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Smt. Rasika Chaube,
Additional Secretary,
Ministry of Steel &
Chairperson of Joint Plant Committee

- Safety and Health Recognition 2021
- Automotive Scrapping Policy: Plethora of opportunities

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D. A. Chandekar
Editor

Dear Readers,

The present situation in Indian financial markets seem to be too good to believe. The sensex has jumped passed 60k mark and experts are pouring some more optimism in the environment. While we know that the share market is not the real barometer of the industry situation, it is a fact that the industry too is recovering well post covid. Of course this can not be a generalised statement and I do understand that many industry verticals such as tourism, hospitality etc., have suffered great losses and few companies, especially MSMEs, in these sectors have gone beyond recovery. Thus the share market boom and the industry recovery is selective and fortunately iron & steel industry, being the core industry sector, has put up a very strong (some say V shaped recovery) performance in the past few months.

The steel production could come back to the normal levels because the production of raw materials like iron ore, coal, refractories too picked up and supported the growth curve. Also the disruptions in the process chain as well as the logistics were repaired quickly so as to achieve smooth flow of process and the materials. The steel industry not only healed itself but also played a big crucial role in the pandemic recovery by providing oxygen to the patients and creating covid hospitals, recovery centres in record time and running them as seriously as producing steel. Great job indeed ! One factor which many of us tend to overlook is the mind blowing speed with which the Indian administration vaccinated its citizens. By the time this piece reaches you, more than 100 crore Indians would be vaccinated. This tremendously helped us to fight the (so called) third wave and normalise the industry operations. Now that we have successfully combated first two waves, we are now well prepared in terms of health, resources and the mindset to fight the third wave, if at all it reaches us.

One of many lessons learnt from covid is digitalization. We have started using more *computers, internet, virtual meetings and conferences, as the travels were not possible.* Industry 4.0 taught us the power of big data, analytics, cloud computing, remote factory monitoring etc. It reduced the cost and increased the efficiency, productivity and the quality of the enterprise. Now that the pandemic seems to be easing out and the life returning to the normalcy, we should not forget what we have learnt. 'Digitalization' should not be seen as a stop gap arrangement. It is a one way, irreversible process and cannot be called off abruptly. Believe me the future depends on how quickly and effectively you use digitalization in all the aspects of the operations.

Write your comments :
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Content

Feedback :
Your feedback / suggestions regarding the content will be appreciated
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Ms. Rasika Chaube is an IDAS officer of the 1986 batch, presently posted as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Steel and she is also a Chairperson of Joint Plant Committee, Government of India. She has done Post-Graduation in Psychology and Mphil from Annamalai University. She has a very wide experience of Civil Services in India which includes Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor at President Secretariate.
Last three years, Smt. Chaube is associated with the Ministry of Steel and leading the industry with various reforms in the industry including the latest Productive Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme which was conceptualized by Smt. Chaube.

Steelworld's 18th Iron and Steel Summit was held on 24th September 2021 on the zoom platform. This summit was more focusing on melting, rolling, processing, demand-supply availability, an overview of post-covid scenario, the role of technology, and industry 4.0 was the key agenda of the webinar. This seminar was co-sponsored by Joint Plant Committee. Among the industry association who had supported to promote this webinar includes AISRA, AIIFA, and SIMA.

In the inaugural session, the Keynote address was delivered by
Smt. Rasika Chaube, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Steel & Chairperson of Joint Plant Committee, Wim Van Gernan, COO, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steels India, and
D Kashiva, Executive Director, Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association.

At the Inaugural session of the 18th Iron & Steel Summit, Smt. Rasika Chaube has more focused on Pandemic effects on the Steel Industry and how to come out from pandemic effects, and the present status of the domestic steel industry. We need to create an ecosystem for the steel industry. During the pandemic situation, the Automobile industry which is consuming 10% of the total steel production and Construction is 70 percent were going down and its major companies like Maruti, Ford, Escort, etc had to suspend their plant operation mainly because the pandemic situation has impacted the demand which slowed down.

As a result, large steel manufacturers along with small players had no option to curtail the production including players like Tata Steel as well. Overall, big, small steel manufacturers, pallets manufacturers, Ferro-Alloys manufacturers were scaling down their operation. Besides, sourcing of raw materials especially coking coal, iron ore, refractory was the biggest challenge for the steel industry during a pandemic crisis.

Apart from logistics was also major challenges like fleet movement with inter-state, huge lines for port clearance, migrate workers were such major challenges we faced due to the pandemic situation and it has had a chaotic impact on large and small industries across the country.

To minimize the negative impact on the steel sector,

the Ministry of steel had issued a letter to all state secretariat to inform that Steel Sector is coming under the essential services segment and to extend the maximum support for the production of steel, especially during the pandemic force measure.

Thereafter to support Indian steel and the overall economy at large, Indian FM had announced a slew of stimulus packages were announced to boost the economy at large from the pandemic situation. Such stimulus measures were mainly to boost the overall Indian Economy and demand for steel, employment generation, and provide liquidity support for the construction and housing market.

To enhance the demand for the steel sector, the announcement of Bharatmala project which requires 25 ml MT of steel requirement in the next 4-5 years, Udan Project aims to 100 additional airports to come up, expansion of Gas network, Metro Project, PM Awas Yojana, etc. all this would lead to increase in huge demand in the next three to four years.

Though the pandemic situation placed more challenges for the industry, our government was fully committed to restoring the confidence among the industry players. The government had awarded 26 NHAI projects of 744 km length as compared to 676 km in FY20.

All above project announcements would lead to an addition of steel capacity from 142 to 210-211 ml MT and in which our secondary steel producers are playing important role in the capacity will increase by 60% percent.

What was the Impact on Production and Consumption Pattern?

As per the JPC report, the impact on the country's steel production was badly hit in the month of April to July 2020 but it also bounced back from August 2020 onwards to the end of 31st March 2021 which was almost higher than the same period of the previous year. During this time, steel production was increased by 8 percent despite the covid-19 pandemic situation.

While on the positive side, the biggest opportunity for steel players to export their finished products especially domestic demand was collapsed from April to August 2020. And they balanced the commercial dealings.

One of the major challenges was iron ore prices due to shut down in mine sites as a result raw material prices was short up from 4500 to 6000.

In all these scenarios, government support which was extended to the industry has played an important role to come out from the pandemic situation. \

Secondly, the Steel ministry wanted to develop the steel-intensive design with the support of IITs, BIS for PM Awas Yojana which was approved by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Similarly, we had approached the ministry of defense to create more demand for steel players to minimize the import and manufacture it domestically. Similarly, we have introduced BIS standards for the secondary steel industry to utilize their products in various industry projects.

In the second phase of Covid-19 waves, we had prioritized saving lives over steel making. To meet the huge demand in almost all states/Regions, Steel Ministry had instructed all its PSUs to divert Liquid Oxygen gas from industrial use to medical use w.e.f 11.09.2020. As of 16.02.2021, 100105 mt LMO has been supplied to various States, out of which 72202 mt by Private Sector and 27903 mt by Steel PSUs. It was really appreciated by our PM Shri Narendra Modiji. Overall, the steel industry has also contributed to saving lives, especially during pandemic situations.

Quality Control Order

Now we have 145 standards that have been covered, as of now, we have enforced 129 standards for the industry which will help in the long run to compete with the global market. Now there is buzz word is green steel, the demand from the abroad is likely to increase in the years to come. So, our ministry is working on the National Hydrogen Steel Policy.

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Twenty
Danieli answers
to be a step ahead

DANIELI ANSWERS TO BE A STEP AHEAD

ANSWER 03

DANIELI DIGI&MET BENCHMARK TECHNOLOGY

Industry 4.0-dedicated technologies simplifying metals complexity

An Intelligent Plant is a manufacturing organization strongly supported by digital assets (systems, sensors, equipment, etc.) which are fully integrated for the best and most efficient synergy between humans and machines.

Processes are automatically and autonomously improved, and decision-making supported by data and statistics. 3QPulpit is Danieli Automations innovative and proactive pulpit for a no-man-on-the-floor approach.

