bank Mumbai, India	Priyadarshni Academy's 28th Anniversary Global Award for Outstanding Contributions as a Visionary Leader in the Banking Industry
Dr. Jacques Rogozinski (Mexican) General Manager, Inter-American Investment Corporation Washington, D. C.	Priyadarshni Academy's 28th Anniversary Global Award for Outstanding Contributions to Economic Development Leveraging on Small & Medium Enterprises
Mr. Juan Schiaretta Political Leader Argentina	Priyadarshni Academy's 28th Anniversary Global Award for Outstanding Contributions to Improved Living Conditions of the Poor and Political Transparency

**Felicitations**

Shri Milind Deora, for his induction in the Union Cabinet as a Minister of State for Communications & I. T.  
Shri Piyush Goyal, for his appointment as a Member of Rajya Sabha

**Chief Guest**

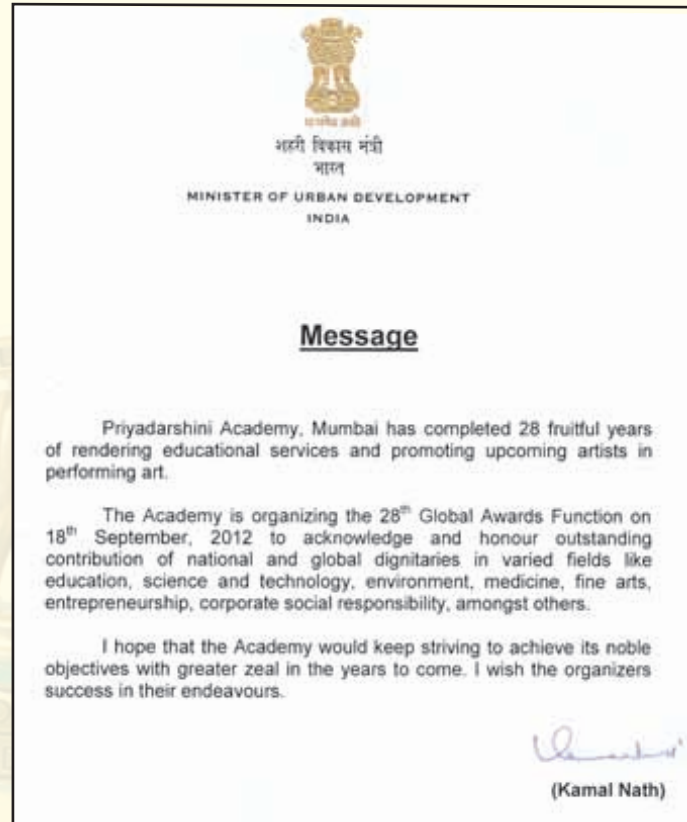
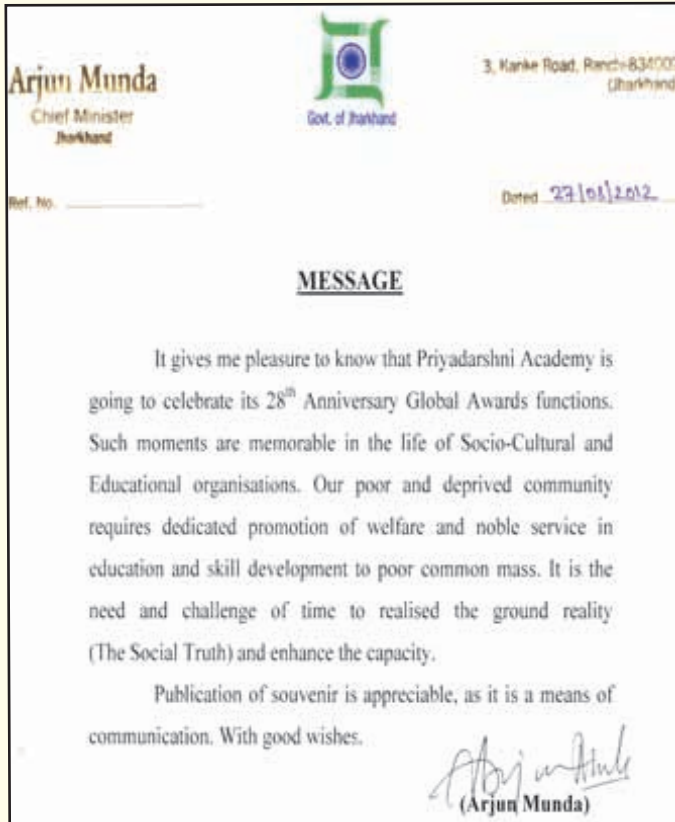
Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare

