

Press Release

IBN7 and Bajaj Allianz honours 'Super Idols' of the Nation

~ Super star Salman Khan felicitates iconic achievers~

Mumbai, November 29, 2010: Can you imagine a dancer without legs or a painter without hands? Meet India's **Super Idols** who not only defy all set norms of success but through sheer grit and determination achieve the unthinkable! **IBN7** along with **Bajaj Allianz** in partnership with **Dainik Bhaskar** today commemorated the courage and zeal possessed by these icons at '**Super Idols' Awards**. The award is also a celebration to acknowledge individuals who have tirelessly worked for the welfare of specially-abled people.

Bollywood actor **Salman Khan** graced the occasion and lauded the Super Idols with a trophy and a cash prize for the commendable work done by them. Watch the grand finale of **Super Idols** to be telecast on **4th December on IBN7 at 7:30 PM, CNN-IBN at 10:00 PM and IBN-Lokmat at 6:00 PM.**

The **IBN7** editorial team, through its extensive reporter network in the country, identified 13 'Super Idols' under seven categories.

1. Art, Culture and Entertainment

- **Manji Bhai L Ramani:** Lost both his arms in an accident, but he never lost hope and has been involved in mouth painting since 1978
- **Vinod Thakur:** Born without legs, Vinod recently participated in India's Got Talent where he danced on his hands to the sheer astonishment of the entire nation

2. Business and Self Achievers

- **Kamlesh Shah:** Despite all his limbs becoming dysfunctional, Kamlesh through sheer determination is now an accomplished Chartered Accountant
- **Samuel Mani:** Affected with Cerebral Palsy, Samuel who uses the wheelchair for his mobility is the first person in India to be appointed as Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher (MAR)

3. Education

- **Madhu Singhal:** A visually impaired woman, Madhu is a Managing Trustee / Founder of Mitra Jyothi charitable trust that works with the objective of integrating people with special abilities into mainstream society
- **Avinash Kumar Tiwari:** A polio patient since childhood, Avinash devoted his life for specially-abled people by opening a school for them

4. Idol-maker (Abled)

- **Dr. Mithu Alur:** For over 36 years Dr. Mithu Alur has been working relentlessly in the realm of education, healthcare and employment for women and children
- **Dr. Usha Punjabi:** She runs 'Mook Badhir Sangathan', an organization that provides security and opportunity to many illiterate and unemployed hearing impaired individuals

5. National Service & Rehabilitation

- **Dipendra Manocha:** Despite being visually impaired, Dipendra developed a Hindi screen reading software SAFA meant for visually impaired people
- **Madhukar Vishwanath Shirdhonkar:** Became the first visually impaired physiotherapist, and is helping those with similar infirmity through several associations and federations that he founded for the rehabilitation and empowerment of these individuals

6. Sports

- **Prasanta Karmakar:** Lost his right arm during his early childhood, but took up recreational sport, swimming as a career. He won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games 50 meter Freestyle Para Swimming
- **Binod Kumar:** 20-year-old Binod Kumar from Kolkata does not possess arms and yet he went onto become a National Level Swimming Champion

7. Lifetime Achievement

- **Sanjana Goyal:** A victim of Muscular Dystrophy, Sanjana is working to ameliorate various Muscular Dystrophy (MD) patients across India. She is the founder President of the Indian Association of Muscular Dystrophy (IAMD) based in Solan, Himanchal Pradesh.

Speaking about the initiative, Ashutosh, Managing Editor, IBN7 said, "The initiative is aimed at highlighting the human spirit and the untiring zeal to overcome obstacles in life. We salute the Super Idols of our nation who have set examples for others to follow and hope that it will inspire many more individuals."

Rajdeep Sardesai, Editor-in-Chief, CNN-IBN, IBN7 & IBN Lokmat, said, "I congratulate all the Super Idols who through their hard work and dedication have reached the pinnacle of success and proved it is the determination and spirit that counts the most."

Mr. Kamesh Goyal, Country Manager and CEO, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co Ltd, added, "Bajaj Allianz is proud to be associated with this initiative. We believe that specially-abled people are a strong pillar of our society and they should be given equal right and respect for the work done by them."

Salman Khan, the Chief Guest at the event said, "It is an honour for me to be a part of this prestigious award function that not only highlights the talent of these achievers but also paves a way for many others to realise their inner strength."

About Network 18

Network18 [BSE: 532798, NSE: Network18] is one of India's leading full play media conglomerates with interests in television, print, internet, filmed entertainment, mobile content and allied businesses. Through its holding in Television Eighteen India Ltd (TV18) [BSE: 532299, NSE: TV-18], Network18 operates India's leading business news television channels, CNBC-TV18 and CNBC Awaaz. It also runs one of India's largest Internet players - Web18, as well as one of India's leading real time financial information and news terminals - Newswire18. TV18 has recently expanded into print with Infomedia18, a newly formed entity following the acquisition of Infomedia, India's leading player in the special interest publishing and printing operations space. TV18 has also announced collaboration with Forbes media for the launch of a business magazine in India. Through its holding in ibn18



Broadcast Ltd (ibn18) [BSE: 532800,NSE: ibn18], Network18 operates in the general news and entertainment space with leading general news channels CNN-IBN and IBN7 and has launched IBN Lokmat, a Marathi news channel in partnership with the Lokmat group. ibn18 also operates a joint venture with Viacom, called Viacom18 which houses the MTV, VH1 and Nickelodeon channels in India - as also Studio18, the Group's filmed entertainment operation and has launched 'Colors', a Hindi general entertainment channel. Additionally, Network18 holds the Group's online & on-air home shopping venture, Homeshop18 and its full spectrum events management venture, E18.

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