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The result is a sustainable plant where Key Performance Indicators are measured, energy consumption is optimized, and quality is monitored and adjusted in order to produce more with less.

At Danieli we don't shop around for noble equipment

Safety and Health Recognition 2021

The World Steel Association (worldsteel) is one of the largest and most dynamic industry associations in the world, with members in every major steel-producing country. worldsteel represents steel producers, national and regional steel industry associations, and steel research institutes. Members represent around 85% of global steel production.

As part of its commitment to the highest safety and health standards, the World Steel Association (worldsteel) recognises excellence in six of its member companies for delivering demonstrable improvements in safety and health for everyone that works in the steel industry.

Andrew Purvis, Director, Safety, Environment and Technology, said, 'it is pleasing to see the application of engineering controls and digital solutions reflected in so many of the submissions received; this reflects the increasing maturity of safety management in our industry.

The examples shown here demonstrate the application of contemporary safety science in the steel industry, including examples of reducing risk around the transportation of steel products, and facing COVID-19 using digital controls.

Andrew Purvis, Director, Safety, Environment and Technology, World Steel Association (WSO)

I would like to congratulate the successful companies and to thank them, and all the participants in this programme, for their leadership and support.'

The recognised companies this year are:

For safety culture and leadership

BlueScope Steel Limited, Global – HSE Evolution – Our human-centred approach

Partnering with industry experts, BlueScope is evolving its mindset and approach to health, safety and environment (HSE), building on its risk

management foundations and seeking contemporary ways to continue to learn and improve. After piloting a human-centred approach across a number of business units, in 2021 BlueScope adopted its evolved approach across its global business.

This means:

- Learning from the people who make and handle products to understand what is working and what can be improved.
- Focusing on the presence of capacity in systems and processes, rather than the absence of incidents.
- Empowering people to be problem solvers to help identify better ways to work.
- Recognising human error is inevitable, and the importance of strengthening HSE controls to be more tolerant to error and resilient to recover when things go wrong.

Qatar Steel Company (Q.P.S.C.), Qatar – SEE it, OWN it & SHARE it

The safety observation and feedback programme 'SEE it, OWN it and SHARE it' was initiated in 2018 to transform Qatar Steel Company's workplace safety culture from a reactive, compliance-based culture to an interdependent culture in which people look out for each other's safety and wellbeing. With the concept of 'Care for People' at its core, this programme integrates principles of behavioural safety interactions and visible felt leadership by line management to achieve a step change in safety culture and performance.

The introduction of the Behavior-Based Safety Interactions and Visible Felt Leadership programme provided real impetus to the organisation's cultural transformational efforts by positively influencing employee behaviours and attitudes.

For occupational safety management

Tata Steel Europe, Europe, USA – Zero Harm Logistics

Steel travels around the world using a variety of modes of transport and if it is not packaged correctly, handled safely, stored safely and moved safely, then many people are exposed to danger. A dedicated resource was established to develop engineered solutions and to provide guidance for application across the entire logistics network. The initial focus was road haulage safety, but the programme was expanded significantly to cover steel product banding and product storage; and other transport modalities.

Perhaps the most technically demanding of the subjects tackled was that of coil banding to contain the 'spring back' energy of a steel coil. The stored energy in a steel coil depends on several critical factors.

Mathematical models were developed and testing undertaken to produce a detailed code of practice specifying banding requirements to ensure product safety from mill to customer.

Ternium, Mexico – Safe Forklift

Ternium's Safe Forklift project aims to reduce events with potentially severe consequences due to forklift operation, and to standardise safe practices for employees and contractors alike.

Ternium set up a multi-disciplinary committee of operators, supervisors, safety technicians, managers and directors and ran workshops to identify the common causes of forklift operation incidents. Once the causes were established, Ternium implemented strategies for solutions revolving around three vectors: operational practices, human resources, and technology.

In 2019, there were 36 reported incidents involving forklifts compared to 12 in 2020. The metrics show a considerable improvement in the number of forklift events with severe potential consequences, reducing the incidents per metric tonne dispatched by 65%.

For occupational health management

Tata Steel Limited, India – Mitigating COVID-19 risks

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TOTALE
REFRACTORIES CORROSION PROTECTION

Unprecedented disruptions imposed by COVID-19 challenged business continuity globally, particularly for manufacturing industries.

Two innovative interventions, the POD concept and Digital COVID Safety Tracks, rapidly implemented via the COVID Impact Centre, were the tipping point in Tata Steel's response to COVID-19. These interventions established several eliminations, substitution, engineering, administrative and PPE controls, reducing the risk to an acceptable level (ALARP level).

The direct positive impact on workforce safety and health metrics ensured delayed and minimal business impact of COVID-19 across company sites with no closure of manufacturing units or loss in production.

The POD concept also effectively restricted the transmission of the virus from one POD to another. Both initiatives, implemented for the first time in Tata Steel, were also a first for the manufacturing industry.

For process safety management

Gerdau S.A., Brazil – Online gas monitoring

Monitoring employees' exposure to gases in the workplace is crucial to prevent serious injuries and fatalities (SIF). As a preventative measure, Gerdau developed an innovative online monitoring system for fixed and portable gas meters.

The monitoring system covers the entirety of the connectivity infrastructure. It centrally tracks portable, mobile and fixed gas meters 24 hours a day, sending an alert email or SMS to designated people according to the type of exposure. The Values are measured in real-time in the main operating rooms and the Emergency Response Centre, with a standardised response routine for every kind of situation.

The system produces reports/dashboards from stored data, enabling Gerdau to take preventative action on both processes and behaviour.

Automotive Scrapping Policy: Plethora of opportunities

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) launched Vehicle Scrappage Policy by amending Automotive Industry Standard -129 (AIS – 219) related to End of Life of Vehicle (ELV) on 13th August 2021. The policy will be effective from 1st October 2021.

The launch of the Vehicle Scrappage Policy is a significant milestone in India's development journey. Vehicle scrapping will help phase out unfit and polluting vehicles in an environment-friendly manner. This will create a viable circular economy and bring value for all stakeholders while being environmentally responsible.

Indian ELV policy is based on the twin focus of viable circular economy and reducing polluting vehicles and minimize our metal scrap imports as well. Most of the ELV programs adopted by the US & Europe were designed as stimulus & to give boost Vehicle sales with exception of Germany and Canada. Germany launched ELV with a focus on reducing polluting vehicles from pre-Euro 1 Emission norms adopted in July 1993. Canada targeted vehicles manufactured up to 1995 (accounting for just 27% of all on-road vehicles at that point but two-thirds of vehicular pollution). The government stayed away from providing purchase incentives, with program benefits limited to a choice between C$300 in cash and a public transit pass or car-sharing membership program.

Globally, Mexico was the first country to introduce the ELV policy which was launched in 2003. In the year 20009 many countries adopted End of Life of Vehicle ELV policy under the name Car Allowance Rebate System (CARS). Though globally, CARS is the more well-known program, Germany's 'Umweltpramie' or ' Abwrackpramie' scheme (launched in January 2009) worth € 5 billion, is the largest of its kind to date. US version of CARS adopted in July 2009 was based upon this program. USA made provision of US $ 3 Billion, for this program.

China rolled out CARS policy with the provision of US $ 1 Billion. Canada's voluntary 'Retire Your Ride' launched in January 2009 was focussed on reducing polluting vehicles with the grand success of retiring 1.2 Lac Vehicles against 50,000 vehicles planned originally.

Table 1 below gives an overview of Vehicle Scrappage Policies adopted globally.

