

# Padma Shri for Surinder Mehta

**S**hri Surinder Mehta, founder Chairman of Prime Group, has been awarded Padma Shri by the Government of India this year for his distinguished service in the field of Technology Solutions.

Prime Group — a high technology solution provider to the nation — comprises of well-known companies such as PCI Ltd., Planet PCI Infotech Ltd., Prime Electric Ltd., Prime Power Corporation Ltd., and Endolite India Ltd. among others. The Group was founded in 1986 and has since witnessed a remarkable growth from being a prime idea to a highly diversified multi-activity conglomerate focused on technological innovations particularly relating to core sectors and infrastructure related projects. These companies bring to the country, latest and state-of-the-art technologies in the fields of power, electronics production, engineering, precision investment casting, aviation & aerospace, specialised software solutions (for space & defence sectors), as well as technologies that relate to prosthetics & orthotics for social welfare and betterment in the lives of physically challenged citizens.

Born on 3rd August, 1956, Shri Surinder Mehta underwent schooling at Modern School, New Delhi and later received his honours degree in Commerce from Shri Ram College of Commerce, University

of Delhi. A self-made entrepreneur, Shri Mehta began his career in the field of underground power cable fault location through computerised hi-tech van-mounted equipment that obviated the very need for endless digging of roads all over. This totally revolutionised power distribution, saving hundreds of crores of rupees for power utilities across the country through drastic improvement in power supply and the significant reduction in the downtime. Shri Mehta's quest for technology lead him to bring further advancements into the country in fields of on-site & on-line partial discharge detection; infrared based thermography and thermal imaging; emergency restoration system for transmission line towers; and high capacity battery-less UPS systems among others. Brought from across the world, these technological advancements are being used extensively across the country by the Government, public and private sector, significantly contributing to the country's economy and growth. Some of the well known organisations served include ISRO, DRDO, NTPC, Power Grid, IAAI, BHEL, BEL, SAIL, Railways, Defence, TATA, Reliance, CPRI, IOC, L&T to name a few from what would be and who-is-who in virtually all sectors of the economy be it power, space, shipping, aviation, petroleum, oil & gas, steel, cement, fertilizers, medical etc.



Surinder Mehta

Shri Mehta's software company - Planet PCI Infotech Ltd. - has directly contributed to some very vital projects including development of Infrared signature suppression device and the Indian Navy is now fitting out all future indigenous warships with this system thereby considerably enhancing their stealth capability; and developing simulation tools for the Centre for Air Borne Studies (CABS) - a DRDO organisation - for optimal positioning of antennas on aircraft for best performance and support systems to act as force multiplier thereby enhancing offensive and defensive capabilities of the Defence forces.

Shri Mehta's other noteworthy contributions towards the country and its economy through use of technology are: Providing disaster

relief ERS systems for almost immediate restoration of high tension power lines resulting from collapse of transmission towers due to natural calamities, terrorism or vandalism; Supply of specialised power conditioning systems for managing the ground control and support equipment for the Chandrayan project; Providing un-interrupted and quality power to several radar communication systems at the country's international airports, as well as to various Defence organisations for vital radar systems; Providing specialized power solutions to the Department of Atomic Energy at CAT Indore for production of radio-isotopes for diagnostic imaging, a medical cyclotron facility, first of its kind in the country; Providing over 100 MW of power through unique battery-less UPS systems, significantly assisting in reduction of carbon emission; Designing and manufacturing of a specialized X-ray Generator and its robotic handling system for use by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) enabling them to manufacture quality PCBs for use in various satellite systems; and Generating power through the renewable energy by setting up a wind power generating station in the state of Gujarat, among other contributions.

Shri Mehta's keen interest in the technology also lead him to focus on import substitution in the field of power turbine componentary, and with in-house R&D efforts made by his able team, successfully developed highly specialised parts of steam turbines up to 500 MW for BHEL thereby contributed substantially to their indigenization programme.

Shri Surinder Mehta founded ISHWAR — a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) — as a charitable society in 1995.

Endolite India, an ISO 9000 company, is yet another pioneering effort by Shri Surinder Mehta in the social field that has set-up a chain of over 25 modern and state-of-the-art P&O centres and sub-centres across India and is still growing, to provide and fit the most technologically advanced artificial limbs including computerised knee control systems & electronically controlled upper limbs; cosmetic restoration and state-of-the-art orthotics. **SD**