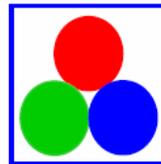




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The fourth lecture of the
Innovation and Technology Enterprise
Lecture Series

" Entrepreneurship and Innovation – A personal perspective"

by

Dr Keki Gharda

Founder, Chairman & Managing Director, Gharda Chemicals Ltd
Founder, Gharda Foundation

on

Monday, 29 September 2008

at 1430 hrs in the
Lecture Hall, Second Floor, Main Building
National Chemical Laboratory
Pashan Road, Pune - 411008

Dr Keki Gharda



Dr Keki Hormusji Gharda is the Founder, Chairman and Managing Director of Gharda Chemicals Ltd – a research based company with business interest in agrochemicals, dyestuffs and (till recently) polymers. He is a highly respected and recognized chemical engineer, inventor and entrepreneur. Dr Gharda is recognized as a pioneer in the global chemical industry. He stands out amongst all Indian entrepreneurs for his daring and determination to develop & commercialize indigenous technology for his company.

Dr Gharda is a Chemist and Chemical Engineer by training. He is an alumnus of the Bombay University's Department of Chemical Technology (UDCT, now UICT). He went on to secure a PhD from University of Michigan – Ann Arbor. Following this, he taught process design as an Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma, USA and also served as a visiting lecturer at UDCT before deciding to start his own enterprise in 1964. The company that he founded (Gharda Chemical Industries) as a three-men-in-a-garage in 1964 has grown leaps and bounds into a Rs 700 crore company known for very strong in-house research, technology development and commercialization capabilities. In 2005, the Polymers Division of Gharda Chemicals was bought by Solvay when the annual revenues of the division alone was around Rs 500 million.

Dr Gharda has been recognized by several awards and is listed in several patents as an inventor. Dr Gharda has been honored by the Distinguished Alumnus Award of UDCT, the Dr Burjor P Godrej Lifetime Achievement Award of the IICChE. Dr Gharda has been selected as one amongst four "Contributors to Indian Chemical Industry in the millennium". In 2004, Dr Gharda received the "Chemical Pioneer Award" from the American Institute of Chemists. Under his leadership, Gharda Chemicals has won several awards for innovation and technology development from ICMA, PLASTICON, CHEMEXIL, FICCI and the Govt of India.

Dr Gharda is also the Founder of Gharda Foundation, a non profit organisation, that is dedicated to the upliftment of India's rural population through social and civic awareness, education, health, income generation and microcredit.