Overview of important scrappage policies around the globe

Country	Year	Max incentive offered per vehicle (US$)	Age criteria	Emission target	Total cost to govt. (US$)
USA	2009	4,500	Under 25	No	3 billion
Germany	2009	5,552	Over 9	No	7 billion
UK	2009	3,336 (split between government and OEM)	Over 10	Yes	500 million
France	2009	1,421	Over 10	Yes	554 million
Italy	2009	5,024	Over 10	Yes	-
Japan	2009	2,500	Over 13	Yes	-
China	2009	2,840	-	Yes	1 billion (2009)
Mexico	2009	Lesser of old vehicle value, 15% of replacement vehicle cost or US$ 12,400 (trucks)	Over 10	No	188 million (2004-10)
Chile	2009	24000 (trucks)	Over 25	No	-

Source: Various media articles, International Council on Clean Transportation, Climate and Clean Air Coalition, ICICI Securities

Udayan Pathak, FIE, FASM

CARS program eventually boosted vehicle sales in US as shown in Fig 1, table 2 gives top 10 vehicles which were scrapped & purchased, as an outcome of CARS

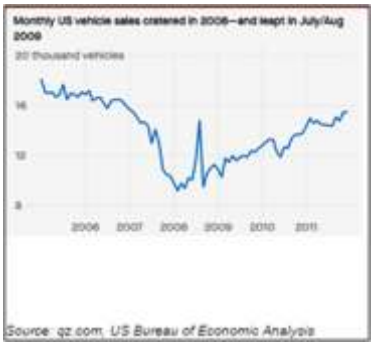

Fig. 1

	Top 10 New Vehicles Purchased		Top 10 Traded-In Vehicles
1	Toyota Corolla	1	Ford Explorer FWD
2	Honda Civic	2	Ford F150 Pickup 2WD
3	Toyota Camry	3	Jeep Grand Cherokee 4WD
4	Ford Focus FWD	4	Ford Explorer 2WD
5	Hyundai Elantra	5	Dodge Caravan/Grand Caravan 2WD
6	Nissan Versa	6	Jeep Cherokee 4WD
7	Toyota Prius	7	Chevrolet Blazer 4WD
8	Honda Accord	8	Chevrolet C1500 Pickup 2WD
9	Honda Fit	9	Ford F150 Pickup 4WD
10	Ford Escape FWD	10	Ford Windstar FWD Van

Source: US Department of Transport, ICICI Securities

In India, ELV policy is focussing on the CV segment. There is a huge fleet of old, polluting vehicles thus boosting fleet modernization in a struggling segment. In India,

one of the key economic barometers of overall economic activity and freight movement is CV sales.

Unfortunately, the last couple of years it was affected badly for various reasons like the implementation of pollution norms BS-IV in 2017 & BS-VI in April 2020, Covid-19 Pandemic, etc.

Fig 2 gives Vehicle Sales data for the last five Financial Years. The decline or marginal growth in sales is due to various reasons like idle fleet capacity, economic slowdown, and very high installed capacity. Government focus on infrastructure development even during the Covid-19 pandemic (barring the first few weeks) came as a solace.

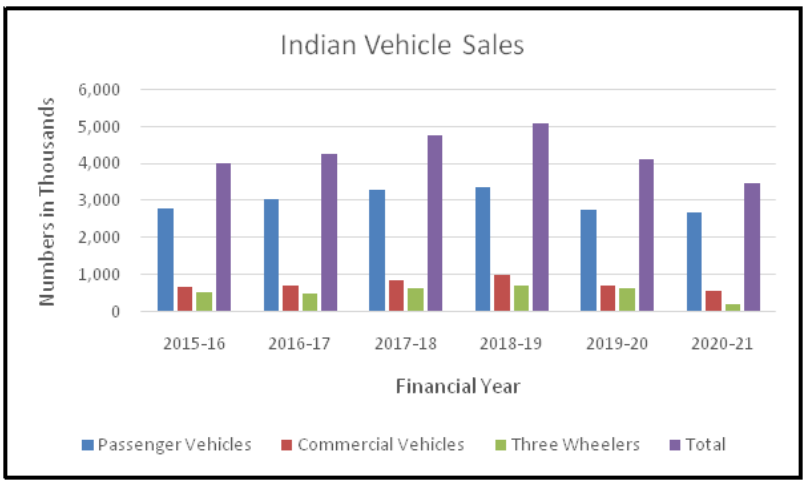

Fig 2 (Source: SIAM)

Steep hike in Re-registration, Periodic Renewal, Transfer of ownership fees clubbed with the networking of online e-challans, handheld devices with identifying defaulter vehicles, system locks for online PUC Certificates and integration of Vahan and Sarathi Portal will bring tighter controls on usage of old vehicles, as well as ownership transfer of older vehicles to rural India.

Fis and Banking sector experts are projecting business opportunities worth Rs 1.3 Lac Crores, leading to healthy, sustained growth of about 8 – 9% in the next three to four years.

Vehicle Category	Vehicles due for ELV (in Lacks)	Actual Vehicle scrappage (in Lacs, assuming 35% response)
2- Wheeler	148.1	51.8
3-Wheeler	13.8	4.8
4-Wheeler	27	9.5
CV	12	4.2
Total	**200.9**	**70.3**

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Important: Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn by anyone in proximity to molten metal.

Table 4 Estimated vehicle Scrapping (derived from ICICI Securities estimates)

Apart from direct business opportunities to Automotive OEMs, this scrapping policy will have an impact on all peripheral industries in the eco-system, even a new set of industries will have to be established. Dismantling units will be at the forefront. Tata Nexon is the first Indian car to upload its dismantling information on International Dismantling Information System. There will be a need for systems capable of handling Hazmat like Oils and Greases, Functional Fluids, undeployed airbags that will create huge employment. From these scrap vehicles, an Additional lot of recyclable materials will be segregated. Major materials will be Steel & Aluminium.

It will boost the turnover of the Indian Automobile industry by 30% from the current level of Rs.4.4 lakh to Rs.10 lakh crore over the coming years. and also minimize India's huge import of crude oil bill Rs.10 lakh crore. Attract new investments of Rs.10,000 crore and create as many as 35,000 jobs.

This is an opportunity which Steel and Aluminium industry can leverage. Additional availability of approximately 3 Million Tons of shredded scrap steel and 0.2 Million Tons of Aluminium Scrap is estimated for the next three years. This will not only reduce the current rate of Rs 43,500/ton of shredded scrap but also will also foreign exchange.

Currently, our annual spend for shredded steel scrap is approximately 10 Million US $. This will booster for the steel industry. However, the availability of Aluminium scrap will also increase. This will also give a boost to the Aluminium casting industry.

Due to the availability of scrap demand for primary Aluminium ingots will reduce and more and more secondary Aluminium will be used for PDC & GDC. This will also reduce the Carbon footprint of Aluminium parts.

This high Carbon footprint in the virgin Aluminium route is one of the most important factors affecting the Aluminium Casting Industry adversely. Availability of scrapped materials such as steel, plastic, rubber, and aluminum will increase. This will be used in manufacturing automobile parts, which will reduce cost by 30-40%.

To conclude, the recently launched vehicle scrapping policy as per AIS-219 is a plethora of opportunities beyond reducing highly polluting, less efficient vehicles plying on roads, which includes stimulus to the Automotive Industry, new business and employment opportunities, availability of high-quality Steel &

Shyam Steel to expand its retail presence pan India

Shyam Steel QB FlexiStrong TMT Rebar will now be available to house builders of central, western, and southern India as well. The company plans to appoint a team of around 500 distributors, dealers, and retailers across each of these states

Kolkata, West Bengal, September 24: Shyam Steel is a well-known player in the retail markets of eastern, north-eastern, and northern markets of the country and has been a major supplier of TMT bars to mega infrastructure projects. The company has established a strong network of over 6000 distributors, dealers, and retailers in the markets it currently operates in, and will now market its brand across central, western, and southern India.

The company will be establishing its presence across every corner of these sates. It has developed a highly efficient network of third-party logistics service providers to take its products to every corner of the country smoothly and punctually. The company plans to appoint a team of around 500 distributors, dealers, and retailers across each of these sates to ensure easy accessibility of its brand to home builders at reasonable prices.

Shyam Steel has played a key role in transforming steel selling from a commodity model to a brand marketing model. Its TMT brand enjoys a very high recall among consumers.

Its branding strategy has converted the cyclical commodity, TMT, to a product with year-round demand. This has helped the company to remarkably improve its sales volumes.

