Cover Story

Celebrating the Legacy, Shaping the Future!

Kirloskar Brothers, established in 1888, was officially incorporated as Kirloskar Brothers Limited (KBL) on 15th January 1920, which marks 2019 as the beginning of the 100th year of incorporation of KBL as a Public Limited Company. A year that is aptly suited to cherish every accolade of the past, contemplating on building the future based on the learnings of these 100 years and focusing on fresher ambitions for a brighter tomorrow. After all, it is very rare that an organisation achieves such a historic milestone. Accomplishing such an exemplary feat is seldom a coincidence. It is an amalgamation of dedication, devotion, determination and constant action guided towards a broader vision.

From a humble beginning in a small factory shed in Kirloskarvadi to its transformation into a global conglomerate, KBL has grown by leaps and bounds over the last century. The KBL brand-name, over the last 100 years, has resonated with nationalism, trust, reliability, innovation, technology, a humanitarian approach and best-in-class products and services. Unfolding the pages of the rich history and evolution of this organisation is a mammoth task. However, the various momentous milestones achieved by the company can be briefly penned to highlight glimpses of the various ways in which the company has contributed and striven to establish itself on the global map amongst the top five fluid management providers of the world for over decades now.

In 1888, India was under the British rule. There were merely a handful of Indian companies in the country and thus a severe dearth of employment opportunities. Mr. Lakshmanrao Kirloskar, our founding father, being a visionary, envisioned that the country could not progress until India becomes technically and economically self-reliant and Indians become employed. With the vision to facilitate the economic development of the country and self-development of the country-men, he started manufacturing agricultural equipment. The primary idea was to provide better farming tools to farmers, resulting in better agricultural output. Being a man of his principles, he believed that products manufactured by KBL should always follow the highest levels of quality and have to be technically best-in-class.

Thus, the virtue of producing high quality products was instilled in KBL’s DNA right since the manufacture of its first product. With superior quality and technically advanced products made in India by Indians, KBL started gaining popularity amongst Indians and Britishers alike. It was one of the few organisations that focused on industrialisation and acquainted Indians with modern tools that would help boost their agricultural output. Later, the organisation divested in the manufacture of various other products; products that were hallmarked to be introduced into the Indian markets for the very first time. These products did not just impress Indian customers, but their superior quality even encouraged various overseas customers to place orders with KBL. This led to the beginning of export of KBL products even prior to the country achieving Independence.

The organisation today exports to over 100 countries and is not just a product provider but is an end-to-end solution provider for various projects in several countries, partnering with governments across the globe to create a progressive impact in various ways. In fact, KBL has played an instrumental role in the successful execution of various critical projects in many countries right from helping achieve food sufficiency in some of the progressing nations to facilitating flood control and commissioning prominent mega and micro irrigation projects in various regions across the globe.

Over the last 100 years, the organisation has always stayed ahead of the market curve, understanding the needs of the customers well before the competition and thereby developing and offering innovative products and solutions in accordance with the customer requirement. However, it’s not just innovation or the ability to adapt to newer technologies that makes KBL a market leader but also the trust developed over a century through its quality and feasible products and solutions, which resonate the customer minds with reliability and quality whenever they hear the “Kirloskar Brothers Limited” brand-name. Today, KBL, which boasts of India’s largest dealer and service network, is well-equipped to offer prompt after-sales support across the length and breadth of the country. Some of our vendors have been associated with us for over decades and many dealers and retailers have grown along with us. It is no wonder, in the past 100 years, KBL has given dividends in 96 years to all its share holders.

Being one of the leading manufacturers of fluid management products and solutions, KBL duly understands its responsibility towards the society, essentially contributing towards various social causes including women empowerment, education, health and hygiene, and primary health care.

During this momentous 100+ years journey, we have parallelly evolved and progressed along with the country, from being the country’s first pump engineering company to one of the market leaders in the global pump industry, making India proud internationally. Over the last decade, KBL has further strengthened its global presence by acquiring some of the most significant fluid management companies across the world, including SPP Pumps Ltd., U.K’s largest pump manufacturer, Rodelta, Syncroflo, Braybar and KEPL along with various other Indian subsidiaries.

Our glorious journey of over 100 years has helped us establish a rock-solid foundation for a brighter future. We believe that this historic milestone is simply another temporary stop in our continued success journey as we usher into the new century with newer promises, bigger dreams and greater possibilities. Remember, the celebrations have just begun!!