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K K Pahuja,
President, ISSDA

**India's modern
infrastructure and
logistic projects to
enhance the demand
for the stainless-steel
industry**



■ Inflation and uncertainty cloud
the outlook for steel demand : WSA

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Editorial Desk



D. A. Chandekar
Editor

Dear Readers,

A part from organising our own branded events in the metallurgical domain, 'Steelworld' (and our other publication 'Metalworld') get numerous invitations to associate with other events as 'Media Partner'. We promote the event through editorials as well as advertisements and also carry pre and post events reports in our publications. Now post covid, the organising and promotion strategy of such B2B trade shows has already undergone a huge change and I feel in the next few years, these events will decisively shift to digital platform. I do not mean the ground shows will completely stop but the online part of these shows will gradually grow. This is obvious as we can't just ignore the enormous benefits of digital platform such as cost effectiveness, global reach, can be visited 24 X 7, simplicity of operations, etc. Further, as the youngsters are taking the guard and the seniors are returning to the pavilion, the use of digital platform in the promotion, visibility and advertising strategy is bound to increase.

There were two events recently held, one in Mumbai and one in Gandhinagar. I saw a fresh enthusiasm in exhibitors as well as visitors. The past two years were really dull for the corporates and even on the individual level, the interactions were mostly on digital platforms. I do agree that meeting friends, acquaintances, associates and customers has its own charm and the participants were really enjoying the first mask free industry gathering after the deadly pandemic. Smiles all the way !

On the industry front, the demand seems to be ok and growing. Most of the disruptions were corrected after the covid and now the industry was really looking forward to a great upward leap but for this Russia – Ukraine war. This has drastically affected the prices and the availability of most of the raw materials and this seems to have neutralised all the positive effect of growing demand. The war now does not seem to be nearing the end and after sinking of the Russian warship Moskva in the Black Sea, there is a likelihood that this will not remain merely a war between two countries and can escalate to any level. It is also very sad to learn that Azovstal Iron & Steel Works, situated in the city of Mariupol and producing more than 4 Mt of crude steel annually and providing livelihood to more than a lac families, has now turned into a key battleground in this bloody war. Let's hope both sides' leaders understand the plight of the world economy and discuss ending violence and establishing peace ■

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<https://steelworldblog.wordpress.com/>

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India's modern infrastructure and logistic projects to enhance the demand for the stainless-steel industry

D A Chandekar, Editor & CEO, Steelworld had an exclusive interaction with Shri K K Pahuja to understand present status of Indian Stainless Steel industry and its newer applications.

Excerpts

How is the present situation in the Stainless Steel industry?

World Stainless Steel production reported a rise of 10.6% reaching a melt production of 56.2 million tons in the year 2021. Once again Asian countries has shown good growth and India also performed well to reach a melt production of nearly 4 million tons. Today, India has the capability to produce a wide range of products as per national and international standards. The stainless-steel industry in India has a unique structure

with a healthy mix of large and mid-size corporates, including public sector and MSMEs, spread across the country.

Till last year, India was the second largest stainless-steel producer but now has been overtaken by Indonesia, where huge stainless-steel capacities have been set up by Chinese companies.

The Indian stainless-steel industry is fully globalised with major raw materials being imported, large imports and exports, and end products prices being driven by both raw material prices and international prices of stainless steel.

How has been the performance of this industry in the past few

"India's focus on PM Gati Shakti Scheme driven by the seven engines of roads, railways, airports, ports, mass transport, waterways and logistics infrastructure aimed at world class modern infrastructure and logistics synergy is expected to support the Indian stainless-steel industry" by K K Pahuja, President, ISSDA.

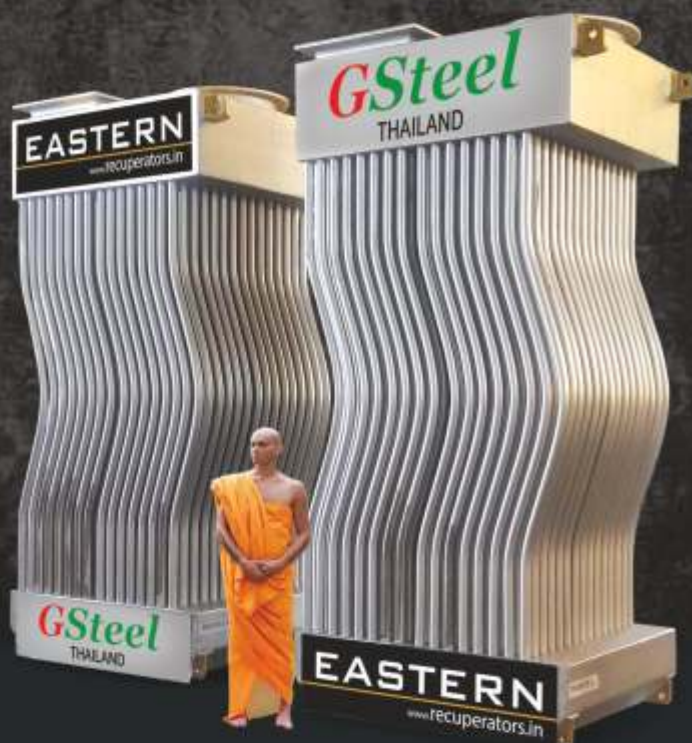
K K Pahuja has over 40 years' experience in the Indian Steel Industry in the areas of operations, market development and policy making. As a President of Indian Stainless-Steel Development Association (ISSDA), he is currently driving efforts for promotion and growth of the Indian stainless-steel industry. He has worked at Steel Authority of India Ltd. as Executive Director, where he was involved in corporate operations and product development, enhancing operating efficiencies and driving growth plans of the company.

He is a mechanical engineer from BITS Pilani and MBA from FMS, Delhi University. He has been a senior assessor for CII-EXIM Bank Business Excellence Award and has been advising many companies on their journey towards excellence and change management. He has also been a guest faculty for Strategic Management at IIFT Delhi.

years and what do you think are the prospects for the future?

Domestic demand for stainless steel (flat and long) clocked a compound annual growth rate of about 5.2% over fiscal 2016-2020 to reach 3.7 MT. However, the pandemic-led disruptions led to demand contracting by 14-15% on-year in fiscal