Commenting on the market expansion plan of the company, Mr. Suket Beriwal, Director, Shyam Steel said "We are excited about our entry into the central, western and southern states of the country. Individual home builders very often either do not have access to high quality TMT or pay a very high premium for it. With our entry into these markets, consumers will have the very high quality of a national TMT brand within their budgets. With more than six decades of experience and goodwill, we are confident of a very positive response from the home builders of these states."

The success of the brand lies in the property of its FlexiStrong TMT rebar, which is not just strong but a perfect balance of strength and flexibility. The company's products are endorsed by Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma - two superlative personalities in their chosen fields. Their relationship reflects the perfect balance of strength and flexibility.

50 Million Ton Park inaugurated at RINL-VSP

Shri Atul Bhatt, CMD, RINL- Visakhapatnam Steel Plant & Shri AK Saxena, Director (Operations), RINL inaugurated 50 Million Ton Park near Blast Furnace 1 (BF-1) complex today in presence of Senior officers, Union Leaders and Employees of Vizag Steel to mark the milestone achievement of 50 million Hot metal production of GODAVARI, BF-1 since inception which was commissioned in 1990.

Shri Atul Bhatt, CMD congratulated RINL collective and the employees of BF-1 in specific for achieving this Historic milestone of 50 million ton of Hot metal production.

GODAVARI, BF-1 was commissioned on 28th March, 1990 by Shri B Kannayya, the then senior most employee of Vizag Steel. This furnace was put down in October 2013 for up gradation and modernization and its Second campaign started in July 2014 and produced 12.26 Million ton so far. The technical knowhow was given by the erstwhile USSR.

Indian steel firms eye record exports in Fy22 in Freight News 26/09/2021

Shenzhen-based Evergrande Real Estate Group's debt woes will not affect Indian steel manufacturers as domestic firms do not cater to the Chinese market. Instead, steel majors are hoping to clock record exports this fiscal year, said industry executives.

"China is a large economy and the ripples of Evergrande will only be felt within China, not outside. Besides, China is not our market. Our prime market comprises the customers of China—South-East Asian countries like Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, Australia, and West Asia. This market is readily available to Indian companies," V.R. Sharma, managing director, Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL), said.

Ever since the news broke about Evergrande's inability to service its $300 billion debt, it set off panic in global markets.

In a knee-jerk reaction on Monday, the BSE metal index, which tracks prices of top 10 metals and mining firms, slipped 6.8%, dragging the Sensex down by 0.9%. Tata Steel Ltd was the biggest loser, down 9.5%, followed by JSPL (9.1%), National Mineral Development Corp. (7.7%); and JSW Steel (7%). After the initial jitters, the BSE metal index on Wednesday was up 1.6%. The Sensex, however, fell 0.13%.

With China accounting for over half the global steel demand and absorbing 75% of global iron ore imports, its

decisions have a direct bearing on the global market and prices. Last month, China capped steel output to control emission and decided to implement ultra-low emission levels by reducing crude steel production by 8.8% to 21.7 million tonnes for 2021.

"With China focusing on reducing carbon emissions, their capacity for making crude steel will be down. Instead of producing crude steel, they will buy 20% semi-finished steel or products. This will help Indian steel companies expand their ambit to China's customer countries and push our exports," said an official of a steel manufacturing company, requesting anonymity.

This year Indian companies could export steel worth ₹1.8-2 trillion.

India's finished steel exports were at 10.78 million tonnes in 2020-21, against 8.3 million tonnes in 2019-20. Between April and June, India exported 3.5 million tonnes and imported 1.1 million tonnes of finished steel. In the last fiscal year, total production stood at 96.2 million tonnes, while consumption was at 94.89 million tonnes. India exported 10.78 million tonnes, while it imported 4.75 million tonnes of finished steel in FY21.

"While subdued domestic demand during Q1FY22 was a factor behind the spurt in exports, China's production curbs in H2CY21 and its accommodative policy for imports of semis and scrap are expected to keep India's steel exports (finished steel and semis) at elevated levels. We expect net exports to rise at 8 million tonnes in FY22 compared to 6 million tonnes last fiscal year," said Priyesh Ruparelia, vice president, co-group head, corporate sector ratings, Icra Ltd. Exports were up by 13% in April-August despite the high base of FY21, but steel spreads are expected to fall quarter-on-quarter, unless domestic demand improves in Q3, he added.

"Assuming spot coking coal prices of $379 per tonne to continue till October, average cost of coking coal would increase by $140 per mt in Q3 compared to Q2. This will translate into a cost increase of ₹8,300 per mt, while iron ore prices have reduced only by ₹1,200 per mt in Q2 FY21 and may not fall much in Q3 due to expected supply tightness in Odisha," said Ruparelia.

Source: Livemin

Tata Steel world's first steel co to pledge pruning of sea trade emissions

Tata Steel, the country's oldest steel producer, has joined Sea Cargo Charter (SCC) as part of its sustainability objectives and initiatives on reduction of Scope 3 greenhouse gas emission in ocean trade.

The company is the 24th organisation to join the association working to reduce environmental impacts of global seaborne cargo and is the world's first steel producer to become the signatory of SCC.

The Sea Cargo Charter (SCC) is a global framework for assessing and disclosing the climate alignment of chartering activities. Launched in October 2020, there are currently already 24 signatories as part of this organisation.

"With our seaborne global volume in excess of 40 million tonne per annum, this is a decisive step in the direction to measure correctly and mitigate efficiently and innovatively," Peeyush Gupta, vice president, supply chain at Tata Steel was quoted as saying.

SCC establishes a common, global baseline to quantitatively assess and disclose whether chartering activities are in line with climate goals set by UN maritime agency, the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

As per carbon accounting standards, a company's direct emissions are called Scope 1 emissions, while electricity usage is Scope 2 emissions and the Scope 3 emissions is value chain emissions which are the type of activities that are executed within a company's supply chain from sourcing and shipping to delivering and disposal of goods.

I-T Dept detects unaccounted income of ₹300 cr after raids on steel rolling mills in Maharashtra

The Income Tax Department has detected an unaccounted income of over ₹300 crore after raids on a group of four major Steel Rolling Mills based in Jalna, Maharashtra. It carried out a search and seizure operation on 23 September, the Ministry of Finance informed on Monday.

These companies are engaged in the business of manufacturing steel TMT bars and billets mostly using steel scrap as raw material. The operation was conducted in more than 32 premises spread across Jalna, Aurangabad, Pune, Mumbai and Kolkata.

During the course of the search and seizure operation, many incriminating documents, loose sheets and other digital evidences were found and seized.

These evidences clearly indicate the involvement of the companies in large scale unaccounted financial transactions made outside the regular books of accounts, including inflation of purchases using entry providers, unaccounted cash expenses and investments, etc, the ministry said in a statement.

Rising prices of coal to weigh on steel companies' September qtr earnings

While the YoY show is expected to be stellar on low base and high realisations, QoQ profit growth is estimated to be weak for most players. Rising prices of international coal – both coking and thermal - used in the making of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, respectively, are expected to have an impact on margins of metals

companiesin July-September quarter (Q2) as steel companiesmay see margins getting eroded, while the base firms could stand to benefit, said brokerages.

Since metals is a cyclical sector, a year-on-year comparison for earnings would give a better picture. However, due to the ongoing pandemic and last year's low base, sequential comparison has been taken in consideration to show a clearer picture on pricing and volume trend.

Coking coal prices, a key raw material used in the making of steel, have risen $25-$30 per tonne sequentially along with prices of other consumables.

Due to this, varied impact on margins is expected for steel depending on their coal consumption pattern (domestic, international), share of captive resources and other factors, said brokerages.

For Tata Steel, the country's oldest steel producer, domestic operations may be impacted partially by higher coking coal costs. Despite this, domestic realisation is expected to increase by Rs 2,000 per tonne, said an Edelweiss report. The company does have a captive source of coking coal up to 25-30 per cent which could lend support to realisations.

On a consolidated basis, however, a sharp improvement in earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and ammortisation (EBITDA) is likely for Tata Steel led by turnaround performance of European operations, it said.

