

**Press Announcement**

**For Immediate Publication**



### **Karan Paul awarded top Italian Honour**

**Kolkata, July 14, 2006:** Karan Paul, Chairman, Apeejay Surrendra Group has been awarded one of Italy's highest honour 'Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity.' Hon.Gianni Vernetti, Minister of State of the Ministry of External Affairs, presented the decorations of the 'Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity" in New Delhi.

Italy confers this award annually on Italian and Foreign nationals residing outside the country who have significantly contributed to the stature of Italy. It could either be by way of promoting Italian culture and language or by any other voluntary activity or humanitarian service.

Referred to as the 'Stella della Solidarietà Italiana', the order was originally instituted in 1947 to recognize the achievements of those Italians and foreigners who had played a distinguished role in the reconstruction of Italy after World War II. In more recent times, the award is an acknowledgement of the service rendered by an individual towards strengthening Italy's relationship with the rest of the world. There are three ranks in the Order: Grande Ufficiale (Grand Officer), Commendatore (Commander), and Cavaliere (Knight).

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