Conference on
STEEL IN INFRASTRUCTURE
Trends, Developments, New Technologies and Applications
January 9-10, 2018, Le Meridien, New Delhi

Organiser:
Indian Infrastructure
Steel in Infrastructure

Mission

- The steel sector is one of the core industries in India, contributing to about 2 per cent of the country’s GDP.
- The infrastructure and construction sectors are the biggest consumers of steel in India, accounting for about 50 per cent of the steel consumption. It is used extensively in sectors such as roads and bridges, railways, airports, water, oil and gas, telecom and transmission towers, urban metro, buildings and tunnelling.
- The past few years have been tough for the Indian steel industry owing to low prices, high levels of imports and sluggish demand growth from the infrastructure and housing sectors. Steel producers have not been able to meet their debt obligations, making the sector one of the leading contributors to the non-performing loans of banks.
- The situation has, however, begun to slowly change with increased government support and gradual improvements in the international price scenario.
- Moreover, with higher public spending planned on the infrastructure sectors in the coming years, the demand for steel is expected to increase. The decision to mandate the usage of domestically produced steel in government infrastructure projects is also expected to be a major demand driver.
- Meanwhile, the biggest development this year has been the notification of the National Steel Policy 2017 (NSP 2017). It aims for a crude steel capacity of 300 million tonnes (mt), production of 255 mt and a robust finished steel per capita consumption of around 160 kg by 2030-31.
- The policy covers critical areas such as self-sufficiency in steel production, globally competitive steel manufacturing capabilities, and domestic availability of key raw materials at competitive rates, facilitating foreign investment and enhancing domestic steel demand.
- In 2016-17, India’s total finished steel production recorded a robust 12 per cent growth at 102 mt, while domestic consumption witnessed a growth of 3 per cent, a modest increase owing to slow offtake from key end-user industries such as infrastructure and construction. Imports of finished steel also declined by 38 per cent. The year 2017-18 has seen a marginal improvement, with the consumption of total finished steel witnessing a growth of 4.5 per cent till October.
- While the signs of recovery are encouraging, a lot more is required. There is a need to ensure adequate and regular supply of raw materials. Another big challenge relates to lack of domestic product development capabilities, which, in turn, has led to the import of value-added products such as automotive steel, electrical steel (CRGO and amorphous steel), special steel and alloys for power equipment, aerospace, defence and nuclear applications.
- In addition, in the past, issues such as cancellations of iron ore and coal mine allocations, and delays in land acquisition and obtaining of environmental clearances have led to slow capacity addition in the sector. Increased logistics and raw material costs have also led to high operating costs for companies. Therefore, transportation of steel through coastal shipping, which is a much more cost-effective route, needs to be encouraged.
- