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Devoted to Iron & Steel Industry

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LOCK DOWN



Dr. Bhaskar Chatterjee

■ Indian steel demand likely to fall by 7.7% with strong downside risks

■ COVID-19 : The Indian Iron & Steel Industry - Turning Crisis into Opportunity

■ MSME Scrap recycling survival at risk due to Shipping Cos and ICDs

■ Covid-19 Hits Steel Economy



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D. A. Chandekar
Editor

Dear Readers,

We are all witnessing a situation seen only in movies or read as a fiction story. Indeed this Covid-19 pandemic has impacted every aspect of human life. Health, social behavior, business, geopolitics, absolutely everything !

As far as the Indian economy is concerned, it was going through a challenging period even before the virus had hit the world. Since 2018 end, we started getting signals, the prominent being the drop in auto sales figures. The Indian finance ministry along with RBI had announced some package for the industry which was although welcomed by the industry but was also thought as 'not enough'. As such the Indian economy was struggling to get back on the track and then came this shocker !

Since last week of March, we are all under lockdown as the life is more important than economy. After 55 days, the lockdown was extended till 17th May but at the same time a discussion of

striking a balance between life and livelihood started. It is thought that few essential industry verticals could be started and gradually we can consider starting other industries in the regions / districts where the virus has not penetrated or brought totally under control. This is very right strategy on the part of the government to let the economy wheels start turning slowly. Many Industry analysts and experts are quite bullish on India and feel that the economy may be sluggish for the next one or two quarters but it will surely be back on track by end of this year. Their argument is that like in 2008 financial meltdown, this time too India will emerge as the country with minimum damage by Covid-19. Our economy will be better than most economies in the world, including those in western, developed world. Further, many countries are pulling out their investments (offices, factories, companies etc.) from China. Who else other than India can be their first choice for investing ? Interesting analysis and I do tend to buy it, but not so sure !

Like other industries, Indian iron & steel industry too is sailing in the same boat. The production levels of the main plants have been drastically reduced while the smaller units like sponge iron units, rolling mills, wire drawing plants etc. are completely closed. When they will restart, may be in the month of May, they will face huge liquidity crunch. Also some of their workforce may have gone back to the native place. It will take some more time to retrieve it. Lastly the demand has to be restored to encourage the production. The government can help in this process in many ways, to ease liquidity crunch by making the finance available at reasonable cost, helping the entrepreneurs to reduce the production cost, curbing of imports and finally offering a friendly logistics to the industry.

A lot of possibilities seem to be on the cards. Let's keep watching how the future unfolds ! ■

Write your comments : <https://steelworldblog.wordpress.com/>

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Conventional 3-section top fired transformed into Yuxing top fired with a catenary dome by cutting the top portion of the existing stove shell

Reference of Yuxing Top Fired Stove for BF with volume 40-50% of China's steel capacity since 2017 to April

Sr. No	Client	BF no	Blast volume Nm3/min
1	Hebei Zongtie Steel	1	7800
2	Hebei Zongtie Steel	2	7800
3	Hebei Zongtie Steel	3	7800
4	Hebei Zongheng Steel	3	8400
5	Hebei Zongheng Steel	4	8400
6	HBIS LaoTing	1	9700
7	HBIS LaoTing	2	9700
8	HBIS LaoTing	3	9700
9	Tangshan RuiFeng Steel	4	8000
10	Tangshan JinXi Steel		6300
11	Tangshan JinXi Steel		6300

Notes: China accounts for 50% of the world's steel capacity, and Hebei Since 2017 to the present moment, Yuxing top fired stove adoption rate Total reference nos of Yuxing top fired: 550.



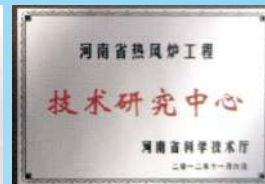
Yuxing top fired stove with a catenary dome achieved monthly mean HBT of 1314.7 oC

Low nox emission - temperature difference between dome than 83mg (international standard less than 150 mg) from 83.5-88.9% (9-10% greater than that for other top Long life span - Application practice has proven that the years (the lifetime of the catenary dome combustion High HBT - Monthly mean HBT of 1314.7 oC delivered than that by other stove under same conditions) combustion technology, the lower the better concept is



Top 10 Trademark High-end Equipment of Henan Equipment Manufacturing Industry in 2018
International Leading Technology Level Stove project reference nos up to 550, highest monthly mean HBT of 1314.7 deg C achieved in China
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Conventional 3-section top fired stoves for 3x2500m³ BF's converted into Yuxing 4-section top fired by cutting the top portion of the existing stove shell
over 2000m³ at Hebei Province which accounts for 2019, adoption rate of Yuxing top fired up to 84.6%.



3x3580m³ BF's configured with Yuxing 4-section top fired stoves

Stove type	Blast time mins	HBT oC
Yuxing 4-section	45	1250
Yuxing 4-section	45	1250
Yuxing 4-section	45	1250
Yuxing Catenary	45	1250
Yuxing Catenary	45	1250
Yuxing 4-section	45	1250
Yuxing 4-section	45	1250
Yuxing 4-section	45	1250
Yuxing Catenary	45	1250
Yuxing 4-section	45	1250
Yuxing 4-section	45	1250

province accounts for 40-50% of China's steel capacity.
 for BF's with volume over 2000m³ in Hebei reaches to 84.6%.

and HB at 30 oC approximately, nox emission less
 Higher thermal efficiency - Thermal efficiency ranging
 fired stove)
 lifetimes of catenary dome have been in excess of 44
 chamber of Yuxing stove over 30 years)
 (HBT delivered by Yuxing stove is 15-20 oC higher
 Lower air excess - 1.05-1.06 (Associated with
 not always right)



Internal combustion chamber stoves for 1497m³ BF at JianLong Steel converted into Yuxing top fired with a catenary dome

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Indian steel demand likely to fall by 7.7% with strong downside risks

Global manufacturing and commodities are reeling under the effect of the coronavirus pandemic, India is under a countrywide lockdown. Though, Indian steel production and allied activities such as mining are under the Essential Commodities Act during Covid-19 pandemic outbreak and complete lockdown across India.

However, during this complete lockdown, India's manufacturing, infrastructure project, construction activities, automotive sector also shutdown their activity which has drive down the derived demand for steel during this period.

The impact of a slowdown in global demand on the domestic sector will be limited as steel producers export only 8 per cent of their total production.

To understand the pandemic effects on Indian Steel industry, Steel World Magazine editorial team had a one to one telephonic interaction with Dr. Bhaskar Chatterjee, Secretary General, Indian Steel Association to understand more on Covid-19 pandemic outbreak weighing on Indian Steel Industry, time frame for the recovery of steel sector,

steps taken to bring back industry on track

How is the Indian Steel Industry responding to Covid-19 pandemic?

