

Dravid has been the quiet hero of Indian cricket

29th November 2009, Sunil Gavaskar

The CEAT International awards take place on Sunday and as always it promises to be a glitzy evening with the winners not only getting handsome trophies but also cash awards for their achievements in the cricketing year. One of the reasons the CEAT awards are so popular is because the winners don't just get a statuette, but also something to put in the bank. CEAT has over the years shown that they appreciate the efforts put in by the players for their countries and that that needs recognition not just with trophies.

In this aspect they are different from other awards who look for brand building, but without compensating those who have won glory for the country. It will be interesting to see who wins the prestigious CEAT International Cricketer of the Year award and the CEAT International Team of the Year Award.

There will be other awards too to recognize the deeds of some players who have reached a special milestone or created a new record and that make the CEAT awards even more attractive. It's an evening to look forward to with the cream of Mumbai's cricketing history being present as well as entertainment which only Mumbai can provide.



Having said that, the game goes on and the India - Sri Lanka series has provided for some exciting moments with India just completing its 100th win in Test cricket. It was a real team effort with the batsmen putting lots of runs on the board and the bowlers responding magnificently by dismissing the strong Lankan batting lineup twice in two days.

However, for the purpose of calculating the CEAT Cricketer of the Week, it's only the first Test performance that counts. The Indians did not capitalize on the chance to bat first at Ahmadabad and were 32 for 4 at one stage before the dependable Rahul Dravid got 177 and took them to a respectable total.

He got to 11,000 runs during the course of that innings and it is truly a phenomenal performance by a player who has quietly gone about the task of getting runs for the team. He was helped by skipper Dhoni who scored his second Test century. When it was Sri Lanka's turn they got off to a flier with Dilshan pasting the attack and getting a quickfire ton which paved the way for the classy Jayawardene to rub it in for the Indians.

Mahela Jayawardene with his superb 275 beats all other centurions like Dravid, Tendulkar, Dhoni and his teammate and namesake Prasanna Jayawardene to be this week's CEAT International Cricketer of the Week.