



**JAMSETJI TATA AWARD
FOR
LIFE-TIME ACHIEVEMENT
FOR QUALITY 2008**

Mr. K Mahesh

CITATION

Mr K Mahesh, brings with his name, several decades of proficiency in the skill of metallurgy and Foundry technology. His Bachelors Degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai and extensive training in leading foundries and specialized courses at the National Foundry College in UK, helped groom him into the fine foundry connoisseur he is today.

In his early days, Mr Mahesh set up a modern non-ferrous foundry at Sundaram Clayton Ltd in 1971. In 1975, he was deputed to set up a new factory, in Chennai, to manufacture brake linings and clutch facings in a Joint Venture Company with Abex Corp then known as Sundaram Abex. The company later came to be referred to as Sundaram Brake Linings Ltd (SBL), and remembers Mr Mahesh for his creation of direct employment opportunities for 900 families. His endeavours were furthered through his involvement in the commissioning of three more modern factories (two in Madurai and one in Sengundram at the Mahindra World City near Chennai). His team, along with qualified professionals from across the world, was instrumental in introducing various modern manufacturing techniques through Total Quality Management ([TQM](#)), Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) and LEAN programs in all the four factories.

Under his august leadership as Chairman and Managing Director, the SBL has won several accolades and an award including the much coveted Deming Application Prize in the year 2001. Known for his pragmatism, Mahesh would always first execute a new improvement tool himself, before asking his team to implement it. His leadership qualities are heightened through the humility he exhibits while working with his team members and taking their opinions into account. He truly believes in PDCA with lot of focus on P (Planning).

As an outstanding Achiever Mahesh believes in India's capacity to make its presence in the global manufacturing scene is firm and unshakeable. Mahesh firmly trusts in the abundant talent and skill in Indian managers and workers and believes that their common sense is par excellence.



Having served earlier as President of the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), as Chairman at **ACT full form**, and has been a member of the National Council of the Confederation of India Industry (CII).

An environmentalist at heart, Mahesh lived out his passion for nature at his workplace as well by planting over 20,000 trees in and around SBL's four factory units.

The Jamsetji Tata Award is given to industry leaders who have made a significant contribution to the Indian society through their work of leading an organization with an exceptional focus on holistic quality of management, with humility, constancy of purpose, determination and setting an exceptional example to achieve outstanding results.

The Governing Council of ISQ is pleased to honour Mr. K Mahesh with the Jamsetji Tata Award for Life Time Achievement in successfully managing business through quality and contributing to the creation of quality culture in society and thereby prosperity for the people of India.
