Exclusive

## Celebs bag Excellence Awards at IEBF held at House of Lords

## - Sushma Lobo

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**London, Nov 21 (BAN):** The annual Indo-European Business Forum (IEBF) Global Excellence awards held at the House of Lords on Monday 18th November in London, hosted by IEBF founder-chair Mr Vijay Goel and IBEF leader Mr Sunil Kumar Gupta. Amongst the winners this year Suniel Shetty who you may know as an Bollywood actor and who is also an entrepreneur is among a group of achievers to be awarded for excellence in their respective fields.

Shetty, the Bollywood action star and founder of FTC Talent Media & Entertainment, was congratulated with the Award for Excellence for his Contribution to Indian Art and Culture.

Shetty said "The motivation behind FTC was to protect kids from exploitation when they step into the entertainment industry." He received the award from former Indian cricket captain Kapil Dev and Baroness Sandy Verma.

IEBF Awards for Excellence were handed out in the category of Contribution to the Media Industry to Manish Tiwari, the founder of UK-based ethnic media agency Here and Now 365. Contribution to Social Sector Reforms to Ritu Prakash Chhabria, managing trustee of the Mukul Madhav Foundation and daughter of Hinduja Group co-chair GP Hinduja, for her work in the field of medicine and education; Contribution to Profit for Purpose to accounting software firm Accloud. The Government of Jersey received an award for 'Delivering Economic Tranformation by Embracing New Global Oppertunities.

The event also marked the launch of a report entitled 'India: A 5 Trillion Dollar Economy by 2024-25' based on B K Modi's work and compiled by IEBF India lead Sunil Gupta.

Mr Gupta said "The Indian economy has been on a growth trajectory since the last few years and is heading towards achieving its humongous target of a 5-trillion-dollar economy by 2024-25. In the recent trend of global economic slowdown, India is moving forward towards achieving its dream target with the help of various factors like democracy, demography, demand, decisiveness, ease of doing business and ease of living, among others".

Vijay Goel said the association was set up in 2007 "to help promote India among the countries of the European Union and will continue that work, Brexit or no Brexit".

GP Hinduja, who supports this endeavour and is a major investor in India through the Hinduja Group, assured that there are still issues around the ease of doing business in India however there are people working on negotiating and eradicating corruption.

"Prime Minister Modi has an excellent vision for the country but the reforms are not being able to keep pace with that. We, the OCIs, (Overseas Citizens of India) are a real asset for India and a lot can be done to harness the strengths of the OCIs and NRIs (Non-Resident Indians]," he said.

Dev, a member of the IEBF India Advisory Board, addressed the concerns raised by Hinduja, saying India was undergoing some "teething problems" as it continues to grow at a fast pace.

"India is one country that believes in peace and wants to do business. That is the strength of India. Come and invest and India will not let you down," added the former Indian skipper.