**Guests of Honor**

Shri Dilip Walse-Patil, Hon'ble Speaker, Maharashtra State Legislative Assembly  
Shri Anil Deshmukh, Hon'ble Minister, Govt. of Maharashtra, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Protection

**Special Guests**

Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Former Union Cabinet Minister  
Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, Chairman, Global Awards Advisory Committee  
Mr. Carlos Magarinos, Former Director General, UNIDO  
Mr. Niraj Bajaj, Director, Bajaj Group



### **Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) Elects Mr. Nanik Rupani Regional President, Western India Council (WIC)**

Mr. Nanik Rupani has taken over as the Regional President of the IACC (WIC) for the year 2012-13. On taking over, Mr. Rupani said, "It is an honor to be elected to such a prestigious position. IACC has been instrumental in strengthening ties between the two nations. It will be our endeavor to widen bilateral trade in a number of areas such as IT, retail, SME, entertainment, infrastructure, banking, and energy."

Established in 1968, IACC is committed to promoting economic and commercial relations between India and the U.S. It works closely with the US Embassy and Consulate to foster these objectives.



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## 28th Anniversary Global Awards .....



Chief Guest Mr. Gulam Nabi Azad lighting the lamp

**Chief Guest Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad** was all praise for Mr. Rupani and the Academy's team for assembling a distinguished array of awardees and organizing an event of enormous magnitude. He added that he was fully aware of fraternity awards – scientific organizations honoring scientists, film associations honoring actors and so on -- but had not come across an award function which selected people from such different countries and from such diverse disciplines. He also stressed that it was important to recognize talent and reward talent to inspire achievers to greater achievements and to have achievers serve as models for others to achieve.

The Chief Guest stated that India is doing all it can to ensure growth in all aspects of life with focus on inclusiveness. Talking about his own Ministry, he said 'the dearth of skilled manpower in under serviced areas in the healthcare sector poses the biggest challenge, hence the government is creating avenues for more recruitment. India has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world which is an issue of grave concern. We are taking stern measures to minimize this rate.

**Priyadarshni Academy Chairman Mr. Nanik Rupani**, in his welcome speech expressed his gratitude to all those who had supported the Academy over the years. He visibly broke down when recalling 'today, I dearly miss my friend late Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh who was with the Academy from day one, with the very first function, and rendered invaluable services to the Academy'. A 60-second video of his association was screened. The audience observed a one-minute silence in late Deshmukh's honor. Mr. Rupani also recalled the close association with the Academy of Shri Sushilkumar Shinde and Shri Govindrao Adik.

**Chairman of the Global Awards Advisory Committee Dr. Mashelkar** said, 'this evening celebrates the achievements of some extraordinary individuals who have done us proud with their exemplary deeds and

lives. They have done transformational work and have done the Academy proud by accepting its awards. They have made the impossible possible, they are lighthouses in these turbulent times and choppy seas. They illuminate our paths and show us the way by serving as guide posts. By honoring them, we are honoring ourselves as an Academy."

He added that the Priyadarshni Academy Awards Committee "is the hardest I have chaired because it has set such high benchmarks by recognizing achievers like Narayana Moorthy and Sachin Tendulkar to makers of society and those who went on to become Presidents. These benchmarks are difficult to surpass, yet we have been passing those benchmarks".

Receiving the award from Shri Gulam Nabi Azad on behalf of 150,000 employees of the Birla enterprise across six continents, **Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla** recalled his group's first brush with globalization when his father Late Aditya Birla ventured into foreign markets. Speaking of his own foray into global markets, he said it was due to forces of globalization and to strengthen businesses, access new markets, new technologies and raw materials and to be one step closer to the consumers. He added 'we are an MNC born in India with an Indian soul. A major percentage of our business comes from abroad and I believe that will continue to be the trend'. He concluded by saying that it had been easier to go global because 'there is respect and regard for Indian companies and entrepreneurs and I would not hesitate to say that Indian managers are amongst the best in the world in terms of intellectual capability, ability to work hard, and commit to goals. They have the ability and vision to make India a global economic superpower'.



