



The Annual Gold Award Ceremony

The Annual Gold Award Ceremony was organised by the National Award Authority on 12th July 2013 at the India International Centre, New Delhi. The function started on an exuberant note with a music performance by the band (which included Award participants) from G D Goenka World School, Gurgaon. Presiding over the ceremony were the Chief Guest Hari Dang (Padma Shri), Himmat Kalsia (Chairman, Award Programme Foundation) and Sanat Kaul (Managing Trustee, Award Programme Foundation). Kapil Bhalla (National Director) welcomed the Gold Awardees' and guests and presented a report on the progress of IAYP India. He encouraged the Gold Awardees to continue their association with the Award by volunteering and participating in Award events.

The Chief Guest, Hari Dang gave an inspirational speech describing his own Award experiences. He gave a glimpse of his impressions as one of the key members of the core team that introduced the Award in India in 1962 at The Doon School, Dehradun. He motivated the Gold Awardees, telling them that they were now equipped to respond to the expectations of the society and they should work towards the betterment of society.

After his speech, 78 Award Participants were awarded the Gold Award. Along with this, 18 Award Leaders and Volunteers too were rewarded with a Meritorious Certificate of Recognition for their 'Special, Valuable and Outstanding' services to the Award in India. The Chief Guest and the National Director interacted with the Awardees who came up to the stage. A small token of appreciation was also given to the Volunteers who helped organising this big event. The ceremony concluded with a few words of thanks and appreciation by the Chairman, Himmat Kalsia.

A Thank You note from Surya Pahal, Gold Awardee, G D Goenka World School, Gurgaon

I, along with the other Awardees, am immensely proud to be completing the Award journey and receiving the Gold Award from Padma Shri Hari Dang and the National Director Kapil Bhalla.

The Award gave me an opportunity to engage in and acquire new skills first-hand through participating in the four sections. I got the liberty to design my own programme and to set my own goals by challenging my boundaries. The most powerful impact the Award has had on me is my increased participation in civic life through my increased involvement in volunteering and community outreach activities.

The National Award Ceremony was a big platform for me to interact with many other Gold Awardees from various schools, backgrounds, abilities and circumstances, which made me realise how we all, in spite of our differences, are the same and how we all enjoyed the last few years doing the Award.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my Principal, Dr. Neeta Bali and the Award Coordinator for supporting, guiding and giving me the opportunity to engage myself in this moral enhancement of an activity. I also wish to thank the National Award Authority Team for organising the GOLD AWARD ceremony and making it very special for all the Awardees.