



Mr G.K. Pillai MD & CEO Walchandnagar Industries Limited delivers Dr Vikram Sarabhai memorial lecture at VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, August 2014: Mr. G. K. Pillai Managing Director & CEO Walchandnagar Industries Limited (WIL) delivered a memorial lecture at VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram on the occasion of Dr Vikram A Sarabhai's 95th birth anniversary, which was attended by scientists and other distinguished members of the fraternity. In the past, the memorial lecture has been delivered by great luminaries such as Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, Dr S Ramaseshan, Dr P K Iyengar, Dr Raja Ramanna and Dr S K Gupta.

Mr Pillai spoke on the topic "Industrial development opportunities in the emerging economic environment and the growth of Space research in India". Speaking on the occasion, Mr Pillai commenced his speech by paying his tribute to Dr Vikram Sarabhai, who, according to him was a rare combination of an innovator, an industrialist and a visionary. Highlighting on Dr Sarabhai's grit to convert ideas and passion into reality, he admired Dr Sarabhai's vision of realising India's potential for indigenous space programs. He even went on to compare Dr Sarabhai with Seth Walchand Hirachand, who like the former was a great visionary himself, the man who gave India Air, Sea and Road transport in the form of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Premier Automobiles Limited and Hindustan Shipyard.

Touching upon India's achievements in the field of space, Mr Pillai highlighted that India's advanced space program has put her in an elite global group of 5-6 countries today. It is these space programs that give a boost to other industries, thus leading to overall development of the nation.

Talking about ISRO's accomplishments, he lauded ISRO on their contribution since its inception and stated that WIL was proud to be associated with ISRO for over four decades. He thanked VSSC for 'holding WIL's hand', and coaching WIL to achieve their requirement.

Mr Pillai indicated that with the recent announcement of the Union Budget, he strongly felt that India stands at the threshold of a promising new decade. Emphasizing on the strong infrastructure and industry focus that the budget brings forth, Mr Pillai expressed hope on the fact that the new government was extremely supportive of the ambitious space programs.

Mr Pillai concluded his speech by humbly confessing that it was his honour to be a part of WIL, whose founder Seth Walchand Hirachand was an industrialist and visionary as Dr Sarabhai.



Mr G K Pillai (3rd from right)



Mr G K Pillai addressing the audience



About Walchandnagar Industries Limited

Walchandnagar Industries Limited (WIL) is an **ISO 9001: 2008** certified Indian company with global presence and diversified business portfolio in Projects, Products and High-tech Manufacturing. With more than 100 years of Engineering Excellence legacy, WIL has established its name as one of the best in its operational areas. WIL is known for pioneering achievements in Indian engineering industry and for its contribution to nation building activities. WIL is a listed company on the BSE and NSE stock exchanges in India.

For further information, log onto the Walchandnagar Industries website: www.walchand.com