For Naveen Jindal-led Jindal Steel & Power (JSPL), despite a sharp uptick in sales volume, its EBITDA for July-September quarter is expected to be impacted by higher coking coal and iron ore prices. On the realisation front, steel longs have declined by Rs 2,000 per tonne sequentially, accentuating EBITDA further, said the Edelweiss report.

Tata Steel's TV Narendran On Launch of Gati Shakti Mission

Number of initiatives today in place to make sure capital used efficiently. Cost of capital still higher in India due to inflationary issues.Money spent on capital needs to be used efficiently given high cost of capital. Private sector investment will depend on growth in demand, profitability, says TV Narendra of Tata Steel. The National Master Plan includes a slew of projects that will reshape India. These projects, under the Rs 107 lakh crore programme, will transform India. A 2 lakh kilometres of integrated network of integrated highways to strengthen connectivity. 1600 million tonnes (MT) cargo handling to be done by Indian Railways to facilitate trade.

Why are Indian aluminium, steel industries on brink of crisis?

Indian aluminium and steel producers are facing severe coal shortage as the supplies have been diverted to coal-based thermal power producers, who are trying to meet the peaking power demand from the manufacturing sector. This situation has led to an increase in coal procurement costs as imports have become increasingly competitive as several countries are facing the same crisis. Additionally, monsoon slows coal production, and since this year, showers continued until early October, which has hit the coal output. Experts believe that the stagnant local coal production and surging costs of coal imports (Australian thermal coal prices surging 3-4 times) means India's coal shortage could continue over the coming months.

Besides other importing avenues, India is getting a portion of Australian coal stockpiles from China, which were lying in warehouses along China's coast for months, uncleared by customs following Beijing's unofficial ban last October. China has sought its top coal mining companies to boost production, and power producers to step up coal imports to ease supply constraints. China has refrained companies from directly resuming imports from Australia, its second top coal supplier after Indonesia.

India's Central Electricity Authority (CEA) recently warned that coal reserves at over 50 per cent of the country's power generation plants could burn out soon as a post-pandemic surge in manufacturing spiked demand for power and caught power producers unprepared to tackle the crisis.

India's aluminium industry, which runs captive power generation units to meet its electricity requirements, has complained about the coal crisis, and appealed to the government for immediate resumption of coal supply against secured linkages for sustainable industry operations.

The Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) too warned the Coal ministry that the coal shortage has

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created a precarious situation for coal consumers, mainly for the aluminium and steel industry and could lead to factory closures if the situation is not addressed.

It is learnt that Coal India has taken certain measures to restrict coal supply to non-power power producers and this ad hoc decision has brought down the aluminium industry to a standstill and the industry has been left out with no time to take any mitigation steps to continue operations.

Aluminium is a highly power-intensive industry where coal accounts for almost 40 per cent of the production cost and in order to reduce the dependency on the grid, around 9,000 megawatt of captive power plants have been established to meet their critical power supply needs. Without coal, these captive power plants cannot be operated, and power cannot be supplied, thus impacting the entire production.

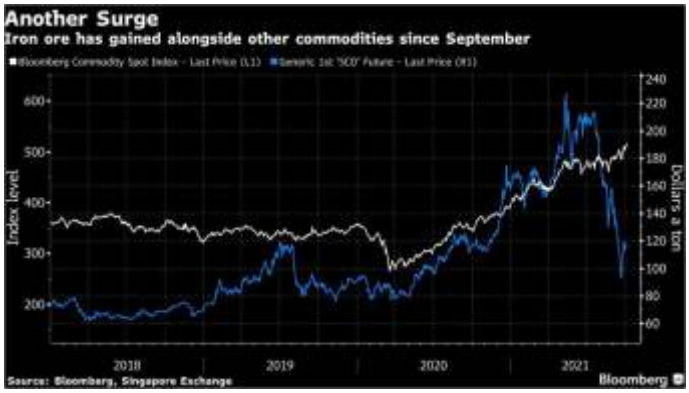
Iron ore price retreats on steel output curbs

Iron ore prices fell on Tuesday as investor focus shifted back to steel production controls in China.

According to Fastmarkets MB, benchmark 62% Fe fines imported into Northern China were changing hands for $129 a tonne, down 4.6% from Monday's closing.

On China's Dalian Commodity Exchange, the most-traded January contract ended daytime trading 0.2% lower at 769.50 yuan ($119.26) a tonne. It rose as much as 4.3% earlier in the session.

Futures have climbed 50% in just three weeks, joining gains in aluminum to energy as rising demand, stalled supply lines and climate policy send an index of raw materials to the highest ever.



"China's plans to have a flat steel production growth this year look possible, as output curbs have been accelerated by power shortfalls," said ANZ senior commodity strategist Daniel Hynes.

Steel output in China, the world's biggest producer of the construction and manufacturing material, will have to contract 10% in annual terms between September and December, to stay in line with its decarbonisation goals, Hynes said.

China's crude steel output from January-August grew 5.3% from a year earlier, despite production controls intensifying, beginning July.

"Steel output is reportedly set to increase in October in some parts of China, like Tangshan, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Anhui, after these regions exceeded steel production cuts in September," VivekDhar, commodities analyst at Commonwealth Bank of Australia, wrote in a note.Tighter steel output curbs could be expected in early 2022, with China likely to keep air quality as clean as possible for the Winter Olympics in February, analysts said.

JSW Steel reports a 29% YoY jump in crude steel production at 5.07 million tonnes

jSW Steel reported a consolidated crude steel production of 5.07 million tonnes for Q2 FY of 22, up 29% year-on-year.The capacity utilization at the standalone level was at 91% in Q2'22.""Vijayanagar works have taken planned shutdown for campaign repairs of two of its convertors and Salem works has taken annual shutdown of one of its Blast Furnaces, due to which the capacity utilisation remained at an average of 91% in this quarter," the company said in a media statement.

The company reported 5.07 million tonnes of production in Q1 of FY22. For the six months ending September 30th 2021, the company recorded crude steel production growth of 21% on a standalone basis and 45% at the steel group level.

JSW Steel's subsidiary JSW Ispat Special Products Ltd's production for the quarter under review was down by 12% at 0.13 million tonnes due to the shutdown of the power plant for maintenance and the consequent impact on production at Raipur.

Sanjeev Gupta's GFG Alliance to infuse £50m to restart UK steel operations

GFG Alliance, the parent company of UK-based metal industry baron Sanjeev Gupta's Liberty Steel, on Sunday said it will infuse £50 million, or about Rs 510 crore, to enable the restart of Liberty Steel UK's core Rotherham electric arc furnace.

The UK's third-largest steelmaker had been in distress after its biggest lender Greensill Capital collapsed in March."GFG's injection of funding to restart the Liberty Steel UK (LSUK) operations is an important step on our road to creating a sustainable UK business," said Sanjeev Gupta, executive chairman of GFG Alliance. "It will allow time to prove the operations can run efficiently, which will enable us to finalise longer debt restructuring."

Funds will be allocated to LSUK through a new separate corporate entity, Liberty Capital, the company said in a media statement.

LSUK will run as normal with funding for growth in working capital approved through Liberty Capital.

"This arrangement will ensure fast and effective deployment of the £50 million in initial funds in the UK, enabling LSUK to restart its operations," the statement said.The capital injection from Liberty Capital will also be utilised to expand capacities at its Greensteel Rotherham electric arc furnace.

"Investment plans in Rotherham will boost production capacity, increase employment and introduce new products," the company said.

Gupta, founder chairman of the $20-billion revenue GFG Alliance, was fighting his biggest battle to save his metals-to-energy conglomerate after its main lender Greensill Capital collapsed and filed for insolvency earlier this year.The company was actively looking for short-term financiers, Gupta had told ET in an earlier interaction.

The new development comes at a time when the UK steel industry is facing a crisis of high cost due to rising energy prices. As per reports, gas prices have risen 250% since January, pushing up costs dramatically for UK steelmakers.

