

**BIG FM CELEBRATES MAHARASHTRA DAY BY FELICITATING VERSATILE PERSONALITY SACHIN PILGAONKAR WITH 'MAHARASHTRA ICON OF THE YEAR' AWARD**

*The radio network marks the annual occasion by honoring personalities who have made Maharashtra proud with immense contribution in their respective fields*

*Veteran film journalist, critic, author, historian & entertainment editor at BIG FM, Bhawana Somaaya presented the award*

**Mumbai, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2018: BIG FM, one of India's largest radio networks** resonated the true spirit of Maharashtra as it celebrated the iconic Maharashtra Day. This year, the radio network marked the occasion by **felicitating versatile personality Sachin Pilgaonkar with 'Maharashtra Icon of The Year' award at the BIG FM studio.** The title celebrated his commendable journey of more than 5 decades in the film industry, and his contribution to his field of work. **Renowned director Nagraj Manjule was honored with the title last year during the 1<sup>st</sup> edition.**

The acclaimed actor was given a royal welcome by BIG FM at its studio in true Maharashtrian spirit. He was then greeted with the traditional Peshwai Pagdi upon his arrival on the stage followed by noted Indian film journalist, critic, author and historian Bhawana Somaaya, presenting him with the award. The ceremony was followed by Sachin Pilgaonkar and Bhawanji joining BIG MJ Dilipp for an insightful and engaging conversation about the actor's noteworthy journey of 56 years in the industry, the significance of this day, Marathi culture and other riveting topics.

Sharing his thoughts at the event, **Sachin Pilgaonkar** said, *"It is a matter of utmost pride for me that BIG FM considered presenting me with this title. I would like to mention that I am grateful to have been born in Maharashtra as this is the place where my journey started. I have received love and respect from all regions and I thank the almighty for that. This occasion is even more important, with Bhawana Somaaya presenting the award to me. The journey of many years that we have shared together makes it special and I am honored to receive the award from her."*

Speaking at the event, **Bhawana Somaaya** said, *"At BIG FM, we celebrate every festival with much fanfare. This year for Maharashtra Day, we highlighted the pride of the region by honoring actor Sachin Pilgaonkar with the 'Maharashtra Icon of The Year' award. In his career span of more than five decades, he has been an actor, director, singer and so much more, but he has always stayed that Sachin for me who I met for the first time in 1976. A big congratulation to him for winning this award and I wish him all the luck."*