

## **TOISA Awards:**

- **Saina Nehwal was Youth Icon of the Year.**
- **Rising star PV Sindhu Badminton Player of the Year (Jury)**
- **Ace shuttler Parupalli Kashyap Badminton Player of the Year**

**NEW DELHI:** A growing interest in sports - beyond the sport every Indian is interested in by law - and a burgeoning pool of sporting talent is arguably the best indicator that India is a country that's coming out of its own shadows.

The Times of India Sports Awards (TOISA) gala evening on Thursday was in recognition of this unfolding sense of pride and achievement in the field of sports.

**The names in the audience couldn't have got bigger: legendary athlete Milkha Singh, top shuttlers Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu and Parupalli Kashyap, boxer Mary Kom, squash player Dipika Pallikal and world billiards champion Pankaj Advani.**



**Saina Nehwal was this year's TOISA Youth Icon of the Year.**

Saina Nehwal, who got the special Youth Icon Award from Sourav Ganguly, said she valued the honour even more because it came from the former India Cricket Captain. "Ganguly sir has been my idol for so many years," she said. She also thanked TOI for bringing so many sportspersons together.



**Rising star PV Sindhu receives TOISA Badminton Player of the Year (Jury)**

**(Femina Miss India Supranational 2015, Aafreen Vaz, and 94-year-old former Badminton star S.L Jaini present the Award)**



**Ace shuttler Parupalli Kashyap receives TOISA Badminton Player of the Year**

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we were delighted that four eminent greats of Indian sports agreed to don the Judge's hat. In Anju Bobby George, India's only-ever Athlete to win a Medal at the World Track and Field Championships; Zafar Iqbal, quicksilver forward of India's last Olympic Gold-winning Hockey Team and subsequently the captain of the Indian Hockey Team; Ramesh Krishnan, Tennis icon, former Junior Wimbledon and French Open Champion and Davis Cup-finalist; and Sourav Ganguly, who powered an entirely new generation of Indian cricketers as Captain courageous. We could not have asked for a more illustrious and impeccable jury.

## And the TOISA Champions are...

● JURY WINNER ● POPULAR WINNER

<b>BADMINTON</b> ● PV Sindhu ● Parupalli Kashyap	<b>SQUASH</b> ● Dipika Pallikal ● Harinder Pal Sandhu	<b>YOUTH ICON</b> ● Saina Nehwal
<b>BILLIARDS</b> ● Pankaj Advani ● Vidya Pillai	<b>GOLF</b> ● Anirban Lahiri ● Neha Tripathi	<b>WEIGHTLIFTING</b> ● Sathish Sivalingam ● S.Chikkarangappa
<b>FOOTBALL</b> ● Sunil Chhetri ● Bala Devi	<b>CHESS</b> ● Vishwanathan Anand ● Dronavalli Harika	<b>CRICKET</b> ● Harmanpreet Kaur (W) / Virat Kohli (M)
<b>TABLE TENNIS</b> ● Achanta Kamal ● Ankita Das	<b>HOCKEY</b> ● Rani Rampal (W) / Sreejesh Ravindran (M)	<b>EMERGING PLAYER AWARDS (6)</b> ● Khushbir Kaur ● Malaika Goel ● Amit Kumar Dahlyia ● S.Chikkarangappa ● Sanjita Chanu ● Khumukcham ● Vinesh Phogat
<b>SHOOTING</b> ● Jitu Rai ● Malaika Goel	<b>BOXING</b> ● Sarita Devi-Mary Kom ● Devendro Singh	
<b>ATHLETICS</b> ● Vikas Gowda ● Lalita Babar	<b>TENNIS</b> ● Sania Mirza ● Sanam Singh	<b>SPORTSPERSONS OF THE YEAR</b> ● Jitu Rai ● Pankaj Advani
<b>WRESTLING</b> ● Yogeshwar Dutt ● Babita Kumari	<b>LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD</b> Milkha Singh	



Olympian Rathore complimented Vineet Jain and his team for setting up the Times of India Sports Award adding that it is also a "responsibility" and "a commitment" to do it every year and select the right people. "The TOISA Awards gives sportspersons recognition at the National level and it is a wonderful thing," he said.

Trap shooter Rathore was seen as flag bearer of Indian Sports when he clinched a historic Silver Medal at the Athens Olympic Games in 2004. Now a Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Rathore said the TOISA Awards night, which was graced by legendary American Athlete Carl Lewis besides a host of big names from the Indian Sports fraternity, including former Cricket Captain Sourav Ganguly, reminded him of his playing days. Born in Jaisalmer, Rathore is a multiple Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, World Cup and World Championships Medallist.

The Awards were presented by the new generation Scorpio in association with Syska Led, 100 Pipers Music Cds. Swarovski, Spicejet, Globosport and Hyatt Regency, Gurgaon also partnered the event.

