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FORTIFYING WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN INDIA

A multinational company with a turnover in excess of ₹ 4,200 crore, Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd attributes its pan-India and global presence to its 27 manufacturing facilities that are spread across four continents. Sweta M Nair visits the Jain Plastic Park at Jalgaon to experience manufacturing by the largest processor of thermoplastic piping in India.



Being one of the largest micro irrigation companies in the world, Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd's businesses include a complete range of micro irrigation systems and components, Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) & Polyethylene (PE) piping systems, PVC sheets, solar water heaters, lighting & pumping solutions, processed fruits & vegetables, tissue culture, green houses etc. With regard to the Group's plastics business, the facility in Jalgaon is spread on approximately 325 acre of land and stands as an epitome of manufacturing exuberance. The Group commenced operation at the Jain Plastic Park in 1986-87 by manufacturing pipes and gradually expanded its portfolio. Prior to this, in the 80s, the company was a dealer of several plastics manufacturers. However, it forayed into manufacturing to satisfy the rising demand.

Urban design

The Jain Plastic Park is a systematically laid out production park that manufactures



An employee verifying the thickness of a polyethylene pipe

the inputs required for water extraction and management. The fully integrated plastics processing plant is equipped with state-of-the-art manufacturing and testing equipment. This facility, in particular, has quite a few distinctions to its credit. Other than being one of the largest processors of thermoplastic resins in India, it is capable of manufacturing PE piping in up to 1.6 m in diameter, including all types of fittings. Being the largest micro dripper manufacturing

facility in the world, it is also the only integrated fittings manufacturer with extensive in-house capability for mould design, manufacturing and injection moulding. Owing to its huge capacity of manufacturing Linear Low-density Polyethylene (LLDPE) drip tubes and tapes, this facility also produces most components required for micro irrigation systems such as PVC & High-density Polyethylene (HDPE) piping, LLDPE drip tubes & tapes, drippers, stakes,

couplers, fittings, valves, sprinklers of all types, filter elements & filters, venturi etc.

The park is divided into smaller facilities based on production and works 24/7. Due to the scorching temperatures that are prevalent in Jalgaon in the summers, all the units are naturally ventilated, and the park is surrounded by lush green lawns. All the green space is irrigated using recycled water. Elaborating on the significance of this facility, Atul B Jain, Joint Managing Director, Jain Irrigations Systems Ltd, says, "My father Bhavarlal Jain pioneered the entry of 'micro' irrigation in India. While we were not the first ones to get into drip irrigation in India, our hard work has ensured a 60 per cent market share in India. Each of our products and services are aimed at conservation of precious resources and increasing productivity of agricultural land and the farmer with whom we work on the concept of 'More from less for more'. With worldwide experience, it is here that our intervention of delivering end-to-end solutions becomes relevant even to small farmers. Having pioneered the micro irrigation systems in India, which ushered in the second green revolution, we are striving to optimise crop production, water delivery and recycling systems."

Good measures

Certified to OHSAS 18001:2007 since 2009, the Jain Plastic Park, which consists of a 3,207 strong workforce, continues to implement the occupational health and safety management system. As part of system organisation, the Group

carries out detailed hazard identification risk assessment analysis of its activities including compliance to legal and other requirements. Before any process, risk assessment and ensuring control measures are mandatorily carried out in the plant and followed in other facilities as well. Protective equipment is provided wherever required.

Right from inception, Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd has ensured to build all its activities around conserving the environment. "Two major products of the Group, micro irrigation systems and PVC & HDPE pipes, find extensive use in both water management and water conservation. Similarly, the other major product, extruded plastic sheets, primarily serves to replace the use of precious natural timber in the construction and building industry. Extruded PVC sheets, particularly in the higher thickness, are a well accepted and a popular replacement for lumber application," states Jain.

In Jain Plastic Park, quality checks are carried out to meet or surpass the relevant national or international standards specified. The 'Quality Assurance' and 'Quality Control' departments house extensive plastics testing laboratories that work around the clock. As part of its activities, the facility carries out regular testing of air emission, wastewater analysis and suitable disposal of solid wastes as per the guidelines of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. The facility has created and maintained rainwater harvesting, storage, recharge & recovery structures, and now it is working on a zero discharge model.



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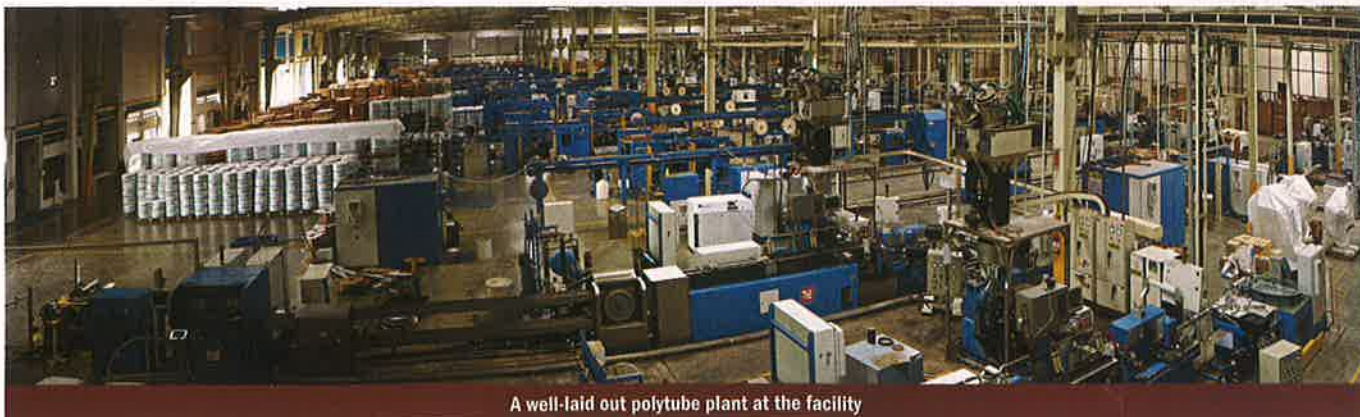
Atul B Jain

Joint Managing Director

Delighting customers

With innovation being an on-going process, the Group is continuously fine tuning and modifying its products to suit individual client and situational demands. Keeping in view developments in raw material, product development is a regular activity based on requirements and cost optimisation. Jain adds, "We work closely with many international resin manufacturers to develop products surpassing client expectation and also to offer new products that delight customers. All new product enquires are reviewed by the R&D team meticulously." ■

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A well-laid out polytube plant at the facility