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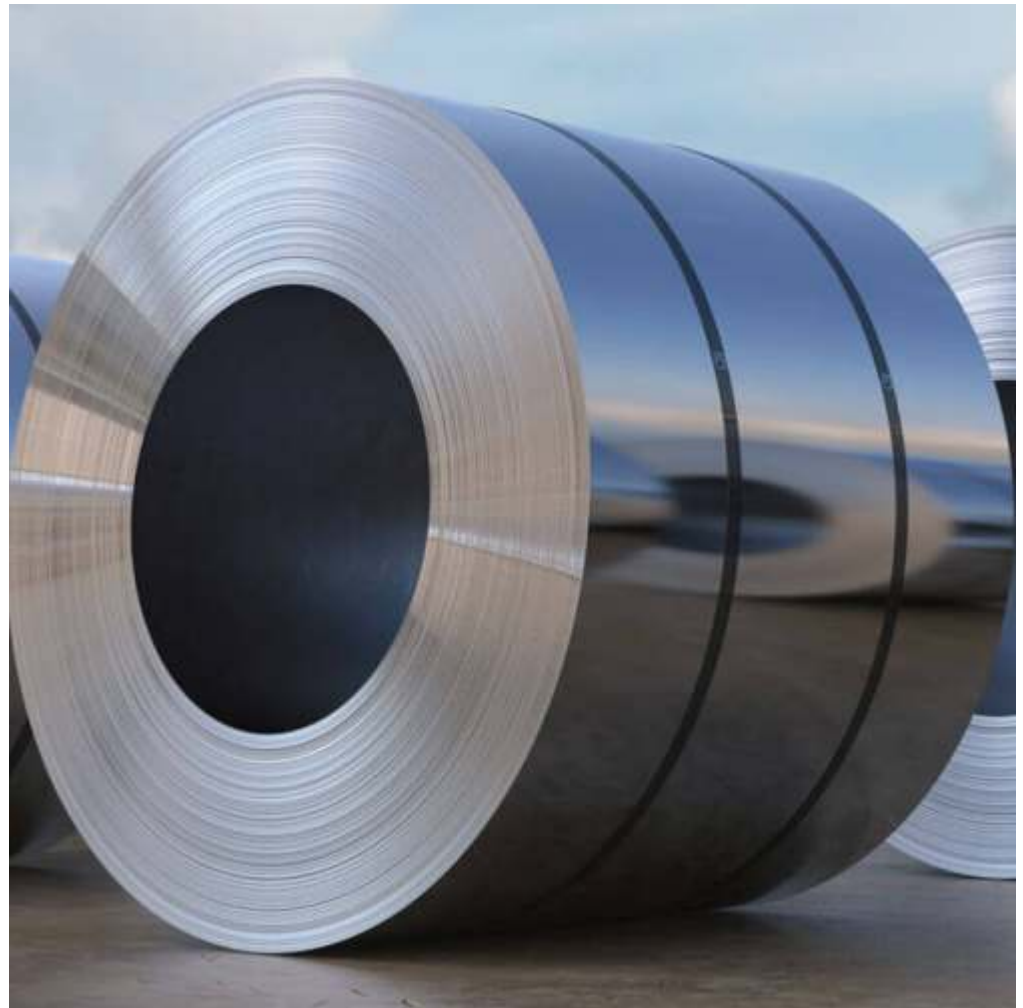
2021 to 3.2 MT. Stainless steel demand is expected to witness a volume growth of about 20% to exceed pre covid level of 3.7 MT in fiscal 2022, supported by a low base, a stable macro economic environment and normalised government spending.

India is the second-largest consumer of stainless steel, and one of the fastest-growing markets. The country's per capita consumption of stainless steel rose from 1.2 kg in fiscal 2010 to ~2.5 kg in fiscal 2022, owing to increasing use of stainless steel in public infrastructure, spurred by government spending. However, it is still far below the global average of 5.5-6.0 kg, which indicates a huge opportunity for growth.

The government has rolled out ambitious programmes such as the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation; Smart Cities Mission; Swachh Bharat Mission; Sagarmala; and Transit Oriented Development for the expansion and modernisation of the metro rail network, railways, airports, and bus rapid transit. These programmes are aimed at improving rural and urban infrastructure. Because of the various advantages of stainless steel over other construction materials, its penetration is increasing across all modern infrastructure. Focus on PM Gati Shakti Scheme driven by the seven engines of roads, railways, airports,

ports, mass transport, waterways and logistics infrastructure aimed at world class modern infrastructure and logistics synergy is expected to support the Indian stainless-steel industry.

What are the new



applications of SS being developed?

Stainless Steel is finding its importance as we progress towards new age applications focused on the world over priority towards finding sustainable solutions.

An important growth driver for future stainless steel growth centres is usage of stainless steel for structural applications, especially

around our 7500 km coastline. In coastal areas, construction of bridges and other structures struggle with issues of corrosion and maintenance and in those areas structural materials made of stainless steel have great potential. With the

effort of ISSDA and its member companies, Railways has decided to make foot over bridges in stainless steel in coastal and corrosion prone areas. India's first stainless steel foot over bridge at Naupada railways station in Srikakulam district was inaugurated last month and has paved the way for more usage of stainless steel in

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INDIA



Face to Face

this area.

On account of its ability to provide maintenance free long life to civil structures, stainless steel reinforcement bars are gaining acceptance in civil construction, again near coastal regions. The government initiative to promote sustainable infrastructure based on the life cycle concept will provide impetus towards further usage of stainless-steel reinforcement bars in India. Going head, this application is expected to attract enormous demand for stainless steel in India

The Government has announced the National Hydrogen Mission (NHM) this year. It is understood that the NHM will identify pilot projects, infrastructure and supply chain, research, and development for facilitating the Hydrogen economy. In case Hydrogen is initially produced from fossil fuels, carbon capture may also be part of it. The area is still evolving and many IITs etc. are working on it. Stainless Steel industry should be seen to be an active participant in this process because there can be stainless steel applications in the Hydrogen supply chain.

The Indian government's plan to blend Ethanol with motor spirit would boost demand for stainless steel. The objectives are twofold- 1) Reduce dependence on imported petroleum fuel and 2) increase farm income. To be able to do so, not only Ethanol capacity has to be

augmented but oil marketing companies will have to set up new supply chains for blending Ethanol, where stainless steel has a big role. Ethanol plants require substantial amounts of SS pipe, tubes and tubes and equipment like Decanter centrifuges, are mostly made from stainless steel.

Also, valves, filters, regulators, quills, thermo-compressors, steam ejectors, screens and various other parts and components made from stainless steels are used in ethanol plants.

There are many newer applications such as stainless-steel overhead water tanks, plumbing, light weight body for electric vehicles, high performance stainless steels for the process industry, which are likely to emerge as new growth drivers for stainless steel.

What are the prime issues presently faces the industry? What support does the SS industry needs from the policy makers?

There is a need for a long term and consistent policy regime for the sector so that the manufacturers can take a long term view on investments. Policy initiatives should be aimed at promoting open and fair competition. Policy enablers are required which can ensure a level playing field to the domestic manufacturers vis-à-vis imports. This is unfortunately lacking in the current context as manifested in the revocation/ non- implementation of the trade remedial measures on

stainless steel flat products. Market uncertainty fuelled by such dumped/ subsidized imports may actually lead to a closure of many small-scale units in this sector. So, there is a pressing need to restore the sanctity of trade remedial measures to build investor confidence in the domestic industry.

In order to sustain a competitive advantage for the stainless-steel industry, a secure and uninterrupted raw material supply chain is critical. The most notable feature of stainless-steel manufacturing is that raw material cost constitutes 70% of production cost and all raw materials are added at the first stage of manufacturing, which is stainless steel melting. Out of the raw material cost, approximately two third of the raw materials by value are imported into India. Therefore, it is pertinent to devise appropriate strategies to not only ensure this but also bring down the cost for rapid growth.