The steel industry has been hit hard due to the lack of demand arising due to the lockdown following the Covid-19 pandemic. Most steel plants with electric arc furnaces and induction furnaces are closed. The ones that are operating in a limited way make steel through the blast furnace route. These plants have put in place certain good practices based on the guidelines and protocols on maintaining safe distancing as well as good hygiene. These include transportation, workplace entry, work area practices, canteen rules, etc. However, challenges on the availability of raw materials and logistics remain and the industry is working with local authorities, like port authorities or railways, to get through these hurdles.

What steps Government is taking to bring back the Industry on track?

Ministry of Steel is evaluating loss to exchequer etc. so that Special Credit Line for Working Capital requirements (6-month interest free line, Corporate



“We will take at least two years to again reach 100 million tons of demand as in the current year steel demand is likely to fall by 7.7% with further and strong downside risks. Therefore, two years is the timeframe for recovery”

Dr. Bhaskar Chatterjee,
Secretary General, Indian Steel Association

Bond with a tenure of 3 years covering 25% of the existing working capital requirement) can be suitably considered.

- Moratorium on principal payments announced by the RBI. However, Moratorium on interest is being evaluated by the Government of India.
- Trade protection from dumping of steel goods by foreign Countries - Ministry of Steel has shared Inputs and presentation with Ministry of Commerce and Industries.
- Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA) has apart from others, declared Steel Manufacturing as Essential Services. With the



condition of adherence to the SOP and precautions for Covid-19 Pandemic MHA has allowed inter/intrastate truck movement and other related support like allowing contractual labour, manpower support, port operations, railway movement of essential goods like, movement input raw materials, materials like refractories for maintaining operations and other essentials.

- MHA has allowed acceptance of E-way bills *as permit to move during lockdown.*
- Ministry of Steel is taking up with Ministry of Shipping the issue Port Operations -*preventing Force Majeure.*
- In case of Mining Sector, the Upfront and Forest Clearance payments have been a major concern. Ministry of Mines have, in their preliminary response, communicated with States to consider these on annualized basis and allow these relaxations till June 30, 2020 or till Pandemic lasts - whichever is later.,
- Ministry of Steel has represented with Ministry of Environment and Forests for amending Forest Clearance guidelines to charge Net Present Value at the at time of fresh application for obtaining approval under FCA-1980 for

continuing mining operations beyond two years.

- 12 Steel & Steel Products (Chapter72) implementation time extended from April 23, 2020 by 3 months as BIS licenses for some products could not be issued due the Covid-19 Pandemic Lock down.
- FDI Policy change by Government of India restricting investments in Indian Companies by Citizens of Countries having land borders with India through Government route in sectors other than prohibited sectors such as defense, space, atomic energy. *This helps stop hostile takeovers by Chinese /Hongkong.*
- RBI has infused liquidity boost through TLTRO-2.0 worth Rs 50,000 crores to begin with in NBFCs, HFCs, MFIs.



What are the expectation of Steel Industry to tackle the post covid-19 disaster?

- Deferred Payment of Statutory and Mining Dues by State Governments.
- To encourage exports,

- Railway should extend 50% discount in outbound freight of exported finish products to ports and inbound freight of raw material utilized to produce the exported goods till September 2020.
- Railways should also address the long pending point of classifying iron ore in Class 145 instead of the current Class 165 to help to tide over current situation of liquidity crunch and help reduce cost of business.
- Electricity duty on captive power plant should be made 25% of the current rate of duty in every state especially Odhisha and Chhattisgarh to make domestic Steel Industry Competitive.
- Provide 100% packing credit against export sales contracts or LC of iron and steel products at the international rate of interest.
- Export commitments are to be fulfilled in a time-bound manner, Ports should function fully at the earliest.
- To provide a level playing field for the Indian steel companies in both the domestic and international markets, it is imperative to *Introduce a Border Adjustment Tax on steel imports to bring them at par with domestic production.*
- While continuing with MEIS / RoTDEP to help



Face to Face

steel exports, provide support as export cash incentives up to 10% on FOB value to be disbursed within 7 days of proof of exports document submitted.

- In terms of trade remedial measures, impose a suo-moto safeguard duty for FY21 till normal trade settings resume and also fast-track impending trade actions like the anti-dumping petition on tinplate imports
- Refund of GST Compensation cess on Coal of Rs 400/ should be made available for both categories of sales i.e., Exports as well as domestic sales.
- Allow companies a six-month period, without any penal interest, to pay the government dues like TDS, advance income tax, GST, mining dues including mining royalties, etc. Further, allow the companies to pay in 12 instalments starting October 1, 2020.
- Government may consider providing a one-time exemption from the Upfront Payment as this component is anyway adjustable from the monthly payment of auction premium commitment. State Govts may be directed to allow deferring of payments of Stamp Duty by atleast 6 months and then allow payment through instalments.

- Forest Clearance Guideline dated 31st March 2020 should be modified and the mandate of charging NPV @ Rs 7.5 Lakh / Ha as a condition precedent for issue of Letter of Intent and Vesting Order should be dropped in view of the above-mentioned points. This NPV can be charged at the time for fresh application for obtaining approval under the FCA-1980 for continuing mining operation beyond two years
- Extend the due date of Form GSTR 3B return for the period February 2020 to April, 2020 by 15 day from the current due date and for Form GSTR-1 for the months of March, 2020, April, 2020 and May, 2020 by 30th June, 2020. This would be a revenue neutral exercise for the government exchequer.
- Amid the lockdown, all e-way generated under the GST rules, with the validity expiration of period between 20th May 2020 – 15th April 2020 had been extended by the Government to a deemed expiration of 30th April 2020. Since the lockdown has been extended till 3rd May 2020 and may be extended further, the expiration period should be widened to 31st May 2020 and the deemed expiration extended to 30th June 2020.

- Refund of excess amount received by CIL Subsidiaries to Coal Linkage holders expeditiously, to help the Industry to tide over the liquidity crunch.

What would be the time frame for the recovery of steel sector?

As per figures from JPC, in FY2019-20, the steel consumption in India was 100.067 million tons. We will take at least two years to again reach 100 million tons of demand as in the current year steel demand is likely to fall by 7.7% with further and strong downside risks. Therefore, two years is the time frame for recovery.

What changes will the industry undergo due to this shocker virus attack and its various fallouts?

The steel industry is unlikely to see major changes. The major technologies for steel making will remain unchanged. The industry already has a fair amount of automation in place. The changes that will happen is that more hygienic practices will get embedded into work culture. Officials will also travel less, and non-core staff will opt to work from home on many days. The steel manufacturers will also build their supply chain systems closer to home, and finally everyone will want to build raw material safety nets for unforeseen eventuality. ■



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COVID-19 : The Indian Iron & Steel Industry – Turning Crisis into Opportunity



Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19), announced as a pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO), is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

It was first identified in December 2019 at Wuhan, China, and thereafter it has been spreading across the globe like a wildfire. At first seemingly far away then unnervingly close - affecting more than 3 million people so far across 185 countries leaving tens of thousands dead, made economies flattened, and the futures of hundreds of millions of people in limbo.