A view of the audience Mrs. Rajashree Birla is the lady in saree in the front row and next to her is Mrs. Kumar Mangalam Birla



## 28th Anniversary Global Awards .....

It is not often that one sees the mother of an awardee in the audience. Not only Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla's mother, Mrs. Rajashree Birla, but also his wife, Mrs. Neerja Birla was in the audience to witness him receiving the award. **Mrs. Radhika Nath, daughter of Late Harish Mahindra** joined Chief Guest Shri Azad when he presented the award to Mr. Birla.

While accepting the award from Shri Dilip Walse-Patil, **Chevalier Thakur Niranjan Deva-Aditya**, thanked Priyadarshni Academy 'for the great honor you have bestowed on all the hard working taxpayers of the European Union of whom I am but their servant. The outstanding contribution to international development you have recognized in your award is recognition of the outstanding, significant and continuing commitment that the peoples of Europe have made to uplift the well-being of the global poor.

Even in these times of economic crisis, the European peoples have increased their contribution to feed the starving, house the homeless, hydrate the water-starved, irrigate the parched land, educate the ignorant, medicate those poor affected by AIDS, Malaria, TB and other infectious diseases.

**Dr. Samir Brahmachari** received the award from Shri Anil Deshmukh on behalf of "my young associates, the young students and the scientists".

Dr. Brahmachari narrated how he was able to, in five years, create a movement of open source drug discovery where more than 6000 scientists and researchers from over 100 countries participated; how he could make the tuberculosis drug through an open source so that it became affordable.

Citing that every evening 1000 people in India die of TB, he spoke of his dream to bring the number down, by the 75th birthday of this nation, to 100. He added that when he mentioned it to industrialist **Mr. Mukesh Ambani**, the latter said "I am with you and we would like to bring it down to 10 and not 100."

Dr. Brahmachari dedicated the award to those patients whose samples, blood, and clinical data he used and the doctors who worked with him which made it possible for him to make all those discoveries.

**Dr. Jeanne Devos** received the award from Shri Azad with **Mr. Niraj Bajaj, son of Late Ramkrishna Bajaj, and his wife Minal Bajaj** joining them. Dr. Devos received it on behalf of everyone in the National Domestic Workers Movement and considered the award recognition of their contribution to humanity. "Domestic work is one of the oldest and most important occupations

for millions of women, children and men in India, many of whom are exploited in so many different ways." She stated with pride that "we achieved dignity and a name for domestic work and workers. We have empowered lakhs of domestic workers to fight for their rights." Dr. Devos sketched the history of the movement, its struggle for years to fight for the rights of workers and their role in pushing the sexual harassment bill in the Indian Parliament in 2010 which was subsequently approved. She added that the 'cause of protection of domestic workers is gaining huge momentum globally and India too is implementing it at national and state levels'. Dr. Devos spoke of her dream of a society free of women and child workers adding that 'it is only then that there can be real freedom and equality'. She spoke of their participation in the National Advisory Commission and the Task Force of the Ministry of Labor to frame the national policy on domestic workers which 'is our landmark contribution'. She elaborated that there are thousands of action groups and lakhs of domestic workers who participate in the movement and concluded that their experience was that 'through participation change was possible. At the national level, the draft national policy for domestic workers is set to go to the Cabinet for its approval.'

**Dr. Jacques Rogozinski** received his award from Mr. Carlos Magarinos. He started off by saying that 'only a few years ago the developed world looked upon countries in the developing world including India and Latin America as unviable. But things have changed. The developed world now recognizes that we have big potential. 'He spoke about his many years of experience with privatization and with medium and small companies and asserted that to improve their productivity, it is important to give them access to credit and technical assistance. About 80% of the world's industrial production comes from small and medium enterprises, hence ample care and protection should be provided to these sectors across the globe so that they become more competitive'.

**Mr. Aditya Puri**, on receiving the global award from Mr. Azad, said 'Indian banking system is one of the most stable in the world. It is profitable, well capitalized, safe and secure with a bright future. Let us not confuse the noise of a democracy in transition with the vibrancy of India. We know our problems and the solutions. We just need to work together to achieve our goals. On the other hand, a large part of the world has huge problems and are not clear on solutions. So India, cheer up, it is time for action not despair - we are on our way'.

## 28th Anniversary Global Awards .....

Mr. Puri added that the Indian banking system is one of the best opportunities for financial services given the expected growth rate and the under penetration of organized finance. However, 'going forward, we need to ensure appropriate regulation given the experience of the West and needs of India.