Usage of Stainless steel has been limited in the country due to user hesitancy citing higher initial cost though Stainless steel comes out to be cheaper on a life cycle costing basis vis a vis other metals. In line with the provisions enshrined in the general financial rules, the concept of Life cycle costing needs to be made mandatory in Government tenders for evaluation of public projects. ■



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Inflation and uncertainty cloud the outlook for steel demand : WSA

The World Steel Association (worldsteel) released its Short Range Outlook (SRO) for 2022 and 2023. As per the worldsteel forecasts report stated that steel demand will grow by 0.4% in 2022 to reach 1,840.2 Mt after increasing by 2.7% in 2021. In 2023 steel demand will see further growth of 2.2% to reach 1,881.4 Mt. The current forecast is made against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine and is subject to high uncertainty.

Commenting on the outlook, Máximo Vedoya, Chairman of the worldsteel Economics Committee, said, "This Short Range Outlook is issued in the shadow of the human and economic tragedy following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We all wish for as rapid and peaceful an end to this war as possible. In 2021, recovery from the pandemic shock turned out to be stronger than expected in many regions,

despite continuing supply chain issues and COVID waves.

However, a sharper than anticipated deceleration in China led to lower global steel demand growth in 2021. For 2022 and 2023, the outlook is highly uncertain. The expectation of a continued and stable recovery from the pandemic has been shaken by the war in Ukraine and rising inflation."

The magnitude of the impact of this conflict will

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Analysis

vary across regions, depending on their direct trade and financial exposure to Russia and Ukraine. There is an immediate devastating effect on Ukraine, consequences for Russia, and major impact on the EU due to its reliance on Russian energy and its geographic proximity to the conflict area.

The impact will also be felt globally via higher energy and commodity prices –

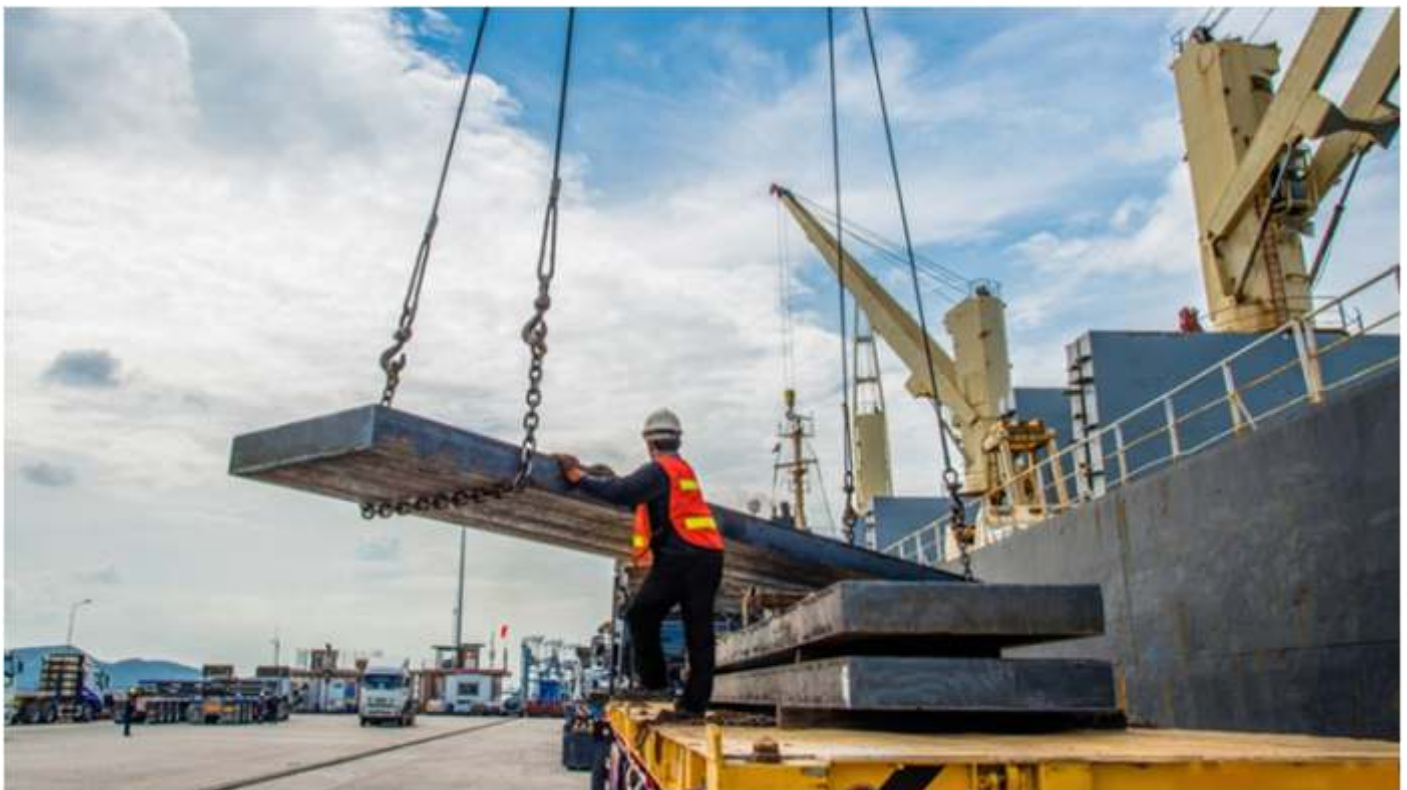
growth expectations for global steel demand in 2022. There are further downside risks from the continued surge in virus infections in some parts of the world, especially China, and rising interest rates. The expected tightening of US monetary policies will hurt financially vulnerable emerging economies.

The outlook for 2023 is highly uncertain. Our forecast assumes that the

impact on energy transitions, and continued reconfiguration of global supply chains.

China

Chinese steel demand saw a major slowdown in 2021 due to the tough government measures on real estate developers. Steel demand in 2022 will remain flat as the government tries to boost infrastructure investment and stabilise the



especially raw materials for steel production – and continued supply chain disruptions, which were troubling the global steel industry even before the war. Furthermore, financial market volatility and heightened uncertainty will undermine investment.

Such global spillovers from the war in Ukraine, along with low growth in China, point to reduced

confrontation in Ukraine will come to an end in the course of 2022 but that the sanctions on Russia will largely remain.

Additionally, the geopolitical situation surrounding Ukraine poses significant long-term implications for the global steel industry. Among them are a possible readjustment in global trade flows, a shift in energy trade and its

real estate market.

The stimuli introduced in 2022 are likely to support small positive growth in steel demand in 2023. There is upside potential from more substantial stimulus measures, which is likely if the economy faces more challenges from the deteriorating external environment.

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COVID-19 in early 2022 was short-lived and did not greatly affect economic activities; India's quarterly GDP touched pre-COVID levels in Q4 2021, and growth is expected to normalise gradually, supported by the government's push for investment and healthy recovery in services. However, the manufacturing sector slowed down as high inflation affected consumer sentiment and investment. In 2022, construction and manufacturing will likely be supported by spending on infrastructure and a gradual revival in automotive production, with an expected improvement in semiconductor supply. Expected raw material supply constraints in the international market will result in higher domestic mining output and support the capital goods sector. However, the war in Ukraine poses a renewed risk of supply disruption and inflation, which may impact the central bank's accommodative stance and consumer sentiment. Steel demand in ASEAN has been slow to recover from the pandemic due to continued disruptions to construction activities and a slow recovery in tourism. Supply bottlenecks further contributed to slower than expected recovery of manufacturing.