The unfamiliar and unpredictable behaviour of the virus is making it difficult to move everyone with some certainty. As R&D is in full swing at every major pharma lab to find out a medicine / vaccine, with the convolutions the virus is taking, it may take few more months to completely control it. As efforts to stymie the pandemic through lockdown continues, it is less likely that we will re-

emerge into the same known World. Indian Steel Industry during this crisis time :

Looking at technical necessity, the Indian government has declared that the Iron and Steel industry under Essential Services and Maintenance Act so that at least Integrated Steel Plants can keep their blast furnaces, Coke ovens and other continuous operations in healthy mode.

With social distancing norms and movement restrictions are in place. Hence, every unit is operating with 50 % or less manpower and the Secondary Iron and Steel units a.k.a Sponge Iron units are mostly taking a long holiday during these lockdown days. Troubles are added with the limited manpower and less movement of trucks causing the disruption in the supply chain. With second round of lock down in progress, it is expected that Iron & Steel industry is going to lose at least three productive months.



Dr. Narra Rajesh

Director, Technical
Ultra-met Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

- **The era of digitalization in the Iron and Steel industry has arrived.**
- **Companies can launch a smaller-scale pilot test that focuses on a single business unit, asset, or geographic market.**

How other industries faced the Covid-19:

Automotive & Cement Industries : Inventory has piled up forcing complete stoppage of the production lines. Power : As the industrial consumption flattened, Domestic power consumption has increased significantly. The industries which flourished during this crisis period is mostly from the medical and PPE domain viz. masks, goggles, sanitizers, gloves, face shields, Isolation gowns, ventilators etc. In this segment also the significant demand is there for those with the bigger capacities and proper systems and certifications in place.

Service industries like Software firms has given an opportunity to their employees to work from home and has sensed the advantages in it. In the coming days we are going to see it is going to be a regular affair for them. On the one side theatres and malls are



Feature

bound to close for few more days, OTT platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime etc zoomed their client base. Online shopping platforms like Flipkart and Amazon has started operating and significant demand has seen for the courier and logistics companies. Monetary transactions are happening mostly through digital mode - mobile pay and online transfers.

Post Covid-19 Scenario : Post Covid-19, World is not going to be the same as we know. The financial stress incurred by every organisation and the individual is going to change the life style and it is going to be reflected in the food habits, travel, and spending patterns. Government's intervention would be very much needed to augment the demand cycle from the user industries. It will take some time to stream line the disrupted supply chains and man power shortage is going to co-exist for the next few months.

Crisis to Opportunity - Going Digital: We have seen, Covid-19 has demanded the decision-makers of the businesses, governments and their systems with requirements for large amounts of complex information to be gathered and analysed, to respond promptly, effectively and efficiently and also

witnessing fragmented information lead to inaccurate or incomplete understanding of situations resulting in incorrect decisions.

The era of digitalization in the Iron and Steel industry has arrived. Companies can launch a smaller-scale pilot test that focuses on a single business unit, asset, or geographic market. The pilot can start with several digital use cases, helping to prove the value of the digital approach and therefore establish internal confidence and alignment. Data collection, data storage and Predictive analytics models can be developed for the plant operations.

In sales, the demand forecast use case – based on a detailed understanding of customer needs and demand drivers – to allow companies to reduce inventory and improve margins while delivering better service. Predictive maintenance use cases help companies to predict equipment breakdowns and optimize maintenance frequency.

Functions like HR, Finance, Materials management, Design etc can be digitalized fully and can operate from the remote locations using VR and AR based state-of-the-art technologies. Use of Robotics and Drones can

enhance repeated jobs, surveillance activities etc. They will support in fulfilling the objective to maintain social distancing and run the plant in any Covid 19 like eventuality. Sharing information openly also helps industry to bring in new ideas from across the globe.

Summary:

Compared with other industries, such as media and retail, digitalization in the Iron and steel industry is still lagging behind. Therefore, it is an opportunity for the iron and steel companies to opt for digital technology and take deliberate moves to capitalize on it. This will give themselves a sustainable advantage. Those that don't, risk falling behind.

How to make a suitable digital strategy is not an easy-to-answer question. The digitalization is a long journey instead of a quick jump forward. Agile deployment of some market-proven tools and initiatives can help companies test the water and solve existing problems, preparing the company for the future large-scale digitalization. Coming to Covid 19, healthcare which stretched to its extremes needs are now to be strengthened further to combat such eventualities in the future.



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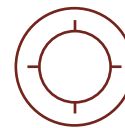
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MSME Scrap recycling survival at risk due to Shipping Cos and ICDs

**“Indian Importers will lose more than Rs.80,000 Crores in detention/demurrage and ground rent charges to shipping lines which are foreign entities and CFSs/ICDs”
said by Sanjay Mehta, President, MRAI**

Material Recycling Association of India (MRAI) which is the apex body of the recycling industry in India have been relentlessly working with the Government on providing relief towards container detention, demurrage & port/CFS ground rent to the

importers, more than 2 lakh number of cargoes have got stuck for clearances at Indian ports on account of complete lock down since entire Country is under strict lockdown. Plants are not operational, cash flow crunch in the market, employees cannot reach



Sanjay Mehta,
President, MRAI

office to perform necessary work related to imports, Banks are working with less manpower.

Hence, it is taking more than 4-5 days for getting documents, courier services are not resumed and due to various other reasons the process of clearing the



In-Focus

containers is very slow and time consuming.

As a result, subsequently, notice/order/circulars were issued by Ministry of Shipping, DG Shipping, CBIC to waive off such charges. Subsequently, Container Freight Stations Association of India (CFSAI) issued a letter denying to give any waiver on demurrage charges, citing in their letter

across India, who are not ready to heed to or implement the guidelines issues by the Ministry of Shipping, Government of India for waiving off the unjustified levies that the charge on import cargo.

The containers containing imported scrap worth several lakhs are stranded, making the industry miserable and weaker section of the

Recycling units from Metal Scrap Recycling Units are adhering government order to Giving salaries to their employees which are mainly from weaker section of the society but foreign Shipping lines and ICDs are not adhering Ministry of Shipping guidelines which is a great concern for the government” said Sanjay Mehta, President, MRAI.

Hence, MSME Recycling industry is urge the government to intervene for the survival of 5000 MSME Units and their employee with the following painstaking requirements are as :

- To get the waiver of Detention by Shipping Line and Demurrage by Container Freight Station, Issue taken up with Shipping Ministry.
- Recycling Activities to be declared as “Essential Services” taken with PMO Office.
- Additional working capital required on over all working Capital Limits, issue taken up with Ministry of Finance.

Waiver on Interest on late payment of Customs Duty, Issue taken up with Ministry of Finance. ■



that CFS are governed under Handling of Cargo in Custom Area Regulation 2009 and none of the above orders are mentioning about the HCCAR Rules. Similarly, foreign shipping companies are also denying for such waiver.

Consequently, JNCH Customs at Nhava-Sheva Port has issued a revised guidance to all the CFS/ICDs Citing HCCAR Rules, so that their orders are abided.

