

**Press Release**

**Ashraf Patel of Pravah & ComMutiny Youth Collective wins  
the Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) Award - India 2020, presented by  
Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Hon. Minister of Women & Child Development & Textiles,  
Government of India**

**New Delhi, November 26, 2020:** The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, the sister organisation of the World Economic Forum and the Jubilant Bhartia Foundation of Jubilant Bhartia Group today announced **Ashraf Patel of Pravah & ComMutiny Youth Collective (CYC)** as the winner of the Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award - India 2020. The award was presented by Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Hon. Minister of Women & Child Development & Textiles, Government of India at a virtual ceremony in presence of eminent personalities from different fields from across the world.

Congratulating the winner and appreciating the finalists of this year's SEOY Award India 2020, **Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Hon. Minister of Women & Child Development & Textiles, Government of India** said, *"I acknowledge and appreciate the contribution of Schwab Foundation and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation in celebrating social entrepreneurs. I would like to congratulate all the social entrepreneurs who have been considered by the esteemed jury for this prestigious award. This award today highlights to the rest of our country, that compassion is not only the most endearing but also an equally profitable business skill. Those who have come to this platform are the champions of digital India."*

The SEOY Award India 2020 winner – Ashraf Patel has been bringing revolutionary change through development of a generation of empathetic, sensitive youth change-makers in India. It is doing so, through psycho-social interventions and helping them build more inclusive identities & societies.

**Prof Klaus Schwab, Founder & Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum and Co-Founder the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship** announced the winner of the SEOY Award India 2020 and added, *"The World Economic Forum is very much involved in helping fight the pandemic. I am looking forward to having India very well represented in our activities because India is a major force in shaping the future and has to be very prominently engaged."*

Commending the winner and the finalists of SEOY Award India 2020, **Mrs. Hilde Schwab, Chairperson and Co-Founder of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship** said, *"This year's winner and finalists of the Social Entrepreneur of the Year India award all exemplify what our community is about – actors who have selflessly dedicated their lives to improving the state of the world around them. Social innovators are pioneering agents of change re-inventing the way our institutions operate, and are critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The current global pandemic has highlighted the crucial role of social innovators in identifying urgent needs and mobilizing responses to*

*realities on the ground. The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurships is proud to have been partnering with Jubilant Bhartia Foundation over the past 11 years to award social innovators from India who are not only driving change but are also shifting organisations and systems towards a more just, inclusive, sustainable future.”*

Applauding the winner and the finalists, **Mr. Shyam S Bhartia, Chairman and Founder and Mr. Hari S Bhartia, Chairman & Co-Founder, Jubilant Bhartia Group and Founder Directors of Jubilant Bhartia Foundation**, said, *“Over last eleven years, we have seen a diversity of applications coming from the remotest corners of the country. The award process has so far seen over 1600 diverse applications. This year, inspite of trying times of pandemic, we received over 100 applications, with over one third women social entrepreneur applicants. The enthusiastic participation reflects the resilience & the tenacity of the social sector in these challenging times. It hearting to see that the finalists of this year have brought disruption in their own fields with their innovative ideas and approach. They have done path-breaking work in the fields of Healthcare, Youth Development and Solid Waste Management. Congratulations and kudos to the winner and the finalists for their extraordinary efforts. Their commitment to the cause is incomparable.”*

**Ashraf Patel, on winning the SEOY Award - India 2020** said, *“This recognition for youth leadership has come at a moment when it was needed the most, the world right now is beset with inequality, conflict and environmental issues. Never before have we needed more collaboration and shared leadership with young people to create a better world.”*

Ashraf Patel will join the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship Community, the world’s largest and prestigious network of social innovators from around the world. The winner also participates in the annual and regional meetings of the World Economic Forum (WEF) which offer unique opportunities to engage with global decision makers from the public, corporate, media, academic and civil society sectors. The other finalists were **Sujoy Santra** of IKure, Kolkata & **Sandeep Patel** of NEPRA , Ahmedabad .