However, a stronger recovery momentum has been visible since Q3 2021. COVID cases remain high as of Q1 2022, especially in

Vietnam. Still, countries are gradually opening up, and a visible recovery in construction projects is expected in 2022, allowing a return to a more normal growth track.

Advanced economies

Despite the sporadic COVID infection waves and the manufacturing sector's supply chain constraints, steel demand recovered strongly in 2021, especially in the EU and the US. However, the outlook for 2022 has weakened due to inflationary pressure, which is further reinforced by the events surrounding Ukraine. The impact of the war will be particularly pronounced in the EU due to its high dependence on Russian energy and refugee inflows. Steel demand in the developed world is forecast to increase by 1.1% and 2.4% in 2022 and 2023 respectively, after recovering by 16.5% in 2021.

Developing economies excluding China

In the developing economies, recovery from the pandemic faced more challenges with the continued impact of the pandemic and surging inflation, which prompted a monetary tightening cycle in many emerging economies. After falling by 7.7% in 2020, steel demand in the developing world excluding China grew by 10.7% in 2021, slightly less than our earlier forecast.

In 2022 and 2023, the emerging economies excluding China will continue to face challenges from the

worsening external environment, the Russia-Ukraine war, and US monetary tightening, leading to low growth of 0.5% in 2022 and 4.5% in 2023.

Steel using sectors

Global construction activity continued to recover from the lockdowns to record growth of 3.4% despite a contraction in China in 2021. The recovery was driven by an infrastructure push as part of recovery programmes in many countries, and these and investments related to the energy transition will likely drive the construction sector's growth for years to come. However, the construction sector faces some headwinds from rising costs and interest rates.

The recovery of the global auto industry in 2021 was disappointing as the supply chain bottlenecks arrested the recovery momentum in the second half of the year. The war in Ukraine is likely to delay any return to normal of the supply chain issues, especially in Europe. Despite the slump in global auto production, the EV segment grew exponentially during the pandemic. Global sales of EVs in 2021 reached 6.6 million units, almost doubling from 2020. The share of EVs in total car sales increased from 2.49% in 2019 to 8.57% in 2021.

Steel using sectors Construction In 2021, global construction activity continued to recover from the lockdowns, to record 3.4% growth despite a

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Analysis

contraction in China. The recovery was driven by an infrastructure push as part of most recovery programmes. Strong infrastructure initiatives in many countries and investments related to the energy transition will likely drive the construction sector's growth for years to come.

However, the construction sector is facing some headwinds. Like other sectors, the global construction sector is experiencing supply-side problems, leading to increased construction costs. Also, the move of central banks to raise interest rates to fight inflation may play a negative role in the growth of construction activity in 2022-23.

The residential sector was performing well due to low interest rates and the expansion of working from home practices. Accelerated inflation is forcing buyers to rush into property markets, using them as a hedge. However, rising housing prices might undermine future housing affordability for some social groups. In the non-residential sector, while office buildings suffered from remote working practices, e-commerce and IT-related investments supported the sector. On a regional basis, there is strong growth in the multi-unit segment in the US.

Also, infrastructure investment will get some positive momentum driven

by the infrastructure bill of 2021. Recovery in energy-related investments is also expected to boost construction activities in the US.

In China, with government policies in place to tame the real estate sector bubble, infrastructure will be the main driver for the recovery of the construction sector. Residential construction might also get some small support from stimulus measures. In India, infrastructure in four key areas – national highways, railways, water infrastructure & government housing will remain the main driver of construction growth.

New projects in the residential real estate segment are also expected to gather pace. In Brazil, after robust growth in 2021, the construction sector is expected to report moderate growth in 2022 due to the monetary tightening cycle and the US interest rate hikes. A strong rebound in energy prices significantly improves the prospects of the construction sector in oil exporters. In the GCC, construction activities are expected to accelerate with the resumption of construction projects that will be further boosted by relaxing budget pressures and easing of COVID-19 related restrictions. Automotive The recovery of the global auto industry in 2021 was disappointing as supply chain bottlenecks reversed the strong momentum seen in the first half of the year.

Auto production contracted in the second half of 2021 in most countries, and global auto production ended the year with only marginal growth. Supply chain problems also led to reduced choice for buyers and increased prices. It had been expected that the supply bottlenecks would dissipate in the second half of 2022. However, the war in Ukraine is likely to delay any return to normal, especially in Europe. In China, automobile production grew by 4.8% in 2021 and is expected to continue its growth in 2022-23.

New energy vehicles production jumped by 1.6 times to 3.55 million units, accounting for 13.6% of total vehicles production in 2021. The recovery in US auto production in 2021 was also severely dampened by supply chain problems. In 2022-23, pent-up demand is expected to drive the production of light vehicles. While global auto production slumped due to the pandemic, the EV segment grew exponentially.

Global sales of EVs in 2021 reached 6.6 million units, almost doubling from 2020. The share of EVs in total car sales increased from 2.49% in 2019 to 8.57% in 2021. The trend is driven by toughening government regulations against car emissions and will impact other sectors, including the development of relevant infrastructure.

Source: World Steel Association





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H11 / AISI H11 / DIN 2343
H21 / AISI H21 / DIN 2581
H10 / AISI H10 / DIN 2365
H12 / AISI H12 / DIN 2606

ALLOY STEEL (IND/USA/EUR)

EN24/AISI 4340/40NiCrMo84 / 34CrNiMo6
EN19/AISI 4140/ 42CrMo4
EN31/AISI 52100/100Cr6

COLD WORK STEEL (IND/USA/EUR)

HCHCR-D2/AISI D2/DIN 2379 | A2/AISI A2/DIN 2363
HCHCR-D3/AISI D3/DIN 2080 | O1/AISI O1/DIN 2510
D5/Cr12MoV/DIN 2601

PLASTIC Mould STEEL (IND/USA/EUR)

P20+Ni/AISI P20+Ni/DIN 2738
P20/AISI P20/DIN 2311

SPRING STEEL

EN47 / 50CrV4 / 51CrV4 / AISI 6150 / SUP10 / DIN 8159
SUP9 / AISI 5155 / DIN 1.7176
SAE 9254 / AISI 9254

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Steel demand poised to grow at 7-8% in FY2023; industry outlook maintained at Positive: ICRA

Domestic steel industry earnings over the next 12 months, year ended FY2023, are expected to remain healthy, despite input cost pressures leading to some moderation in earnings over the high watermark of FY2022. With rising steel prices partly absorbing the increase in coal and energy costs, ratings agency, ICRA has maintained the steel industry's outlook to be Positive. Industry capacity utilisation levels will be around 80% in FY2023, after a gap of eight years, and buoyed by the prospects of large infrastructure spending plans, domestic steelmakers have announced sizeable capacity expansions accumulating to ~34 million tonne per annum (mtpa) to be commissioned by FY2026.



