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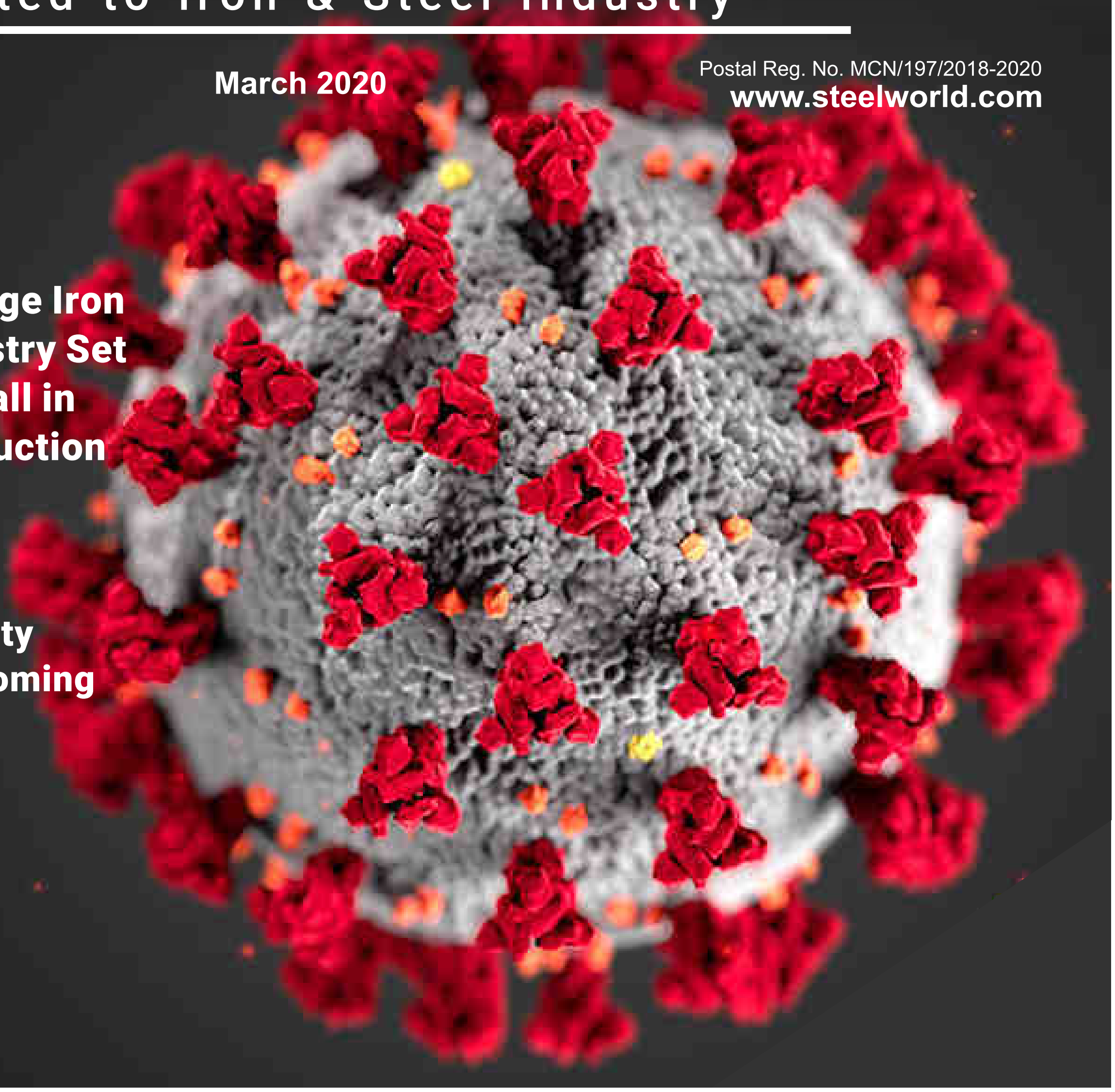

DEEPENDRA KASHIVA

Sponge Iron Industry Set for Fall in Production

Low Profits, Low Quality of Minerals, Are We Coming Out Of Steel?

Covid-19 Hits Colour Coated Steel Demand in India

D. A. Chandekar
Editor

Dear Readers,

The whole world is in the grip of deadly corona virus and everybody, all nations, World Health Organisation, are fighting to come out of this pandemic as quickly as possible. Many countries are observing complete 'Lockdown' and urging citizens to follow social distancing. Till date no specific vaccine has been developed to prevent it and also no specific medicine is available to cure it, though medical scientists are struggling hard to develop these.

Most of the companies across many countries have stopped working due to fear of infection and also following the administrative directives and orders. The share markets too are sliding every day and the investors are loosing their money. As such the global economy is getting a big jolt and experts feel that even after the virus infection is subsided, economy will take a very long time to recover. I am afraid many small and medium scale companies, comprising of auto component makers, rolling mills, fabrication units and many others will not see the sunrise of tomorrow, such a strong jolt this deadly virus is making.

The present lockdown period in India is for 21 days and will end on 15th April. Though the government and everybody is optimistic about controlling the spread during this period, it may be required to extend this lockdown period. One should be prepared for that and preserve and use his resources accordingly. This applies to individuals as well as companies. The need of the hour is that all the stakeholders of the organisations like the management, banks, employees have to come together to fight this never seen before situation. No single agency can be strong enough to take the whole burden.

I feel the iron & steel industry is in a comparatively better position as every other industry will need steel to survive and progress. No economy can ever progress without the usage of steel. As on today the steel production levels have been drastically reduced due to this extraordinary situation. The ministry has advised the promoters to run the mills with minimum available manpower. Also, there is a request to include the 'steel' in essential commodities list. This will not only help the steel industry to survive but will also ensure a basic support to other industries to rebuild.

Finally, I must draw reader's attention to a very important debate going on in the economic world. Have we over reacted to corona virus threat? In the quest of saving lives (which also we may not achieve due to strong spreading tendency of the virus) are we completely destroying the present economy and the future of the mankind thereafter? Is there any better way to strike a balance between the health and the economy? I am aware that both sides of the argument will have ample justifications and ultimately it is up to our leaders and policymakers to take a call on this issue.

Follow social distancing, stay home, stay safe!

*Write your comments : **https://steelworldblog.wordpress.com/***

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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

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Efficiency, Long Lifetimes & International Leading Technology

Conventional 3-section top fired stoves for 3x2500m3 BFs 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%.

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

province accounts for 40-50% of China's steel capacity.
for BFs 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)

3x3580m3 BFs configured with Yuxing 4-section top fired stoves

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

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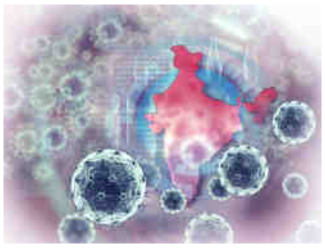

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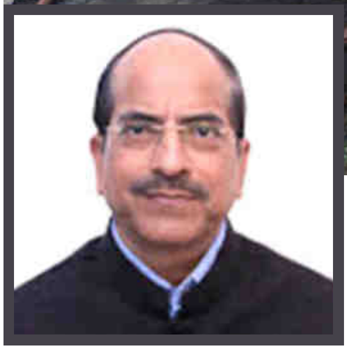


Sponge Iron Industry Set for Fall in Production

- Deependra Kashiva
Executive Director
Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association (SIMA)

Deependra Kashiva is an engineering graduate in Metallurgy. He started his career as a production manager in a private sector steel plant. After working in several steel plants in different positions, he joined Ministry of Industry, Government of India through Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and was engaged in the development of metallurgical industries. Thereafter, he joined Union Ministry of Steel. In 2010, he superannuated from Ministry of Steel from the post of Additional Industrial Advisor.

During his tenure in Ministry of Steel, he was associated with the resource development, production planning, research and development, propagating technological innovations for making Indian iron and steel industry cost competitive and energy efficient.

After his tenure in Ministry of Steel, he joined UNDP-GEF Steel Project. Since 2011, Kashiva is working in Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association as Executive Director. He has been associated with Indian Sponge Iron Industry since last 35 years. He is also associated in various policy formations of the Government of India and State Governments.

In an interview to **Sanjay Singh,** Assistant Editor of **Steelworld,** Kashiva says that in view of the Coronavirus crisis, the sponge iron industry in the first quarter of the next financial year will have a production loss of about 60-70 per cent. Excerpts

As India is under lockdown due to Covid-19 Panademic, what is the status of the steel manufacturing Plant?

As per the directive of the Central Government, public sector steel plants have been asked to continue the production. However, they have reduced the production on the other hand, although the private sector steel plants have also been exempted from closing down, most of them have either closed or are in the process of closing down. Even the mega blast furnace based steel plant in the private sector like Tata Steel, JSW Steel Ltd, AMNS, JSPL are either closing down or have cosiderably reduced their operations.

It seems very likely that the crisis may extend beyond April. In such a scenario how will be steel plant gets its uninterrupted supply of raw materials and manpower?

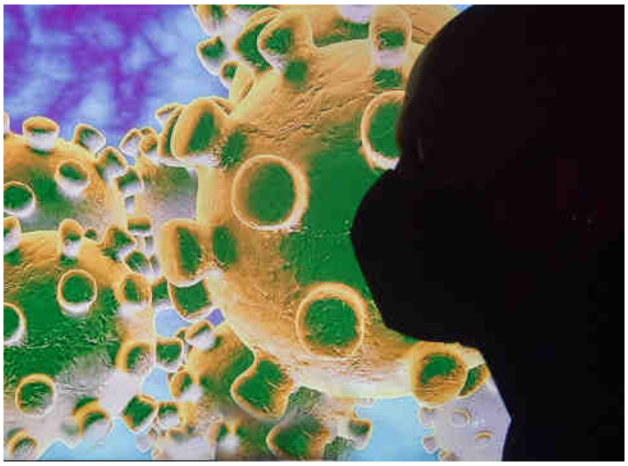
The central government have exempted the movement of vital raw materials like iron ore, coal and ferro alloys etc from the closedown, but the companies are facing the problem of getting the required number of trucks or the labour associated with surface transport. As regard to ports, I have been told that ports are not allowing the berthing of the ships and they have been asked by the shipping authorities for 14 days quarantine. People are apprehensive that they have to pay lakhs of dollars for demurrage.

But the Central Government have taken a supportive stand and have declared force majeure, which means that coal coming from Australia or South African can invoke the notification of force majeure and need not to pay demurrage charges.

The lockdown has already hurt industries such as cement and port operations. At least two Indian ports, Karaikal and Gangavaram, have declared force majeure, as the outbreak complicates port operations and hits business. Lockdowns in several coastal states are disrupting operations at other ports.

Has SIMA taken any steps to mitigate the problems of its members by way of representation to the government and its possible solutions?

I strongly feel that in view of the unprecedented crisis, individual associations and regional bodies or institutions should not take take up the issue directly with either Prime Minister or the Finance Minister. Already, apex bodies like Ficci, CII and Assocham are working together and SIMA being an active member of their national steel committee, are in touch with them and giving our views on what action the Government needs to take.



"The lockdown has already hurt industries such as cement and port operations."

Can you give a figure like how much production loss will be there in the next financial year and what effect it will have on the economy?

