



Honouring Excellence!

For the first time, the APEX awards were held on the First Night of The 66th National Garment Fair, on January 29, 2018. **Anurima Das** brings you all the action from the glittery Awards Night. Photographs: **Vikrant Saple**

The 66th National Garment Fair was a much hyped event, owing to CMAI's decision of adding the APEX Awards post the first day of the exhibition this year, ie, on January 29. Months before the actual date of the exhibition, the committee had begun its process of selection and had officially announced the awards. All members and the entire industry waited with bated breath until it was finally time to witness the grand ceremony of the CMAI's APEX Awards!

The APEX Awards are the premier awards of the Indian apparel industry, where the outstanding performers of the year are recognised. The APEX awards acknowledge excellence in

apparel manufacturing, marketing, and supply chain management, and retail and also recognise significant contributions to the industry from allied industries. The APEX Awards 2017 were held on Monday, January 29, 2018 at Hall II, NSE Complex, Goregaon (East), Mumbai.



in celebration of excellence...

THE PERFECT STAGE

APEX Awards 2017 was chiefly sponsored by Wazir Advisors Pvt Ltd. Nielsen India Pvt Ltd. was the research partner for the awards and they helped with the research and evaluation process.

500 retailers were surveyed to finalise the award winners from 22 categories. The stage was set and the evening rolled out with a grand welcome by one

of India's most successful stand-up comedians, Atul Khatri. He was at his wittiest best and left the audience in splits with his humour. Mr Khatri set the ball rolling for the rest of the ceremony by lightening up the mood.

CMAI instituted the APEX AWARDS (National Awards for Excellence in Apparel) to celebrate good work, encourage the industry and pay tribute to those who influence every aspect of the industry. Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Kavita Gupta, Textile Commissioner said that the Textiles & Clothing Industry had promised the Govt to bring an investment of ₹80,000 Crore along with creation of employment opportunities for one crore people within three years. Two years have passed but investment to the tunes of ₹7,000 Crore and employment of only one lakh persons were achieved. She reiterated that the Industry should try to fulfil its promise. The Union Textile Ministry has announced the ₹6,000 Crore Special Apparel Package in July 2017 and the Garment & Made ups Industry should take advantage of the scheme. She went on to mention how textiles have a mythological past and has been a part of history since ancient times. She spoke of how India can never be thought of without her strong textile backbone. She urged the industry to carry on this progress path to create history in the time to come.

Mr Rahul Mehta, President, CMAI took over the stage and stated that the domestic market growth rate of Apparel Industry was flat during 2017-18 due to demonetisation and GST. However, he was sure



APEX AWARDS ACKNOWLEDGES EXCELLENCE IN APPAREL MANUFACTURING, MARKETING AND SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT.

that things will get steady and stabilise. He posited that the growth rate is anticipated to be between 10 per cent and 12 per cent in the fiscal year 2018-19. However, he was concerned that on the export front, if the Government does not increase duty drawback rates, there could be a possibility of negative growth in the sector.

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

Following some inspiration from these stalwarts, the evening carried on. Mr Atul Khatri helped keep the audience's spirits soaring with his comedy. The audience was more than happy to unwind with humour after a busy first day at the NGF.

With the air free of tension, the awards rolled out. The Retail Professional of the Year Award was presented to Mr Vishnu Prasad, CEO of Future Group. The Entrepreneur of the Year Award was shared by Mr Nikhil Mohan & Mr Nitin Mohan of Mohan Clothing Company Pvt Ltd. The

APEX AWARDS



Most Admired Kids Wear Brand of the Year award was received by United Colors of Benetton and the Most Admired Men's & Women's Innerwear Brand was Jockey. Biba won the award for Most Admired Women's Ethnic Brand of the Year and Most Admired Women's Western Wear Brand went to AND. Manyavar won The Most Admired Men's Indian Ethnic Wear Brand of the Year.

The Award for The Most Admired Men's Formal Wear Brand of the Year went to Louis Philippe. The Most Admired Men's Casual Wear Brand of the Year was bagged by Levi's. The President's Award for Outstanding Contribution by a CMAI Member to The Industry was an award that recognised and appreciated the efforts of Mr M L Bangera of Climax Apparel Pvt Ltd. The Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award was presented to Mrs Beena Kannan, CEO, M/S Seematti. The Most Admired Clothing Company of the Year Award was an honour shared by Aditya Birla Fashion & Retail Ltd and Raymond Apparel Ltd.

