

◆ "Aarogyasri" wins Skoch Challenger Award 2009 ◆



CEO Aarogyasri Health Care Trust Sri Babu.A, IAS receiving the award from Sri Wajahat Habibullah

Hyderabad|India|January'2009: Aarogyasri Health Care Trust won the Skoch Challenger Award 2009 for "Services Delivery". Skoch Challenger Award are one of the highest, independently instituted civilian honors in the country that recognises people, projects and institutions for their extraordinary achievements in contributing to the society. The Skoch Challenger Awards are coveted for their independence and a distinguished jury based approach. The Award is independently instituted and conferred as a third party perspective. The roll of honour of the Skoch Challenger Awards over the years is a testimony to this. The award includes a citation and shield of honor.

Meanwhile the Chief Minister Dr. Y.S.Rajasekhara Reddy, when informed about the award telephonically congratulated the Minister for Health Insurance and Medical Education, Smt. Galla Aruna; Principal Secretary Health, Mr. P.K.Agarwal; CEO, Mr. A.Babu, Officials, Trust Members and Staff of Aarogyasri Health Care Trust, for winning the coveted Skoch Challenger Award 2009. Dr. Reddy hoped that the Aarogyasri Scheme would come to the help of all deserving and poor people. The citation given to Aarogyasri Health Care Trust read as follows.

' In a country where health insurance schemes did not pick up and any attempt to achieve Health for All through such a scheme was considered doomed from the start, Andhra Pradesh has covered more than 65 million people below poverty line through it's Rajiv Aarogyasri Community Health Insurance scheme, the cashless system where people do not have to pay to get treated in the empanelled hospitals. The scheme is being run by Aarogyasri Health Care Trust under a Public-Private-Partnership that includes a private insurer, public and private hospitals, women's self-help groups and the state government. There are strict protocols on the treatment, with around 800 medical and surgical packages listed and the costs fixed by the trust's panel of doctors. Behind the model is a holistic approach to healthcare, ensuring that people are given free health check-ups by the network hospitals and 24-hour health helpline,

manned by 100 doctors and 1,600 paramedics that handle about 53,000 calls per day. So far beneficiaries have claimed 5 billion rupees under the scheme.

This year's Skoch summit was held in India Habitat centre, New Delhi on 22nd and 23rd January 2009. The summit was organised by Skoch foundation, Planning commission of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development Govt of India, Ministry of Communication and IT Govt of India and Ministry of Panchayat Raj Govt of India. On behalf of Aarogyasri Health Care Trust the award was received by Chief Executive Officer, Sri Babu.A, IAS at New Delhi.

Over the past seven years the awards have been conferred on the mighty and the ordinary for their extraordinary achievements in contributing to the society. This year again the awardees come with inspiring stories that others can take note of and learn from. The Awards cover the best of efforts in the area of digital inclusion, financial inclusion and social inclusion. They encompass the best of governance, excellence in academics, capacity building, empowerment and other such issues that normally get lost in the glamour and the glitz.

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