Such indifference and unsympathetic attitude of the shipping lines and CFSs

society in form of scrap sorters & laborers. About 30% of our work force is women, who are engaged in segregation of scraps, before melting. We also indirectly support livelihood of rag pickers & smaller scrap aggregators.

“Indian Importers will lose more than Rs.80,000 Crores in detention/demurrage and ground rent charges to shipping lines which are foreign entities and CFSs/ICDs” said by Sanjay Mehta, President, MRAI “Whereas, 5000 MSME

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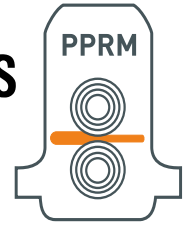
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JSPL Bags export order to Supply 12000 tonnes of Rail blooms



Jindal Steel & Power Limited (JSPL) the only private-sector company to manufacture Head-Hardened Rails has managed to get the export order to supply 12,000 tonnes of special grade Rail Blooms to France rail hayange, France.

Britain and France have also evinced interest in JSPL's products, and they are expected to place orders soon. In addition to above, the company has got the order to supply of 2308 tonne from Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for development of Kolkata Metro Corporation. Adding to this success trail JSPL also bagged a contract to supply 12,000 tonnes of special grade Rail Blooms to France rail hayange, France.



Britain and France have also evinced interest in JSPL's products, and they are expected to place orders soon.

JSPL MD Mr. V R Sharma has credited the entire team for a series

of successes. "This is entirely due to the company's policies and initiatives towards nation-building. Under the visionary leadership of Shri Naveen Jindal, JSPL is trying to put in action Prime Minister Narendra Modi's and Union Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's mantra to substantially increase exports," said, VR Sharma, MD- JSPL.

Mr. Sharma also expressed his gratitude to the Union Steel Minister for having Steel as an Essential Commodity.

Mr. Sharma said that Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Make in India program has been a game-changer.

"The Ministries of Steel and Railways have given steel companies an actionable roadmap, and we are grateful to honorable Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Piyush Goyal.

This is entirely due to the encouragement provided by the government that we're manufacturing Steel in grades that were earlier imported. JSPL assures the nation that due to our R&D and hard work, today, we are ready to provide domestic consumers world-class products as we are capable of manufacturing all grades of Steel".

Tata Steel's struggling UK, Europe units may not get parent's support Tata Sons, the holding company of salt-to-software Tata Group, has refused to commit any further funds to support Tata Steels loss-making UK and Europe subsidiaries. As a result, a bailout by the UK government seems to be the only chance of survival for these businesses, officials close to the development said. However, the UK government is unlikely to offer more than one fifth of the funds required by these businesses, a person with direct knowledge of the development said.

With the UK government keen to support locally-owned businesses first, fund infusion from Tata Sons was expected to be a fallback option for Tata steel's European businesses. But support from the Indian parent now seems unlikely. The UK arm of Tata Steel has reportedly sought an estimated £500 million (Rs.4,750 crore) from the British government to survive the coronavirus lockdown period, according to UK media reports. Tata Sons has to assign funds to meet several other financial commitments and Tata Steel will essentially have to fend for itself, officials said.

Indian Auto cos likely to lose bln of export orders

The Indian automotive industry was passing through during 2019-20 which has recorded an overall de-growth of nearly 18 per cent. This situation has worsened by the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing lockdowns across India and the rest of the world. In addition to above challenges, Export orders worth \$4-5 billion are at risk for automakers, who have now seen production facilities shut for six straight weeks. These orders need to be fulfilled in the April-June quarter.

The industry is urging the government to allow production

across the entire supply chain at different hubs. Without this, the export orders can't be honoured, say automakers. They also say servicing these orders is the best way to ensure there are no more job and salary cuts in the sector.

Adding to Indian automakers' apprehension is the fact that China's economy is mostly up and running, with many of its factories operating at almost 100% capacity. Auto companies are worried they may lose orders to Chinese and South East Asian manufacturers.



News Round Up - Indian

Steel demand to contract 7.7% in 2020 over Covid-19 crisis: ISA

As per the Indian Steel Association (ISA), which represents major public and private sector steel companies, has forecast that steel demand would contract 7.7 per cent in 2020 in the wake of measures taken to contain the spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

This is in sharp contrast to the earlier projection of 5.1 per cent growth made just a couple of months back,

in February. ISA said that its earlier estimate was that steel demand would touch 106.7 million tonnes. The estimated actual in 2019 was 101.5 million tonnes in 2019.

"We have now revised the steel demand forecast to 93.7 million tonnes. In other words, we estimate that the spread of the pandemic and subsequent lockdown will lead to steel demand declining by 13 million tons or by 12.2 per cent from a business as usual scenario," the

association said in a statement.

ISA has cautioned that its demand forecast was based on three implicit assumptions -the lockdown will not be extended beyond 40 days; that the government will come up with further fiscal stimulus, boosting demand and helping frontend stalled projects once the lockdown ends; and that the disruptions and challenges arising out of the lockdown will be overcome by June.



SAIL achieves best ever annual sales in FY20 with 2.8 pc growth



Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) reported its total production of 16.15 million tonnes of crude steel during FY 2019-20 to emerged as the leading producer in the country.

The state-owned enterprise has also achieved the best ever annual sales of 14.5 million tonnes with a growth of 2.8 per cent over the corresponding period last year.

Its strategies to expand its market portfolio too yielded the highest ever exports of 1.18 million tonnes during

FY20, marking a year-on-year growth of 54 per cent.

"SAIL has been continuously focussing on ramping up its steel production from new units which came up under modernisation

along with optimally utilising the older units," said Chairman Anil Kumar Chaudhary.

"The company's well-coordinated production strategies leveraging augmented production capacities which were installed under the modernisation have started to fructify," he said in a statement.

In the near future, said Chaudhary, as the country comes out victorious in the fight against coronavirus, the market will definitely show green shoots of steel consumption and

SAIL is fully geared up to cater to the steel demands.

In FY20, SAIL launched its branded SAIL SeQR TMT bars, a product which is a notch higher in its class in terms of various quality and safety aspects. About two lakh tonnes of branded SAIL SeQR TMT has already been sold.

"We also have been gradually increasing our share of exports and went for deeper penetration of the market with our world-class products including railway products," said Chaudhary. SAIL continued the streak of sales growth consistently, especially from the third quarter onwards, when it registered a growth of 26 per cent in sales.

SAIL has also recorded the highest ever rail production of 12.85 lakh tonnes of UTS 90 prime rails in FY20 with a 30 per cent growth. It witnessed 52 per cent growth in production of 260 metres rails, a part of the UTS 90 prime rails production for the Indian Railways.



JSW Steel Q4 production falls 5 pc to 3.97 mt



JSW Steel's crude steel production fell 5% year-on-year to 3.97 million tonne in the March quarter. While production during January-February was 1% higher than a year ago, slowdown in economic activity due to the covid-19 lockdown towards the end of March

led to a sharp fall in output across plant locations.

The company achieved 97.3% of the revised production guidance of 16.5 million tonne for fiscal 2019-20, the company said in a release.

