

## P. K. Singh Takes Charge as SAIL Chairman

**M**r. Prakash Kumar Singh, 57, has taken charge as Chairman, Steel Authority of India Limited. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Singh was the Chief Executive Officer of SAIL's Durgapur Steel Plant, a position he took over in 2012. Earlier this year in July, 2015, he was also given the additional charge of CEO, IISCO Steel Plant.

A distinguished alumnus of IIT, Roorkee in Metallurgical Engineering, Mr. Singh started his career in Bokaro Steel Plant in 1980. During his career in SAIL, he could bring about significant improvements within short span of time in plants like ISP, BSL, BSP and DSP. By virtue of his leadership qualities he steadily rose to the position of the CEO, Durgapur Steel Plant in May, 2012. A technocrat par excellence, Mr. Singh is regarded as an expert in blast furnace technology and operations. He has also multifaceted experience ranging from planning, manufacturing, execution, quality



control, supply chain and administration. With right blend of technical expertise and his leadership abilities, SAIL will benefit by way of faster stabilization and ramping up of its new facilities.

A firm believer in employee

empowerment and nurturing talents, Shri Singh has undergone various specialized training programs in India and abroad. His motivational leadership is unique and beyond comparison. He has a natural flair for nurturing and cultivating innovation and out-of-the-box thinking. His business acumen in identifying new business opportunities for accelerated growth is commendable. Under his able leadership SAIL will gain new heights.

He has been conferred with various awards viz. 'Jawahar' award for outstanding performance at ISP, Burrnpur. 'Industry Leader' award conferred by CMERI (CSIR), Durgapur, 'Industry Leadership' award conferred by the Institution of Engineers, Durgapur, 'Best CEO' award for the Eastern region conferred by the Quality Circle Forum of India, Durgapur Chapter. He is an avid reader and has contributed many technical papers on emerging technologies and challenges in steel industry.

## Core Sectors to Sustain Demand for Steel Fabricators

**A**n upcoming trade event for the steel fabrication and metal working industry is looking at leveraging on rising demand from core sectors of the industry in the country and the region.

Experts point out that UAE's prudent economic policies aimed at increasing diversification have resulted in key sectors like construction, manufacturing, infrastructure, oil & gas and pipelines maintaining positive growth levels despite a decline in oil prices.

This has rubbed off positively on the regional steel fabrication industry, which is now looking at acquiring cutting-edge equipment, advanced technologies, new products and applications for all their metal forming, fabricating, welding and finishing needs.

The 12th SteelFab 2016, which is set to be held at Expo Centre Sharjah from January 17 to 20, thus assumes significance for the industry and is set to become the best sourcing as well as a gathering point for fabrication units from across the region and beyond.

"The low oil prices notwithstanding, GCC countries are spending a record amount on infrastructure and capital projects planned and under way in 2015. The core sectors,



which are direct beneficiaries of this diversification push, are expanding fast with new projects, expansions and investments," said Mr. Saif Mohammed Al Midfa, CEO, Expo Centre Sharjah, emphasizing that the main demand drivers are on a strong footing.

In proof of the success of the government's diversification programmes, the non-oil sector's contribution to the UAE's gross domestic product now stands at 69%, leaving only about a third to the oil sector.

According to a recent study, GCC countries are spending an estimated US\$ 172 billion on infrastructure and capital projects in 2015 - the highest on record to date. Among the other core sectors, the manufacturing sector is set to grow at a CAGR of 4.32% over the next five years, with the total investment in GCC jumping from US\$ 222bn in 2010 to about US\$ 380bn in 2014.

The construction sector is also on a song, with the total value of contracts in 2015 standing at US\$ 194bn. The pipelines industry is also expanding fast, with around US\$ 18bn investments being pumped into the sector over the next four years. The GCC is also expected to add more than 21,000 km to its current pipeline network over the next five years, which is about 14% of the global planned pipeline network of 161,000 km.

"The requirements are going to be quite varied from different sectors, and the special focus areas, pavilions and other segments at SteelFab will help the industry in zeroing in on the right equipment and technology they need quite easily," added Mr. Midfa.

Aimed at catering to these rising requirements, SteelFab 2016 will also expand in a big way. One of the major additions to the show will be a new vertical - Fasteners World Middle East, which will be a dedicated trade fair for the fastener and fixing industry.

The show will also see the launch of two special focus areas - Stainless Steel and Wear Resistant & Hard Facing Cladding, while the regular special focus areas such as Welding & Cutting, Machine Tools and Pipe & Tube Machinery along with the three special segments of Steel-Tech, Fabricators Pavilion & Steel Showcase will continue.