



80th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CHAIRPERSON'S SPEECH

Dear Shareholders,

I warmly welcome every one of you to the 80th Annual General Meeting of the Company on behalf of the Board of Directors of the company on this virtual online platform.

As the COVID-19 has turned into a global pandemic it has changed human behaviour and it is compelling organisations to respond to this new reality. As a responsible corporate citizen, our company is relentlessly endeavouring to ensure the health, safety of our employees and all communities living around our areas of operation. We are working with various local authorities, agencies and hospitals, supporting them financially and also meeting some of their requirements of medical products and services.

I would like to whole heartedly acknowledge, the dedication and courage of the medical community, sanitation workers, essential service providers and the law enforcement agencies who are striving towards keeping this country COVID free.

The latest forecast of India's GDP growth, is about 9.5% and a similar growth rate is predicted for the

Cement industry, which is the flagship business of the Company.

The RBI's continued accommodative monetary policy and the expected increase in capital spending of the Government, are factors that will continue to support the growth recovery. Additionally with the world gearing to relocate their supply chain, a wide range of export opportunities are presenting itself for Indian manufacturers resulting in a potential driver for strong growth.

It is hoped that the longer-term prospects for the Indian economy continues to be robust. Various initiatives, including privatization of public sector enterprises, monetisation of assets, implementation of National Infrastructure Pipeline, targeted investment incentives through the Production-Linked Incentives Scheme and the new Labor Code, are likely to spur investments and business growth in the medium-term.

Our Company was able to deliver a very strong performance. At a standalone company level, revenues increased by 39% from operations to Rs. 1,301 crores with the cement business increasing significantly by 26% and recording its best ever performance. Profit After Tax (PAT)

increased substantially to Rs. 153 crores. At the consolidated group level, revenue from operations increased by 20% to Rs. 1,714 crores.

Our Heavy Engineering business has reduced its losses and is committed to its customer deliverables despite halting manufacturing activities for a few months due to the pandemic.

Our Hospitality business remains affected as the freedom to travel depends on the impact and pace of vaccinations, which currently is behind schedule due to slow vaccine supply.

Considering the overall good financial performance of the Company for the year, the Board of Directors have recommended a dividend of Rs. 2 per equity share (200%) for the financial year 2020-2021.

The complete details of the performance of the company, have been included in the Annual Report, which is circulated to all the stakeholders and is with you.

As we look forward, with the strong impetus on vaccination program and other proactive initiatives of governments, We are confident of a strong resilience in customer demand and we are looking forward to a strong business pipeline. Additionally we are taking a few initiatives to reduce input costs by setting up cement packing plants closer to our markets.

I take this opportunity to really commend the dedication and zeal of all our employees who strived through a difficult period and ensured that as an organisation, we surmounted all the challenges to take things forward.

I would also like to thank all my colleagues on our Board for their continued support. We acknowledge the unstinted support extended by our valued Customers, Associates, Joint Venture partners, Bankers and the State and Union Governments.

Finally, I thank all our shareholders for their enduring trust and confidence in us.

(Dr.V.L. Indira Dutt)

Place: Chennai

Date: 03rd September, 2021

Chairperson & Managing Director