The production of flat rolled products declined 5% to 2.87 million tonnes (MnT) in Q4 March 2020 as against 3.01 million tonnes (MnT) in Q4 March 2019. The production of long rolled products dropped 4% to 0.95 million tonnes (MnT) in Q4 March 2020 as compared with 0.99 million tonnes (MnT) in Q4 March 2019.

AM/NS record steel production of 7.23 million tonnes in FY20



Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) attained record production volumes in FY 2019-20 despite challenging economic conditions, including the fallout of COVID-19 in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year.

Its Crude steel production in FY 2019-20 grew by 5% to 7.23 million tonnes compared to 6.92 million tonnes in FY 2018-19. During the year, our blast furnace set a new benchmark in productivity through our in-house innovation which enabled it to operate consistently over its rated capacity.

Pellet production reached 11.63 million tonnes during the period, up 9.4% from 10.63 million tonnes the previous fiscal year.

The entire steel industry, including AM/NS India, has also been impacted by weakening demand

from large steel-consuming sectors such as automotive and construction.

"Despite price and demand volatility, AM/NS India made great strides to improve its overall performance and operational efficiency. Our record performance would have been even stronger but for the impact of Covid-19 on domestic and global steel demand towards the end of March" as said by Dilip Oommen, CEO AM/NS India.

He added further that during these extraordinary times, the health and safety of our employees comes above all else. Our efforts have focused on ensuring that our facilities operate safely and securely. We have undertaken steps to achieve stability in our operations, as well as detailed planning so that we are well-prepared to ramp up operations when the situation improves, while also protecting employees and meeting customer needs is also one of the key focus as explained by Mr. Oommen.

Tata Steel Ltd reports 14.6% fall in March quarter (Q4) sales



Tata Steel Ltd reported a 14.6% fall in sales as its quarter ended on March 2020.

However, the complete lockdown due to Covid-19 pandemic has led to logistic issues and lower demand driven by the shutdown of customer operations in automotive, construction and other segments since last few days of March 2020.

While this affected 4QFY20 sales volumes in India, however, production volume grew 6%YoY to 4.74 mntons.

Tata Steel India also achieved an 8%YoY production growth for the full year FY20, along with the best ever annual sales. This was supported by ramp up of Tata Steel BSL and acquisition of Usha Martin Steel business by Tata Steel Long products; Tata Steel BSL also recorded its best ever annual performance.

It has also witnessed the highest ever annual sales in Branded Products and Retail segment with an increase of 8% over FY19. The company was successful in maintaining volumes for Industrial Products &

Projects segment with a strong increase in sales in Oil & Gas and Industrial Pipe segment. It also sustained its focus on Automotive & Special products segment and increased share of high-end sales in the segment volume from 19.5% in FY19 to 25% in FY20.

In these unprecedented times and rapidly evolving situation, the company's first and foremost priority is the health and safety of its employees. While the company is focused on conserving cash and ensuring adequate liquidity,

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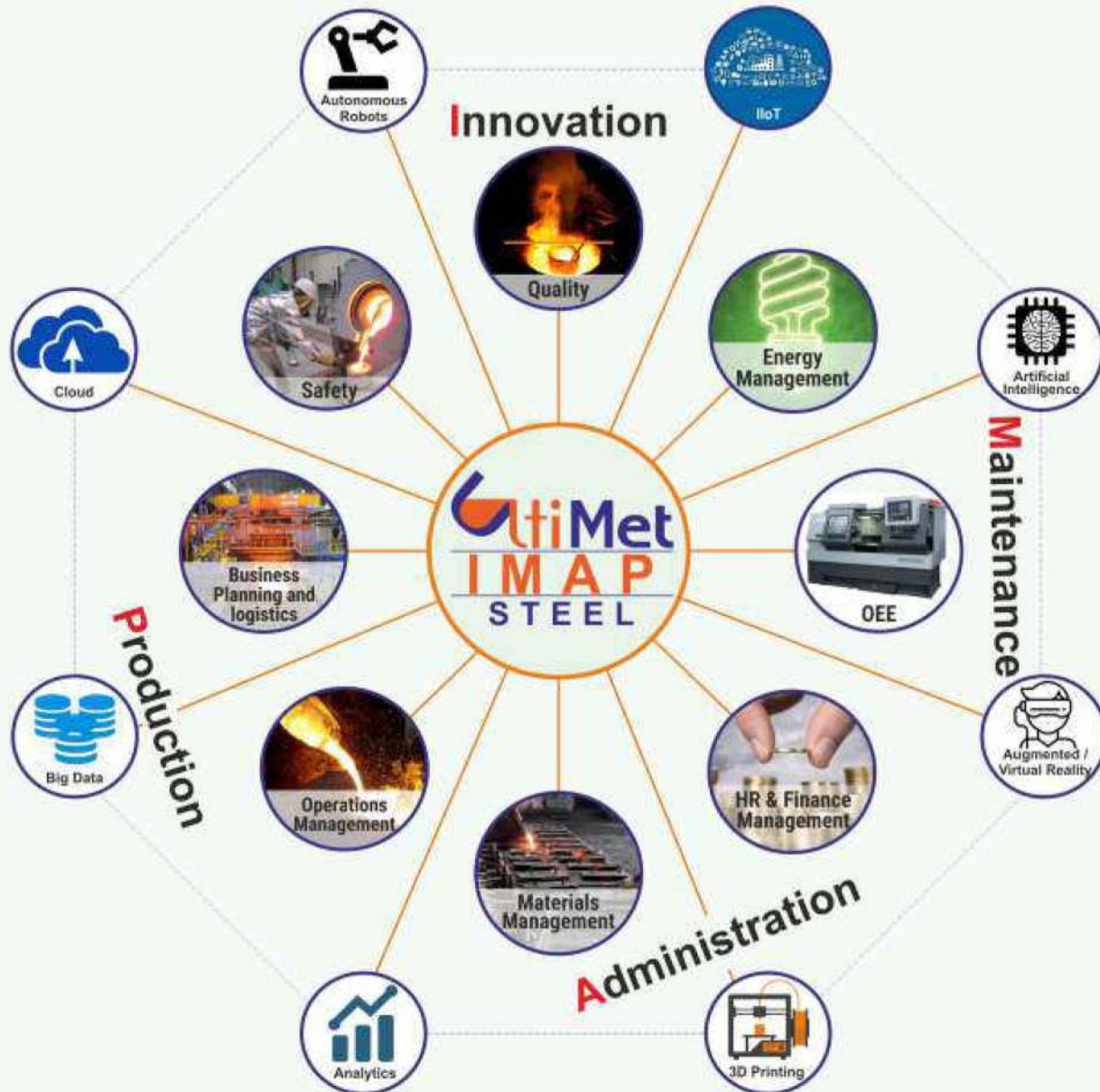
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Covid-19 Hits Steel Economy

Indian villages are going to be the centre of steel production which will create the demand for warehouses, delivery vans and steel usage is likely to go up through these market.

