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Top honour for a global business mind
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Top honour for a global business mind

Dr Raghupati Singhania, chairman and MD, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd, was recently conferred with Mexico's highest civilian honour

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Dr Raghupati Singhania, chairman and MD, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd, was recently awarded the highest honour accorded to foreign nationals by the government of Mexico.

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On the eve of the 208th National Day of Mexico, Melba Pría, Ambassador of Mexico to India, conferred Singhania with The Order of the Aztec Eagle on behalf of the President of Mexico. The top honour was in recognition for Singhania's exemplary leadership, noteworthy services towards humanity and his contribution towards strengthening trade ties between India and Mexico.

Receiving the award, Singhania said, "I am humbled by the honour and it has been a privilege to have played a role in creating interest among Indian businesses in investing in Mexico. The Government of Mexico has given a boost to business by welcoming foreign investment with open arms."

In the past, other eminent Indian nationals have been awarded with the Order of the Aztec Eagle, including former president Dr S Radhakrishnan and artist Satish Gujral. Other winners include Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates, Nobel Economics laureate Amartya Sen; and Nobel-prize winning author Nadine Gordimer.

Mexican Ambassador to India Melba Pría presents the award to Singhania

Global footprint

JK Tyre has a strong presence in Mexico. In 2009, the company acquired Mexican tyre company Tornel, which had production facilities in Arcapotmico, Tultitlan and Hidalgo.

Under Singhania's strategic leadership, the company turned around the facility in the very first year by improving efficiencies and increasing market share across product segments.

Over the years, production capacity has expanded and Tornel's footprint has grown in North America and the Latin America markets.

Recently, the company implemented the first-ever labour restructuring programme in Mexico, at JK Tornel by rightsizing workforce.

Leading the pack

Part of the JK organisation, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd is a leading OE manufacturer in India and one of the top 16 manufacturers in the world.

With a global presence in 100 countries across six continents, backed by production support from 12 plants — nine in India and three in Mexico — the company's capacity across all its plants is about 35 million tyres per annum.

Pioneers of radial technology, JK Tyre produced the first radial tyre in 1977 and is currently the market leader in truck bus radial segment.

JK Tyre & Industries Ltd has a strong network of 4,000 dealers and over 300 dedicated brand shops called Steel Wheels and Xpress Wheels.