In a developing country, banks are the main source of financial intermediation and meet the needs of businesses. But the development of India as a rich/poor country is asking the banks to fulfill the role of banks, debt market, venture capital, and government - this expectation will be difficult to meet.

'We have taken a pledge to uplift 1.2 million families who are living below poverty line to above poverty line. Efforts should be imparted to input more financial resources in agriculture and small enterprises through microfinance schemes so that the person at the base of the pyramid also benefits. Ample precaution should be taken regarding the equity component of FII.

In conclusion, we need to focus on composite solutions across the economic spectrum to ensure we meet our potential for GDP growth'.

**Mr. Juan Scharetti**, after receiving the award from Shri Dilip Walse-Patil, said he has been focussing on increasing transparency in political affairs, providing rural housing, having the poor sector participate in the political process, supporting private subsidies for pregnant women; improving political leadership in the 20th century; and strengthening relations between emerging markets of Latin America and India by improving understanding between our societies leading people to a better life.

'It is necessary that common citizens should have knowledge about political systems as that gives them knowledge about their rights and issues. For good governance, it is important to have clean and transparent political system, like the one I have tried to create in my region in Argentina.'

On receiving the Smita Patil memorial award, noted **Bollywood star Ms. Deepika Padukone** said 'every morning when I wake up, I resolve to work much harder. I am humbled and honoured to receive such a prestigious award at such an early stage, this award gives me the belief that I am moving in the right direction'.

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### Priyadarshni Academy Gets Accolades as Never Before for its Humanitarian Work



*Mr. Milind Deora is being felicitated by Mr. Gulam Nabi Azad*

Speaker after speaker at the awards function showered boundless praise on the Academy Chairman and the Academy's activities for its humanitarian work.

After receiving a memento from Mr. Azad, **Mr. Milind Deora** said 'Priyadarshni Academy's humanitarian work will encourage people like me to do good work'. During his response, he added that the **Dept. of Posts has decided to launch a postage stamp in honor of the Late Aditya Birla.**

**Mr. Piyush Goyal**, after receiving his memento, said 'organizations like Priyadarshni Academy have a big message for all of us. If I am standing before you as a part of public discourse and public life, it is because of Mr. Rupani and the Academy who propagate the message of giving back to society through their actions and activities. We need to participate in public life for the betterment of the nation. We should follow the example of the awardees. In some form or other, in some small way, all of us can and must play a role for the upliftment of the downtrodden. We need to look at the next person with sympathy and empathy. There can be no better service to humanity. I have decided to impact directly one million lives in the next 5 years. And, I urge each of you to set up a mission to do something in public life'.

Chief Guest Mr. Azad released the souvenir and an e-book on Arthashastra in Farzi following which **Ms. Sharda Nandram**, Professor of Entrepreneurship, University of Applied Sciences HAN, Netherlands, who helped in coordinating the Farzi translation commended the good work Priyadarshni Academy is doing in spreading awareness about ancient Indian wisdom across international audiences.

**Mr. Niranjan Hiranandani**, Vice-Chairman of the Academy, shared the views expressed by a number of

leaders that 'all of us should vow to do something to help the common man' and then went on to describe his recently initiated project on developing skills for people across the population spectrum. He emphasized that he plans to develop such skills among the low end of the spectrum that will help the aged in need of tending. He proposed that in the next 5 to 10 years, 'all of us can together get two million people to be employed through such an effort and contribute to inclusiveness which has been the theme of the Academy's awards program this year'.

**Mr. Carlos Magarinos** spoke about the strong, consistent and glorious work done by the Academy which contributed to integration and social welfare adding to the joy and happiness of people. He called the 21st century the century of Asia & Latin America where democracy and social progress would grow.

**Mr. Suresh Prabhu** talked about the goodness that the Academy is recognizing, when there is so much of negative news in the world. He added that goodness will add to more goodness as goodness has no boundaries. Wherever there is goodness, it spreads, and spoke about world as a community.

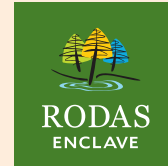
**Guest of Honor Mr. Anil Deshmukh** stated that the Priyadarshni Academy awards have become so popular that achievers all over the world are waiting for their turn to receive them.

**Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Shri Dilip Walse-Patil** commended the Academy's activities and said it serves as a beacon light against the background of the mud slinging that is taking place, sometimes appropriately and often unnecessarily.



*Mr. Piyush Goyal is being felicitated by Mr. Suresh Prabhu*

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