The steel industry is likely to be very deeply hit because of the Covid-19 attack and further epidemic situation with complete lockdown. This hurt will not be due to the present social distancing but because of very long reaching effect of the lockdown on the psyche of the workers.

Most workers were forced out of factories, their rented homes, wages were suspended and thus facing poverty started to walk home. The walk back of

some 1 crore workers towards their native villages is perhaps the world's largest exodus ever.

The trauma may leave workers unwilling to come to the city to work. This trauma which will last for a longer-time, more than the present social distancing it will impact the steel industry in a sustained manner.

The steel industry is not a labour intensive one and it may well replace labour by intelligent and automated machines wherever it finds an opportunity to do so. But



Dr Susmita Dasgupta

*JCE, Economic Research Unit
Joint Plant Committee*

what will impact the industry is the labour intensive construction sector, where the dearth of labour will hit hard.

The steel industry needs a fundamental relook at the technology of construction where it will be faced with a severe labour shortage. To my mind, a turn towards the prefabricated structures, the 3D printing technologies, light frame structures for inside frames of buildings may become inevitable.

This will require a slew of new investments and to my



mind, the steel industry may easily demand this from the economic package for recovery.

Covid-19 has shown that not guns but hospitals can save lives and that the invisible virus and not Pakistan is a greater threat to the Indian security. The focus of public spending must change from roads, fast trains, highways to more and more hospital facilities, from defence production of missiles and shells to medical equipment, from elegant cars to ambulances.

Once the health sector becomes the centre of focus, steel would need to move into light frame structures, hospital beds, prefabricated laboratories, mobile ambulances and testing centres, make shift quarantines, make shift accommodation for medical staff and others. In all of the above, the emphasis shifts from the large construction companies to the design intensive producer of beds, quarantine sheds, mobile ambulances and so on. In terms of quantity, I don't think that steel will shrink but in terms of quality and value added steel, there may be a significant shift upwards. The trauma of the migrant workers happened because production was concentrated. While on the one hand, the workers will be reluctant to leave their

homes again to find work in faraway factories, on the other hand, rural conflicts will run riot.

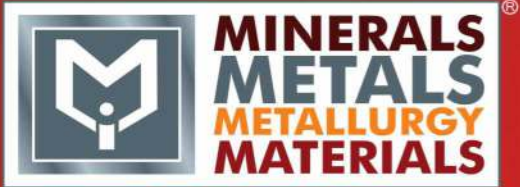
The migrant workers are usually of the low caste and marginalized sections of the society; they migrate because they have no livelihood back home. As these workers stay back home, rural conflicts over caste and religion are likely to mount and poverty alleviation will become difficult. India may need well thought out programmes to absorb these workers. Hence it might be a good idea, if production must be sustained, to locate factories in rural areas where labour is drawn from nearby villages rather than ask to migrate from far flung ones. Cosmetics, articles of daily use, toiletries, soap, chemicals like sanitisers and cleaners, paper and stationery, pencil, ball pens may be located in rural areas. These will automatically develop the rural areas where steel community buildings, sewer lines, phone cables and electricity transformers and distribution boxes may be needed. These will expand the scope of steel in rural areas. With decentralized steel use, the per capita steel consumption is likely to rise, expanding the volume of total steel produced. Indian villages are going to

bethe centre of steel production which will create the demand for warehouses, delivery vans and steel usage is likely to go up through these market. If we try to ignore these areas of steel usage and instead focus on our city based development, we may once again harp on recession prone sector of centralized production. The virus attack and especially its antidote in the form of social distancing have shown us clearly that centralized production gets badly hurt due to lock downs.

But the decentralized production, by which vegetables are obtained from nearby villages, the local grocers' shop, the fruit vendor, the neighbourhood dairy fare much better in ensuring supplies to householders where Groffers, Big basket and others fail.



The idea is therefore, not to revive the centralized production systems those which suffer the lock down, but to promote the decentralized production centres which are resilient in times of natural disasters. ■



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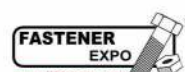
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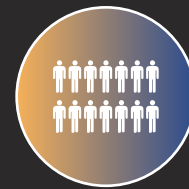
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Robust iron ore price to erode as steelmakers shut furnaces

The price of iron ore is set to drift lower in coming months as the coronavirus pandemic eats away at demand, moderating its out performance against other industrial commodities this year.

Iron ore has given up about 10% so far this year compared to 40% for the Refinitiv / Core Commodity CRB index and 15% for copper.

Spot prices of iron ore with a 62% iron content for delivery to China stood at \$84 per tonne on Wednesday and are expected to decline to \$75 by the fourth quarter, according to BMO Capital.

Prices could remain firm in the short term, but the impact of closed steel furnaces and improving supply is due to gradually chip away at prices.

"We expect iron ore prices to drift lower, not collapse, to a level which is still very profitable for the majors (producers)," said Colin Hamilton, managing director of commodities research at BMO Capital.



China's Baosteel reports 43.6% drop in profit

Baoshan Iron & Steel Co, China's top listed steelmaker, reported a 43.6% plunge in first-quarter net profit on Tuesday and warned of a big first-half drop citing the coronavirus pandemic. Baosteel, January-March net income fell to 1.54 billion yuan (\$217 million) from 2.73 billion a year earlier, a filing to the Shanghai Stock Exchange showed.

"Due to the extended Spring Festival holidays and spreading new coronavirus pandemic at home and abroad, domestic demand for steel products dropped obviously," Baosteel said in the filing, adding that steady iron ore prices also dragged down profit at its mills.

In the first quarter Baosteel produced 11.1 million tonnes of iron and 11.8

million tonnes of steel.

The company expected demand for steel sheet to further drop in the second quarter on low utilisation rates at downstream sectors as well as high inventory levels, which could narrow its procurement and sales price spread and hit its first-half earnings.

Nucor expects COVID-19 effects to hit next quarter

Nucor Corp., America's most diversified steel and steel products company, shed some light on the pandemic's effects on the manufacturing sector. The company said it earned \$0.07 per diluted share, which was slightly below the guidance it had previously given on March 19, 2020, excluding an asset charge it took related to its Dufurdofin Nucor joint venture in Italy.

The company said it is seeing varied effects from the ongoing pandemic across its businesses. While it is seeing sharp declines in the automotive and energy sectors, Nucor said nonresidential construction, its largest end market, "has shown resiliency moving through this pandemic.

Looking ahead, Nucor said it is "likely" that it will report a loss for the

second quarter of 2020 due to the economic fallout from the pandemic. If that occurs, it would be the first quarterly loss reported by the company since the fourth quarter of 2010. Nucor noted, however, that there has been a "fairly significant supply side response to the pandemic, with a number of our competitors having idled capacity in response to these conditions."

Chinese coking coal hits four-month low on slow demand

Chinese coking coal futures fell on Tuesday to a more than four-month low in response to weak demand from plants with high inventories of steel products and as traders lowered prices because of cheaper imports.

The most-traded coking coal futures on the Dalian Commodity Exchange, for September delivery, fell by as much as 5.0% to 1,028 yuan (\$145.04) a tonne, the lowest since Dec. 26, 2019. The contract closed down 4.3% to 1,036 yuan per tonne.