U.S. Revises EU Steel Proposal as Tariff-Increase Date Looms

The U.S. has submitted a new proposal to the European Union to solve a Trump-era dispute on steel tariffs, offering more-generous terms, according to people familiar with the matter.

The updated proposal involves so-called tariff-rate quotas that Bloomberg reported last month, but provides for a bigger quantity of steel to enter the U.S. before higher duties kick in, according to two of the people who asked not to be identified because the discussions are private. TRQs allow countries to export specified quantities of a product to other nations at lower duty rates, but subjects shipments above a pre-determined threshold to a higher tariffs.

The EU will analyze the latest proposals, before U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai and European Commission Executive Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis -- who met on the sidelines of a Group of 20 trade gathering in Sorrento, Italy, on Tuesday -- meet again in Brussels next week, the people said.

China's September steel exports fall to 2021 low

China's steel exports slowed in September to the lowest level since December 2020 following the country's export control polices, as well as weaker southeast Asian demand because of its Covid-19 lockdowns.

Most September steel export shipments were spot orders taken in July and early August with China tightening polices to limit exports. China's government instructed steel mills to flatten exports in July. To further limit producers' steel supplies to overseas countries, China

cancelled value-added tax rebates from 1 August for exports of cold-rolled coil, hot-dipped galvanised steel coil and sheets, electro-galvanised steel coils and sheet, silicon steel and rail steel.

Southeast Asian steel demand was also crippled by the spread of the Delta variant of Covid-19. Vietnam, the region's largest buyer of Chinese steel, entered a lockdown from 23 August. Manila in the Philippines was in lockdown during most of July and August.

China's steel exports in October are likely to shrink further with China tightening polices to limit domestic steel output. China Iron and Steel Association member mills' cut output to 1.7688mn t/d over 21-30 September, the lowest level since March 2018, as curbs deepen from power cuts, maintenance and other restrictions.

Production cuts also drove Chinese domestic steel prices higher and dampened producers' export interest further. The Argus Shanghai ex-warehouse prices for rebar rose by 1,090 yuan/t, or 22.4pc, to Yn5,950/t from 1 July to 11 October. The Argus Shanghai ex-warehouse prices for hot-rolled coil rose by Yn350/t, or 6.4pc, to Yn5,850/t in the same period.

China's imports of steel products rose by 18.2pc compared with August to 1.256mn t in September. China imported 10.72mn t of steel during January-September, down by 28.9pc from a year earlier.

Crisis looms in Britain, steel makers warn

The British steel industry's lobby group warned on an impending crisis due to soaring wholesale energy prices which could force plants into expensive shutdowns, stoke emissions and sow chaos through supply chains.

A shortage of natural gas in Europe had sent prices for electricity and gas soaring, triggering sharp rises in the prices paid by people heating their homes or for major heavy industrial plants smelting steel.

"These extraordinary electricity prices are leading to smaller or wiped-out profits and thus to less reinvestment," UK Steel, which lobbies on behalf of the British steel industry, said in a briefing document.

"With winter approaching, demand for gas and electricity will rise, and prices could get higher, which will make it impossible to profitably make steel."

As the West comes to terms with a massive splurge by governments during the COVID-19 lockdowns, investors are increasingly concerned that steep price rises will whiplash the world's biggest economies, making money more expensive, tipping companies into the red and eroding wages.

UK Steel said some plants may have to shutter their production "for increasingly extended periods with the consequences not only for individual companies but also UK steel supply to the UK economy and UK jobs."

Sudden shutdowns could damage equipment, increase costs and ultimately lead to "poorer environmental performance with higher emissions," it said.

Tata Steel OMQ Division commissions 3000 KLD Water Treatment Plant

In line with its commitment towards environmental sustainability, Tata Steel's Ores, Mines & Quarries (OMQ) Division has set up a 3000 KLD (Kilolitres Per Day) Water Treatment Plant at Noamundi in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.

The facility was inaugurated today jointly by Avneesh Gupta, Vice President (TQM and Engineering & Projects), Tata Steel and D B Sundara Ramam, Vice President (Raw Materials), Tata Steel in the presence of Atul Kumar Bhatnagar, General Manager (OMQ Division), Tata Steel, Kamlesh Mahato, President Noamundi Mazdoor Union, senior officials of the company and members of the Union.

Talking about the facility, D B Sundara Ramam, Vice President (Raw Materials), Tata Steel said: "Tata Steel is committed towards environmental sustainability and this Water Treatment Plant is our yet another successful endeavour towards it. Reduce, reuse, recycle of water can help us meet the water requirement in and around our areas of operation. At Tata Steel, sustainable development and growth have always been an integral part of our business philosophy."

Built from cutting-edge technology, the Water Treatment Plant will treat 3000 KLD of water from Jojo canal and

will address the drinking water requirement of around 1800 families residing in Noamundi and the community in and around Noamundi including Sangram Sahi, Katamati, Jojo camp and Hospital area. The Water Treatment Plant has been designed considering the incremental volume required for upcoming expansion plans of the OMQ Division. The project also includes laying of new distribution pipelines (16 Kilometres) from the treatment plant to the discharge headers within Noamundi ecosystem.

The Water Treatment Plant will produce potable water that meets all quality parameters set by World Health organization. Raw water is taken to the treatment plant from the canal through intake pumps and pipeline and is stored in the reservoir. After chemical dosing of the raw water, the coagulation process activates post which, the first filtration is done through Pressure Sand Filter and Manganese Oxide Filter. The water then goes through the second filtration process involving Ultrafiltration to achieve turbidity of less than 1 Nephelometric Turbidity Units which meets the quality parameter set for drinking water. The waste water generated during the filtration process will be collected in a pit and will be used for gardening purposes.

With sustainability as a cornerstone of its operations, Tata Steel's OMQ Division has taken several initiatives in and around the region with respect to energy conservation and reducing carbon footprint including rainwater harvesting, plantation in and around Noamundi, setting up a 3 MW Solar Power Plant to reduce the carbon footprint and generate power in a sustainable manner, installation of solar operated tube-wells for the community and replacement of energy source from diesel to battery for operation of air conditioning system in the Heavy Earth Moving Machinery, to name a few.

Tata Steel's OMQ Division was conferred the prestigious 'Greentech Energy Conservation Award 2021' during Greentech Safety Culture & Energy Summit 2021 organized by the Greentech Foundation in the recent past for various initiatives taken towards energy conservation and reducing carbon footprint. Tata Steel's Noamundi Iron Mine has also been awarded the prestigious Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) Mining Innovation Award for the year 2020-21 for exemplary efforts in the field of innovation in mining.

Amid higher costs, steel firms may raise prices in the coming months

CRISIL Research and industry experts say a recovery in domestic demand since the second half of September can also prompt the hikes.

Steel companies raised prices in October after three months, but there could be more hikes in store over the next few months on the back of cost inflation, said a research firm. In the last five months, prices of coking coal (larger part of raw material cost structure for Indian mills) have more than tripled to $390 per tonne as of October first week, according to CRISIL Research.

Industry sources added that prices of thermal coal FOB Australia was up by more than 150 per cent since April. In addition, ferroalloy, natural gas, zinc prices also jumped, adding to the overall cost .

Indian steel to adopt Industry 4.0 technique for a sustainable future

India's promising economy will accelerate the growth of the country's steel processing industry. India is rich in steel metal raw material resources are available at an affordable rate.

India's steel industry is important as it helps to create a competitive advantage for end-use sectors from where it sees maximum consumption. Metal consumption has been on a rise, however, owing to the low per capita metal consumption, it is expected to grow further.

There are several allied sectors such as construction, infrastructure, automotive manufacturing, railway who are traditionally large consumers of the steel industry.

Looking at the important role of the steel industry in nation-building, Steelworld Magazine had successfully organized the 18th Iron and steel Summit on 24th September 2021 with the presence of eminent speakers who have highlighted the vision of Steel Making in 2030.

It was highlighted the various aspects of steelmaking such as lean Iron ore utilization, circular economy in secondary steel production, stress on applications of Light Weight steels, Nano Steels, new processes of development of steels, use of Green Hydrogen in steel manufacture, reduction in Carbon emissions during steel production, application of Industry 4.0 techniques and host of other issues.