Since this problem started in the beginning of March much has not has been lost in the sponge iron sector, and it will be around 1.5 million tonnes, which means about 3-4 per cent of the total annual production for financial year 2019-20.

For the year FY 20-21, it is very difficult to given any projections because it is filled with uncertainty. But if this situations continues and prevails, then in the first quarter of the next financial year we may have a production loss in the sponge iron sector by about 60-70 per cent.

Although some of the state governments which have a cluster of sponge iron plants in some of the states like Chhattisgarh and Odisha, WB, Karnataka, the concerned District Magistrate in some of the district have given them exemptions from closing down, but the problem remains of finance, availability of raw materials and demand.

In your opinion how India will be affected as we are largely dependent on imports of either raw materials or finished steel?

India imports refactories raw materials, coking coal and steel scrap because we do not have the sufficient indigenous availability of these vital raw materials and melting scrap. Many sponge iron producers are importing non coming coal from South African with calorific value of 5,500 - 6000 kcal/kg coal. Sponge iron firms, which consume coal, largely prefer the South African coal because of its high fixed carbon content of about 52 per cent.

As regard to finished steel, special grade steels like long and flat products continues to be imported.

Lastly, you have been closely associated with the steel ministry. So right now in your opinion what are the urgent measures which needs to be taken to maintain normalcy in production and distribution of steel in the country?

We need to focus on the following measures to remain viable and operative:

- Uninterrupted supply of raw material both indigenous and imported, Uninterrupted supply of power and transportation
- Resumption of infrastructural and housing projects at the earliest to create demand
- Moratorium on EMI for atleast six months because it is a capital intensive industry.
- About 5-6 per cent reduction in interest rate for atleast one year, and liberal provision should be made for short-term loans to meet working capital requirements.
- The Government has already extended necessary statutory obligations for next one quarter. SIMA is of the view that it should be extended for second quarter of next financial year also.
- Compensation cess on coal which is Rs 400/tonne and electricity duty should be either abolished or atleast deferred for one year.
- It may be mentioned that SIMA has been requesting the Government to abolish the compensation cess on coal and electricity duty for quite some time. Somehow, no decision has been taken on these vital issues, which in turn, impact the cost of steel production and affect our global competitiveness.
- China has increased export duty subsidy by 13 per cent and India should take corrective step to stop likely dumping of steel by China. It may be either in the form of increasing sufficient import duty or imposing safe guard duty which needs to be implemented urgently.

Indian imports refactories raw materials, coking coal and steel scrap because we do not have the sufficient indigenous availability of these vital raw materials and melting scrap.

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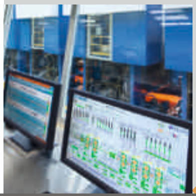

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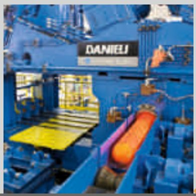

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News Makers

Indian steel mills likely to face competition from China

Indian steel mills are likely to face more competition from rivals across the border in China after Beijing sought to raise export incentives on the primary infrastructure alloy by a third to help cushion the impact of demand destruction at home and overseas.

The Chinese move to raise export rebates to 13 per cent from 10 per cent for a large number of steel products might also prompt some Indian steelmakers to seek higher border tariffs if imports were to surge now.

"Increase the export tax rebate rate of 1,084 products to 13 per cent…includes steel products such as hot-rolled coil, wire rod, cold-rolled strip, hot-dipped galvanized strip and stainless steel strip," showed an official letter from China's ministry of finance and state administration of taxation, dated March 17.

The extent of competition and impact on pricing depends on the inventory pile-up in China, while the import percentage of steel from China has been reducing, said

Indian Steel Association's assistant general secretary, Arnab Kumar Hazra. "Thus, we need to wait and see if the imports surge," he said.

Indian companies are more worried about Chinese prices getting even more competitive, affecting India's exports.

"This move by the Chinese government will not just impact imports into India, but will have more impact on the international markets that Indians target, Many countries where we export might find China's price cheaper. We need to focus on that," said a spokesperson from ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel.

Steel companies have consistently raised prices until March and the commodity was trading at Rs 39,700 on the back of restocking demand from auto and construction companies. However, the companies may not further hike prices as the impact has resulted in international prices trading at a marginal discount.

"Prices had been hiked until March, but the demand is not strong right now. In fact, even before China's announcement, demand was subdued," said ICRA's senior vice president Jayanta Roy.

Chinese exports to India and other countries have dropped to 570,000 tonnes of finished steel in February, as against 619,000 tonnes a year ago, as per a steel report by Kedia Advisory.

"Although higher rebates may see Chinese steel products gain some advantage in the foreign markets, the fundamental factor determining the vitality of Chinese steel exports for the immediate future is still demand, and the Covid-19 contagion is severely undermining consumer sentiment globally," said Ajay Kedia, director at Kedia Advisory.

Plant closures to lead to a loss of over Rs 2,300 cr per day: SIAM

Auto industry body SIAM has said the closure of manufacturing plants by various automakers and component manufacturers due to coronavirus pandemic would lead to a revenue loss of over Rs 2,300 crore per day.

"As per quick estimates by SIAM, it is expected that plant closure of auto OEMs and components will lead to loss of more than Rs 2,300 crore in turnover for each day of closure," Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Rajan Wadhera said in a statement.

All major automakers like Maruti Suzuki India, Hyundai, Honda, Mahindra, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, Tata Motors, Kia Motors and MG Motor India have announced temporary shutdown of plants.

Two-wheeler makers like Hero MotoCorp, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India, TVS Motor Company, Bajaj Auto, Yamaha and Suzuki Motorcycle have also suspended production. Besides, tyre makers and other major auto component makers too have shut down manufacturing activities due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Steel makers ask employees to declare travel history

Steelmakers such as SAIL, Tata Steel and AMNS have sought self-declaration from their employees regarding travel history to virus-affected countries as part of steps to check the spread of highly contagious coronavirus.

According to a news report, from banning large gatherings at their offices and facilities to avoiding domestic and abroad travel, and encouraging work from home, steelmakers are taking several precautionary steps to protect its employees amid the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, the steel companies said.

State-owned firms SAIL and RINL, as well as private steel makers like Tata Steel, JSW Steel, JSPL, and AMNS, have put certain restrictions at their offices and manufacturing plants across India and abroad to contain the spread of the virus.

Tata Steel said it has asked its employees with overseas travel history either for self or any of their family members, especially to countries like China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Italy, Thailand, Singapore, Iran, Malaysia, France, Spain and Germany over the last 14 days to undergo self-imposed quarantine for 14 days.

A COVID-19 Medical Task Force has also been formed to review the medical preparedness in terms of setting up of quarantine centres, isolation wards, training of doctors and other medical logistics of Tata Steel hospitals, the company said, adding it allows its employees to avail work from home.

JSW Steel has also asked its employees to work from home and follow necessary safety guidelines. Only those whose services are extremely important at plants and other sites would come and they are being scanned properly before entering into the premises.

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AMNS India) said besides stopping meetings and interactions at its offices, domestic and international travel have been completely stopped.

The company has also asked for self-declaration from employees regarding travel history to virus-affected countries and ensure self-quarantine.

Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) has ensured that each employee is screened for body temperature, and hand sanitizers and masks have been made available at all offices and facilities besides prohibiting large gatherings and scanning thoroughly non-company officials entering its facilities and offices in India and abroad. Many workers have been asked to work from home.

Visakhapatnam steel continues operations, takes measures to combat Covid-19

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has said production level at the plant is being maintained uninterrupted, despite all measures to combat the COVID-19 outbreak.

"Awareness campaign has been taken up by putting hoardings, distribution of pamphlets, airing of video messages through RINL doctors to spread basic hygiene etiquette," an official statement said. Sanitization drive in all areas like lavatory, floors, canteens etc, with disinfectant is also being taken up in a massive way inside the plant and township. Biometric attendance recording system for employees has been suspended till further notice. Two help desks (24x7) have been created at Visakha Steel General Hospital (VSGH) and an Isolation Ward has also been set up in the hospital.

Official correspondence, wherever possible, is being done through electronic media and physical movement of official papers and files has been minimised.

All social, sports and recreational centers like stadium, clubs, gyms, CWC, etc are closed till further notice. Crèches also closed till further notification.

"Work from home is considered for vulnerable employees like suffering from critical medical conditions, pregnant women and quarantine persons," the statement added.

SAIL scales back output amid Coronavirus lockdown

Steel Authority of India Ltd has scaled back its manufacturing operations with the country under a 21-day lockdown to prevent the spread of coronavirus but could not yet say how much of a hit it would take.

It informed BSE "We wish to inform that in the wake of the outbreak of novel Coronavirus COVID-19 across the world, including India, the company has been taking various precautionary measures across all its plants and units to support the nationwide effort to contain the spread of the pandemic COVID-19.

Availability of input raw materials, health and safety of the employees and their families,

limited logistic support and sales constraints, the manufacturing operations in all our plants and units locations have since been rationalized as warranted by the difficult circumstances.

Consequently, the capacity utilisation is likely to go down during this period of lockdown." It added "The overall adverse impact on the operations of the company during the period of this lockdown on account of the above and the expected financial impact is not immediately ascertainable at this stage. The company is closely monitoring the situation and taking appropriate action as per the directions issued by regulatory authorities from time to time keeping in view the interest of the company, health and safety' of all of its employees and their families and the interest of the nation at large, it shall resume full operations as soon as the situation permits."

As reported earlier some other primary steel companies have faced similar disruptions and have suspended operations at some of their plants.

Metal majors staring at output cutbacks

Metals majors are staring at production cutbacks following the 21-day lockdown in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak that has sharply shrunk demand, according to a news report.

JSW Steel, one of the country's largest private steel companies, has decided to scale down or suspend production at its units in the wake of the global pandemic.

Tata Steel and SAIL, two other steel majors, are maintaining production with a skeletal workforce. Experts said Indian steel companies may have few options left in this extraordinary situation where demand has sharply dwindled.

Shutting down or 'idling' a blast furnace will be the last resort and companies may instead opt for maintaining plant and equipment on a standby mode with only critical operations running or advancing planned maintenance shutdowns.

"We expect all major steel plants to reduce operations significantly over the next 7-10 days, despite getting exemption to maintain services under the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA)," Emkay Global said in its metals sector update. "We expect them to keep only critical operations in a standby mode to help them re-start and ramp up production as soon as the government removes the nationwide lockdown with minimum restart costs," it added.

SAIL, the largest state-owned steel company, said it had requisite permissions "to keep the vital plants and equipment like blast furnaces and coke oven batteries in running condition with minimum manpower".

The issues faced by SAIL include road movement of inputs, clearances and handling at ports, movement of employees and labourers, difficulty in unloading of material from rakes at sidings. This has caused inventory pile-ups of finished goods at shipping bays of plants. It has also resulted in cancellations or rescheduling of orders by customers due to handling, marketing and commercial issues. The steel ministry has urged PSU steel makers to maintain production levels. However, this is proving to be increasingly difficult.

Most domestic auto majors, buyers of flat steel items, like Maruti Suzuki, Honda, Hyundai and Tata Motors have announced either a cutback or stalling of production. Construction activity, which uses long steel products, too has come down to a trickle.

Steel ministry asks PSUs not to cut output

The steel ministry held a meeting with management of PSUs under its control to take stock of the situation amid the coronavirus outbreak, and asked them not to reduce production.

