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Being the first Indian to win the Asia Innovator award "certainly feels good", says M.S. Unnikrishnan, managing director & chief executive officer, Thermax. "This recognition will also motivate me to continue on this path and elevate the company's performance," he adds. Unnikrishnan received the award at the 11th edition of the Asia Business Leaders Awards (ABLA) in Bangkok in November 2012, in recognition of his "inventive thinking in business and his leadership in an organisation that has innovation at its core". The judges - management strategists, academicians, company leaders and CNBC executives - noted that he had set a goal for 30 per cent of Thermax's revenues to come from innovations in the past five years, making it a priority to foster such a culture. He has 'reinvigorated' the ₹6,000crore energy and environment solutions leader's innovative practices, reinforcing its energy-environment solutions for clients. He is also committed to the deployment of sustainable technologies, leading the company's efforts to create green product portfolios to help industry mitigate the impact of climate change and nurturing waste-to-energy projects as well as its recent forays in the renewable energy space, including recent solar and geothermal initiatives.