



AJIT GULABCHAND

Ajit Gulabchand is Chairman and Managing Director of HCC - one of India's leading construction companies, founded by industrialist Seth Walchand Hirachand in 1926. HCC's almost century old partnership in the country's infrastructure growth has been driven by Mr Gulabchand's vision of a modern, world class infrastructure for India. Under his leadership, HCC has accomplished pioneering achievements in the construction industry, bringing new technology and innovation to build construction projects of major national importance while making a significant foray into new age urban development and management.

A graduate from Mumbai university, he began his career as the Chief Executive of Indian Hume Pipe Co Ltd and subsequently to lead Ravalgaon Sugar Farm Ltd as Managing Director, steering the company towards fast-track growth. At the helm of affairs in HCC since 1983, Mr. Gulabchand's path-breaking management initiatives have grown HCC into a modern and vibrant infrastructure player, with a vast business portfolio and a knowledge asset and expertise of more than 3000 professionally qualified people.

HCC's remarkable track record of having successfully adapted to the requirements of the pre-independence and post-independence eras under a centrally planned economy, and now thriving in a free-market economy is a tribute to the Company's forward looking leadership and to Mr. Gulabchand's passionate belief in benchmarking HCC's operations with the best of sustainable global management systems and practices.

Owing largely to Mr. Gulabchand's entrepreneurial dynamism, HCC today commands high respect amongst its clients, partners and industry leaders, having executed a majority of India's most challenging infrastructure projects. The Company has constructed more than

25% of India's hydro power and over 50% of India's nuclear power generation capacities. Projects executed across India bear HCC's hallmark of world-class innovation, from Roads & Expressways, Tunnels, Bridges, Dams and Barrages, to India's first and longest open sea Cable-Stayed Bridge in the country's commercial capital, Mumbai.

Having established ISO certified Quality, Occupational Health & Safety and Environment management systems and robust Corporate Governance norms, HCC has also achieved the fastest implementation of SAP-ERP across its diverse construction project locations, even at record breaking altitudes as high as 11,000 feet.

By investing in a fleet of ultra-modern equipment in an otherwise labor-intensive sector, and by joining hands with international construction majors to form tactical joint ventures, Mr Gulabchand has ensured the speedy adaptation of the latest technologies and construction techniques for HCC's projects. Bearing fruits to his efforts, HCC's turnover over the last 5 years grew at an impressive CAGR of 22.2 % and the order book as of March 2009 was Rs. 16,400 crore (USD 3.22 billion).

Mr. Gulabchand is a man with a vision. This is evident through his stewardship of HCC into an integrated group spanning Engineering & Construction, Real Estate, Infrastructure and Urban development and Management. The HCC group of companies comprises HCC Ltd (Engg & Construction), and its subsidiaries HCC Real Estate Ltd, HCC Infrastructure Ltd and Lavasa Corporation Ltd.

Mr. Gulabchand is also the visionary behind the concept of free India's first and largest Hill City, Lavasa, charting a new course in Urban Development and prompting the country to begin to think and plan ahead for the massive rural-to-urban migration, India will witness over the next decades. Based on the principles of New Urbanism, Lavasa, near Pune is spread across a picturesque landscape of 12,500 acres, set amidst 7 hills and 60 kms of lakefront.

Recognizing the importance of knowledge assets for building modern infrastructure, he has taken the lead in ideating new concepts for investing in technical education and skills enhancement through training and technical institutions in the country such as NICMAR and the Walchand College of Engineering. Believing that Indian students should have access to world class education Mr. Gulabchand has endowed to the Walchand College one of the largest, most contemporary specialist libraries in the country. He has also recently endowed

a new 'Ajit Gulabchand Chair' on Indian Business Studies being set up at Oxford University and is a member of the Oxford International Advisory Board for Executive Education.

Corporate Social Responsibility remains intrinsic to Mr. Gulabchand's vision for the group encompassing HIV, Education, Water, and Disaster Management initiatives. With a view to create a greater AIDS awareness in the industry, he has been instrumental in launching a Work Place Intervention (WPI) program, covering more than 21,000 construction workers across HCC's project locations.

In line with his commitment to making water sustainability and stewardship a corporate priority, HCC is the only Company in India which endorses the UN CEO Water Mandate of which Mr. Gulabchand is a signatory, joining business leaders around the world in urging key governments to take action in a number of areas - Direct Operations; Supply Chain and Watershed Management; Collective Action; Public Policy; Community Engagement; and Transparency.

A business icon, Mr. Gulabchand is also a keen follower of sports and an ardent philanthropist, articulating his vision in deed what many merely voice. The business of infrastructure development is, for him, not just about turnover, but about creatively integrating it with sustainable development of the community and environment. Under his leadership, HCC is emerging as a committed green player in the world.

As India is poised to play a major role in global business, Mr Ajit Gulabchand stands tall amongst India's business leaders driving the country's vision of its future.

Conferred with the Infrastructure Leader Award for 2009 by CNBC TV 18 Mr Gulabchand was the only Indian business leader to be honoured with an invitation to participate on panels at the UN Summit on Climate Change held in September 2009. And he is one of the few Indian infrastructure developers to actively pursue green policies in project design and implementation processes as an integral part of HCC's business activities.

Acknowledged for his industry leadership, Mr. Gulabchand plays an important role in key industry bodies in India. He is a member of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) National Council and the Chairman of CII's National Committee on Construction and Projects. He has also served as a founding permanent member of the Board of Governors of the Construction Industry Development Council of India (CIDC). He initiated the formation of

the Construction Federation of India (CFI) with other construction companies and is the Founder President since its inception in 2001.

Mr. Gulabchand is today regarded as a major spokesperson for the Indian infrastructure sector in global forums. A regular participant at the World Economic Forum (WEF), Davos for almost two decades, he is Governor and Steering Board Member of the Engineering and Construction community at WEF and a member of the CII -WEF Infrastructure Task Force. He is also a founder member of the Geneva-based Disaster Resource Network (DRN) in collaboration with the WEF, the United Nations and International Red Cross. As Chairman of DRN India, he has been involved in disaster management during a number of natural disasters in India and abroad. He is also a signatory member of the United Nations Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate.

Mr. Gulabchand's other associations with industry bodies include

- Past Chairman for the Projects Exports Promotion Council (PEPC).
- Past President and Permanent Member of the Governing Council of the Builders Association of India (BAI).
- Chairman of the Board of Governors and Member of the Board of Trustees at the National Institute of Construction Management and Research (NICMAR), Pune.
- Chairman of the Administrative Council of Walchand College of Engineering, Sangli.