Steel Secretary Binoy Kumar chaired the meeting, via video-conferencing, in which senior officials of SAIL, RINL, NMDC, MOIL and KIOCL, among others, participated, sources said.

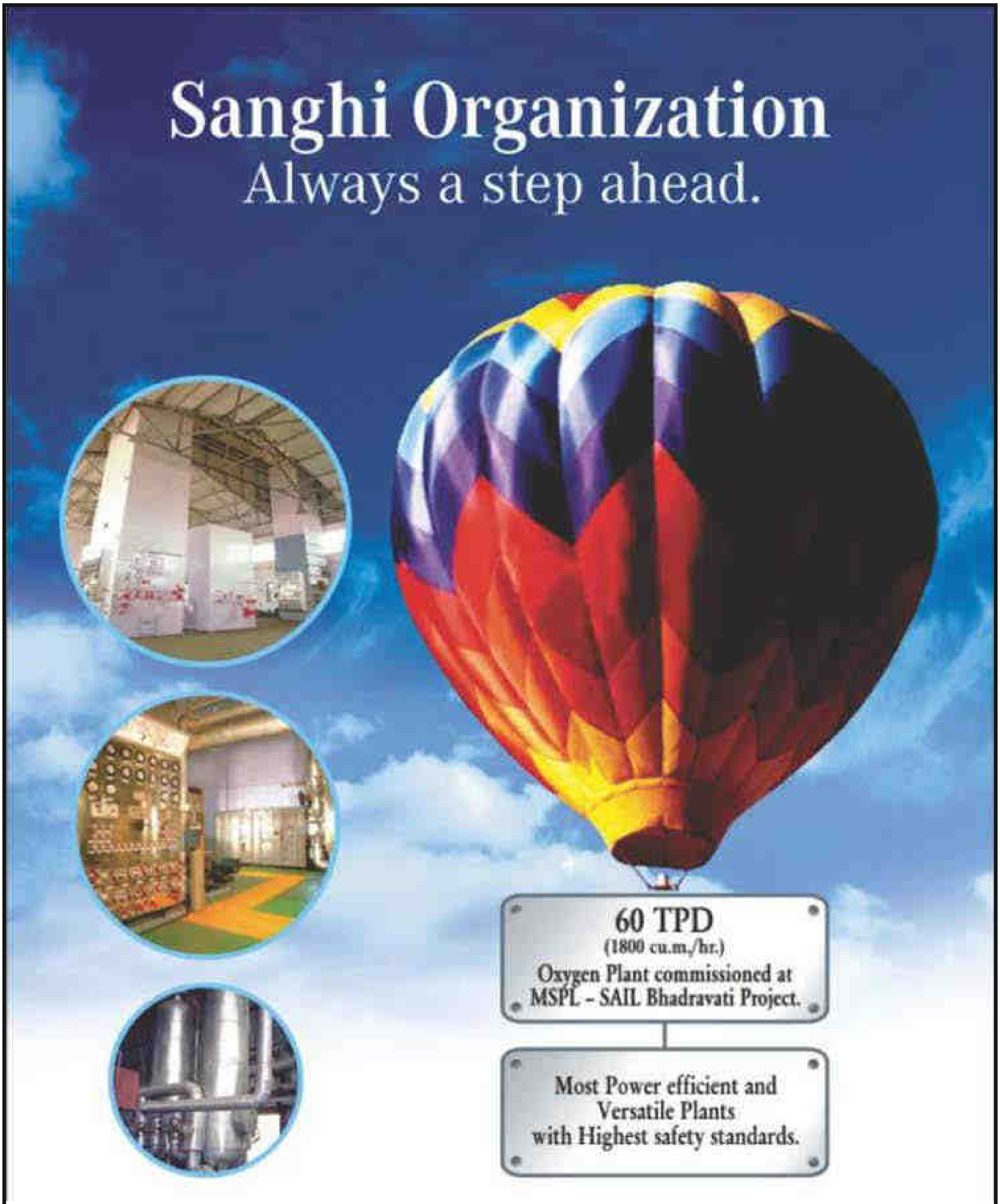
"They were asked about their preparedness at their plants and units in the wake of outbreak of coronavirus. They (PSUs) have been asked to produce as usual and not reduce production," one of the sources said.

SAIL has implemented various preventive measures across its plants, units and offices to contain spread of the virus. Quarantine facilities and isolation wards have been prepared at SAIL hospitals. The company has restricted travel of its employees and the majority of the meetings are being conducted through video-conferencing.

At RINL, biometric attendance has been suspended. An isolation ward has been arranged with a quarantine facility at the Vizag plant.

NMDC has asked its staff to work from home and the company's offices and buildings across the country are being sanitised. Besides special arrangements are also being made at its healthcare centres to deal with the virus. Large gatherings have been prohibited, entry of non-company staff is being scanned using thermal scanners.

Employees have also been asked to inform the company if they or any member of their family have a travel history to coronavirus-impacted country. Further, the public sector undertakings (PSUs) apprised the ministry of the issues faced by their officials during the current lockdown.



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Steel demand likely to see sharp dive: Report

Domestic steel demand is likely to see a sharp dive in the first quarter of the coming fiscal due to stalled factories and production cutbacks across major user industries like auto and construction, Icra said in its report.

The rating agency has also lowered its forecast for steel demand growth for 2020-21 as the country has imposed a nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. “We estimate steel demand to grow by 2-3 per cent in Fy21,” Icra's senior vice president Jayanta Roy said. Against this, domestic steel consumption grew by 3.8 per cent in FY20.

With poor demand likely to pull down steel prices and factories running at lower capacities, steelmakers’ profitability is also expected to come under pressure. “Steel industry growth is closely linked to that of a country's GDP,” the agency said. “With GDP growth rate being revised downward by nearly 4.5 per cent in Q1FY21, domestic steel consumption growth is also expected to come down.” Icra’s parent Moody’s Investors Service more than halved the country’s 2020 growth forecast to 2.5 from 5.3 per cent earlier.

Icra expects benchmark hot rolled coil (HRC) steel prices, which had increased to Rs 38,000 per tonne in the past five months, to fall to Rs 36,500 next month. Meanwhile, steelmakers have scaled down output & are maintaining plant & equipment on standby mode with minimal workforce amidst the lockdown.

According to a report released by Edelweiss Securities, Steel Authority of India (SAIL) has scaled down blast furnace operations at the Bhilai steel plant, ArcelorMittal-Nippon Steel India has cut operations by 50 per cent, and Vizag Steel Plant run by RINL has cut back production by 40 per cent. JSW Steel has announced it is scaling down or suspending operations in the wake of the lockdown while Tata Steel is also considering aligning its production in line with manpower availability, the report said. With the lockdown in place through April 15 and uncertainty thereafter, analysts say steelmakers’ volumes and margins are likely to be at risk.

“The lockdown has also stalled ongoing expansion projects," the Edelweiss report said. “In our view, this would particularly dent consensus volume growth forecasts for JSW Steel and SAIL."

Icra has almost halved its forecast for the steel industry’s margins for FY21 to 16.5 per cent from its previous estimate of 30. It pointed out that prices of coking coal, the main raw material for the sector, are inching up and said companies will be running at a lower capacity of 79-80 per cent against a capacity utilisation rate of 81 per cent in FY20. A report by Emkay Global said, “We expect Q1FY21 to be a record-low quarter in terms of both top-line Ebitda and profit on the back of exceptionally weak demand.” While India had emerged as a net exporter of steel in FY20, given the risk of delayed deliveries and stringent customs restriction all over the globe, exports and imports are likely to come down next fiscal even as major importing nations Italy and Belgium are highly impacted by Covid-19 outbreak, Icra said.

Tata Steel to cut steel production in Europe

Tata Steel Europe has joined other European steel groups in cutting production after automakers and other firms slashed output due to the coronavirus outbreak. The lack of demand has prompted Tata to reduce production although it is keeping its main furnaces running.

It said “We will continue to operate all four blast furnaces across our two steelmaking hubs in IJmuiden, the Netherlands, and Port Talbot, Wales. However, liquid steel production will be reduced as a consequence of the sudden drop in demand. We are monitoring the situation carefully and we stand ready to review these decisions based on market demand in the coming weeks.” Tata Steel Europe produced 2.51 million tonnes in the final three months of 2019.

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

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Low Profits, Low Quality of Minerals, Are We Coming Out Of Steel?

Dr Susmita Dasgupta
JCE, Economic Research Unit
Joint Plant Committee

The steel industry in India, like all other industries in the country and like the steel industry in every other country is in recession, over capacity and unsold stocks. Innovate, says the mentor, change to new product says the advisors, bring in diversity says the consultant. But it is difficult to change into new products for the steel industry. New products, those which are of niche use must be produced in smaller quantities.

Steel, in order to be economical must be produced in a certain scale, larger the better. Steel is best served in bulk, bulk goods, bulk projects, where huge quantities of material of the same quality is produced. The moment we try to produce diverse products from a large volume of crude steel, we tend to break out of our integrated plants, which casts continuously and rolls seamlessly the crude ingots coming out of the steel melting shops in order to maintain quality, reduce wastage and economise on heat consumed and emitted.

Diversity is difficult for large integrated plants. For diversity, we may need to rely more and more on the smaller facilities run on electricity.

Diverse products mean diverse inputs; the electric furnaces use steel scrap and the induction furnaces use sponge iron. Diverse products mean diverse quality of raw materials and diverse sources and added to this are diverse sources of ferro alloys. These require disproportionate efforts in terms of data sources, negotiations and manpower to do both. China does better because of its dense social network within the industrial spheres. In India, things can be difficult especially as because information is scanty and tardy in forthcoming.

Even if one produces a new range of products, then these, in view of the constraints of scale as discussed above must be directly sold to the clients, for niche products would have difficulties in retail selling. India usually sells through retail and here the retailers 'discounts get factored into the economics of production. No one would produce a different kind of steel of which the retailer might not want to offer discounts. Retailers' discounts can make and unmake products and brands. New products need retailers to be convinced first and this

could be a problem especially as spaces are getting costlier and not much space can be afforded for new stocks.

The development of new products needs an elaborate and permanent research and development mission. Most steel producers in India have competent researchers to address the process of steel making and not steel products. The research in India is guided more towards optimising the manufacturing processes; namely economising on heat, raising productivity, using newer input materials but strangely the development of new products is omitted. The anxiety for producing ever higher volumes and that too despite a very long stagnation in demand for steel, puts pressures on margins and then cost reduction becomes the paramount concern. Cost optimization is all about staying afloat in the game. It is exactly here that the new product developments of Tata Steel are so important.

Along with the problems of excess production, underutilized capacities and unsold stocks, the problem that arises invariably is the quality of raw materials. The increase in production would increase the demand for raw materials, and because excess production squeeze margins out and steel mills or any other investors in the sectors get turned away from investing in mines. In other words, the hope of surpluses from the steel industry would water down and miners would have to downgrade price premiums on minerals from new explorations.

The miners are likely to keep digging at the same spot and thus compromise on the raw material quality. Overproduction, which means reduced margins can harm the quality of raw materials. When this happens, we know that the quality of steel can be seriously compromised, and poor-quality steel is the surest way to lose market. Steel is now almost eliminated from the water pipe markets and the recent BIS notifications that allows PVC pipes for the oil and gas sector is certainly the beginning of the end of steel. In this backdrop, the efforts of Tata Steel are worthy of notice.

