

# Growing with Water: SPML Infra Ltd.

Subhash Sethi, Chairman, SPML Infra Limited



India is at the cusp of economic growth, aiming to secure its position as the fourth-largest economy globally and aspiring to achieve a GDP of \$5 trillion. The ongoing growth trajectory is indicative of the nation's ambitions and economic potential.

Infrastructure projects are the backbone of economic development of a nation. For a country like India having 1430 million people; improving quality, access, services, reach and sustainability of infrastructure has been a ceaseless endeavour. According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), between April 2000 and December 2021, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into the construction and infrastructure development sectors totalled \$52.47 billion. This signifies a positive trend in attracting foreign investments to bolster these crucial segments of the economy.

Water infrastructure development projects apart from roads, metro rail, waterways, sanitation, dedicated freight corridor, Bharatmala, Sagarmala schemes will continue to improve connectivity and urban infrastructure in the country.

## Water Infrastructure Development

The fund allocation for water infrastructure development is an evidence of India moving forward with a conviction to resolve water issues and modernize water distribution system.



The dedicated schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission (Rural) with Rs.3.6 Lac Crore budget upto 2024, Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban) with exclusive budget of Rs. 2.87 Lac Crore for the duration of 2021-2026, Namami Gange programme with Rs. 20,000 Crore are flagship programmes that will continue for a longer period. Other initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana- Har Khet ko Pani (Rs. 9,050 Crore), Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) (Rs. 10,200 Crore for the period of 2020 - 2031), National River Linking Project (Rs. 22,495 Crore), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0 with a massive allocation of Rs. 2.99 Lakh Crore for five years upto 2026), National Hydrology Programme with Rs. 3,680 Crore upto year 2024, and Atal Bhujal Yojana with Rs. 6,000 Crore upto year 2025 are other important programs that promises a better prospect for water infrastructure development in the next few years.

#### SPML Infra: Dedicated to Water Infrastructure

SPML Infra Limited is a leading infrastructure development company in India. With expertise in engineering and project management and a rich legacy of over four decades, it devises strategies to win projects, and execution and management involves every employee's contribution. The company is results driven and ensures a detailed follow-up approach so that commitments are honoured.

SPML is the first Indian Company featured among World's Top 50 Private Water Companies as per survey conducted by

Global Water Intelligence, London. It also features amongst the Top 1000 High-Growth Companies in Asia-Pacific as per Financial Times, London. The company has successfully completed significant and complex projects, establishing a benchmark within the industry. A notable accomplishment is the provision of clean drinking water facilities to over 50 million people in regions where potable water was almost inaccessible.

#### Diving into Water Business

SPML Infra started thinking about water more than 43 years ago, when nobody was talking about it. We made water as our core business and with commitment and relentless work towards creating value; we executed several hundred projects in the segment to provide drinking water facilities to millions of fellow citizens.

#### Project Execution: Track Record

SPML Infra has managed & implemented over 650 projects across India on an EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction), PPP (Public Private Partnership) and BOOT (Build-Own- Operate-Transfer) basis.

With modern software and technological interventions, SPML has streamlined the project execution and management to greater scale. Currently, it is executing a number of infrastructure development projects in water, wastewater and power transmission & distribution segments across the



country, some of them are funded by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. The size and value of our projects have increased from a few million rupees at the beginning to over 12000 million rupees in a single project now.

Some of the key achievements speak volume about our work:

- Among World's Top 50 Private Water Companies
- Already executed more than 10000 km of cross country pipelines
- It has helped more than 800,000 households connected to electricity
- Already established 5000 MLD of water pumping stations
- Company has helped 20,000 villages getting electrified
- There are more than 5000 MLD Water Treatment Plants constructed
- Executed and built 2000 plus MLD Sewage Treatment Plants
- Built more than 1500 kms of roads and highways
- Executed India's first underground decentralised sewerage network in Maharashtra
- Have received prominent and prestigious awards of the industry for the contributions in infrastructure development, and many others.

#### Company Culture

SPML's vision to become a force in the global water sector is supported by its core strengths - a pan-India presence, more than four decades of rich experience in executing turnkey projects, innovative in-house design and engineering solutions, and a highly skilled team of engineers and professionals all of which are complimented by its focus on innovation and cutting-edge technology.

It firmly believes that achieving results and being successful in today's strong competitive scenario, the culture of the organization play an important role. SPML Infra has a culture of trust, friendliness and commitment that binds the organization with shared beliefs that are supported by strategy and structure.

The top management team in the company have a vital role in perpetuating a strong culture, starting from the selection and recruitment of employees who share the organization's beliefs and thrive in that culture. We focus on developing orientation, training and performance management programs that outline and reinforce the organization's core values and ensuring that appropriate rewards and recognition are bestowed upon them for truly representing the values. We have a people's first policy and our human resource department has a clear business rationale behind workforce strategy and planning with matching rewards for excellence. The company culture is more human, inspiring, and collaborative, creating an employee experience that is meaningful and rewarding.

#### Expansion & Growth

SPML Infra Ltd. has achieved tremendous success, goodwill and progress during the tenure in the business. The reputation we have built by developing water infrastructure projects are a rare feat for a company that has started as a small enterprise.

We have created our footmark in areas ranging from drinking water supply, wastewater treatment, sewerage network, municipal waste management, power generation, transmission and distribution, metro railway to smart cities.



The company is prepared with professional team, advance project management technology and innovative approach to expand its business in India and foreign lands to receive and execute large ticket projects with focus on creating sustainable solutions for water.

We already have been a part of large water supply schemes in India including the flagship 'Jal Jeevan Mission' to make clean drinking water available to all rural and urban households. Our long term planning is to increase the reach and scope of work to become the most desired Water Infrastructure Company supported by the unmatched experience we possess. The opportunities in India's water sector are huge, with government's focus on creating robust water infrastructure with massive fund allocation and SPML is very keen to become an important part of the development.

#### Technology & Innovation

The innovative and strong project management tools help the company in effective management and control over project bidding to execution, supply chain administration, financial and resource management along with people management approach. The company have deployed modern project management software and digital technology tools to execute, control and monitor the execution of project, work progress as well as facilitating remote working while monitoring the supply chain to ensure availability of material at all project sites. The company has implemented Wrench System with engineering, procurement, correspondence, and construction management module. It has empowered the company to digitize the process of concept to commissioning while digitally storing all important documents for easy access. We have also implemented legal management

software for efficiently managing construction claims and all our legal matters under one system.

The technology implementation plan has been expedited after covid disruptions and SPML has implemented advance technologies and contemporary solutions to streamline the project planning, execution, monitoring and overall functioning of the organization which is being coordinated and controlled through technology.

#### Purposeful Commitment

For a company dealing in water sector for over 43 years, it's time for our determined enthusiasm. With water sector becoming the harbinger of economic growth and development, it offers significant prospect for growth aided by a massive government push for water supply schemes.

Since inception, we have built trust as a brand by ensuring consistency in quality and reliability of service to the clients. This is perhaps the most valuable asset we have created over the past four decades. The trust by not only delivering on promises of providing innovative and sustainable clean drinking water solutions, but also ensuring that the sector takes the lead in building a stronger and healthier India.

The guiding philosophy, which encompasses entrepreneurship, technology intervention, sustainability & inclusiveness and empowerment, made us future-ready with commitment towards India's growth strategy and making water available to all citizens. Our commitment is to actively support the government's initiatives aimed at providing clean drinking water to every household in the country. This aligns with the vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. ●