



## Steel & Mines Industry Leaders To Brain Storm at 53rd National Metallurgist Day

India's leading industry leaders from the steel and mines sector including SAIL, TATA Steel, JSW, ESSAR, JSPL etc will participate and brain storm at the largest metallurgical conclave 53rd National Metallurgist Day (NMD) and 69th Annual Technical Meeting (ATM) which is being organised at the industrial hub of Tamil Nadu in Coimbatore from November 13 – 16, 2015.

The steel industry is currently facing tough times braving the global volatility in demand-supply and prices as well. The conclave comes at an apt time, when discussions on Indian steel industry's challenges, emerging technologies etc. will prove beneficial for the industry.

The NMD-ATM 2015 event will get

rolling on November 13, with the International symposium on "Vision 2025 Major Challenges & Opportunities before Indian Steel Industry" wherein eminent industry leaders, academicians and researchers will deliver plenary lectures on the theme and the Vision 2025 for the Indian steel industry shall be discussed.

Technical Exhibition, which is a major attraction of the event will be held from November 14-16, 2015, wherein major industries and equipment suppliers from both India and abroad will showcase their capabilities to the August participants.

The ATM will focus on presentations about cutting-edge and emerging technologies. This year the event assumes greater significance in view of the thrust for

'Make in India', and will attract large number of professionals and students. The prestigious NMD awards shall also be presented during the conclave.

It is for the first time that this event is being held at Coimbatore, and its organisation has been entrusted to the IIM Coimbatore chapter in tandem with the Chennai, Tiruchirapalli, Kalpakkam, Jamshedpur and Salem chapters.

The event is being organized in association with the Department of Metallurgical Engineering, PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore and R&D Centre for Iron and Steel (RDCIS), SAIL and under the leadership of Shri S.S. Mohanty, Director (Tech.), SAIL and President of IIM, fervent activities are already underway.

## Visa Steel Decides to Convert Loans into Equity



Lenders to Kolkata-based Visa Steel have decided to convert a large portion of their loans into equity using the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) strategic debt restructuring (SDR) scheme, bankers aware of the development.

Sources added that Brazilian steelmaker Gerdau has shown an interest in acquiring a stake in the company. The company's gross debt at the end of March 2015 stood at Rs 3,094 crore, up 10.5% over that in March 2014.

A senior public sector bank (PSB) executive confirmed a consortium of 20 bankers led by State Bank of India (SBI) has agreed on the restructuring. We have an investment proposal from Brazilian steelmaker Gerdau and are examining it, the executive said. The banker added the company had agreed to allow the loans to be converted into shares.

Among the lenders to Visa are Bank of

Baroda, Punjab National Bank, Bank of India, Canara Bank a few banks from the SBI Group and Syndicate Bank.

Headed by Vishal Agarwal as its vice-chairman and managing director, Visa Steel is promoted by Visa Infrastructure and Visa International, which hold 45.58% and 21.63% of the company, respectively. An email sent to the company seeking comments on the development remained unanswered.

In FY15, the company reported a loss of Rs 273 crore on the back of Rs 1,260 crore in net revenues. The finance costs more than doubled to Rs 229 crore. Visa's debt of around Rs 3,000 crore was restructured under the corporate debt restructuring (CDR) mechanism in FY13.

Gerdau's annual report showed the company produced 18 million tonnes of steel in 2014 resulting in consolidated net sales for the year of ₹42.5 billion, up 6.7%, driven primarily by the expansion in revenues

generated in the North American market.

SDR rules allow banks to convert a company's debt into shares at a price below the current market value or an average of closing prices in the 10 trading days before a decision is taken at the joint lenders forum. They can own up to 51% of the equity of the company.

Following rules put out by RBI in June, this year bankers have decided to try out a restructuring for a handful companies including Electrosteel Steels, Jyoti Structures, Lanco Teesta Hydro Power, Monnet Ispat and Coastal Projects.

According to the FY14 annual report, the company plans to expand capacity from 0.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) to 1 mtpa special steel at Kalinganagar in Odisha. The 0.5 mtpa special steel business includes production of hot metal, pig iron and other materials for supply to the automobile, construction, infrastructure, engineering, railway and defence sectors.

Agarwal had said in the annual report that in view of the losses suffered by the company due to high-cost raw material, weak product prices and the consequent impact on cash flows and ability to service loan repayments, the debts were restructured under CDR.

This section is a compilation from various company press releases, business dailies & trade publications.