Commenting on the industry trend, Mr. Jayanta Roy, Senior Vice-President & Group Head, Corporate Sector Ratings, ICRA said: *"Domestic steel demand registered a healthy sequential pick-up from December 2021 as construction activity gathered momentum, which, coupled with the low base of FY2021, helped close FY2022 with a double-digit growth of around 11%, a feat last achieved way back in FY2011. Supported by the Government's large infrastructure spending plans, domestic steel demand is pegged to grow at a healthy 7-8% in FY2023. Further, the sanctions on Russia could open new export opportunities for Indian steel mills in geographies like Europe, the Middle East and the US. However, steelmakers will face input cost pressures in the near term as Russia remains a key global supplier of many steelmaking raw materials."*

Given two back-to-back years of strong performance, the steel industry's consolidated borrowings are today at their lowest levels since March 2011; the industry's credit metrics, therefore, witnessed a significant improvement, with total debt/ OPBITDA^[1] reducing from 4.4 times in FY2020 to around 1 time in FY2022 (F). ICRA notes that notwithstanding the sizeable expansion plans, given the deleveraging that has happened over the last six quarters, and the healthy cash flows likely to be enjoyed, the steel industry today is more resilient to withstand project-related risks, which had significantly weakened the sectors' credit profile during the previous capex cycle of FY2012-FY2016. With the capital deployment for

upcoming projects remaining relatively moderate during the initial years of implementation, the industry's key leverage ratio of Total debt/ OPBITDA is expected to remain at a comfortable 1 time in FY2023 as well.

However, adds Mr. Roy: *"Key downside risk to ICRA's positive outlook emanates from a sharper-than-expected rise in FED policy rates, a further escalation of the Russia-Ukraine war, keeping raw material supplies under pressure, or a significant deterioration of the Chinese housing sector, all of which have the potential to materially impact global steel demand in the coming quarters."*

JSW Utkal Steel receives environmental clearance from MoEF&CC for 13.2 MTPA Greenfield Steel Plant in Odisha

JSW Utkal Steel Ltd (JUSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of JSW Steel Ltd., and part of the \$13 billion JSW Group, has today received the environmental clearance (EC) for setting up of a greenfield Integrated Steel Plant (ISP) of 13.2 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) crude steel from the Union Ministry of Environment & Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

RINL-VSP achieves a profit before tax (PBT) of Rs. 835 Crores with a scintillating turnaround performance during 2021-22- Sri Atul Bhatt, CMD

"Year 2021-22 has been a year of turnaround and I congratulate RINL collective for achieving a stupendous performance in all areas", said Sri Atul Bhatt while addressing senior officials and representatives of various



unions at a function organized at MP Hall of Ukkunagaram club, today.

CMD lauded the collective for achieving the best ever sales turnover of Rs. 28082 crores which is 35% higher than the previous best.

"The remarkable performance by the collective enabled RINL to achieve Turnaround in 2021-22 which led to register a Profit Before Tax of Rs. 835 Cr, after a gap of 6

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years and the estimated Gross Margin of Rs.3,575 Cr which is also the best for any year, since inception", announced Sri Atul Bhatt amidst a thunderous applause by the audience.

Sri Atul Bhatt lauded the works collective for achieving best ever production figures in all major production units during the just concluded fiscal, 2021-22 by achieving 5.77 Mt(million tons), 5.52 Mt, 5.27 Mt, 5.14 of Hot Metal, liquid steel, crude steel, saleable steel, respectively, which was the highest since inception.

Inspite of severe financial stress, many flagship programmes could be undertaken under CSR and around Rs. 11 Crores was spent in the areas of Education, Health Care, Skill Development, Rural Development and Swachh Bharat, Sri Bhatt added.

Moving from the turnaround phase to flourish further, CMD exhorted the RINL Collective to focus on :

- ü Increase in PCI in all the three furnaces.
- ü Cost optimization in all the areas
- ü Maximization of power generation & minimise Power imports
- ü Utilization of waste like metallurgical waste etc, and usage of alternative cheap raw materials
- ü Increase in high end value added production,
- ü Innovative ways of cash management.
- ü Ensuring raw material security
- ü—Capturing niche markets

Sri VV Venugopal Rao, Director (Finance), Sri DK Mohanty, Director (Commercial) & Director (Personnel) additional charge, Sri KK Ghosh, Director (Projects), Sri AK Saxena, Director (Operations), Sri KVN Reddy, CVO, several senior officials, Forum for Women in Public sector (WIPS), representatives of SEA, Trade Unions, SC & ST association, OBC association attended the programme.

CSM Department conducted this programme in association with Corporate Communications, Town administration, General Administration, Telecom and IT departments.

The mega project will generate huge employment opportunities in the region, which in turn will boost the economy of Odisha state.

The capital expenditure for the modern, green and environment-friendly integrated steel plant (ISP) project is expected to be approx. Rs. 65,000 crores including associated facilities. The phase-wise work for the project will start once the land is handed over to the company by the government of Odisha.

The project is one of the largest in the manufacturing

sector in the country and MoEF&CC accorded the EC after successful public hearings.

JUSL has earmarked budgets for social interventions under public health, education, skill development, social infrastructure, waste management, environment, drinking water, women empowerment and so on. Additionally, based on the environment impact assessment (EIA), the company has plans to incur expenditure for the environment protection and mitigation measures.

As India's leading steel producer, JSW Steel has always been the front runner in incorporating sustainability into its core operations and decision-making practices, along with adopting the Best Available Technologies (BAT) to improve climate impact performance.

JSW Steel has adopted a specific climate change policy and set an ambitious CO2 emission reduction target of 42% over the base year of 2005 by 2030 (to a level 1.95tCO2/tcs).

JSW Steel is also investing in R&D for sustainable products and emission control, resource optimization, process efficiency and for ensuring multi-pronged digital focus to improve existing practices. JSW Steel has issued the global steel industry's first Sustainability-Linked US Dollar bond in 2021, linked to its decarbonization target for 2030. The target set by JSW Steel is much steeper than those committed as per India's Paris Accord NDC's, and is aligned with the sustainable development scenario (SDS) pathway of the International Energy Agency.

Jindal Stainless Q4FY22 sales volume up by 23% as compared to FY21

Jindal Stainless Limited's (JSL) total sales volume for FY22 stood at 1,011,292 MT, up by 23% as compared to FY21. During Q4FY22, Company's sales volume stood at 269,168 metric tonnes (MT), registering an uptick of 9% on QoQ and 6% on YoY basis.

The sales volume was backed by JSL's agile supply chain and a flexible product mix with a focus on value added product segments. Despite volatility and global disruptions in raw material supply and logistics, JSL effectively upped its exports. Company's exports sales proportion doubled to 32% of sales volumes in Q4FY22 as compared to 16% Q4FY21.

The domestic market continued to be marred by cheap stainless steel imports from China and Indonesia in Q4FY22. Domestic demand increased in segments like lifts and elevators and railways. However, demand in consumer facing segments like hollowware and pipe and tubes remained muted due to channel de-stocking, owing to increase in raw material prices.

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John Cockerill to accompany ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India for the high-performance steel



Together with the experts of several of John Cockerill Industry's other worldwide entities, John Cockerill India is to supply the two high technology lines to ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India's Hazira Works in Gujarat. The start of operations is scheduled by 2024.

Besides this major contract signature, John Cockerill has also officialize its strategic partnership with one of India's leading Renewable Energy companies, Greenko, aiming at developing a hydrogen industry in the country. Both of these contract signatures emphasize John Cockerill's commitment to resolutely accompany India in its ambition to lead the way in the fight against climate change.

