

## ASPIRE SKILLSWORLD AWARDS 2009

| Aspire Talent Awards | Aspire Skills Development Awards |

Aspire held its inaugural Aspire SkillsWorld Awards 2009 event on Thursday, 27 August 2009. The event was co-presented by Aspen Institute India and The Shri Ram Schools.

Aii-TSRS Aspire SkillsWorld 2009 featured the following awards:

**Aspire Talent Awards:** These inaugural annual awards for outstanding sports persons excelling in education, sports or arts. This inaugural edition focuses on women sportspersons, including para-olympians from modest backgrounds and Tier 2/3/4



Indian cities who have achieved excellence.

**Aspire Skills Development Awards:** These inaugural awards for Educators, Coaches, Mentors and Trainers who help to develop world-class talent. These awards are meant to honour those individuals or institutions who commit to excellence while ensuring inclusive skills development for India.

The event celebrated the spirit of Mentorship and Aspire awarded 7 distinguished sports persons:

Saina Nehwal- Badminton, Surinder Kaur-Hockey, Mary Kom-Boxing, Tania Sachdev-Chess, L. Saritha Devi-Boxing, Parul D Parmar-Badminton, Kanchanamala-Swimming.

Additionally, Aspire awarded 8 "Mentor" Aspire Skills Development Awards to 3 eminent Sports Coaches: Baldev Singh-Hockey, Pullela Gopichand-Badminton and Cyrus Poncha-Squash (All Dronacharya Award Winners) and 5 universities through their Vice Chancellors: Dr. Vijay Gupta-VC LPU, Prof. Pramod Tandon-VC NEHU (Padma Shree Award Winner), Shri Masud A. Choudhary-Founder & VC BGSB, Dr. N.C. Wadhwa-VC MRIU and Prof. Dr. Shivajirao Shripatrao Kadam-VC BVP. The Awards were given away by Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister of HRD.



In his keynote address Hon'ble Minister of HRD, Shri Kapil Sibal talked about the importance and need of mentorship. He said "There is no way that we can spot talent unless there are people who know how to spot it and first among these are teachers. Its the teachers who spot talent because they interact with the kids".

Academician, sports personalities media and selected students representing various colleges and universities

attended the award function and interacted with the sport stars and dignitaries present.