The development of new products needs an elaborate and permanent research and development mission.

Nest-In is a range of products made from hexane, a polythene product that is replacing steel in a big way in light weight applications, especially in the housing and household consumer sector. There are foot bridges, ready made single unit homes, guard rooms, winding service staircases and so on. These structures are likely to go a long way in freeing these uses of the harassment due to poor quality of steel. Tata Steel has ducked the trend of having to struggle with poor quality raw materials in making steel. The principle they used is to maximise the consumer utility by helping them to fulfil their needs with a superior product, this being a new product, the company gets headspace of an innovator in the market and makes better margins.

Does this mean that we come out of steel?

ArcelorMittal fears sales, profitability getting impacted in 2020 on coronavirus

Amid deepening coronavirus crisis across the world, global steel giant ArcelorMittal has expressed apprehensions of its sales and profitability getting impacted in 2020 in case the virus spreads widely through Europe, particularly in Italy.

According to a news report, the Luxembourg-headquartered company is the world's largest steel producer with steel-making operations in 18 countries on four continents, including 46 integrated and mini-mill steel-making facilities. It recently completed acquisition of debt-ridden Essar Steel in India for about Rs 42,000 crore and has announced plans to ramp up its finished steel producing capacity in India to 8.5 million tonnes per annum by the end of 2024.

"The recent increase in cases outside China is worrying and increases the risk of a global pandemic and a much larger negative impact on global GDP. The company is monitoring the situation closely and in particular in Italy, as should the virus spread more widely through Europe this will likely have a material impact on the company's sales and profitability in 2020," the steel behemoth said in its latest annual report.

The company said the epidemic may affect ArcelorMittal's operations in certain regions and cited examples of how its projects were impacted in Liberia in 2014 and 2015 during the Ebola virus disease epidemic.

"There can be no assurance that other epidemics, including the recent outbreak of the coronavirus in China, will not adversely affect ArcelorMittal's ongoing operations, production targets and expansion plans, if any, in other markets in which it operates," the company said.

The ADB has predicted global losses due to the deadly coronavirus outbreak at about USD 156 billion, of which China may account for USD 103 billion.

ArcelorMittal said it expected Chinese steel demand to grow in 2020 within a "range of +0.0% to +1.0% (versus estimated growth of +3.2% in 2019) driven by robust real estate activity and given the company's current view on the Coronavirus. This may be revised downward due to the impact of the Coronavirus on Chinese demand and the knock-on impact elsewhere."

In 2019, ArcelorMittal had revenues of USD 70.6 billion and crude steel production of 89.8 million tonnes (MT), while own iron ore production reached 57.1 MT.

ArcelorMittal had a series of targeted acquisitions that include the Calvert plant in the US in 2014, and in 2018 the acquisition of AMSF in Brazil and ArcelorMittal Italia in Italy, Europe's largest single steel site.

India's crude steel production drops

India's crude steel production registered a decline of 3.26 per cent to 9.288 million tonnes (MT) in January this year, according to World Steel Association (worldsteel). The country had produced 9.591 MT of crude steel during the corresponding month last year, the global industry body said in its latest report.

Crude steel production for the 64 countries reporting to the association was 154.4 million tonnes (MT) in January 2020, a 2.1 per cent increase compared to January 2019, the report said.

The world's largest steel producing country, China, reported a crude steel output of 84.3 MT in January, an increase of 7.2 per cent compared to the year-ago period. Japan produced 8.2 MT of crude steel in the period under consideration, down 1.3 per cent from January 2019.

South Korea's crude steel production was 5.8 MT in January 2020, a decrease of eight per cent from the corresponding period last year, the report noted.

Members of worldsteel represent approximately 85 per cent of the world's steel production, including over 160 steel producers with 9 of the 10 largest steel companies, national and regional steel industry associations, and steel research institutes.

Tata Steel arm bags Sukinda chromite mine

Tata Steel subsidiary TS Alloys has retained the mining rights for the 95.81-million tonne Sukinda chromite deposit in Odisha, according to a media report.

The company emerged as the highest bidder in the auction committing to pay the Odisha government 93.75% of the average sale price set by the Indian Bureau of Mines. The mining right is for 50 years.

A spokesperson for Tata Steel said the company has not been officially informed about the auction results.

The auction, which saw participation from Vedanta, MSPL and Rungta, is probably the shortest so far. It began from a floor price of 93.65% and ended after just two bids, according to those in the know.

This takes Tata Steel's chromite resources from the three mines bagged through auctions to a total of 108.6 million tonnes. Tata Steel has been mining the Sukinda deposit, sometime as a captive lease and then as merchant, since the 1950s. At 120 m deep, operations at the open-cast mine are set to become costlier when it is eventually converted into an underground mine.

FORM IV
(See Rule 8)

Statement about ownership and other particulars about newspaper **STEELWORLD** to be published in the first issue every year after the last day of February.

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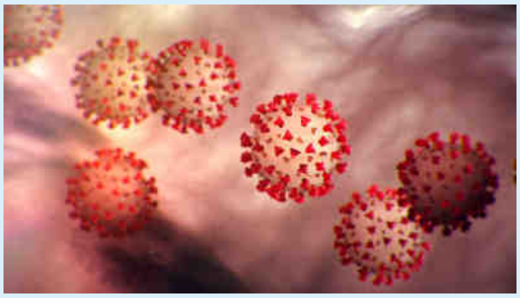
I , D.A.Chandekar hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

sd/-
D. A. Chandekar
Date : 30.03.2020 Signature of Publisher

SCCL miners seek halting of operations fearing COVID-19

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, workers of Telangana's Singareni Collieries Company Limited have urged authorities to confine coal mining operations to open casts. The employees alleged that they didn't have adequate masks to work in close contact with one another underground. Unions have demanded the shutdown of underground operations temporarily in view of the COVID-19 spread.



Telangana Boggu Ganula Karmika Sangam President Venkat Rao has written to Chairman and Managing Director N Sridhar, asking him to shut down the underground mining operations for the time being.

STBGKS General Secretary Raji Reddy said, "There are not enough masks to protect workers from COVID-19 and 'social distancing' is impossible while working in the underground mines. We have sought the provision of sufficient safety masks and sanitisers and calling off the operations underground. They said that they will allocate funds for safety equipment immediately and provide all measures but halting of the operations inside the underground mines is not possible as the bigger units of Coal India are also going ahead with operations."

With over 46,000 employees, SCCL operates in three regions across the erstwhile four districts of Khammam, Karimnagar, Warangal and Adilabad in northern Telangana. Amid the nationwide lock down, SCCL is undertaking operations across three regions, in 27 underground mines and 18 open cast mines. However, attendance across sites appears to be a little over 50 per cent.

Auto component industry staring at production loss

The auto component industry is staring at production loss of Rs 1000-1200 crore per day due to the nationwide lockdown imposed by the government to check the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. Industry body Automotive Component Manufacturers' Association (ACMA) said with a three-week lockdown announced by the government, production has come to a stand-still in the automotive industry across the country.

"Auto component manufacturers, especially the Tier-2s and Tier-3s are facing severe hardship on front of cash flow, which if not immediately addressed will lead to insolvency of several companies, especially the Tier-IIs and Tier-IIIs. Further, there is no clarity on how the market will pan out in the ensuing months", the industry body said in a statement.

ACMA urged the government to extend support for working capital through relaxation of borrowing norms and statutory payments to help the industry tide through the crisis. The industry body also recommended norms for NPA recognition be eased by extending moratorium on payment of principal and interest by at least 1 year. ACMA also sought relaxation in fixed electricity charge and in levy of demurrage charges for at least 7 days for import cargo clearance.

Deepak Jain, President ACMA, said, "These are indeed unprecedented times with complete stoppage of production in the vehicle industry and scarcity of working capital, the situation in the component manufacturing units, including the tier-IIs and tier-IIIs has become quite acute, threatening their survival. We have requested the government for helping us with immediate relaxation of borrowing norms and statutory payments, extension of moratorium on payment of principal and interest of loans for a year, among others. We are also seeking support of SIAM and the OEMs to ensure minimal disruption of the supply chain."

ACMA said the auto component industry is trying to mobilisie all assets to help the government and the front line workers fight the pandemic. The industry body has created a taskforce which is evaluating the possibility of manufacture of facemasks, hand-sanitisers by its members. Several of the component companies have shown keen interest to manufacture these items.

Specifically, for ventilators, members are evaluating the option to import them through their CSR funds. The industry is seeking guidance from government on the standards for such equipment and the quantity needed. ACMA has issued an advisory to all its members to maintain safety and security of all permanent and contractual employees, ensuring no layoffs and timely salary for the month of March. In fact, over 1 lakh contractual employees have already been paid their salary for the month of March.

Several of the component manufacturers have promised to extend full medical aid to their employees, including contractual, in the eventuality of them or their family members contracting the Novel coronavirus. Many auto component companies are also running community kitchens, with all necessary norms of social distancing, to ensure their contractual employees get regular food.

CIL sets single day Coal output record

Coal India Limited's single-day production peaked at a new high of 3.17 million tonnes on March 20, surpassing the biggest single-day output of 3.14 million tonnes in March last year. An official said "In the remaining days of the month, we aim to better this production record."

CIL said the output could have been even higher, but for disruption at the Lingaraj mine of MCL.

JSPL bags Guali Iron Ore mine in Odisha

PTI reported that Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) has bagged an iron ore block in the ongoing auctions in Odisha with reserves of about 198 million tonnes. The iron ore block, Guali mine, is spread over 365 hectares in the Keonjhar district of the state.

Other players that bid for the said block included JSW, Adani Group, KJS Ahluwalia among others.

JSW Steel to cut down output in the wake of Covid -19 outbreak

JSW Steel, one of the country's largest private steel companies, has decided to scale down/ suspend production at its units in the wake of the global outbreak of novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

"Following the call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 24 for a 21-day nationwide lockdown (w.e.f March 25, 2020) and the various advisories/ directives issued by local municipal corporations, state and central governments considering the evolving scenario of complete lockdown with exception to certain specified essential activities, the manufacturing operations in all of our locations have since been either scaled down or suspended (in certain locations)," the company said in an official notification to the BSE.

The move will affect the capacity utilisation which is expected to go down significantly during this period of lockdown, the statement added.

"The overall adverse impact on the operations of the company during the period of this lockdown, on account of the above and the expected financial impact, is not ascertainable at this stage," the statement added.

Steel is classified as an essential commodity under the Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1981 (ESMA). However, the company said it has taken the decision "to scale down / suspend production to support the cause of containment of the pandemic COVID-19, notwithstanding the exception to manufacturing units with continuous operation and the units producing essential commodities."

JSW Steel said it will continue to "closely monitor the situation and take appropriate action as per the directions issued by regulatory authorities from time to time, keeping in view the health and safety of all of its employees and their families and the interest of the nation at large."