Philippine nickel miners to restart coronavirus-shuttered sites

The Philippines' top two nickel miners said on Tuesday they expect to gradually resume mining and shipping operations in the country's main ore-producing region starting



on May 1, following shutdowns to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Nickel Asia Corp and Global Ferronickel Holdings Inc are preparing to restart operations in Surigaodel Norte in the southern

Caraga region, where the restrictions are expected to be eased after April 30, senior company officials told Reuters.

Nickel Asia's Taganito and Hinatuan tenements and Global Ferronickel's

Cagdianao project are among several nickel mines in Caraga that have stopped operations, disrupting supply and boosting prices of the stainless steel-making raw material in top buyer China.

Global crude steel production falls 6% in March

As per the World Steel Association, global steel output declined by 6% in March compared with output in March 2019, the World Steel Association reported in its most recent monthly output report. Global production in March totaled an estimated at 141.1 million according to the World Steel Association. The decline comes after global growth in February reached 3.3%.

However, the association noted the current uncertainty stemming from

the COVID-19 outbreak meant many of the numbers could soon be subject to change.

“Due to the ongoing difficulties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, many of this month's figures are estimates from national and regional associations, which may be revised with next month's production update,” the association said in a release.

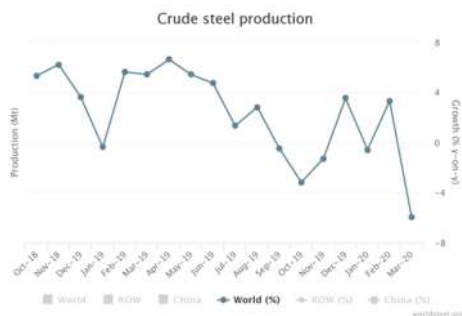
In the first quarter, global crude steel production reached 443.0 million tons, down 1.4% compared with the same period in 2019.

Asian production totaled 315.2 million tons of crude steel, down 0.3% from Q1 2019. The E.U.'s production fell 10.0% down to 38.3 million tons of crude steel in the first quarter of 2020. North American production fell 4.0% to 29.5 million tons, a decrease

of 4.0% compared to the first quarter of 2019.

As for March totals, China's production totaled 79.0 million tons, down 1.7% compared to March 2019. U.S. production reached 7.2 million tons, down 6.0% compared with a year ago. No. 2 steel producer India churned out an estimated 8.7 million tons of crude steel, marking a 13.9% decrease.

Germany's production fell 20.9% to an estimated 2.9 million tons of crude steel production in March 2020, down 20.9% on March 2019. Italy, which has been among the hardest-hit countries vis-a-vis COVID-19, has seen its production plunge 40.2% to an estimated produced 1.4 million tons. France's production dropped 13.2% to an estimated 1.2 million tons, while Spain's fell 14.6% to 1.2 million tons.



Tenova reorganize businesses and governance



Tenova, a company specializing in solutions for the metals and mining industries, has announced it will reorganize its businesses and review its governance structures.

The company designs technologies and develops services that help reduce costs, save energy, limit environmental impact and improve working

conditions.

The changes are intended to steady Tenova's presence in the metals and mining businesses to better focus on the priorities, market approach and global presence of each, the company said.

As part of the reorganization, Roberto Pancaldi is now the

company's CEO and earlier he was the CEO of metals division. Andrea Lovato, previously Tenova's CEO, will assume the CEO role with TAKRAF.

TAKRAF is a Tenova company and offers solutions to the mining, material handling and minerals industries.

This change is expected to allow more autonomy to the respective CEOs in developing the businesses and building their long-term sustainability while they concentrate on short-term consolidation and continuity.

“The extraordinary situation caused by the outbreak of covid-19 at a global level has accelerated the rethinking of our business model and the definition of a new structure to better fit the complexity of the current business scenario, with a leaner structure and a clearer definition of roles,” Lovato said in a release.



Post Covid-19 :The core strength of Indian steel to bailout Economy

COVID-19 is going to create a massive impact on total economy but more specific on sectors which are depended on infrastructure growth. Therefore, the Steel Sector is also likely to get adversely affected in Short terms. Due to the Pandemic of COVID-19 which is not likely to settle down so soon, as the people at large fail to understand the mystery of its method of spread of infection, symptoms and fatality. Therefore; inspite of millions of people already having been affected so badly Worldwide, still a large number of people in developed nations as well as

developing nations have failed to maintain the total social distancing or physical distancing which is probably the only way to defeat it. Consequently, the Covid-19 continues to spread in its path in the larger population and in newer areas. Since there is no cure to it and no medical way to prevent it, therefore the Isolation is the only way which is not being followed by people seriously. Inspite of several attempt by Government of India, and State government people are reluctant to observe the total isolation between the families and closelyknown people. It is therefore the



Lalit Kumar Singhania
Consultant

virus is likely to stay in society for so long as it's final capability to spread and to reach its toll of final fatality get exhausted which may be really with a huge and un-imaginable number. The sickness and death of people are going to play a very significant impact on the future style and way of life. It would be almost essential for everyone not to cross the family boundaries/ contact for whatever may be the event. Thus the government officers, businessman, trade and industry, service sector all are going to be affected very badly. I just don't want to get into



the numbers of death and sick and suspects as it is definitely going to be out of proportion unless people really take it up as war against each one of them. Steel sector is likely to be affected seriously for several reasons as the immediate need to develop several types of infrastructure like Air Ports; Bus Ports; Railway Terminals etc will severally go down. Since the need to travel by road, rail, or air will get substantially reduced for every reason. Therefore, the great projection of increase in demand for the growth of infrastructure may not convert for increase in steel demand.

Similarly, the construction of new school, college, hospital, hotels etc. or such places of public congregation will almost be stopped for several years until the COVID-19 is ruled out of population. Rather the existing infrastructures in this situation will face threats of survival.

The construction activities will be adversely get affected for several reasons one would be lack of demand, financial crisis as well. As well as these will be impacted by non-availability of migrant labors which have moved back to their native places and it will be bit difficult to come back shortly.

In view of these the immediate future in short

term looks to be grim, and will be a crisis situation for steel sector. I feel the only way to avoid its collapse will depend on how fast our Government is able to speed up the growth of alternative infrastructure in the country. It's time to plan de-congestion of densely populated cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, New Delhi, Ahmadabad, Hyderabad; Pune etc. to remote areas and connect these places through fast roads transport system. It is time to implement River linking like Ganga Kaveri or Brahmaputra to Kosi. Narmada to Godavari etc which will solve the long term problems of floods and draughts and make the country fully weather proof of draught and flood and give boost to steel sector as well as economy.

It is time to create massive flyover bridges in all medium and small cities to smoothen the traffic and get away from congestion. Every medium size city requires a number of Modern Sabzi Bazaars or Sabzi Mandis where people are not required to rub shoulders top each other and are able to complete the trade while maintaining safe Physical distancing. Cities need effective drainage system; effective sewage system; water treatment plants; STPs etc. So many such innovative

infrastructure alternatives can be built.