Among the prominent speakers

who spoke on this subject included Mrs. Rasika Chaube, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Steel & Chairperson of Joint Plant Committee, Mr. Rajib Paul, Director, NISST, Dr. Indranil Chattoraj Director, CSIR-NML, Mr. Devendra Agrawal, Asst. General Manager, Uttam Galva Steels Ltd. Mr. Bharat Barad, Director, Somnath Steel among others.

Mr. Paul explained the role of the committee for the decarbonization of steel. He explained the benefits of pre-reduction of chromite ore before charging in the submerged arc furnace for Ferroalloy production allowing significantly lower energy consumption. The lining life of the Induction furnace can be enhanced by regular inspection and measurement of shell temperature.

He stressed the need for switching over DRI production from coal-based Rotary kilns to gas-based Shaft Furnaces since shaft furnaces are counter-current furnaces working with gas more efficiently. The prices of natural gas have gone up substantially from 9$ to18$ recently and hence, it is difficult to use this fuel.

The work being done on Dephospherization and Desulfurization in the induction furnace was also discussed. Dr. Indranil Chattoraj stressed upon proper utilization of Lime, application of circular economy in secondary steel manufacture, and digitalization of steelmaking processes with Industry 4.0 technique.

Application of Green Hydrogen produced by electrolysis was emphasized. The use of lightweight steel for automobiles was stressed. Ms. Rasika Chaubey also stressed the use of steel for housing purposes. Nano steels and steels for high-temperature applications are also of great importance. Microalloying of steel is also significant for improvements in the characteristics of steel.

Mr. Devendra Agrawal highlighted that various government policies introduced from time to time were not put in force at ground level seriously. These policies impact the cost of power, raw materials (Iron ore, DRI as well as Pellets, etc.). There is an anomaly in the tax levied on pellets that are exported and those used in Blast Furnace pig iron production.

He informed that Public Sector Units are not buying steel from secondary steel producers. Previously scrap was taxed but now this tax is removed as per the information given by Ms. Rasika Chaubey.

Steel manufacturers also do not approach institutions like NML etc to solve problems related to cost-cutting, productivity improvements, or quality-related issues.

The cost factor on P and S removal from steel melt in an induction furnace has also not been established.

Mr. Barad claimed that Industry 4.0 technique can change the way for steel making in India. He suggested an effective use of Robots, 3D pictures technology in steel manufacture, and inspect hazardous activities like linking/delinking of rail wagons in steelyards, an inspection of chimneys, furnace refractory lining, charging of Aluminium bars in the steel melting furnace, and many other activities.

As per his viewpoint, the monotonous technology of steel production will be replaced by the year 2030.

Mr. Barad also highlighted that the technique of 4.0 can allow complete transparency in steel-making processes. For large-scale production of green hydrogen, we need to set up gigawatt capacity solar power plants. Unfortunately, government agencies dot take much interest in 4.0. Hence, private players have to take lead for

large-scale adoption of 4.0 techniques.70% of steel made by large steel plants lead to 30% carbon emissions whereas secondary steelmakers contribute only 10% carbon emissions. Large steel plants have to use coke which is imported but DRI producers use coal which is indigenously available. Besides, Coal gasification technology plants are difficult to make but they allow recovery of by-products such as benzene, etc.

Factors like pre-processing of scrap, recovery of dust and heat from waste gases

Help in reducing the cost of steelmaking. Small steel manufacturers face problems of funds for research work but, now a day there is a good connection between them and R&D institutions.

Development funds released by Government are inadequate and not properly distributed. Therefore, research and innovation activities suffer. Pilot level studies are not easily possible in India, whereas in foreign countries these are easy to carry out. Hence, scale-up of production is to manufacturing level is easily possible.

TATAs and JSW adopted 4.0 techniques and they are operating their steel plant at a 30% lower manpower capacity after the successful installation of robots. Even, it was possible to run the plant with people working from home. By 2050, Indian steel plants will achieve zero percent emission levels.

Mr. Chandekar from STEEL WORLD coordinated the proceeding of the conference as well as a panel discussion on the subject very effectively. He expressed that the road ahead for technological up-gradation is steep but, by the year 2030 green hydrogen, lightweight steel will be certainly in use. Adoption of new steel technologies is very critical. Applications of steel for housing would gain good importance.

The session ended with a vote of thanks to all the participants for making it a lively session of the Iron & steel summit.

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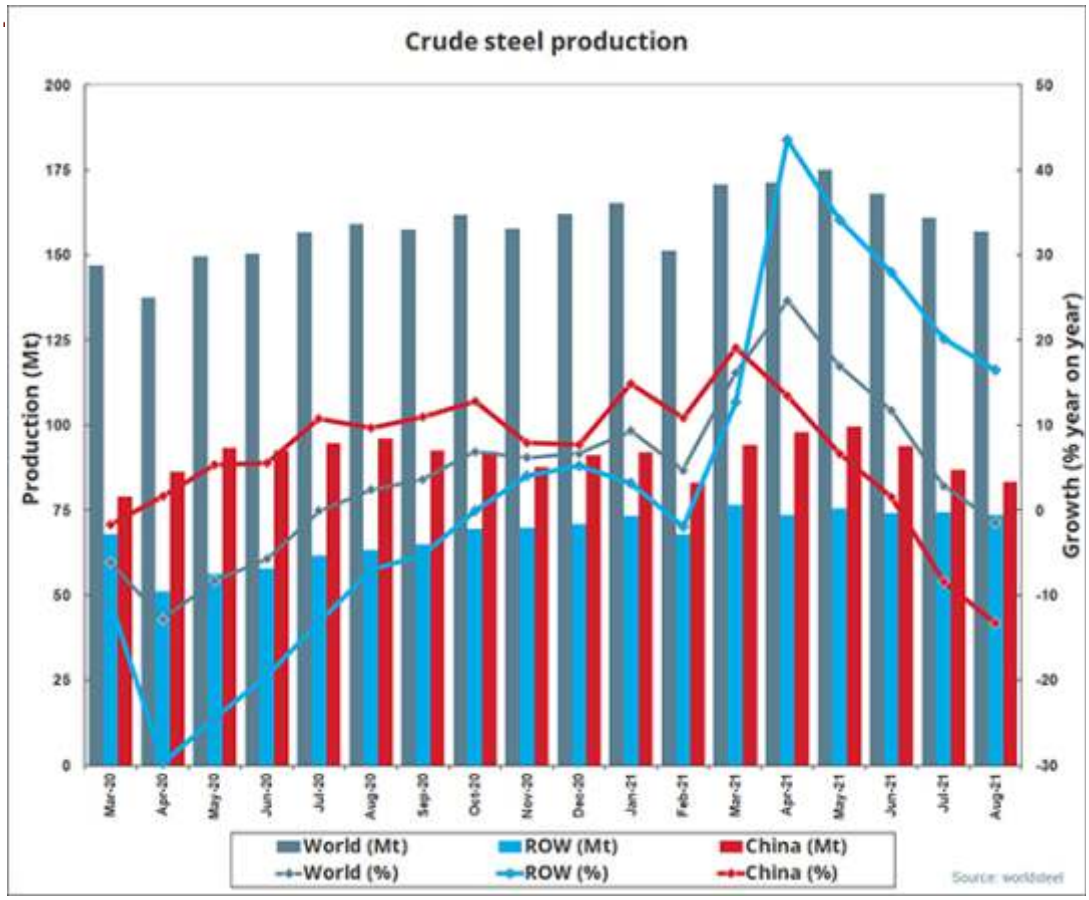

Global steel output falls in August, first time in a year

Global steel production slipped by 1.4% year-on-year in August, the first decline in more than a year, and is likely to decline further in the coming months as officials in top producer China seek to curb pollution.

According to the latest World Steel Association ("WSA") report, crude steel production for 64 reporting nations fell 1.4% year over year to 156.8 million tons (Mt) in August. A decline in Asia and Oceania offset higher production across other regions in the reported month.

