

Masa AG, 56626 Andernach, Germany

New block production plant for high quality concrete goods in India

Bangalore, southern India: The 'Harohalli Industrial Area' extends over more than 1 km² in the southwestern part of the booming IT metropole. Suresh Patil, General Director and owner of the Indian company Basant Betons, fired the starting pistol for a large-scale German-Indian project here in March 2007. In cooperation with Masa AG from Andernach, a high-tech concrete factory was built that guarantees top quality and quantity. Basant Betons is India's top manufacturer of quality concrete products for the building industry. The company, which is certified to ISO 9001:2000, is distinguished by more than 30 years of market experience. The company's infrastructure has a European character.

Suresh Patil, the pioneer of the Indian building material industry, gathers suggestions and ideas from well beyond India's borders and studies in detail the widest variety of concrete block factories all over the world. Hence, he successfully introduced sand-blasted concrete blocks to the Indian market in 1995. In the years that followed, he drew attention to himself with the first 'wet press' kerbstones and the use of washed concrete, among other things.

Now the intention was to put his comprehensive knowledge and high standards into practice in a plant that can produce over 2000 m² of paving stones per 8-hour shift. A product profile was thereby envisaged that would extend far beyond the norm and that, above all, should include premium concrete products, such as refined interlocking pavers, grass pavers, all other products for garden and landscape construction, and decorative washed concrete



Two concrete mixers by Masa produce the facing and core concrete for the block production

blocks. One of the Indian's highest maxims is to strive for products with a high aesthetic value that clearly stand out from the crowd on the market.

For the cosmopolitan Suresh Patil it was ultimately only natural that he should base his success story on a German foundation. He commissioned Masa AG with the realisation of the ambitious project.

Suresh Patil showed how convinced he was of his ideas right at the start of the building project. The general scarceness of land in India forced Patil to purchase state-owned land in the Harohalli Industrial Area for the future site of the new plant. At the end of hard, laborious negotiations in March 2007, only a hilly, uneven terrain traversed by a deep trench was available.

Within four months, however, this impassable area had been flattened and even part of a hill had been removed. Patil had the



Building ground for Basant Betons

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Since the commissioning of the plant in August 2008, Basant Betons has been bringing products onto the market that are of unique quality in India

trench filled in and a retaining wall was erected that is up to eight metres high in places. A camping site for the workers was set up next to the site - a prerequisite for short journeys and speedy completion of the building work, and typical of Indian building sites.

The block making plant was erected from February 2008 on with German know-how and Indian manpower. Masa supplied the complete equipment, consisting of a dosing and mixing system with two concrete mixers, a technically mature colour mix system for core and facing concrete, the powerful amplitude-controlled R 9001 XL machine and the complete ring. Among other items, a washing plant and a splitter line by Masa were also integrated for the refinement of blocks. Special dye and additive dosers, a curing rack plant, a block

ageing machine and a shot blasting plant supplement this German all-round package for the manufacture of unusual and aesthetic products. Suresh Patil also insists on quality outside the actual plant. Hence, for example, fork lifters by Linde are fixed components of his vehicle fleet.

Since the commissioning of the plant in August 2008, Basant Betons has been bringing products onto the market that are of unique quality in India. Suresh Patil ensures the quality of the manufacturing process not least by the extensive training of the operating personnel. In turn he receives support from Masa AG or its branch office in Bangalore.

Masa AG has maintained a subsidiary company, Masa Concrete Plants India P. Ltd, since 2007 here, hence guaranteeing

fast, comprehensive local support. The company's success in India can already be measured by four large and around ten smaller Masa plants.

Suresh Patil shares a passion for high-quality premium products with Masa AG. As a satisfied customer he is convinced that the Indian market for pavers with special surface qualities will grow steadily. For this reason, future plans also include the construction of a similar plant in Patil's hometown of Hubli. Hyderabad is currently under consideration as a possible site for a third plant. ■

FURTHER INFORMATION

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All of the electrical control cabinets for the entire block making plant are housed in a single container, which Masa calls the Powertainer.



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