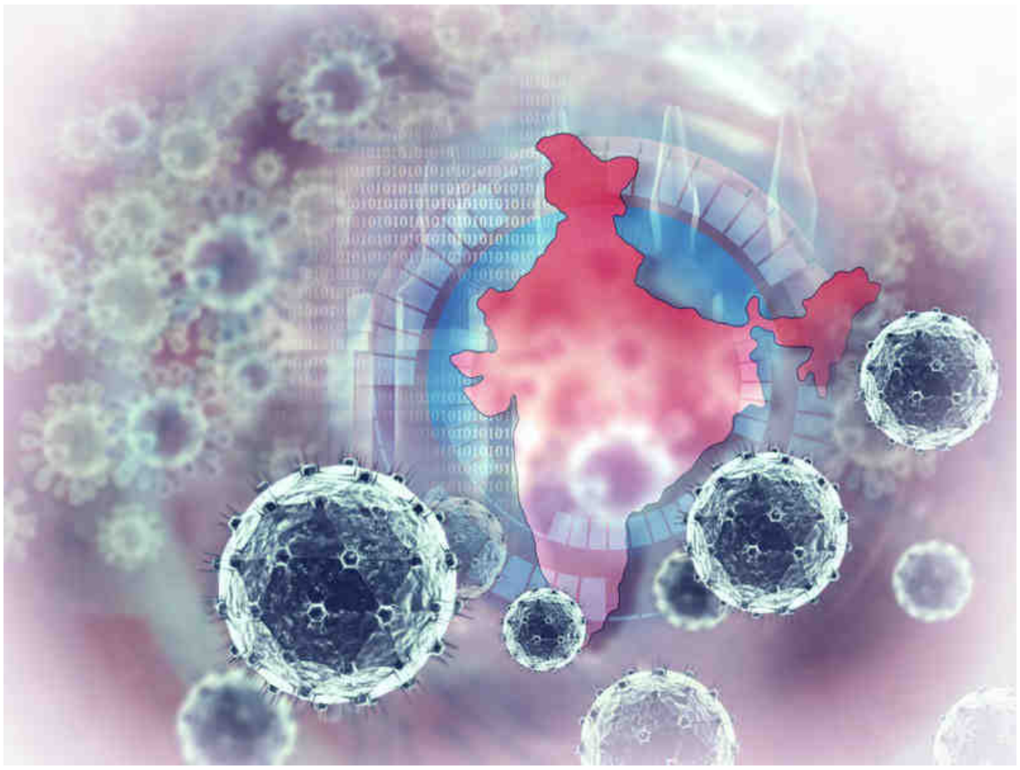
The statement from JSW Steel also said it had been taking various precautionary it measures to ensure the safety and health of the employees and their families, at all its offices and manufacturing locations in India and abroad.

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

STEEL PUNCH

- Shrinivas Prabhudesai

"Sir, we are a manufacturing unit. How can we follow 'Work from Home' directive ?"



Covid-19 hits colour coated steel demand in India

- Steelworld Research Team

Colour coated steel is also called pre-painted steel. Colour coatings are paint coatings and are specialty products used to give the steel a long-term protection under the broad range of corrosive conditions, extending from atmospheric exposure to full immersion in strongly corrosive solutions. Colour coating is a term used to describe the application of a decorative and / or protective organic coating to steel substrate supplied in oil form. A colour coating provides little strength to the substrate steel, yet it protects the steel so that its strength and integrity can be maintained.

Widening spread of pandemic coronavirus (Covid - 19) has brought global economy at standstill. Started from Wuhan city in China, Covid - 19 has taken toll of thousands of innocent lives with several thousands still battling in the hospital and lacks of others innocents infected with this deadly virus.

Spread across 157 countries throughout the world, many developed and developing countries have declared health emergency bringing thereby entire economic activities to a grinding halt. Infrastructure development and use of colour coated steel is no exception. Since, entire activities barring emergency services have been stuck, the planned infrastructure projects deferred albeit temporarily. The under-construction sites are shut and new ones are postponed. Thus, consumption of colour coated steel along with other concerned infrastructure raw materials is set to decline at least for near future.

Economic impact

CoVid-19 has sparked a severe disruption in global economic activity and has also triggered an unprecedented shutdown in many parts of India. This can have a very sharp impact on the gross domestic products (GDP) print not only in the current quarter but also in the next quarter Q1FY21. The largest impact will be in the services sector particularly travel, transport and hospitality while there will be a secondary impact on other services and manufacturing sector due to the large scale disruption. It can be noted that 47% of the domestic gross value assets (GVA) is generated from a host of services which include transport, hotels, trade, construction, real estate and financial services. The hit is expected on these sectors can shave off around 5% of the GDP estimates for FY20 itself and further, can lead to very poor GDP figures in the first quarter of FY21 if the disruption continues for over another two months.

Clearly, such a scenario has led to increasing concerns on the livelihood of daily wage earners. A one-time cash handout for the vulnerable population with no permanent employment may be explored by the government. Further, banks can provide temporary credit lines at concessional rates to small and medium enterprises and even larger companies in the sectors severely impacted by the Covid-19 crisis; if necessary, the government can provide an interest subvention for such liquidity lines.

Given the current challenges in the financial sector, an uptick in non-performing assets (NPAs) arising from the current economic disruption may further aggravate the challenges to the economy. Therefore, RBI may need to consider a special dispensation or temporary reprieve on NPA classification to banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) for 1-2 quarters if the Covid crisis does not peter out in the next few weeks.

Given the current challenges in the financial sector, an uptick in non-performing assets (NPAs) arising from the current economic disruption may further aggravate the challenges to the economy

The Indian economy has been experiencing significant slowdown over the past few quarters. In the third quarter of the current fiscal, the economy grew at a six-year low rate of 4.7%. Investment and consumption demand had been languishing and a number of stimulus measures have been taken to bring back the economy on a growth path. There was a strong hope of recovery in the last quarter of the current fiscal. However, the new coronavirus epidemic has made the recovery extremely difficult in the near to medium-term.

The outbreak has presented fresh challenges for the Indian economy now, causing severe disruptive impact on both demand and supply side elements which has the potential to derail India's growth story. Consumption is also getting impacted due to job losses and decline in income levels of people particularly the daily wage earners due to slowing activity in several sectors including retail, construction, entertainment, etc. With widespread fear and panic now increasing among people, overall confidence level of consumers has dropped significantly, leading to postponement of their purchasing decisions.

Travel restrictions have severely impacted the transport sector. Hotels are seeing large scale cancellations not only from leisure travellers but even business travellers as conferences, seminars and workshops are getting cancelled on a large scale. Greater uncertainty about the future course and repercussion of Covid-19 has also made the financial market extremely volatile, leading to huge crashes and wealth erosion, which in turn is impacting consumption levels. On the supply side, shutdown of factories and the resulting delay in supply of goods from China has affected many Indian manufacturing sectors which source their intermediate and final product requirements from China. Some sectors like automobiles, pharmaceuticals, electronics, chemical products etc. are facing an imminent raw material and component shortage.

This is hampering business sentiment and affecting investment and production schedules of companies. Besides having a negative impact on imports of important raw materials, the slowdown in manufacturing activity in

China and other markets of Asia, Europe and the US is impacting India's exports to these countries as well. China has been a major market for many Indian products like sea food, petrochemicals, gems and jewellery etc. The outbreak of coronavirus has adversely impacted exports of these items to China. For instance, the fisheries sector is anticipated to incur a loss of more than Rs 1,300 crore due to fall in exports. Similarly, India exports 36% of its diamonds to China. The cancellation of four major trade events between February and April is likely to cause an estimated loss of Rs 8,000-10,000 crore in terms of business opportunity for Jaipur alone.

China has been a major market for many indian products like sea food, petrochemicals, gems and jewellery etc.

India's trade impact due to coronavirus outbreak could be about US$ 348 million. India is among the top 15 countries that have been affected most as a result of manufacturing slowdown in China that is disrupting world trade. For India, the overall trade impact is estimated to be the most for the chemicals sector at 129 million dollars, textiles and apparel at 64 million dollars, automotive sector at 34 million dollars, electrical machinery at 12 million dollars, leather products at 13 million dollars, metals and metal products at 27 million dollars and wood products and furniture at 15 million dollars. As per UNCTAD estimates, exports across global value chains could decrease by US$ 50 billion during the year in case there is a 2% reduction in China's exports of intermediate inputs.

Given the challenges that the businesses and people are facing currently, the Indian economy is most likely to experience a lower growth during the last quarter of the current fiscal. In case the spread of corona virus continues, growth may remain subdued in the first quarter of FY 20-21 as well. Most multilateral agencies and credit rating agencies have, therefore, revised their 2020 and 2021 growth projections for India keeping in view the negative impact of coronavirus-induced travel restrictions, supply chain disruptions, subdued consumption and investment levels on the growth of both global and the Indian economy.

Asian Development Bank has estimated that Covid-19 outbreak could cost the Indian economy alone between US$ 387 million and US$ 29.9 billion in personal consumption losses. The projections have been made by ADB under four different scenarios: best-case, moderate-case, worse-case and a hypothetical worst case. Under the best-case scenario if the outbreak is contained and the precautionary measures are put on halt after two months from late January, the impact on India will be limited to about US$ 387 million worth of decline in retail sales. Similarly, in a moderate case, the losses will be about US$ 640 million while in a worse-case scenario when the precautionary measures continue for six months, personal consumption expenditure in India can decline by US$ 1.2 billion.

Metal coating

The metal coating market is divided into the two important segments, product type segment and end user segment. In the product type segment, it lists down all the products currently manufactured by the companies and their economic role in the market. It also reports the new products that are currently being developed and their scope. Further, it presents a detailed understanding of the end users that are a governing force of the metal coating market.

In this chapter of the metal coating report, the researchers have explored the various regions that are expected to witness fruitful developments and make serious contributions to the market's burgeoning growth. Along with general statistical information, the metal coating report has provided data of each region with respect to its revenue, productions, and presence of major manufacturers.

Asian Development Bank has estimated that Covid-19 outbreak could cost the Indian economy alone between US$ 387 million and US$29.9 billion in personal consumption losses.

Anti-dumping duty proposed

India's Director General Trade Remedies (IDGTR) has recommended of imposition of anti dumping duty on imports of flat rolled steel products coated with zinc without addition of aluminium. Coated with aluminium without addition of zinc and pre-painted or colour coated aluminium zinc alloy coated steel sheets, equal to the lesser of margin of dumping and the margin of injury ranging $13-129 per tonne, so as to remove the injury to the domestic industry. Accordingly, anti-dumping duty equal to the amount of injury recommended to the government for levy. Flat rolled product of steel, plated or coated with alloy of aluminium and zinc may contain one or more additional elements which in individual or in combination shall not exceed 3% by weight. The

product under consideration may be in coil form or not in coil form whether or not plain, corrugated or in profiled form.

Why need colour coating

The use of colour coated steel for building applications, as opposed to other materials, allows for great opportunities to create beautiful and functional buildings that meet high environmental and quality requirements. As the society moves towards a more environmentally sustainable future, colour coated steels can play a part in new building solutions. Colour coated products offer freedom for architects and designers. A large variety of shapes, colors and surface appearances combined with environmentally sustainable products make colour coated steel products an attractive choice.

Colour coated steel is a perfect material for buildings whether it is a modern arena, a traditional cultural building, a residential home or a warehouse storage. Colour coated steel has the benefit of being a combination of lightweight and high strength. On top of this, the material is extremely durable. These properties contribute to short construction times and easy handling on the construction site. The material is the perfect choice for renovation and extensions. The consistent and high quality of these products makes them highly suitable for industrial processing.