Crude steel output fell to 156.8 million tonnes in August, World Steel Association data showed on Thursday, the first decline since July 2020Output in China tumbled by 13.2% to 83.2 million tonnes, the data showed.

Crude steel production from China fell for the third straight month in August as Beijing stepped up measures to cut production to clean up the environment in a bid to reach its carbon neutrality goal by 2060. Per the WSA, production in China, which accounts for more than half of the global steel output, slumped 13.2% year over year to 83.2 Mt in August. Output is also down from 86.8 Mt in July. Despite the decline, production is still up 5.3% year over year to 733 Mt in the first eight months of 2021.

China is looking to keep 2021 steel output within last year's record levels. The production curbs are aimed at reducing air pollution and controlling costs of raw materials including iron ore. China has been pushing steel mills in the country since early July to implement output and capacity curbs to comply with the norms to cut carbon emissions. The steel sector is among the biggest sources of carbon emissions in China, accounting for roughly 15%

of national carbon emissions. China has set a national goal to achieve peak carbon emissions for the steel sector by 2025.

In the Hebei province, Tangshan — the top steelmaking city in China — is reportedly planning to cut its crude steel production by 12.37 Mt in 2021 and looks to be on track to meet the target. China's second-largest steel-producing province, Jiangsu, has also ramped up output cuts this month. Other major steelmaking provinces such as Shandong and Liaoning have also started to scale down production.

China's steel output clocked 1.06 billion tons in 2020 following a production ramp-up on a strong rebound in domestic demand, driven by government investment in property and infrastructure. Output from the country hit a record high of 99.5 Mt in May 2021 on the back of firm domestic demand and healthy profit margins at mills, before retreating to 93.9 Mt in June.

Production curbs are expected to keep China's steel output levels under check in the coming months. Output is also likely to be capped by an expected softening of steel demand in the country, partly resulting from a slowdown in the construction sector. Beijing's actions to take the heat out of its property market this year partly through credit tightening measures bodes ill for the country's steel industry.

The debt crisis at one of China top property developers, Evergrande, also increases the risk of a financial contagion in the country's property sector. This may lead to a slump in construction activities and a slowdown in the launch of new properties in China, thereby hurting steel demand and triggering more production cuts. The potential collapse of Evergrande, which is saddled with more than $300 billion in debt, may pop China's property bubble and could have a ripple effect on the rest of the world. Real estate accounts for roughly 40% of China's steel consumption. A boom in the property sector played a major role in driving China's steel production last year.

"Given that the authorities in China are proactively encouraging lower output there, further falls in the coming months appear likely," Caroline Bain, chief commodities economist at Capital Economics, said in a note.

"However, it still remains to be seen if the Chinese authorities can stay the course, particularly if prices soar or shortages start to emerge."

Earlier, China's environment ministry said it plans to include more cities in its 2021 winter air pollution campaign as Beijing attempts to clear smog-laden skies.

Other countries saw higher output as strong steel prices and healthy demand boosted profits.

Steel production in Japan jumped 22.9% in August compared to the same month in 2020 while output surged by 26.8% in the United States and by 8.2% in India.

"Reportedly, India has been a beneficiary of China's efforts

	million tonnes August 2021	% change Aug-21/20	million tonnes Jan - Aug 2021	% change Jan - Aug 21/20
Africa	1.3	38.2	10.6	30.3
Asia and Oceania	112.7	-7.3	966.3	8.5
CIS	8.8	3.6	70.9	7.7
EU (27)	11.6	27.1	102.1	20.5
Europe, Other	4.5	11.7	33.9	15.5
Middle East	3.6	10.9	29.0	10.1
North America	10.2	24.4	78.8	19.2
South America	4.0	17.2	30.3	24.9
Total 64 countries	**156.8**	**-1.4**	**1,321.9**	**10.6**

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to curtail its steel exports," Bain added.

ow Other Major Producers Fared in August?

Among the other major Asian producers, India — the second-largest producer — saw an 8.2% rise in production to 9.9 Mt in August. Steel demand is picking up in India on a revival in economic activities with the lifting of lockdowns and restrictions imposed by state governments to blunt the rapid spread of the virus amid the deadly second wave. Government's infrastructure push and focus on accelerating the rural economy augur well for steel demand in the country.

Production in Japan climbed 22.9% to 7.9 Mt in the reported month. Output rose for the sixth straight month as steel makers in the country are seeing a rebound in industrial demand from the pandemic-led lows. Crude steel output in South Korea also rose 6.2% to 6.1 Mt. Consolidated output went down 7.3% to 112.7 Mt in Asia and Oceania reflecting the decline in China.

In North America, crude steel production jumped 26.8% to 7.5 Mt in the United States in August. Shutdowns across major steel-consuming sectors due to the pandemic put a crimp on steel demand, forcing U.S. steel mills to curtail production and idle operations with capacity utilization slumping to a multi-year lows during the first half of 2020.

However, demand has rebounded with the resumption of operations, leading to an uptick in capacity utilization and domestic steel production. U.S. capacity utilization rate broke above the important 80% level in May 2021 for the first time since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, and remains close to the 85% level amid strong domestic demand. Overall production in North America went up 24.4% to roughly 10.2 Mt.

In the Europe Union (EU), production from Germany, the biggest producer in the region, rose 6.7% to 3 Mt. Total output was up 27.1% in the EU to around 11.6 Mt. Steel prices in the region have come under pressure since August following a rally over the past several months to record highs as the ongoing semiconductor shortage is hurting demand from car manufacturers. Reduced consumption in the automotive sector due to the chip crunch is expected to weigh on European steel prices over the near term.

Production in the Middle East rose 10.9% to 3.6 Mt in August. Iran, the top producer in the region, saw an 8.7% rise to 2.5 Mt. Africa logged a 38.2% surge to 1.3 Mt.

Countries	million tonnes August 2021	% change Aug-21/20	million tonnes Jan - Aug 2021	% change Jan - Aug 21/20
China	83.2	-13.2	733.0	5.3
India	9.9	8.2	77.7	25.6
Japan	7.9	22.9	64.0	17.0
United States	7.5	26.8	57.1	19.5
Russia	6.3 e	4.4	50.8	7.7
South Korea	6.1 e	6.2	47.5	8.4
Germany	3.0 e	6.7	26.7	17.4
Turkey	3.5	7.1	26.6	16.7
Brazil	3.1	14.1	24.1	20.9
Iran	2.5 e	8.7	20.4	9.7

e - estimated. Ranking of top 10 producing countries is based on year-to-date aggregate

worldsteel ASSOCIATION

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RINL recently launched a new customer friendly initiative i.e. "RINL eSuvidha" – a Online Retail Portal to procure steel by customers all over India.

"RINL eSuvidha"

- Desktop/Mobile enabled website for customers across the country, to logon and access RINL-VizagSteel's Quality products in a convenient, transparent & efficient manner.
- Portal enables RINL to offer quotation against the customer's enquiry and the customer can confirm the order on the portal itself.
- Facilitates the customer to book order-on-line for quantities, make payment on-line for getting the material at their door steps.
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उत्पाद श्रेणियाँ व उपयोग
PRODUCT MIX & APPLICATIONS

WIRE RODS

5.5mm - 45mm Dia

Wire drawing, Bright bars, Fasteners etc.

ROUNDS

16 - 90mm Dia in straight length

Fasteners, Forging, Re-rolling, Railways, Construction etc.

'VIZAG TMT' REBARS

8mm - 36mm Dia

Construction - Reinforcement etc.

BILLETS / BLOOMS

Billets : 65mm, 77mm, 90 mm, 125mm RCS
Blooms : 150 x 150, 200 x 200, 250 x 250
320 x 250mm

Forging, Re-rolling, General Engineering purposes etc.

'VIZAG UKKU' STRUCTURALS

Angles	50 x 50 x 6 - 110 x 110 x 10mm
Channels	100 x 50 - 200 x 75mm
Beams	125 x 70 - 150 x 75mm
Flats	80 x 12 - 100 x 20mm

Construction, Fabrication, Auto Leaf Springs etc.

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