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IronMan



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# LEADING IN THE TIME OF GREAT CHANGE



**Amarjit Singh Batra**  
CEO, OLX India



**Ashwin Sanghi**  
WordSmith



**Amit Jain**  
President, Uber India



**Arundhati Bhattacharya**  
Chairman  
State Bank of India



**Bill Hawkins**  
Management Marshal



**Himanshu Kampani**  
Managing Director  
Idea Cellular



**Milind Soman**  
IronMan



**Sunil Duggal**  
CEO  
Dabur India



**Susan Fowler**  
SelfSpark



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# FEAST FOR THE MIND

Business Today's two-day MindRush conclave, held at Taj Palace hotel, on December 18 and 19, was a refreshing change from the usual business conferences, with the Best CEO Awards, master classes by top management gurus, a talk on Chanakya's epic 'Arthashastra' by Ashwin Sanghi, a fitness talk by Milind Soman, and much more. Presenting some vignettes from the show.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SHEKHAR GHOSH

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**1.** (L-R) Sunil Duggal, CEO, Dabur India; Jay Galla, VC & MD, Amara Raja; K.B.S. Anand, MD & CEO, Asian Paints; Vivek Law, Editor-Business TV, India Today Group

**2.** (L-R) Jayant Sinha, Minister of State for Finance; Arundhati Bhattacharya, Chairman, SBI; Aron Puri, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief, India Today Group

**3.** (L-R) Amit Jain, Uber India; Radhika Aggarwal, Shopclues.com; Suchi Mukherjee, Limeroad.com; Sanjeev Aggarwal, Helion Advisors; Amarjit Singh Batra, OLX India

**4.** (L) Vineet Nayyar, Vice Chairman, Tech Mahindra, with CEO & MD, C.P. Gurnani



**5.** Deepak Kapoor, Chairman, PwC India

**6.** Siddhartha Lal, MD & CEO, Eicher Motors

**7.** Author Ashwin Sanghi

**8.** Milind Soman, Actor





# A HEADY COCKTAIL

*The third edition of the Business Today MindRush was a mesmerising mix of awards, insightful talks by super CEOs, master classes by management gurus, and much, much more.* **By DIPAK MONDAL**

**T**he third Business Today MindRush – held on December 18 and 19 at Taj Palace hotel in New Delhi – got off to a flying start with a debate on ‘Professionals and the Family Business’. The panellists included two professional CEOs – K.B.S. Anand, MD & CEO, Asian Paints; and Sunil Duggal, CEO, Dabur India. The ‘family’ side was represented by Jayadev Galla, Vice Chairman & MD of Amara Raja Group. The panellists concluded that in family-owned businesses, professionals need to be made partners in creating wealth for the organisation.

Earlier, welcoming delegates to the conclave, Prosenjit Dutta, Editor, Business Today, highlighted the challenging business environment and said that technology and start-ups are redefining businesses. He said that though the government has taken



PHOTOGRAPH BY SHEKHAR GUPTA

↑ THE CHAMPIONS (L to R): Siddhartha Lal, MD & CEO, Eicher Motors; Jayadev Galla, VC & MD, Amara Raja; Himanshu Kapania, MD, Idea Cellular; Tejpal Batia of TCS (for N. Chandrasekaran); Vineet Nayyar, Vice Chairman, Tech Mahindra; Rajeev Sharma, CMD, Rural Electrification Corp.; Arundhati Bhattacharya, Chairman, SBI; Aroon Purie, Chairman & Editor-in-Chief, India Today Group; Salil Singhal, CMD, PI Industries; Sunil Duggal, CEO, Dabur India; Rajeev Jain, MD, Bajaj Finance; Rajender Sehgal of HDFC Bank (for Aditya Puri); Nuti Chakravarthy of Axis Bank (for Shikha Sharma); Vedji Ticku of Page Industries (for Sunder Genomai)

steps to kick-start the economy, there are concerns on many fronts.

Aroon Purie, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief, India Today Group, said the theme for 87 MindRush – Leading in the Time of Great Change – is very apt “because VUCA (volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity) is the new normal that companies and leaders have to deal with, especially in an age of rapid technological change”. Purie added that despite the clear majority the current government enjoys, as well as its desire to kick-start growth, some important reforms are stuck in Parliament. And while there is some improvement in the ease of doing business, there are areas where enough progress is yet to be made.