The extra formable steel grades are easy to form by hand and can be used in sophisticated forming operations even down to -15 °C without damage to the color coating or steel. Buildings made from colour coated steel provide safe and sustainable climate protection with very low maintenance costs. These products will protect the building for many decades and at the end of its lifetime, the steel can be re-melted and processed into new steel products. Steel is 100 % recyclable without any loss of quality. Both from an environmental and economical view – steel is the sustainable solution. Colour-coated sheet is highly preferred for roofing, flyover and construction barricades, metro rail and power projects, and warehouse/storage structures.

Colour coated steel is a perfect material for building whether it is a modern arena, a traditional cultural building, a residential home or a warehouse storage

Roofing demand for this sheet typically spikes before the monsoon rains set in. India's consumption of colour coated steel is pegged at around 2 million tonnes of which a substantial portion is met through imports.

Global steel industry faces shutdowns as COVID-19 disrupts supply and demand

There is certainly a grey cloud hovering over the steel industry, as steel mills, in all regions, are shutting plants or cutting production – either voluntarily or enforced by national governments.

Ordinarily, reduced demand would result in steel price reductions. However, many of the steel price references, published in MEPS International Steel Review, have held up, during most of March.

Steel manufacturers are closing their facilities and workers are being sent home, as authorities attempt to control the spread of the virus that is quickly taking hold – particularly in the western world.

Plants are closing across the US, with announcements made by several producers, recently. Many other steelmakers are expected to follow suit in the coming weeks. American steel mills are requesting to be included in a list of "essential industries" in order to prevent mandatory stoppages. Despite

reduced availability of steel, a degree of weakness is detected in US prices, this month.

Steel production is being curtailed in Europe, which is now one of the regions worst affected by COVID-19. MEPS also notes issues with transportation shortages and delays at borders. Long queues of trucks are, reportedly, waiting to enter certain countries. This is restricting supply to many companies across the EU and is helping to support steel prices on the continent, despite falling demand.

Several producers across Asia are restricting their steel manufacturing amid weakening demand. This is due to the ongoing effects of the coronavirus outbreak. While output reduces in most countries, production is rebounding in China. Moreover, traders in that country are seeking export opportunities, to offload excess stocks. Oversupply remains a feature of the Asian market, despite less severe effects from COVID-19 being witnessed, when compared with those in western nations.

Mills, service centres, traders and end-users alike are struggling with the developing crisis that is engulfing the global steel market. Difficult conditions are expected to persist, and are likely to escalate, over the coming weeks and months. A downturn in the economic climate will inevitably affect the steel market further. Consequently, price declines are predicted in the near term, in all regions researched by MEPS.

US Steel announces 48 day outage

US Steel announced that a scheduled 48-day outage of the No 4 blast furnace at Gary Works will begin in April and that previously announced indefinite idling of the Great Lake Works outside of Detroit will also begin in April as US Steel is implementing that idling as part of its best of both strategy.

US Steel said "The global coronavirus outbreak is an unprecedented and rapidly evolving situation. It remains uncertain how long the situation will last and what the impacts will be for the full year. Given the significant uncertainty in the marketplace, we continue to monitor demand levels and plan to provide more information during our first quarter earnings call. We understand the situation remains fluid and we are preparing our operations to be as flexible as circumstances warrant. Our regional supply chain minimizes the risk of significant supply-chain related production disruptions."

The company starting on April 1 will begin to lay off up to 1,500 employees at Gary Works as it idles blast furnaces and stops all iron and steelmaking at the facility which has been involved in producing steel for over a century.

The company has not said whether the closure of operations is permanent, only that there is no time frame attached.

Global steel output rose in February

February steel production figures from Brussels-based WorldSteel show producers in China continued to churn out finished and semifinished steel during its COVID-19 coronavirus lockdown phase.

Despite government-mandated lockdowns throughout most of China during much of February, mills in that nation produced 74.8 million metric tons of steel that month, for a volume that was 5 per cent higher than output in February 2019.

Steel industry analysts have expressed concerns that a significant decrease in steel demand in China in February and the first half of March will create a global steel glut that could suppress prices.

Investors in China, however, have shown some confidence that the situation there has turned around and that government stimulus programmes will absorb much of that steel in the second quarter of 2020.

The February WorldSteel figures portray an industry that was beginning to slow down in some regions as the COVID-19 virus began to make its appearance in other parts of Asia and in Europe and North America.

The 28 nations of the European Union (with the United Kingdom still included) produced 9 per cent less steel in February 2020 compared with one year earlier. Output also slumped in Taiwan by 5.5 per cent compared with February 2019. Other nations have shown a year-on-year increase in steel production in the first two months of 2020, before governments in Europe and North America began emulating COVID-19 social distancing and lockdown measures.

That includes the United States, with 2.4 per cent growth over the first two months of 2019, plus Turkey with an impressive 12.7 per cent output boost.

Staying relatively stable in the first two months of 2020 was India, with a 0.8 per cent decline in steel output, while South Korea showed a 3.4 per cent decline. Mills in Australia produced 900,000 metric tons during the time frame, up by 6.1 per cent compared with the first two months of 2019.

South American and Mexican steelmakers have struggled in early 2020, with Mexican output slumping by 16 per cent and South American production down 6 per cent.

JFE to cut 13% steel capacity by March 2024

JFE Holdings Inc, Japan's second-biggest steelmaker, said it would cut its steel capacity by 13 per cent by shutting a blast furnace by March 2024 due to weakening demand from manufacturers hit by the U.S.-China trade war.

"We are facing an unprecedented and extremely challenging operating environment due to slumping steel demand from manufacturing industries hit by the U.S.-China trade war and rising prices of raw materials driven by China's increased output of steel," JFE Steel President Yoshihisa Kitano told a news conference.

The company forecast an impairment loss of about 220 billion yen ($2 billion) on its production facilities in Chiba and Kawasaki, near Tokyo, in the current business year ending this month.

As a result, the steelmaker slashed its full-year earnings forecast, predicting a record 190 billion yen ($1.75 billion) in net loss, compared with its prior estimate of a net profit of 13 billion yen.

Under the restructuring plans, it will close a blast furnace and other facilities at the East Japan Works (Keihin) in Kawasaki in the year that ends March 2024.

Japanese steelmakers are also facing waning domestic demand due to a decline in population.

Last year, crude steel output in Japan, the world's third-biggest steel producer, fell 4.8% to 99.28 million tonnes from a year earlier, edging below 100 million tonnes for the first time in 10 years, the Japan Iron and Steel Federation said.

In February, Nippon Steel Corp unveiled a plan to shut nearly 10% of its production capacity, an unprecedented move in the once-dominant Japanese steel industry hit by falling demand at home and competition from China.

European steel groups cut output due to drop in demand

Tata Steel Europe and Liberty Steel have joined other European steel groups in cutting production after automakers and other firms slashed output due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Many European carmakers, including the world's biggest Volkswagen Group VOWG_p.DE, have suspended production at factories across Europe.

The lack of demand has prompted Tata to reduce production although it is keeping its main furnaces running, according to a news report.

"We will continue to operate all four blast furnaces across our two steelmaking hubs – in IJmuiden, the Netherlands, and Port Talbot, Wales. However, liquid steel production will be reduced as a consequence of the sudden drop in demand," it said, without saying how much output was cut.

"We are monitoring the situation carefully and we stand ready to review these decisions based on market demand in the coming weeks."

Tata Steel Europe produced 2.51 million tonnes in the final three months of 2019. The European steel sector was already under pressure from weak demand and rising costs before the pandemic hit. European Union steel output fell 4.9 per cent last year to 159.4 million tonnes, according to the World Steel Association.

Privately-held Liberty Steel, owned by the GFG Alliance headed by British-based tycoon Sanjeev Gupta, also said it was cutting back.

"GFG continues to adjust production to demand on a plant by plant basis with its highest priority being the safety of its employees," a statement said.

Steel plants in Britain, Poland and Romania were still open, and Liberty did not say by how much it was reducing production. Liberty said it had idled smaller rolling mills in Belgium, Luxembourg and Italy plus three British businesses that make components for the auto industry, including one using aluminium. Liberty Steel, with operations in 10 countries, has annual output of about 18 million tonnes.

The world's biggest steelmaker ArcelorMittal said it was reducing production at its European operations, but did not say where or by how much it was cutting output.

AISI urges US to designate steel as essential industry

The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) has urged the Trump administration to identify the steel manufacturing sector and its workers as "essential" when drafting and enforcing shelter-in-place orders and other directives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In a letter to Vice President, Pence Thomas J. Gibson, president and CEO, said "As the Secretary of Commerce determined in 2018, steel is important to national security well beyond obvious defense applications to encompass critical infrastructure and transportation, electric power and energy generation systems, as well as water systems. Without access to a reliable source of steel production during this crisis, our national and economic security will be severely impacted. We appreciate the efforts of the administration to limit the spread and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. As businesses across the nation have been ordered by many state and local governments to limit or cease operations in recent days, several states have specifically exempted industrial manufacturing as 'essential.' We urge the Trump administration to provide consistent nationwide guidance by formally recognising critical manufacturing sectors that are essential to our country's critical infrastructure and the response to COVID-19.

I urge the administration to identify the steel manufacturing sector and its workers as essential when drafting and enforcing shelter-in-place orders and other directives."

Gibson noted that AISI member companies are complying with federal, state, local and community directives during the pandemic and are taking all necessary precautions to protect the health of employees, customers, contractors and the community.

South Africa imposes lockdown at its Coal mining site

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa, has imposed a national 21-day lockdown. These measures have been announced to contain the spread of the coronavirus within South Africa. All non-essential businesses have been ordered to close for the duration of the National Lockdown. Mines have been ordered to limit activities to care and maintenance procedures designed to avoid damage to underground working areas and other infrastructure and facilities required for continuous operations.

Buffalo Coal said "In compliance with the directive issued, care and maintenance protocols are being developed and will be fully implemented at the company's operations in Dundee. In addition to the safeguarding and maintenance of the company's critical infrastructure, these protocols will be designed to ensure continued compliance with all relevant environmental, safety, health and other relevant legislative requirements. The National Lockdown is expected to have a considerable negative impact on the company's mining operations.

The company will engage with its financiers, major suppliers and other stakeholders in this regard. It will continue to proactively measure and manage any potential impacts of the National Lockdown, together with any possible future extensions thereof.

Further updates will be communicated to the company's various stakeholders as new information becomes available.

Buffalo is a coal producer in Southern Africa. It holds a majority interest in two operating mines through its 100 per cent interest in Buffalo Coal Dundee, a South African company which has a 70 per cent interest in Zinoju. Zinoju holds a 100 per cent interest in the Magdalena bituminous mine and the Aviemore anthracite mine in South Africa. Buffalo has an experienced coal-focused management team.

ArcelorMittal plans to cut production in Europe

Global steel major ArcelorMittal announced plans of reducing productions in Europe to ensure wellbeing of employees amid the spread of deadly coronavirus in the continent.

The outbreak has impacted several European countries in which ArcelorMittal operates, the company said in a statement.

