

L&T pioneered the advent of Hydraulic Excavators.

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) were the pioneers in introducing Hydraulic Excavator technology to the Indian market. In the early seventies, L&T collaborated with Poclair SA, France, who were early leaders in Hydraulic Excavators, for transfer of technology. “Those days, most of the earth removal was done either manually or by traditional mechanical rope shovels in India. L&T pioneered the advent of Hydraulic Excavators which were far more efficient than mechanical shovels and set up its modern factory in Bangalore to manufacture Poclair excavators to roll out initial models - LC80 and LY90,” said **Arvind K Garg, Executive Vice-President and Head-Construction & Mining Machinery Business, Larsen & Toubro.**

Garg further added, “The years that followed, saw L&T develop 90CK and as well as its wheeled version – 90P, in distinct red colour. L&T promoted Hydraulic Excavators extensively through road shows and demonstrations since it was more of concept selling then. The higher capacity 300CK was successfully built by L&T in 1978 which found deployment in the coal and cement industry with its reliable performance and productivity. These products proved to be a phenomenal success and revolutionized the way excavation would be done in future, sowing the seeds of an entirely new industry. Over time, L&T’s design team developed capability to fully design and develop entirely new ‘home-grown’ products and introduced the indigenous model, L&T 72CK in the 13 ton class, which proved to be popular among contractors. These were our early initiatives in self-dependence, much before ‘Atmanirbhar’ and ‘Make in India’ became the buzzwords.”

Speaking about the next stage of Excavators, Garg said, in 1998, L&T entered into an agreement with Komatsu Ltd, Japan, to manufacture and distribute Komatsu’s wide range of technically advanced and superior Construction & Mining Equipment. “L&T’s manufacturing plant at Bangalore, was transformed to L&T-Komatsu Limited, a Joint Venture, to manufacture Hydraulic Excavators. L&T-Komatsu manufactured excavators soon became a benchmark in the industry for their ‘Quality, Reliability & Durability’, incorporating state-of-the-art and patented technology HydraMind on its entire range of excavator models. Introduction of the L&T-Komatsu PC200-6 was followed by PC300, PC300-Mighty, PC130 and PC450 models which offered high productivity and unbeatable efficiency. PC200 became the segment leader and the largest selling excavator model in the 20-ton class with around 14,000 machines population in the domestic market. Owing to the demands for small machines, L&T-Komatsu introduced the innovative small excavator model PC71, which came to be known as the ‘The Little Master’. The strategic tie-up with Komatsu enabled us to offer a range of world-class products in the Indian market that resonated well





with the India's infrastructure journey and the rising customer expectations. These world-class machines came in just at the right time when the construction of Roads & Highways gained pace in the early 2000s and

helped us in contributing to nation building. The overwhelming success of L&T-Komatsu machines in the market, reinforced our brand position in the premium excavator category," Garg said.

In 2013, the JV with Komatsu, L&T-Komatsu was restructured as a strategic initiative to bring in modern, contemporary, global products to India. "The manufacture of Hydraulic Excavators was shifted to Komatsu's modern manufacturing

facility in Oragadam, near Chennai, which was already set up in 2007 to manufacture Komatsu's Dump

introduced by Komatsu and L&T is the 'Truly Efficient' Komatsu PC210-10M0 Hydraulic Excavator which has become an instant success owing to its much superior performance and productivity. Within nine months of its introduction (excluding 3 months lost due to pandemic), more than 1000 units of PC210-10M0 have been sold making it perhaps the fastest excavator model to achieve this feat," Garg said while elaborating on latest range of excavators.

"Earlier, Komatsu and L&T had introduced PC300-8M0 and PC350-8M0 excavators in 30-35 Ton segment, for bulk Earthwork, Marble and Granite applications. Komatsu PC71 continues to be the market leader and PC130 machine remains a popular choice of end-users looking for Komatsu's legendary Quality, Reliability, Durability. Komatsu PC450 is the workhorse for Coal OB segment. Komatsu and L&T have also explored and introduced variants and special attachments for newer applications and expanding customer base, such as Super Long Reach, Clamshell, Rock Breakers, Piling Hammers, Rail Auger, Rock splitters, Slope Compactors, Crusher Buckets among others. Komatsu Mining Excavators and shovels are the first choice and market leaders in the Mining Industry. Komatsu and L&T received a breakthrough order from Coal India and supplied four units of Komatsu's large PC3000 Electrical Shovel at SECL-Gevra. These machines were assembled and commissioned during

the peak pandemic time by L&T's dedicated service teams. The first set of Komatsu PC2000 Hydraulic Excavators supplied by Komatsu and L&T in 2010 to Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) at Ramagundam will soon cross 60,000 hrs of operation creating a record in the mining industry. Komatsu PC1250 models are the first choice of



Trucks for the mining industry. L&T continued as the exclusive distributor of Komatsu products in the Indian market. Amongst the newest product

OB removal contractors and are extremely popular as the main production shovels in the limestone sector," Garg said.

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