LIFETIME OF GLORY

The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI)'s Lifetime Achievement Award for the Year 2017

was conferred upon Mr Sanjay Lalbhaj, Executive Chairman, Arvind Lifestyle Brands Ltd for his Role as a Leader, a Visionary and an Entrepreneur and for his Invaluable and Outstanding Contribution to the Growth of the Apparel Industry in India. Textile Commissioner Dr Kavita Gupta and Mr Rahul Mehta, President, CMAI presented the Prestigious Award to Mr Sanjay Lalbhaj at the gleaming APEX Awards 2017 podium.

Mr Sanjay Lalbhaj, Winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award gave us an insight into his decades of experience. He has witnessed and shaped many noteworthy changes in the industry. He expressed joy on seeing the young generation do so much work for the industry. He was heard saying, "I wish I had age on my side and could do more for the textile industry and be a part of many more futuristic trends. I can vouch for and confidently say that a bright future awaits the Indian Apparel Industry in the future. I am sure that unprecedented new developments would be seen in the manufacturing and marketing sector of Apparel Industry in the coming years."

Mr Jayesh Shah, Chairman of the APEX Awards Sub Committee mentioned that the APEX awards were a celebration of the best. This year to encourage Small and Medium Enterprises, CMAI has instituted the CMAI SME Awards to honour Excellence in Apparel Manufacturing, Marketing & Supply Chain Management in the SME Sector. CMAI's SME Awards for the Most Admired Women's Wear Brand were given to 109°F and Zola, and the one for the most admired Kids Wear Brand was won by Blazo and Peppermint. Statusquo and Octave were adjudged The Most admired Menswear Brands in this category.

The evening ended on a high note and everyone was already waiting for the next year's awards. The wait to discover the new winners will surely keep the industry motivated throughout 2018! ■



NAME OF THE AWARD	WINNER/S
CMAI's SME Award For The Most Admired Kids Wear Brand Of The Year (25 Cr-75 Cr)	Blazo
CMAI's SME Award For The Most Admired Kids Wear Brand Of The Year (75 Cr-150 Cr)	Peppermint
CMAI's SME Award For The Most Admired Womenswear Brand Of The Year (25 Cr-75 Cr)	109'F
CMAI's SME Award For The Most Admired Womenswear Brand Of The Year (75 Cr-150 Cr)	Zola
CMAI's SME Award For The Most Admired Menswear Brand Of The Year (25 Cr-75 Cr)	Statusquo
CMAI's SME Award For The Most Admired Menswear Brand Of The Year (75 Cr-150 Cr)	Octave
The Retail Professional Of The Year Award	Mr Vishnu Prasad, CEO, Future Group
Brand Professional Of The Year Award	Mr Anant Daga, CEO, W
The Entrepreneur Of The Year Award	Mr Nikhil Mohan & Mr Nitin Mohan, Managing Directors, Mohan Clothing Company Pvt Ltd. (Blackberrys)
The Brand of the Year - Kids Wear	United Colors of Benetton
The Brand of the Year - Women's Inner Wear	Jockey
The Most Admired Women's Ethnic Wear Brand of the Year	BIBA
The Most Admired Women's Western Wear Brand of the Year	AND
The Most Admired Men's Ethnic Wear Brand of the Year	Manyavar
The Most Admired Men's Formal Wear Brand of the Year	Louis Phillippe
The Most Admired Men's Casual Wear Brand of the Year	Levi's
The Most Admired Clothing Company Of The Year	Aditya Birla Fashion & Retail Ltd and Raymond Apparel Ltd
President's Award For Outstanding Contribution by a CMAI Member To The Industry	M L Bangera, Managing Director, Climax Apparel Pvt Ltd.
Woman Entrepreneur Of The Year Award	Mrs Beena Kannan, CEO, M/S Seematti
Lifetime Achievement Award	Shri Sanjay Lalbhai - Executive Chairman, Arvind Lifestyle Brands Ltd