

TIMES OF INDIA SOCIAL IMPACT AWARDEES A SYMBOL OF HOPE, SAYS PRESIDENT



On the eve of Republic Day, President Pranab Mukherjee had spoken of the need to reset India’s moral compass and said “nothing should be allowed to spur cynicism...” Three days later, at a deeply moving ceremony hosted by National Award-winning filmmaker Prakash Jha, the President moved seamlessly from his R-Day address while applauding the winners of The Times of India Social Impact Awards, in association with J P Morgan, as symbols of hope. “It is the work done by exceptional individuals like the awardees...that gives me confidence in India’s enduring vitality and her certain tryst with destiny,” he said on Monday night. “I personally remember many such people from my childhood and the village in which I grew up.” His speech was heard in rapt silence by a power-packed audience that included about 15 Union cabinet ministers and ministers with independent charge, leaders of the Opposition, top bureaucrats, ambassadors, legal luminaries, business magnates and prominent figures from civil society. The President, seen in this picture with all the awardees and Times Group managing director Vineet Jain (to his right), complimented The Times of India for instituting the Awards which “will help reaffirm India as a caring society”. He said that while the media had a role in drawing “attention to what is wrong”, it should “make a conscious effort to highlight the positive”. “The best way is what TOI has done—identified those individuals and organizations who silently contribute for the betterment of society.”