The chief guest for the evening, Minister of State for Finance Jayant Sinha, said that the major areas that the government is focusing on are agriculture, start-ups, bankruptcy laws and ease of doing business. Dismissing the perception that there has been no substantial work done on the ground, Sinha pointed out that exemplary work has been done by the government in developing infrastructure, overhauling the financial sector and taxation.

In her address, Arundhati Bhattacharya, Chairman, SBI, said: “A CEO should be a vi-



*“The government is focusing on agriculture, start-ups, bankruptcy laws and ease of doing business”*

**JAYANT SINHA**  
Minister of State  
for Finance



*“I believe the single most important factor for a successful CEO is the culture he promotes”*

**AROON PURIE**  
Chairman & Editor-in-  
Chief, India Today Group

sionary, and have the ability to take decisions and have effective communication skills to put their organisations on the growth path in times of difficulty." Himanshu Kapania, MD of Idea Cellular, while speaking on 4G, said: "India is on the cusp of a digital revolution; in three to five years, industries such as banking, retail, brokerage, etc. will feel the ripple effects of disruption."

One of the main attractions of the first day was the 87 Best CEOs awards. The winners included Siddhartha Lal of Eicher, Bhattacharya of SBI, Vineet Nayyar of Tech Mahindra and some others.

The second day 'fittingly' started with a session by Milind Soman, who completed the "Ironman Triathlon" in Zurich, Switzerland, earlier this year. Soman, who at 50 epitomises youth and fitness, shared the secret of his healthy lifestyle with eager audiences. His suggestion to fitness freaks and those fighting ageing was to not only work on the body but also on the mind.

Soman's session was followed by a masterclass by leadership development expert and executive coach Bill Hawkins. He presented some insights on the pitfalls of successful executives – they may be too optimistic for their own good and overpromise, for instance. In addition, he also pointed out a few habits that can hold you back from reaching the top, such as speaking when angry, withholding information, failing to give proper recognition, etc.

Then came an engrossing discussion on Internet-based start-ups. Titled "Online and on fire: Catch them if you can", the discussion had Amit Jain, President, Uber India; Amarjit Singh Batra, CEO, OLX India; Sanjeev Agarwal, Senior Managing Director, Helion Advisors; Suchi Mukherjee, founder and CEO, Limeroad; and Radhika Agarwal, co-founder and Chief Business Officer, Shopclues.com, talking about the opportunities and challenges for online start-ups in India.

While Soman's session was all about the health and well-being of the body and mind, the session after lunch focused on the health of the country's economy. It



**"In the next 4-5 years, banking, retail, brokerage, etc. will feel the ripple effects of 4G"**

**HIMANSHU KAPANIA**  
 Managing Director, Idea



**"A CEO should be a visionary, and put the organisation on the growth path in hard times"**

**ARUNDHATI BHATTACHARYA**  
 Chairman, SBI

was addressed by the country's former finance minister P. Chidambaram, who is known for his straight talking.

Not one to mince words, Chidambaram said that not everything is hunky-dory with the Indian economy as the government would like us to believe. He pointed out that the country's nominal GDP growth rate has come down to six per cent, something that only happened 50 years ago. According to Chidambaram, if nominal GDP continues to grow in the same fashion, it will have serious repercussions on the government's fiscal burden. He also talked about the fall in exports for the 12th consecutive month, and dismissed the government's claim that there has been an increase in public investment. He also said that there are few signs of stalled projects getting revived or private sector investments picking up.

After Chidambaram's rather critical analysis of the country's economy, the audience was pepped up by the second Masterclass by renowned leadership and motivational expert Susan Fowler.

Fowler busted the traditional thinking on motivation by saying that "incentivising people is no more relevant". According to her, the new norm is day-to-day motivation, where one's psychological needs are met, as opposed to one-time incentives.

The third edition of *Business Today* MindRush concluded on December 19 with renowned author Ashwin Sanghi's insightful session on how the Arthashastra, the treatise on economy, politics and diplomacy by Chanakya – touted to be the "Pioneer Economist of India" – 2,300 years ago, is still relevant for today's businesses. In fact, he said, it is the foundation for global governance and businesses.

The *Business Today* MindRush was presented by The WAVE Group, powered by Raymond, and had communication partner The HAVAS media Group, lifestyle partner Swarovski, and bespoke gift partner Hidesign. PwC India provided knowledge support to the Best CEO Awards. ♦

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