

Diversity UK Honours Lord Gadhia with a Diversity Champion Award

London [28th February 2024]: Lord Jitesh Gadhia was recognised by equality charity Diversity UK with their Diversity Champion Award for his unwavering support of their **Asians in Tech initiative**, which celebrated a decade of success at an event held at the House of Lords on Tuesday, 27 February 2024.

Lord Gadhia, who hosted the event, spoke thoughtfully about the significant growth of the UK's tech sector. The event also saw the launch of the [Asians in Tech Impact Report](#), which included findings from the Cambridge Venture Project team commissioned by the charity to independently verify the social outcomes of the initiative.

Lord Gadhia said upon launching the report: *"I've been delighted to support Asians in Tech since its inception, having been a judge, speaker, and panellist at their showcase events over the years. The turnover of UK tech businesses has increased from \$195 billion in 2015 to over \$1 trillion last year. The level of venture capital funding underpinning that growth has risen from \$6.9 billion to \$21.3 billion during the period. However, this growth hasn't been evenly distributed: we know that female founders received less than 2% of VC funding last year, and ethnic minorities are often overlooked. This is why initiatives like Asians in Tech are so crucial; they showcase, inspire, and connect founders and funders here in the UK and globally. I congratulate Diversity UK for reaching this 10-year milestone despite the global pandemic, economic uncertainties, and funding challenges. Their work is vital in maintaining the momentum that's been created."*

Presenting the award to Lord Gadhia, **Diversity UK Chair, Lopa Patel MBE, said in her citation:**

"We would like to present a special award to an individual who has guided, mentored, and supported Diversity UK with the Asians in Tech initiative by:

- *Judging, advising, and being the gentlest dragon of them all at the Asians in Tech Showcase*
- *Connecting founders to partners*
- *Directing investment funds to areas of growth*
- *Quietly finding jobs for talented individuals of all ethnicities*
- *Genuinely encouraging global cooperation*

On behalf of the Trustees of Diversity UK, we would like to present the Diversity Champions Award to Lord Gadhia, who embodies all the qualities that the award celebrates."

Accepting the award, Lord Gadhia thanked the Trustees of Diversity UK and acknowledged their humility in allowing an independent team to scrutinise the initiative and learn from their experience, which he described as *"rare and far-sighted."* He concluded by saying, *"The Asians in Tech initiative is special. I am delighted to have championed it and will continue to do so for the next stage of its journey. Thank you."*

For a comprehensive overview, visit [AsiansInTech.com](#). Join us in celebrating a decade of excellence! 🚀 #AsiansInTech #TechImpactReport #DiversityInTech #DiversityChampion

Notes for Editors:

Images: <https://bit.ly/3uPbpLz>

Asians in Tech Report Impact Report 2024: <https://bit.ly/4cgGj0>

About Asians in Tech

The Asians in Tech initiative was established in 2015 with Lord Vaizey, then the Minister for the Digital Economy launching the first Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list. Successes of the Asians in Tech initiative over the past decade include ★ 9 AT100 lists published; ★ 6 Tech Showcases hosted (Cambridge, London, Manchester); ★ 5 Chairman's Awards presented; ★ 121 Asian Tech Pioneers recognised; ★ 3 Investing in Women Founders panel debates held, ★ Queen's Award for Enterprise Masterclass delivered, ★ Asian Tech Pioneers video + ★ AI Inclusion Podcast.

Diversity UK is proud that the aim of showcasing Asian talent in the tech sector has been realised with founders achieving their investment targets, receiving grant funding, forming new partnerships and recognition in scaling their ventures. The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list and Asian Tech Pioneers Awards are celebrated in the summer of each year and published online at: <https://asiansintech.com/>

Social Media:

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/asiansintech/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/asiansintech/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/asiansintech/> @asiansintech

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/asiansintech/> @asiansintech

The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list and Diversity UK are the brainchild of the digital entrepreneur Lopa Patel MBE, listed in Computer Weekly's Most Influential Women in UK Tech 2022 list, who has long been recognised as an evangelist for STEM and the tech industries in the UK.

About Diversity UK

Diversity UK is an equality and inclusion charity that researches, advocates and promotes ideas for improving diversity in Britain. Diversity UK delivers its charitable objectives by undertaking research, facilitating debates, hosting roundtable meetings, producing white papers and publishing a monthly newsletter focusing on contemporary equality issues. Diversity UK is a registered charity (No: 1155189) in England & Wales. <https://diversityuk.org/>

Diversity UK successes include:

- ❖ 1 Flagship 'Beyond the Glass Ceiling' Research Report published in 2013.
- ❖ 4 Reviews incl. the Davies 'Women on Boards' Review & McGregor-Smith 'Race in the Workplace' Review
- ❖ 4 Consultations including on Gender Pay Gap Reporting, Diversity Action Plan & DEI initiatives
- ❖ 1 Women in Science Conference sponsored in 2016.
- ❖ 2 Collaborations with The Work Foundation and Fawcett Society on gender related research

Lord Jitesh Gadhia, Member of the House of Lords

Lord Jitesh Gadhia has been a Member of the House of Lords since September 2016. He was previously Senior Managing Director at Blackstone based in London and has over 25 years' financial services experience, having also held senior positions at Barclays Capital, ABN AMRO and Baring Brothers.

He currently serves on the boards the Bank of England, Rolls-Royce Holdings plc, Taylor Wimpey plc and Compare The Market Limited. He was previously a board member of UK Financial Investments Limited (UKFI) and UK Government Investments Limited (UKGI), the centre of excellence for corporate finance and corporate governance for the UK Government, between 2014-2022.

Lord Gadhia is also Chair of The British Asian Trust, a charitable foundation established by His Majesty King Charles III. He graduated from Cambridge University with a degree in economics and attended the London Business School as a Sloan Fellow.

Lopa Patel MBE, Chair - Diversity UK

Lopa Patel is a digital entrepreneur with significant experience of creating start-ups and transforming businesses through technology. The founder of two ventures in online media and a data-driven marketing consultancy, she is also Chair equality charity, Diversity UK; Chair of the National Science & Media Museum (NSMM) Advisory Board; a Trustee of the Science Museum Group and a Non-Executive Director of the Intellectual Property Office (IPO).

With a lifelong love of science and technology, she is an evangelist for STEM, innovation and bridging the skills gap in business. She has been recognised with accolades including an MBE for services to the creative industries and the Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion. Lopa was named in Computer Weekly's 'Most Influential Women in Tech' 2022 list & won a Woman of Influence 2023 award.

For further information www.diversityuk.org | [@diversityuk](https://twitter.com/diversityuk)

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