RINL wins GREENTECH CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AWARD 2022

Rashtriyaspat Nigam Limited-Visakhapatnam Steel plant (RINL-VSP) is declared as the winner of Greentech Corporate Governance Award 2022.

Shri VV Venugopal Rao, Director (Finance) RINL-VSP, received the award from Shri Farooq Khan, IPS (Retd.), Advisor to Governor, J&K at the award function held today at SKICC, Srinagar (J&K).

Greentech Corporate Governance Award is presented to Companies who demonstrate excellent performance in the areas of Corporate Governance, promote policy & practices, prove strong link between the corporate reputation & stakeholder trust and enhance brand value & public positioning of companies. Greentech Corporate Governance Award brings together Corporate Professionals in the compliance, risk, ethics and corporate governance world to celebrate the exemplary performers. Shri Atul Bhatt, CMD, RINL-VSP congratulated RINL collective for achieving this award.

NUCOR CORPORATION ENDORSES DANIELI WITH ORDERS FOR COLD-STRIP PLANTS



As part of the multi-technology order valued in excess of US\$ 650 million, Nucor Corporation has selected Danieli to supply technological equipment and automation for two installations.

The first order, a new Pickling Line and Tandem Cold Mill - PLTCM and temper mill, will complete the QSP-DUE® quality hot-strip plant just awarded to Danieli and to be installed in West Virginia.

The new PLTCM plant will process 2.3 Mshtpy of hot-rolled strip, 0.80- to 6.35-mm-thick, up to 1,982-mm-wide, into 0.25- to 3.05-mm-thick cold-rolled strip for both construction and automotive products.

The pickling line will be characterized by the patented Turboflo® technology, for highly efficient scale removal and high- and adjustable-turbulence on both strip surfaces, at speeds up to 250 m/min.

Coupled with the pickling line, a five-stand tandem cold mill featuring Danieli original, 6-hi Optimized Shaped Roll Technology (OSRT) will ensure optimal strip flatness, thickness control and performance stability at speeds up to 1,200 m/min.

A 0.45 Mshtpy stand-alone temper mill to improve material formability, flatness and surface finish grades in wet tempering mode will complete the Danieli supply for this new cold-mill complex.

A second order for cold-strip technology has been placed with Danieli for the supply of a galvanizing line and a color-coating line to be installed at the existing plant in Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Featuring Kohler's X-jet zinc air-wiping system for quality and coating weight control and Danieli Centro Combustion horizontal annealing furnace, the line will process 1,575-mm-wide and 0.25-1.75-mm-thick strip with galvanized (GI) and galvalume (GL) coatings. Danieli X-Jet technology allows for extremely accurate and uniform final zinc coating-thickness control, down to 36 g/m² per side at 170 mpm. A Q-Robot Zinc will skim the surface of the zinc

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bath, removing and handling dross, reducing human activity in the zinc-pot area.

The color-coating line will produce 0.25 Mshtpy of coated strip up to 1,575 mm wide and 0.25-1.75 mm thick. The design of the prime and finish coaters will be based on the most recent iteration of Danieli Fata Hunter's single-slide technology and integrated with dry-film thickness measurement sensors to provide a closed-loop control for higher coating repeatability and limited operator intervention.

The galvanizing and color-coated strip produced in Crawfordsville with the new lines will serve markets for steel buildings. Danieli Automation will provide advanced process control systems to supervise operations, running the lines in automatic mode, guaranteeing quality and production consistency.

Startups are scheduled for the end of 2024 for the PLTCM and temper mill in West Virginia and also for the galvanizing and strip-processing lines in Crawfordsville.

Eirich Group- Germany expands in India



The EIRICH Group, with Maschinenfabrik Gustav Eirich as its strategic center in Hardheim, has been a global leader in mixing and processing technology for almost 160 years. With a proposed new plant in India, Eirich is

continuing its strategy of global expansion. The groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the new plant site of the subsidiary of Eirich India took place on 11th April 2022 at the Chakan industrial area in Pune. It is planned to start production of Eirich machinery and equipment as early as Q1 2023.

Stephan Eirich is the fifth generation to head the family business and sees the expansion of the Indian operations as an important strategic step for the Eirich Group: "India has a lot of technical talent and good infrastructure, which is also ideally suited to producing more of our products locally. Proximity to our customers in the world's major markets is always a guiding principle for us. The second plant in India is in line with the country's "Make in India" philosophy, but also reflects our confidence to serve markets outside India once the ramp-up curve is successfully mastered," says Eirich.

Located on a three-acre site in Pune's Chakan Industrial Area, this new manufacturing facility will produce intensive

mixers, associated plants, and equipment. Eirich enjoys a strong market position worldwide for its unique mixing and processing technology in various industry segments such as metallurgy, refractories, ceramics, agrochemicals, foundry, battery, carbon products, and many more. With the commissioning of the Chakan plant, Eirich India will significantly increase its capacity. The current plant in Mumbai was established in 1998.

"India is a focus market for Eirich and its Chakan plants with expanded capacity will meet the growing demand for our products in all customer industries. And especially the on-site support of our Indian customers with fast service, spare parts "Made in India" and good process consultancy is key for us. In line with group strategy from 2025 onwards, Eirich India will also be able to supply to overseas markets with parts and complete machines through a strong network of Eirich Group companies in 12 countries," said Mr. Sourav Sen, MD, Eirich India.

India's steel demand in 2022 to be highest among major consumers



At 7.5%, India's steel demand in 2022 to be highest among major consumers

WSA, whose members produce 85% of the global steel, in its short-range outlook forecasted India's steel demand at 114 million tonne (MT) in 2022 compared with 106 MT a year earlier.

Boosted by higher spends on infrastructure and gradual revival of the automotive sector, India's steel demand growth will be the highest in 2022 at 7.5% among top consuming nations, including China and the US, the World Steel Association (WSA) said on Thursday.

Globally, however, steel demand will be slower in the current year to just 0.4% from 2.7% recorded last year. MáximoVedoya, chairman of the Worldsteel Economics Committee, said, "For 2022 and 2023, the outlook is highly uncertain. The expectation of a continued and stable recovery from the pandemic has been shaken by the war in Ukraine and rising inflation."

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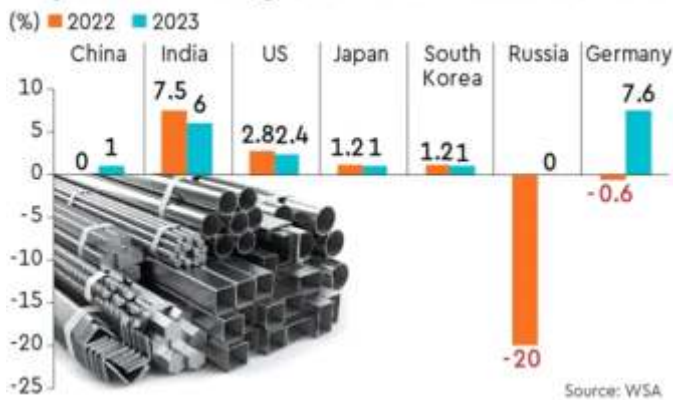
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Projected annual growth rate in steel demand



In 2023 also, India's steel demand growth will be the second highest at 6% after Germany which is likely to have a better 7.6% rate of growth in demand. Germany, however, consumes one-third of what India consumes annually.