Celebrating its 11th year, the SEOY Award India has established itself as one of the most reputed and coveted awards for social entrepreneurs in India. The award recognises entrepreneurs who implement innovative, sustainable and scalable solutions to solve India’s social problems. In 2010, the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation came together to promote social innovation in India through the Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) India Award.

The SEOY Award - India 2020 received applications from 23 cities this year, with interventions in diverse fields including clean technology, media communication, youth development, disability, energy, enterprise development, labour conditions, microfinance, health & nutrition, sustainable farming and water & sanitation.

This year’s jury members for the award included, **Shobhana Bhartia**, Chairperson & Editorial Director, HT Media Ltd; **Hilde Schwab**, Chairperson & Co – Founder, Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship; **Sudha Pillai**, Board Member, Jubilant Life Sciences Ltd & Former Member Secretary, Planning Commission, Government of India; **Uday Kotak**, President, CII & Executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Bank; **Rakesh Mohan**,

President and Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Social & Economic Progress; **Rohini Nilekani**, Chairperson, Arghyam Foundation; **P R Ganapathy**, Regional Director, Stanford Seed, India and **Dipesh Sutariya**, Co-founder - EnAble India, Winner SEOY 2019.

**About the winner:**

Pravah has been facilitating the development of a generation of empathetic, sensitive youth change-makers in India through psycho-social interventions, helping them build more inclusive identities and societies bringing about revolutionary changes. With a belief that leaders are created in spaces which are safe, empowering, and inclusive, a unique approach to youth development in the form of the '5th Space' has been developed. The 5th Space focuses on transforming young people by engaging them in deep self-exploration and supporting their social action experiments to become change-makers and awakened active citizens. It nurtures social inclusion, holistic development and fosters social hope by promoting feelings of freedom, ownership, love and learning and growth. With credence in its strategy and approach of creating 'Abilities beyond skill' Pravah has produced over 50 different designs of self to society journeys for different youth audiences ranging from urban middle-class young people to youth from rural and tribal backgrounds.

ComMutiny - The Youth Collective: Incubated by Pravah in collaboration with some of the best youth engaging organizations in the country acts as a vibrant national community of practice that promotes youth centric spaces through joint programming and public engagement on contemporary issues. A multi-sectoral formulation, called the vartaLeap coalition is also emerging from this eco-system to realise the mission of 'Every Youth a Jagrik and Every Space Nurturing Jagriks', that places youth duties and rights at the centre of all programming and policies in relation to youth and spaces that engage and influence young people in the country. Together Pravah and ComMutiny- The Youth Collective (CYC) have nurtured 6,80,000 young leaders, worked with over 1200 youth-centric organisations and 100 civil society groups across 17 states in the country.

**Note to the Editors:**

**Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship** was co-founded by Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, and his wife Hilde. For over twenty years, the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship has supported the world's leading social innovators in their efforts to create a more just, equitable, and sustainable world. The Schwab Foundation provides unparalleled platforms at the regional and global level to highlight and advance leading models of sustainable social innovation.

Learn more at [www.schwabfound.org](http://www.schwabfound.org) and follow on: Twitter: [twitter.com/schwabfound](https://twitter.com/schwabfound) and Facebook: [www.facebook.com/schwabfound](https://www.facebook.com/schwabfound)

**Jubilant Bhartia Foundation (JBF)**, established in 2007, is the not-for-profit organisation of the Jubilant Bhartia Group. It focuses on conceptualising and implementing the Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives (CSR) for the Group. The Jubilant Bhartia Foundation's activities include various community development work, healthcare programs, cultural and

sports events, environmental preservation initiative, vocational training, women empowerment, educational activities and promotion of Social Entrepreneurship.

Learn more at [www.jubilantbhartiafoundation.com](http://www.jubilantbhartiafoundation.com) and follow on: Twitter: @indiaseoy and Facebook: [www.facebook.com/IndiaSEOY](http://www.facebook.com/IndiaSEOY)

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