"Given the extent of the outbreak, the health and safety implications, and particularly the impact it is having on several European countries in which ArcelorMittal operates, the company is taking steps to reduce production from its European operations to ensure the wellbeing of our employees is maintained and that production is aligned with demand," it said.

The statement issued by ArcelorMittal did not have any mention of the steel plant in Hazira, India but said at all global operations, the company is following government and WHO's advice and guidelines in order to protect employees and prevent the spread of the infection.

The Hazira plant in Gujarat is owned by JV firm ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AMNS), in which ArcelorMittal has 60 per cent stake and the rest 40 per cent is owned by its Japan-based partner Nippon Steel Corporation (Nippon Steel).

ArcelorMittal further said it takes the risks associated with the coronavirus outbreak very seriously and the safety and wellbeing of its employees is of paramount importance.

"We will continue to monitor the evolution of the coronavirus in each of our operating markets and take decisions accordingly to ensure the wellbeing of our employees and our ability to meet customer demand," it said.

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

Moroccan steel industry incurs losses

The Moroccan steel industry incurred losses of $ 35 million in 2019, as the Moroccan Steel Company (Maghreb Steel) announced a loss of 293.4 million MAD ($ 31 million) during 2019.

As for Sonasid, which specializes in the production of rebar and wire windings, it announced a loss of 41 million MAD ($ 4.32 million) during 2019, compared to a profit of 13 million MAD ($ 1.37 million) during 2018.

The two Moroccan companies attributed the loss to the low prices of iron and steel products in the global markets, the rise in imports of competing products, especially from Turkey, in addition to the high prices of production raw materials.

"Morocco Steel", which specializes in flat iron production, explained that it was able to reduce variable production costs by 15-22%, depending on production lines, and to reduce fixed production costs by about 7%.

However, the company's performance was affected by the dumping of the market on imports that managed to "circumvent and circumvent" anti-dumping measures, in the words of the company. Which indicated that the anti-dumping measures adopted by the Moroccan authorities ended in September last year, and was replaced by a temporary protective measure in October. However, this new measure had no impact on the company's performance during 2019.

Sonasid indicated that despite the increase in its sales of iron bars by 8%, and the increase in the total volume of its sales by about 2.5%, during the past year, the value of its sales decreased by 5.41%, and went down to the level of 3.62 billion dirhams ($ 381.3 million) during 2019 as a result The competition for cheap imports has increased, especially from Turkey.

Regarding the new context imposed by the Corona pandemic, the two companies announced their desire to continue operating amid strict health and security conditions, with the closure of social facilities and accessories for factories, such as prayer halls, sports halls, restaurants and canteens. The two companies have also reduced the number of workers present in the production units to the minimum necessary, and all the administration's work, which can be done remotely, has been transferred to the employees 'homes.

Egypt registers 24 pc decline in steel exports

Egypt's exports of steel and cement declined in January to $ 50 million, compared to $ 66 million in January 2019, a decrease of 24.2%, according to the monthly report issued by the Export Building Materials Council.

According to the report, 9 countries, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Spain, America, Sudan, Libya, Kenya, Palestine, and Yemen, accounted for 74.2% of the total exports of iron, steel and cement in January, at a value of 37.124 million dollars.

Iron and steel exports decreased last January by about 25% to $ 40 million, compared to $ 54 million during the same month in 2019, as exports were to 43 countries, including 15 countries that were not exported to during January 2019, represented in the "Emirates, Croatia, Palestine, Morocco, Islamic Mauritania, Hong Kong, the former Federation of Malaysia – Malay, Puerto Rico, Canada, Niger, Zambia – Northern Rhodesia, Ghana, Senegal, Rwanda, Tunisia "with an export value of about $ 3.065 million.

About 10 countries accounted for 86.3% of Egypt's total iron exports during last January by about 34.538 million dollars, topped by Saudi Arabia, whose iron exports value decreased by 15% to record 12.069 million dollars compared to 14.192 million dollars.

15th Arab Steel Summit to be held in Bahrain

Arab Iron and Steel Union will organises its annual conference '15th Arab Steel Summit' from October 25-26, 2020, in Manama city, Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Arab Iron and Steel Union is looking forward to this important event to be a meeting platform to a large number of Arab and International companies, steel industry experts and owners of modern technologies. In addition, investors and businesspersons will be attending the event with the aim of cooperating and exchanging views on all what serves the development of this industry, its integration and continuing growth on all levels of production, commercialisation and marketing.

According to a statement by Arab Iron and Steel Union it said it believes in the importance of encouraging scientific research, to serve the iron and steel sector in the Arab countries, The winners will be awarded the best three Arab scientific research in iron and steel field, as the Union invites all experts, professors and engineers in the iron and steel field to submit scientific research working in the scope of developing this industry in the Arab world. September 30, 2020, will be the last day of submitting scientific research.

Simultaneously with the conference work, the Arab Iron and Steel Union will organise the 'International Iron & Steel Exhibition 2020', which will provide a suitable environment for the companies to display their iron and steel products, innovations and modern technical solutions, which help in developing and varying the iron and steel industry productivity, in addition of being the appropriate place for producers to meet active institutions and companies in iron and steel trade field and the technologists.

World crude steel production up 2.8% and Egypt leads in Arab countries

World crude steel production for the 64 countries reporting to the World Steel Association (worldsteel) was 143.3 million tonnes (Mt) in February 2020, a 2.8% increase compared to February 2019.

China's crude steel production for February 2020 was 74.8 Mt, an increase of 5.0% compared to February 2019*. India produced 9.6 Mt of crude steel in February 2020, up 1.5% on February 2019. Japan produced 7.9 Mt of crude steel in February 2020, up 2.2% on February 2019.

Egypt's crude steel production in January was 774,000 tons, up 12.8% compared to February 2019. Saudi Arabia produced 423,000 tons of crude steel in January 2020, down -5.6% compared to February 2019. UAE produced 289,000 tons of crude steel down -0.1% compared to February 2019. Qatar produced 179,000 tons of crude steel up 1.9% compared to February 2019. Libya produced 67,000 tons of crude steel, up 38.2%.

Rebar prices drop by more than $55/t in UAE

Emirates Steel Industries (ESI) has finally announced prices for April rolling rebar to somewhat anxious domestic customers. The quotes were revised downwards in line with the global fall in raw material prices.

The UAE rebar marker now has long-awaited clarity with ESI's rebar price announcement for April production. The level decreased by AED 207.5/t ($56/t) to AED 1,689.50/t ($460/t) EXW. Prices are indicated without 5% VAT.

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

Investors find new haven in steel rods

Investors in China have found an unlikely new hiding place from the chaos engulfing financial markets.

The price of steel reinforcement bar, the somewhat unglamorous but ubiquitous commodity used to strengthen concrete, has risen almost 5 per cent over the past month in Shanghai. Over the same period, gold -- the traditional haven amid turmoil -- has dropped more than 5 per cent as investors sell to cover losses in other markets.

Rebar's unexpected ascent as a financial sanctuary comes as Chinese investors bet that Beijing is going to embark on a massive bout of stimulus to help prop up the country's economy in the aftermath of the coronavirus, boosting demand for raw materials used in construction.

"We are calling rebar, 'rebar gold' these days, as it has became a haven asset during this global crisis," said Wu Yijie, an analyst at Shanghai Dalu Futures. "We believe

the Chinese government will greatly bolster infrastructure spending as they did post-SARS to boost domestic consumption."

Chinese investors may also be drawn to steel futures because they can only be traded in China, making them more reflective of what's happening locally and less exposed to the same forces that are ravaging more global markets like copper. China also has greater influence over pricing, Wu said. The country produces and consumes about half the world's steel.

While the economic outlook for the U.S. and Europe worsens by the day, there's growing optimism that the slowing rate of new infections in China points to some level of containment and fueling expectations the government will announce a raft of measures to boost growth.

Chinese stimulus has so far included injecting more liquidity into the financial system, but expectations are growing there'll be infrastructure investment that will aid steel demand.

Haven demand may explain why steel is managing to defy a deluge of supply that would normally be hammering prices. China produced a record amount in the first two months of this year despite its extended shutdown to get the virus outbreak under control and rebar stockpiles sit at the highest ever.

Iron ore, the main raw material for steel, is also benefiting from some haven demand for the same reasons according to William Chin, head of commodities at Singapore Exchange, the world's largest clearer of iron ore derivatives.

Steel sector starts to resume operations in Hubei Province - Report

Global Times reported that the steel industry and major construction projects in Central China's Hubei Province have been resuming activity as the province has seen an easing epidemic situation. As the transport restrictions across China have been gradually lifted, Hubei Xinyegang Steel Co brought its first batch of 52 staff back to Hubei from Shanghai on March 18 by chartered buses.

A total of 116 out of 270 staff for a Xinyegang blast furnace project have returned to their positions and another 50 are processing procedures to get the necessary permission

Meanwhile, large-scale projects are also resuming in Hubei. The Hubei phase of the 287.2-kilometer Zhengzhou-Wanzhou High-Speed Railway restarted, with 244 management personnel and 669 construction workers in position, according to reports. Also, a large construction project in Shiyan, Hubei by China 19th Metallurgical Co has also resumed construction. China 19th Metallurgical Co's four other projects in Hubei are all steadily preparing for the resumption.

Steel output rises despite Coronavirus

China's steel production continues to expand notwithstanding disruptions from the coronavirus pandemic. Latest data revealed that steel mills in China - the world's biggest steel producer - ramped up production in the first two months of 2020 even though the country struggled to contain the outbreak of the deadly virus.

China, which accounts for more than half of the global steel output, churned out 154.7 million tons of crude steel in the first two months of the year, up 3.1 per cent from the same period last year, as per China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

While production continued to rise during the first two months of 2020, disruptions in transportation and logistics due to coronavirus led to surging finished steel inventories in China amid weak domestic demand. Steel demand weakened in China as major end-user industries were put in partial shutdown due to the outbreak. On the other hand, steel production increased as blast furnaces across the country continued to run notwithstanding coronavirus-induced disruptions.

The closure of a large number of factories across China to put a

check on the spread of the virus disrupted the supply chain. The city of Wuhan in Hubei province, the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic that has already infected more than 218,000 people and killed more than 8,800 globally, is one of China's biggest manufacturing centers and the country's transportation and logistics hub. Coronavirus crippled the transport links across the country.

As per the China Iron and Steel Association, inventories of finished steel products were up 45 per cent year over year in late February in China. Soaring steel inventories also put downward pressure on China's domestic steel prices.

Continued build-up of inventories of steel products including hot-rolled coil and rebar due to rising production coupled with weaker domestic steel demand would further hurt prices in China and globally. Rising steel stockpiles has also ignited industry-wide concerns that it will lead China again flooding global markets with cheap steel exports.

The steel industry continues to reel under the effects of sustained oversupply of steel in the market, exacerbated by continued growth in production in China. Despite U.S.-China trade tensions, China's steel mills beefed up output last year to take advantage of fat profit margins. Healthy domestic steel demand was another driving factor.

According to the World Steel Association (WSA) — the international trade body for the iron and steel industry — China's production jumped 8.3 per cent year over year to 996.3 million tons in 2019. The country's share of the world crude steel production rose to 53.3 per cent in 2019 from 50.9 per cent in 2018.