If the Government of India changes its strategy towards infrastructure growth then definitely the economy as well as steel sector both can improve.

COVID-19 has also given the opportunity to the people of this country to realize how clean and pollution free living is nice and healthy.

Therefore the government must also emphasize its full focus on ensuring that post COVID-19 economy remains pollution free.

For this it is required that government move its strategy from "command and control" to "cooperate and execute to improve". It has to shift its approach from "Ruler" to "Service Support Provider". The burden of compliance has to be reduced and distrust on the industries has to be converted to trust.

I feel that in spite of all odds the Indian Population will be able to face the challenges successfully. There is need to improve the trust between the communities, not only religion and political groups but also amongst industrialist, vendors, workers, labours, suppliers, service providers, technocrats and so on so forth.

Since India has highest



View Point

potential for growth in steel sector as it has the best available iron ore and fortunately the DRI route does not require precious coking coke to produce iron. Therefore India's Road map of victory in steel business lies through providing ample Iron ore and good quality coal and reliable power to the industry at most competitive rates as compared to these inputs available to the competing

industry as a part of Core strength. Unwanted burden of taxes and repeated obligation has causing more harassment to the industry than any incentives offered for growth to them.

It is time to government of India to realize that the Natural Resources in itself don't have any value unless there is a market for it. As we have seen during this Pandemic time that 110\$/Barrel Crude crashed

of revenue.

Our present Mining Policies in this Country is really very defective and detrimental for the fair and fast growth that needs to be immediately re-addressed to ensure the growth of steel industry and mineral based economy.

Lastly the most important is to curtail the cost of governance and time of governance. Government of India and every State Government have to



industry anywhere also in the world.

India's greatest lapse in Policy has been failure to consider the domestic sector

to -40\$/Barrel. So the same can be the case for any other natural resource like Iron Ore and Coal etc on which we are drawing lot of our pride and think as a great source

drastically reduce their cost on governance and payment to employees. The salaries fixed for Government employees were with the assumptions of 7 to 8%



growth in GDP. Today it is not justified if GDP is negative or less than 3%. Unless Government curtails its expenditure on Governance and non productive expenditures the economy will not improve. It is time to act harsh and tough which may not be pleasant to the majority of the people in this nation. But unless we do it our Nation would face several types of threats and challenges from or competitive economic. Indians must realize that we are facing competition from an Economy whose cost of Governance; cost of Social activities; cost of religious activities; Cost of Political activities; Cost of Press(TV; New Paper and Media); Cost of Justice; and cost of Social/Political/Religious/Democratic unrest is lowest in the World on per Capita productivity basis. The cost of corruption is also therefore much less. Time required to seek any sanction is the lowest either from Government or Bank. Cost of finance; power as well as manpower is also lowest. So if our steel industry has to compete with these economies then Government and people cannot exert their burden on steel industry rather help the steel sector to share the burden of National economy relieved by higher productivity and better

energy as well as resource efficiency.

Steel sector in India must now also realize that most of the people living in severally polluted areas and critically polluted areas have experienced healthy living without pollution.

“One recent study found that even small increases in PM2.5 fine particulate matter, had an outsized effect in the US. An increase of just 1 microgram per cubic metre corresponded to a 15% increase in Covid-19 deaths, according to the researchers, led by Xiao Wu and Rachel Nethery at the at the Harvard University T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

The evidence we have is pretty clear that people who have been living in places that are more polluted over time, that they are more likely to die from coronavirus – Aaron Bernstein”

So every citizen will now be more vigilant to check the pollution from steel industries. There are good efficient technologies to control the air pollution as well as water pollution. Let us use the Post Covid19 global sentiments to harvest the opportunity of improving international trade.

Post Covid19 operations of steel industry will require strict vigilance of the workers and visitors to keep

surveillance on any new cases of Covid19 getting into their factory and also revised SOPs to work in team while maintaining the Physical isolation with each individual working in the team. Daily health vigilance and self analysis by all workers have to be made a practice.

Introduction of “AyushKadha” as complimentary drink and on Job training to remain physically fit etc. may help to maintain good immunity level in the workers. The steel sector has to work out a separate Covid-19 SOP for each category of Industries. The Challenge is great but not impossible. If China can defeat it in 4 months, we should be also able to defeat in next few weeks. Let us keep our cool and work hard together with Government of India and state Governments to fight it and restore our economies.

In spite of all these odds the steel sector is one of the Core strength of India which on long term basis can bail out the Indian Economy from getting into deep recession. It is required to make a comprehensive plan to achieve the goal by taking all sectors in steel i.e. Primary; Secondary; Medium and Small as well as cottage too. Let us pray for a prompt bail out of COVID-19. ■



COVID-19 : Impact on Mining may vary from commodity to commodity

Global covid-19 pandemic has affected the metal commodity as well as mining operation in various ways. However, Covid-19 is just another virus which is new to human body, and therefore we are yet to build up its own defense systems nor has any vaccine been developed yet, so the need for extreme care. With the gradual easing happening and economic activity restarting let us analyse what it would mean for Mining.

Most of the mining companies operations have been affected through

isolated outbreaks and government mandated shutdowns and the demand for many commodities remain low with a lower near-term demand on the horizon.

We may see direct mine site closures due to the virus or lack of personnel. Sites may go into care, which will require some support. A significant percentage of mine sites are in remote locations, so closure is not imminent unless of course there is a case on the mine site.

As Mining industry is heavily dependent on the availability



By Haresh Melwani,
Mine Owner

of manpower; with operations being scaled back, many such migrant labour and workforce have retreated to their home base.

Most all mining feeds the raw material into downstream processing industries but now with the projected recessionary trends forecasted i do not feel that the consumption in the downstream industries like power generation, steelmaking, metal refining etc also further downstream metal formers, profile extruders etc the situation on the demand side seems to be very very weak



Mineral Thoughts

and an oversupply of ores will lead to depressed recoveries.

So an optimal level for mining quantities of various ores needs to be judiciously planned. On the practical workfront adequate sanitizing practises and social distancing norms will have to be enforced so that the Virus does not spread once again.

However, in the mining operations distancing is normally maintained and the major concern would be the

hygiene and sanitizing protocols.

Provision of adequate washing places and sanitising booths with periodic sanitizing of the mining equipment would be the order of the day.

On the brighter side, we can look forward to a more sanitary surroundings and probably a cleaner environment. This is an unprecedented situation, which means we need to deal with a lot of unknowns from both an economic and

societal standpoint.

We have also noticed that the real sense of togetherness in the face of the immediate challenge, which is stopping the spread of COVID-19 and ensuring staff are safe and healthy. At the same time, remote monitoring tools are in regular contact with remote technical support people.

Obviously, mining industry will have an impact as a whole but it may vary from commodity to commodity like Iron ore commodity will be more pressure which is exposed to consumer demand. ■



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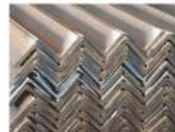
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