

# WestCoast Newsline

FREMONT

Silicon Valley Awards 2012 (SVA) were held at the Fremont Marriott Silicon Valley in recognition of the people and organizations in the business entrepreneurship, science and technology, non-profits, short films/media and writers/book authors categories.

It was a red carpet grand affair attended by 300 people, including professionals and company heads from Silicon Valley. Guests of honor Indian Consul General N Parthasarathi and state senator Ellen Corbett congratulated organizer Sheetal Ohri for her efforts.

A black tie sit-down dinner event had keynote speaker Gurbaksh Chahal, founder of RadiumOne Inc. and also the founder of BeProud Foundation. He spoke about his foundation and was honored by Corbett for his entrepreneurial work in the Valley. Others recognized by Senator Corbett's office were SVA organizer Sheetal Ohri, entrepreneur Anil Yadav, and KB Sareen of New York Life, for Media and Community Service Awards Reena Rao of TVASIA and Poonam Bajaj of Sitaarre TV. Gurbaksh Chahal recognized Krishna Subramanian, CMO of Velti for Technology and Komal Sodhi of The Grand Trunk US for Fashion with Special Recognition Awards.

The other dignitaries were Assembly Member Elect Bill Quirk, Assembly Member Elect Rob Bonta, Representative from Assembly Member Bob Wiecekowski's office, Council Member Suzanne Chan, David Bonaccorsi, Santa Clara Council Member Debi Davis and Kathleen Watanabe, Trustee of Santa Clara Library Board of Trustees and Advocate of Santa Clara Unified Schools.

The voting process was online and ended with judges choosing the top winners. The recipients for the SVA2012 awards for Entrepreneur category was Praveen Suggala, founder of Radio Zindagi 1550am and Restaurant Owner of Biryani Bowl and Parantha Point in Fremont, under Media Category - Vandana Kumar of India Currents and Palvinder Jagait of Playground Pictures, Pratham and IDEX in the Non Profit Category, Navneet Pannu and Ranjit Singh Gill in the Author/Writer category, Science/Technology had Poonam Sansanwal and Dr. Dalvir Pannu of Pannu Dental as the winners.

"Silicon Valley Awards 2012 'Making a Difference'" is about the people who live in Silicon Valley and make a difference in helping the Valley grow and become a better and richer place, culturally and professionally. "The objective is to recognize individuals, companies and non-profits epitomizing the Silicon Valley culture, its philosophy. These people work in a way that creates successful endeavors. It will now be an annual event", said Sheetal Ohri.

The evening was done by Patti Tripathi of TriPath Media, the first Indian American to anchor CNN HLN, and by Tiecon Entertainment Chair Harbir Kaur Bhatia and Ankit Jain of Google. The judges panel included Dr Raj Salwan, Chairman Fremont Chamber of Commerce and Head, Democratic Party in Fremont, R. Paul Singh, CEO of Documents.Me and Director and Marketing Chair, TiECon, Ms. Diana Rohini Lavigne, Chair of SAJA

## SILICON VALLEY AWARDS A RED CARPET GRAND AFFAIR



Praveen Suggala receiving SVA2012 Entrepreneur Award by SVA2012 Platinum Sponsor Mr. Gurpreet Singh of SHIPRA WORLD India



(From left) Dr Raj Salwan, Gurpreet Singh of Shipra World, Indian Consul General N Parthasarathi, Diana Rohini Lavigne, Nicki Sun, R. Paul Singh, Satish Jha



Organizer Sheetal Ohri with State Senator Ellen Corbett



Geetika Shukla of Pratham receiving the award from Indian Consul General N Parthasarathi and chairman Fremont Chamber of Commerce Dr Raj Salwan



Wisdom Scott and Tammy Scott of Ajooba Events



Dr Davir Pannu receiving award in the Science Category by Indian Consul General N Parthasarathi



Assembly Member Elect Rob Bonta



Amita Bal and Rajdeep Bal



Ohlone College Board of Trustee Teresa Cox



(L to R) K.B. Sareen, Reena Rao, Poonam Bajaj, Kavita Arora, Gurbaksh Chahal, Sheetal Ohri, Patti Tripathi, Senator Corbett, Anil Yadav



Madan Oak playing Santoor



Neha Chaudhary with Poonam Mishra



Vocalist Devika Chawla



^ (L to R) Indian Consul General Mr. N. Parthasarathi, State Majority Leader Ellen Corbett, Assembly Member Elect Bill Quirk

(South Asian Journalist Association) and Editor, NRI Achievers Magazine, Mr. Satish Jha, Chairman One Laptop Per Child India and Nicki Sun, Associate Producer MYX TV, and multimedia producer. The décor of the event was by Ajooba Events.

The highlight entertainment of the evening was "Laila Majnu" -- a Bollywood Theatre Production by Sheetal Ohri and choreographed by Uma

Dhanapal of Kriyaa Dance Academy. The awards ceremony also had performances by Jazz and Indian classical music santoor maestro, Madan Oak of "Wings on Strings" ensemble, Latin-Indi vocalist Giju John, Rebecca Dhanapal and the first Indian vocalist to be on Apple Products Devika Chawla performing live along with fashion shows by Amita Bal Couture, GG Connections and La Maison India.



< (L to R) Kavita Arora of Sitaarre TV, Sheetal Ohri and Entrepreneur Jaya Gautam