"In 2022, construction and manufacturing (of India) will likely be supported by spending on infrastructure and a gradual revival in automotive production, with an expected improvement in semiconductor supply. Expected raw material supply constraints in the international market will result in higher domestic mining output and support the capital goods sector," WSA said.

However, the war in Ukraine poses a renewed risk of supply disruption and inflation, which may impact Indian central bank's accommodative stance and consumer sentiment, it said.

The impact of the war will also be felt globally via higher energy and commodity prices — especially raw materials for steel production — and continued supply chain disruptions.

"Furthermore, financial market volatility and heightened uncertainty will undermine investment. Such global spillovers from the war in Ukraine, along with low growth in China, point to reduced growth expectations for global steel demand in 2022," WSA said.

POSCO named Steel Sustainability Champion



POSCO Group Chairman Choi Jeong-woo holds the certificate for the World Steel Association's 2022 Steel Sustainability Champion

commendation. Courtesy of POSCO

POSCO became Korea's first steelmaker to be selected as an annual Steel Sustainability Champion by the World Steel Association, the company said Wednesday.

Since 2018, the international association with around 140 members has annually commended the steel companies that are most clearly demonstrating their commitment and action to sustainable development. It has also reevaluated all of its members every year to encourage them to continue to pursue high-quality sustainable management.

Under the policy, 15 steelmakers had maintained their status as Sustainability Champions until 2021.

POSCO is the only one company that newly won the status this year, during the association's two-day general meeting in London earlier this week. Six among the previous 15 Sustainability Champions lost their status. In order to become a Sustainability Champion, a company must sign the association's Sustainability Charter and provide life cycle inventory data to the association's data collection program. It should also be shortlisted in one of the five categories of the association's Steelie Awards or must be recognized in the association's safety and health recognition program.

POSCO said that it was recognized for its efforts to pursue management guided by environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) factors, for its declaration of the goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, for the establishment of an ESG committee and governance reforms.

"It was the result of POSCO Group's continuous efforts toward carbon neutrality and the development of eco-friendly materials," POSCO Group Chairman Choi Jeong-woo said. "We will continue to lead the global trend of sustainable ESG management in the steelmaking industry."

He also attended the meeting of the association's executive committee, comprised of the CEOs of 16 global steelmakers, on the sidelines of its general meeting, in order to discuss major topics facing the steelmaking industry recently, such as carbon emission reduction technologies, steelmaking systems for future mobility and the possible impacts of global infrastructure investments on steelmakers.

Choi, who was appointed the association's vice chairman last October and who will start serving as its chairman from this October, suggested that the committee members organize a consortium for carbon neutrality and jointly develop carbon emission reduction technologies, according to POSCO.

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PSU Steel units to utilize 80% capacity – MoS



The steel ministry has asked state-run companies to raise capacity by 80% to 45 million tonne per annum by 2030-31 from around 25

mtpa at present. SAIL and RINL are the two steel-making PSUs under the administrative control of the steel ministry. NMDC's maiden steel venture is also almost ready to start production.

The directive came during a capex review meeting by steel minister Ram Chandra Prasad Singh with the state-run companies. The minister asked the firms to "plan their capital projects prudently in line with the National Steel Policy (NSP), 2017".

The NSP 2017 aims at taking the country's steel-making capacity to 300 mtpa by 2030-31. With a little over 16 mtpa added in the last five years, India's current capacity stands at 154 mtpa.

"Based on the present assessment, the government is confident [of reaching] the capacity of 300 mtpa by 2030-31. Most of the capacity expansion comes through

Steel prices at 6-month high as China cuts 2022 crude steel output

Steel prices are at six-month highs because the Chinese market has cut its crude steel production. In March, Chinese steel production is down by nearly six percent, compared to the same period a year before and in the first quarter of this year, the production is down 10.5 percent to around 243 million tonnes.

It is noteworthy that Tangshan, China's steel production hub, has implemented another round of lockdowns in four districts for at least three days from Tuesday according to a government statement.

Market watchers say that speculative trading has been on the higher side after the interest rate cut by the Bank of China. There is an expectation of a stimulus cushion as a slowdown in steel will directly impact the manufacturing sector.

Demand for steel and steel products has been high after the pandemic lockdowns across the world have eased and the Tokyo steel company has raised steel product prices by 2 to 3 percent for the month of May.

JSW Group to develop 900 MW hydel, rolling mill projects in Bengal

JSW Group chairman Sajjan Jindal announced the projects while addressing the inaugural session of the Bengal Global Business Summit, organised by the state government, in Kolkata.

The JSW Group has expressed interest to develop a 900 MW pumped storage hydel power project and a state of the art rolling shop for steel in West Bengal, company chairman Sajjan Jindal said on Wednesday.

He announced the projects while addressing the inaugural session of the Bengal Global Business Summit, organised by the state government.

"We are keenly pursuing a 900 MW hydro pumped storage project. This will bring clean energy to the state and we hope to receive this prestigious project through a nomination from the state government," Jindal said.

He had shown interest to set up a pumped storage energy project in West Bengal in 2019.

The West Bengal government has decided to develop the third pumped storage power plant at Bandhunala project in Purulia in PPP model.

"Furthermore, we are exploring the investment of a world-class roll shop in Kolkata that will cater to the steel industry," Jindal said JSW had commissioned a green-field cement grinding unit near Salboni. The production capacity of 2.4 million tonne per annum will be increased to 3.6 mtpa. This capacity addition is in line with the company's commitment to strengthen its presence in eastern India.

The company has plans to set up a paint manufacturing facility at Salboni later.

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Small cars and passenger vehicles segment facing affordability issues : SIAM

The Indian automobile industry continued to feel the pain during March 2022 which has been reflected in the domestic sales of two-wheelers and passenger vehicles falling vis-à-vis March of 2021 as per the latest data revealed by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) shows while exports are up, performance across almost every automobile segment in the domestic market remains firmly in the red.

Besides, the increasing prices, as well as the supply bottleneck of semi-conductors, has prompted automobile OEMs and ancillary companies to increase their prices. The increasing prices, as well as the supply bottleneck of semi-conductors, has prompted automobile OEMs and ancillary companies to increase their prices.

The semi-conductor shortage has even forced some companies to scale down production while analysts have warned that the bottleneck may last for at least a year or two.

Commenting on annual sales data, Mr Kenichi Ayukawa, President, SIAM said, "The year gone by was full of unforeseen challenges and new learning for the industry. Indian auto industry has worked hard against these challenges to keep the value chain running, to indigenize parts, control cost, invest in new technologies, and enhance exports. The Government also came out with targeted support like PLI schemes, FAME scheme extension, etc. "

Elaborating on the sales performance, he mentioned, "Despite some recovery from a low base, sales of all four segments of the auto industry are below even 2018-19 level.