Notably, production from China shot up 7.2 per cent year over year to 84.3 million tons in January 2020, as per the WSA. Production surged despite the Lunar New Year holidays and the government's stringent measures including lockdowns and quarantines to contain the coronavirus.

Auto output and sales tank in February

According to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, Chinese auto sales in February plunged 79.1 per cent year on year to only 310,000 units. Automakers and suppliers generally deferred the resumption of their manufacturing businesses, which no doubt resulted in the flagging outputs.

Last month, only 285,000 vehicles were produced countrywide, a significant year-on-year slide of 79.8 per cent. For the first two months, auto sales in China tumbled 42 per cent from the year-ago period. Apart from the coronavirus, the Spring Festival holiday was another key factor that brought down the whole volume.

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

Primetals Technologies continuous pickling line starts at Shougang Jingtang

In December 2019, a continuous pickling line supplied by Primetals Technologies started up at Chinese steel producer Shougang Jingtang United Iron & Steel Co Ltd. The pickling line is designed to process around 1.5 million metric tons of hot rolled strip per year.

It is part of the second phase of a new production plant in Caofeidian, Hebei Province. It is designed to process ultra-high strength steel grades for high added value products to be used in automotive, bus, truck production, and for all heavy industrial applications. The CPL is designed to pickle hot rolled strip with thicknesses ranging from 0.8 to 7.0 millimeters, and widths from 750 to 1,630 millimeters, and handle coils weighing up to 33.6 metric tons.

The strip speed upon entry is 650 meters per minute, the pickling itself runs at 320 meters per minute, and speeds of up to 400 meters per minute are reached in the exit section.

Primetals Technologies was responsible for engineering and manufacturing and supplied all core equipment for the line. A heavy scale breaker was installed upstream of the pickling station, which has five flat turbulent pickling tanks fitted with an acid recirculating system. Downstream there is a rinsing tank with five compartments, water recirculation system and strip drier.

The strip then passes through a skin-pass mill and a tension leveler. The strip is then side-trimmed, before passing through an inspection station, to ensure it has the required surface quality. A flying shear is installed in the exit section. Primetals Technologies also supplied the electrical and automation equipment and provided supervision of erection and commissioning.

Shougang Jingtang took care of the associated civil works and the erection of the line.

World Crude Steel Production

Monthly crude steel production in the 64 countries included in the report, in thousands of tonnes.

January 2020

	JANUARY			1 MONTH		
	2020	**2019**	**% Change Jam 20/19**	**2020**	**2019**	**% Change**
Austria	631	685	-8.0	631	685	-8.0
Belgium	505 e	635	-20.5	505	635	-20.5
Bulgaria	45 e	45	1.1	45	45	1.1
Croatia	10 e	16	-37.8	10	16	-37.8
Czech Republic	400	440	-9.1	400	440	-9.1
Finland	332	330	0.6	332	330	0.6
France	1 294	1 238	4.5	1 294	1 238	4.5
Germany	2 845 e	3 455	-17.7	2 845	3 455	-17.7
Greece	95 e	124	-23.4	95	124	-234
Hungary	165 e	156	5.8	165	156	5.8
Italy	1 874	1 971	-4.9	1 874	1 971	-4.9
Luxembourg	100 e	189	-47.1	100	189	-47.1
Netherlands	598	617	-3.2	598	617	-3.2
Poland	640 e	845	-24.2	640	845	-24.2
Slovenia	55 e	58	-4.9	55	58	-4.9
Spain	760 e	1 152	-34.0	760	1 152	-34.0
Sweden	425	462	-8.1	425	462	-8.1
United Kingdom	666	606	9.8	666	606	9.8
Other E.U. (28) (e)	855 e	941	-9.1	855	941	-9.1
European Union (28)	**12 293**	**13 964**	**-12.0**	**12 293**	**13 964**	**-12.0**
Bosnia-Herzegovina	70 e	72	-2.7	70	72	-2.7
Macedonia	25 e	18	37.5	25	18	37.5
Norway	62	60	2.9	62	60	2.9
Serbia	135	176	-23.3	135	176	-23.3
Turkey	3 014	2 569	17.3	3 014	2 569	17.3
Other Europe	**3 306**	**2 895**	**14.2**	**3 306**	**2 895**	**14.2**
Byelorussia	23 e	216	6.5	230	216	6.5
Kazakhstan	350 e	217	61.3	350	217	61.3
Moldova	20 e	12	66.7	20	12	66.7
Russia	6 000 e	6 256	-4.1	6 000	6 256	-4.1
Ukraine	1 843	1 850	-0.4	1 843	1 850	-0.4
Uzbekistan	50 e	46	8.7	50	46	8.7
C.I.S. (6)	**8 493**	**8 597**	**-1.2**	**8 493**	**8 597**	**-1.2**
Canada	1 090 e	1 166	-6.5	1 090	1 166	-6.5
Cuba	20 e	19	6.8	20	19	6.8
El Salvador	10 e	8	17.8	10	8	17.8
Guatemala	25 e	26	-3.9	25	26	-3.9
Mexico	1 375 e	1 636	-15.9	1 375	1 636	-15.9
United States	7 707	7 518	2.5	7 707	7 518	2.5
North America	**10 227**	**10 373**	**-1.4**	**10 227**	**10 373**	**-1.4**
Argentina	298	371	-19.6	298	371	-19.6
Brazil	2 680	3 015	-11.1	2 680	3 015	-11.1
Chile	110 e	81	35.0	110	81	35.0
Colombia	95 e	96	-1.5	95	96	-1.5
Ecuador	50 e	51	-1.6	50	51	-1.6
Paraguay	5 e	2	131.2	5	2	131.2
Peru	90 e	101	-10.6	90	101	-10.6
Uruguay	5 e	6	-22.7	5	6	-22.7
Venezuela	0 e	4	-100.0	0	4	-100.0
South America	**3 333**	**3 728**	**-10.6**	**3 333**	**3 728**	**-10.6**
Egypt	575 e	722	-20.4	575	722	-20.4
Libya	65 e	29	123.7	65	29	123.7
South Africa	398 e	521	-23.7	398	521	-23.7
Africa	**1 038**	**1 272**	**-18.4**	**1 038**	**1 272**	**-18.4**
Iran	2 895 e	1 971	46.9	2 895	1 971	46.9
Qatar	230	221	3.9	230	221	3.9
Saudi Arabia (1)	412	469	-12.2	412	469	-12.2
United Arab Emirates	303	304	-0.3	303	304	-0.3
Middle East	**3 841**	**2 966**	**29.5**	**3 841**	**2 966**	**29.5**
China	84 269 e	78 594	7.2	84 269	78 594	7.2
India	9 288	9 591	-3.2	9 288	9 591	-3.2
Japan	8 244	8 142	1.3	8 244	8 142	1.3
South Korea	5 753	6 252	-8.0	5 753	6 252	-8.0
Pakistan	260 e	255	2.0	260	255	2.0
Taiwan, China	1 700 e	1 990	-14.6	1 700	1 990	-14.6
Thailand	365 e	340	7.3	365	340	7.3
Vietnam (2)	1 530 e	1 746	-12.4	1 530	1 746	-12.4
Asia	**111 409**	**106 909**	**4.2**	**111 409**	**106 909**	**4.2**
Australia	440	468	-5.9	440	468	-5.9
New Zealand	55	56	-1.6	55	56	-1.6
Oceania	**495**	**523**	**-5.4**	**495**	**523**	**-5.4**
TOTAL 64 COUNTRIES (3)	**154 436**	**151 228**	**2.1**	**154 436**	**151 228**	**2.1**

(1) - HADEED only., (2) - partial data, approximately 75% of national total., (3) - the 64 countries included in this table accounted for approximately 99% of total world crude steel production in 2018.
e - estimated

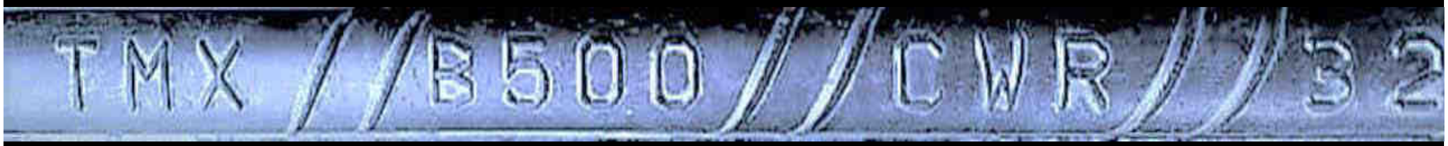
Source : World Steel Association

Indian Automobile Statistics
February 2020

	PRODUCTION		DOMESTIC SALES		EXPORTS	
	FEBRUARY		FEBRUARY		FEBRUARY	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
I. PASSENGER VEHICLES (PVs)						
PASSENGER CARS	218,175	189,783	171,307	156,285	36,829	35,182
UTILITY VEHICLES	96,544	102,328	83,269	83,351	13,640	19,917
VANS	21,185	12,106	17,667	11,880	454	338
TOTAL PASSENGER VEHICLES (Pvs)	**335,904**	**304,217**	**272,243**	**251,516**	**50,923**	**55,437**
II. COMMERCIAL VEHICLES (CVs)						
M&HCVs						
PASSENGER CARRIERS	4,889	3,966	3,464	4,017	686	922
GOODS CARRIERS (M&HCVs)	31,231	14,101	30,831	16,408	2,445	1,402
TOTAL M&HCVs	**36,120**	**18,067**	**34,295**	**20,425**	**3,131**	**2,324**
LIGHT COMMERCIAL VEHICLES (LCVs)						
PASSENGER CARRIERS	4,929	4,409	4,578	4,169	314	187
GOODS CARRIERS	50,745	32,499	48,563	34,076	3,233	2,858
TOTAL LCVs	**55,674**	**36,908**	**53,141**	**38,245**	**3,547**	**3,045**
TOTAL COMMERCIAL VEHICLES	**91,794**	**54,975**	**87,436**	**58,670**	**6,678**	**5,369**
III. THREE WHEELERS						
PASSENGER CARRIER	95,973	74,503	48,019	32,421	45,973	41,870
GOODS CARRIER	12,546	8,280	11,856	8,879	580	556
TOTAL THREE WHEELERS	**108,519**	**82,783**	**59,875**	**41,300**	**46,553**	**42,426**
IV. TWO WHEELERS						
SCOOTERS / SCOOTERETTEE	583,451	494,056	492,584	422,310	30,031	31,075
MOTOR CYCLES / STEP-THROUGHS	1,279,522	1,032,785	1,047,356	816,679	238,448	279,742
MOPEDS	75,292	56,715	75,001	55,802	1,124	942
TOTAL TWO WHEELERS	**1,938,265**	**1,583,556**	**1,614,941**	**1,294,791**	**269,603**	**311,759**
QUADRICYCLE	536	400	102	55	234	338
GRAND TOTAL OF ALL CATEGORIES	**2,475,018**	**2,025,931**	**2,034,597**	**1,646,332**	**373,991**	**415,329**

Source : SIAM

Figures Indicate No. of Vehicles.
Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (13/03/2020)



A. MINIMUM 1.15 Stress Ratio

- B500C of BS:4449-2005
- B500CWR of ISO:6935-2

B. MINIMUM 1.25 Stress Ratio

- B500DWR of ISO:6935-2
- Fe 500S of IS:1786-2008

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