

Ernst & Young announces winners for the Entrepreneur Of The Year Award 2009

Anand G. Mahindra, Mahindra Group, awarded Entrepreneur Of The Year 2009

N. Vaghul felicitated with Entrepreneur Of The Year Lifetime Achievement Award

Mumbai, 16 February 2010 - Mr. Anand G. Mahindra, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Mahindra Group, the leading industrial conglomerate, has been named the **Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2009**. Seven other successful entrepreneurs received these coveted awards across various categories at a magnificent award banquet here on Tuesday night.

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** was conferred upon **Mr. N. Vaghul** for his unparalleled contribution to the Indian financial sector. During his tenure as CEO of ICICI, he transformed the bank from a small long-term credit bank to a diversified financial conglomerate. He was instrumental in starting an investment bank, a commercial bank, a venture capital company and an asset management company, as part of the ICICI group. Today, Mr. Vaghul is an icon, a distinguished global leader and a well respected corporate citizen.

An eminent jury chaired by **Mr. M. Damodaran, former Chairman of SEBI, IDBI, UTI and Chairman, The Damodaran Group** selected the winners. Other jury members comprised **Dr. Amit Mitra**, Director General, FICCI; **Ms. Naina Lal Kidwai**, Group Manager & Country Head, HSBC India; **Mr. Neeraj Bharadwaj**, Managing Partner, Accel Partners; **Mr. P.R.S Oberoi**, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, The Oberoi Group and **Mr. R. Seshasayee**, Managing Director, Ashok Leyland.

Over 400 of the country's top industrialists and leading corporate personalities attended the event, the only global business award program in India, which is celebrated in over 135 cities spanning across 50 nations. Mr. Anand G. Mahindra will represent India at the Ernst & Young World Entrepreneur Of The Year Award in Monte Carlo, Monaco in May 2010.

On the occasion, **Ernst & Young, CEO and Country Managing Partner, Rajiv Memani, said**, "The winners are outstanding individuals who have not only built best-in-class businesses, but have demonstrated tremendous resilience and tenacity in dealing with uncertainty as also displayed the ability to put India back on track quickly. Today, our entrepreneurs stand out as a beacon to the world. These individuals may represent diverse sectors but are united in their desire to positively impact the society and wider community."

Mr. Harsh C. Mariwala, Chairman & Managing Director, Marico Ltd., was selected the winner in the **Manufacturing Category**. Under his able leadership, Marico has emerged as a leading FMCG company with presence across hair care, skin care and healthcare segments with more than 20 brands under its fold. His vision and astute business acumen have guided the company's foray into international markets and has also led the renowned brand 'Parachute' to become the world's largest packaged coconut oil brand.

The Award for the **Manager Entrepreneur Of The Year** was given to **Mr. O.P. Bhatt**, Chairman, State Bank of India, who led SBI's transformation exercise and successfully arrested its declining market share. Today, SBI serves more than 160 million customers and enjoys a market share of 25% in India. It boasts of more than 14,000 ATMs and the largest network of approximately 11,900 branches connected through a single core banking platform across the world.

The Award for the **Start-up Entrepreneur** of the year was given to **Mr. Amit Mittal**, Chairman & Managing Director, A2Z Maintenance & Engineering Services Pvt. Ltd. In a span of seven years, the company has grown from facility management services in Delhi to a leading EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) company, handling transmission and distribution projects. Sales of A2Z have grown by more than 3.5 times in the last three years.

The **Services Category Award** was bestowed upon **Mr. Shashi Kiran Shetty**, Chairman & Managing Director, Allcargo Global Logistics Ltd. With a humble start in 1993, Allcargo has clocked a steady growth, overcoming stiff competition and challenges to emerge as pioneers in the global logistics industry with 139 offices in 56 countries. Today, Allcargo is well known as India's first multinational company in the logistics sector and the second largest LCL (less than container load) consolidator in the world.

Dr. Vikram Akula, Chairperson & Founder of India's largest microfinance company SKS Microfinance Pvt. Ltd., was named the **Business Transformation Entrepreneur Of The Year**. Since inception, it has disbursed approximately INR 98 billion in microloans while maintaining a repayment rate of 99.5%. The company's profit oriented model has led to sustained growth rates of more than 128% and attracted major equity investments from premier venture capitalists.

The **Entrepreneur of the Year Healthcare & Life Sciences Award** went to **Mr. Pankaj R Patel**, Chairman & Managing Director, Zydus Cadila Healthcare Ltd. Mr. Patel has been the guiding force behind Zydus' fast tracked growth and its corporate brand equity. Today, the company enjoys leadership position in the cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, respiratory and women healthcare segment. His ability to pursue an inorganic growth strategy with seven successful acquisitions in the last three years has enabled strengthening the company's presence in key international markets.

Adds Rajiv Memani, “What makes this award program truly distinctive is its global dimensions, being conducted in over 50 nations around the world and culminating in the World Entrepreneur Of The Year. The process of selection is unique, robust and consistent worldwide. It is truly the world’s only integrated business award, fostering the spirit of entrepreneurship”

About The Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year Award

Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® is the world’s most prestigious business award for entrepreneurs. The unique award makes a difference through the way it encourages entrepreneurial activity among those with potential, and recognizes the contribution of people who inspire others with their vision, leadership and achievement. As the first and only truly global award of its kind, Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year celebrates those who are building and leading successful, growing and dynamic businesses, recognizing them through regional, national and global awards programs in more than 135 cities in 50 countries.

Ernst & Young India launched the Program in 1999, making it the first country in the Firm’s Asia-Pacific region to introduce this initiative.

Past recipients of the EOY Award include N.R Narayana Murthy (Infosys), Ratan Tata (TATA Group), Mukesh D. Ambani (Reliance), Sunil Bharti Mittal (Bharti Group), Brijmohan Lall Munjal (Hero Group), Kumar Mangalam Birla (Aditya Birla Group), Subhash Chandra (Zee Telefilms), Anil Agarwal (Vedanta) and Tulsi Tanti (Suzlon).

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Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year Award India Winners 2009

Entrepreneur Of The Year 2009

Mr. Anand G. Mahindra, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Mahindra Group

Entrepreneur Of The Year - Lifetime Achievement

Mr. N. Vaghul, Ex- Chairman, ICICI Bank Ltd.

Entrepreneur Of The Year - Start-up

Mr. Amit Mittal, Chairman & Managing Director, A2Z Maintenance & Engineering Services Pvt. Ltd.

Entrepreneur Of The Year - Business Transformation

Dr. Vikram Akula, Chairperson & Founder, SKS Microfinance Pvt. Ltd.

Entrepreneur Of The Year - Manufacturing

Mr. Harsh C Mariwala, Chairman & Managing Director, Marico Ltd.

Entrepreneur Of The Year - Manager

Mr. O. P. Bhatt, Chairman & Managing Director, State Bank of India

Entrepreneur Of The Year - Healthcare & Life Sciences

Mr. Pankaj R. Patel, Chairman & Managing Director, Zydus Cadila Healthcare Ltd.

Entrepreneur Of The Year - Services

Mr. Shashi Kiran Shetty, Chairman & Managing Director, Allcargo Global Logistics Ltd.