While some segments like Commercial Vehicles and SUVs are seeing improvement in demand, the mass segments like two-wheelers and smaller cars are facing serious affordability issues. Of course, our immediate challenge in most segments is semiconductor availability." Talking about export performance, he said, "We are happy to share that all four segments of the industry have increased their exports. In fact, two-wheelers achieved their highest ever exports. It is good to see that Indian products are becoming more acceptable worldwide for their quality, cost and performance."

Commenting on the 2021-22 performance, Mr Rajesh Menon, Director General, SIAM said, "Overall Industry witnessed a de-growth of (-) 6% in FY22. All segments are facing supply side challenges and the industry is yet to see complete recovery following the disruptions it has been facing since early 2020. Passenger Vehicles, Commercial Vehicles and Three-wheelers have witnessed a growth compared to a low base of the industry in 2020-21, but the Two-Wheeler segments further declined by (-) 11% from the previous year."

SIAM						
Segment wise Comparative Production, Domestic Sales & Exports data for the month of March 2022						
					(Number of Vehicles)	
Category	Production		Domestic Sales		Exports	
Segment/Subsegment	March		March		March	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
Passenger Vehicles (PVs)*						
Passenger Cars	190,588	168,117	156,985	138,031	25,909	40,453
Utility Vehicles (UVs)	141,704	149,860	122,350	132,032	13,992	20,785
Vans	12,057	9,601	11,604	9,438	282	32
Total Passenger Vehicles (PVs)	344,349	327,578	290,939	279,501	40,183	61,270
Three Wheelers						
Passenger Carrier	62,726	62,812	21,779	23,011	38,767	38,217
Goods Carrier	11,422	9,267	10,531	9,077	1,005	318
Total Three Wheelers	74,148	72,079	32,310	32,088	39,772	38,535
Two Wheelers						
Scooter/ Scooterette	519,061	391,015	458,122	360,082	27,883	21,842
Motorcycle/Step-Throughs	1,381,625	1,135,153	993,996	786,479	327,347	329,399
Mopeds	50,135	34,550	44,688	37,649	942	0
Total Two Wheelers	1,950,821	1,560,718	1,496,806	1,184,210	356,172	351,241
Quadracycle	336	23	7	49	270	12
Grand Total of All Categories	2,369,654	1,960,398	1,820,062	1,495,848	436,397	451,058
* BMW, Mercedes, Tata Motors and Volvo Auto data is not available						
Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (13/04/2022)						

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Statistics

SIAM						
Summary Report: Cumulative Production, Domestic Sales & Exports data for the period of January-March 2022						
(Number of Vehicles)						
Category	Production		Domestic Sales		Exports	
Segment/Subsegment	January-March		January-March		January-March	
	2020-2021	2021-2022	2020-2021	2021-2022	2020-2021	2021-2022
Passenger Vehicles (PVs)*						
Passenger Cars	594,030	536,940	513,765	437,291	74,315	99,277
Utility Vehicles (UVs)	425,250	508,799	383,643	453,172	38,141	54,369
Vans	37,025	30,169	36,175	30,198	771	232
Total Passenger Vehicles (PVs)	1,056,305	1,075,908	933,583	920,661	113,227	153,878
Commercial Vehicles (CVs)#						
M&HCVs						
Passenger Carrier	4,943	5,862	4,744	5,362	1,211	2,695
Goods Carrier	82,622	92,872	75,790	88,612	6,593	7,126
Total M&HCVs	87,565	98,734	80,534	93,974	7,804	9,821
LCVs						
Passenger Carrier	5,688	7,564	4,662	6,942	733	534
Goods Carrier	141,939	166,404	125,160	148,890	11,503	17,000
Total LCVs	147,627	173,968	129,822	155,832	12,236	17,534
Total Commercial Vehicles (CVs)	235,192	272,702	210,356	249,806	20,040	27,355
Three Wheelers						
Passenger Carrier	175,984	178,188	57,680	60,328	119,272	110,947
Goods Carrier	31,943	25,758	29,080	22,890	2,335	2,736
Total Three Wheelers	207,927	203,946	86,760	83,218	121,607	113,683
Two Wheelers						
Scooter/ Scooterette	1,500,999	1,143,808	1,377,775	1,052,923	82,365	80,041
Motorcycle/Step-Throughs	3,971,854	3,202,478	2,820,684	2,188,292	1,021,538	1,020,073
Mopeds	176,351	115,318	155,140	109,282	1,774	1,782
Total Two Wheelers	5,649,204	4,461,604	4,353,599	3,350,497	1,105,677	1,101,896
Quadracycle	1,536	217	15	60	1,272	187
Grand Total of All Categories	7,150,164	6,014,377	5,584,313	4,604,242	1,361,823	1,396,999
* BMW, Mercedes and Volvo Auto data is not available						
# Daimler, JBM Auto & Scania data is not available						
Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (13/04/2022)						

SIAM						
Summary Report: Cumulative Production, Domestic Sales & Exports data for the period of April - March 2022						
Report I						
(Number of Vehicles)						
Category	Production		Domestic Sales		Exports	
Segment/Subsegment	April-March		April-March		April-March	
	2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22
Passenger Vehicles (PVs)*						
Passenger Cars	1,772,972	1,844,985	1,541,866	1,467,056	264,907	374,986
Utility Vehicles (UVs)	1,182,144	1,691,081	1,060,750	1,489,178	137,842	201,036
Vans	107,164	114,632	108,841	113,265	1,648	1,853
Total Passenger Vehicles (PVs)	3,062,280	3,650,698	2,711,457	3,069,499	404,397	577,875
Commercial Vehicles (CVs)#						
M&HCVs						
Passenger Carrier	10,010	15,510	7,322	11,804	4,040	6,499
Goods Carrier	171,232	256,657	153,366	228,773	13,508	25,682
Total M&HCVs	181,242	272,167	160,688	240,577	17,548	32,181
LCVs						
Passenger Carrier	15,475	21,984	12,088	19,957	1,641	1,785
Goods Carrier	428,222	511,376	395,783	456,032	31,145	58,331
Total LCVs	443,697	533,360	407,871	475,989	32,786	60,116
Total Commercial Vehicles (CVs)	624,939	805,527	568,559	716,566	50,334	92,297
Three Wheelers						
Passenger Carrier	523,314	670,779	135,414	183,607	387,397	489,535
Goods Carrier	91,299	87,309	84,032	77,388	5,604	10,195
Total Three Wheelers	614,613	758,088	219,446	260,995	393,001	499,730
Two Wheelers						
Scooter/ Scooterette	4,559,222	4,351,535	4,482,305	4,009,076	232,020	350,330
Motorcycle/Step-Throughs	13,154,501	12,890,149	10,021,231	8,984,186	3,042,453	4,082,442
Mopeds	636,218	473,172	617,247	473,150	8,313	10,246
Total Two Wheelers	18,349,941	17,714,856	15,120,783	13,466,412	3,282,786	4,443,018
Quadracycle	3,836	4,061	(12)	124	3,529	4,326
Grand Total of All Categories	22,655,609	22,933,230	18,620,233	17,513,596	4,134,047	5,617,246
* BMW, Mercedes and Volvo Auto data is not available						
# Daimler & Scania data is not available and JBM Auto data is available for Apr-June only						
Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (13/04/2022)						

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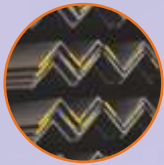
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