

Models walked the ramp showcasing sexy ensemble while the cricketers mingled with the city's who's who

IPL PARTY BOWLS OVER CITY GLITTERATI

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THE grand cricketainment of the IPL — glittering with lusty hitting, celebrities, and ravishing cheerleaders — has acquired an extra dimension of rich indulgence this season: fashion and epicurean delights! After every evening of T20 action, organisers are throwing a party in the city where the matches have been played; the bash features a fashion show and a line-up of haute cuisine.

Ahmedabad was treated to one such do on March 15, after the Delhi Daredevils-Rajasthan Royals encounter at the Sardar Patel Stadium, in Motera. In fact, even while the teams were battling, a party was brewing at the Courtyard Marriott hotel.

Although the match's award ceremony concluded only after 12:30 am on March 16, invitees began dropping in at the Marriott as early as 10 pm on the match day. The guests for the party, a strict by-invitation-only affair, had been invited by Ahmedabad's well-known designer couple, Shyamal and Bhoomika. The security at Marriott had been heightened a day before the party.

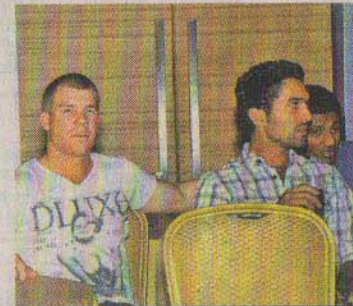


The cheerleaders at the post match party

As guests began trickling into the hotel, mocktails and heavy snacks were served even as the action was telecast live on several LCD TVs. Many came early to the party venue in order to enjoy the DJ's wizardry, and to mingle with friends. The IPL stars joined the party at 1:30 am and the thrill moved into a higher gear, with the glitterati and cricket gods milling around in bright cheer. When the party hit its climax, the dance floor and the mocktail bar glowed with the radiance of over 350 beautiful people.

Earlier, a spellbinding fashion show had begun as soon as the cricketers began pouring in. It was a two-sequence show with garments designed by the renowned Rina Dhaka. Top models of the fashion industry walked the ramp in white-and-black themed evening gowns. The IPL stars were seen enjoying mocktails and tidbits, especially Sehwag, who seemed to cherish snacks more than the couture. The captain of the Rajasthan Royals' team, Shane Warne, turned

out to be a head-turner. The ace spinner stood by the mocktail bar, chatting with his teammates. "I like Indian food now," Warne said. "I like butter chicken and gravy and rice. But I still cannot digest the hot spicy stuff." Twenty-two sexy dancers have been flown in from Ukraine for the IPL matches. "Ten of us act as cheerleaders in the matches, while 12 of us mingle with crowds on the stands," said Alayne, one of cheerleaders.



Dinesh Kartik with a teammate



Munaf Patel, Pradeep Sangwan with a friend