



India's crude steel output marginally rises

India's crude steel production was 8.1 mt in March 2016, up by 3.4% on March 2015, even as world crude steel production went down 0.5% to 137 million tonne (mt) in March 2016 compared to March 2015. During the month, China's crude steel production showed an increase of 2.9% in March 2016 at 70.7 mt, over March 2015. Elsewhere in Asia, Japan produced 8.6 mt of crude steel in March 2016, a decrease of 6.8% compared to March 2015, according to latest data for the 66 countries reporting to the Brussels-based World Steel Association.

World crude steel production went down 3.6% to 385.7 mt in the first three months of 2016, compared to the same period in 2015. Out of this, Asia produced 263.6 mt of crude steel, a decrease of 3.1% over the first quarter of 2015. The European Union produced 40.9 mt of crude steel in the first quarter of 2016, down by 7% compared to the same quarter of 2015.

North America's crude steel production in the first three months of 2016 was 27.5 mt, a decrease of 1.1% compared to the first quarter of 2015. The Commonwealth of Independent States (C.I.S.) produced 25.0 mt of crude steel in the first three months of 2016, a decrease of 0.4% over the same period of 2015.



Scrapping of export duty on chrome ore to hit steel industry



The government's decision to abolish 30 per cent export duty on chrome ore is a big setback for domestic ferrochrome producers and stainless steel companies. India Inc fears that much of the high-grade chrome ore will be exported to countries like China, which in turn will choke domestic supplies and push up prices of steel. Domestic players, who have invested Rs 5,000 crore for ramping up ferrochrome capacity to about 1.75 million tonne per annum, will be in a fix if a significant amount of ore is allowed to be exported. Jindal Stainless Ltd director-sourcing, R Ganesh says the government decision will benefit China and hurt the domestic steel industry. The demand for the stainless steel, which is by and large matches the GDP growth, should rise 8-9 per cent in FY17, he said.

Odisha Govt. invites Hinduja to Invest

The State Government has extended invitation to the Hinduja Group of Companies to make Odisha their next investment destination.

The Hinduja Group with diversified business interest in banking and finance, transport, energy (oil and power), IT, media and telecom has been invited to set up manufacturing facility in petrochemicals, energy and automobiles sectors.

"The State is setting up a dedicated Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) at Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district over an area of 68,000 hectares. We invite Hinduja Group to be an anchor tenant in the PCPIR with investments in petrochemicals and energy sector," Principal Secretary, Industries Sanjeev Chopra wrote to Co-Chairman of Hinduja Group Gopichand P. Hinduja.

Stating that the Indian Oil Corporation's 15 million tonne per annum refinery project was inaugurated at Paradip recently, Chopra said the national oil major is further implementing petrochemical units like polypropylene, monoethylene glycol, paraxylene-PTA and pet coke gasification in the complex. The petrochemical complex will ensure committed and unmatched availability of feedstock to downstream units in the region, he said.

The State Government has also identified automobiles and auto components as one of the focused sector for investment. In terms of raw materials, the State has 50 per cent of the aluminium smelting and 20 per cent of steel



making capacity, the letter said.

"Direct availability of molten metal from smelters is an attractive incentive and facilitation mechanism to promote the sector in the State. A large and growing domestic consumer market in the East provides a significant competitive advantage that is unique in Odisha," Chopra said.

Assuring all kinds of support from the Government, the Principal Secretary invited Hinduja, who is also the Chairman, Hinduja Automotive Limited, United Kingdom, to visit the State to explore the possibility of investment in different sectors.

In a separate letter to Chairman, Hinduja Group of Companies (India), Ashok P. Hinduja, Chopra has also made a similar request.

IDL Explosives Limited, a fully owned subsidiary of Gulf Oil Corporation Limited of Hinduja Group, has explosives manufacturing factories in Rourkela and installations for storing non-explosive matrix at Barbil and Talcher for manufacturing projects for coal and iron ore mining industries.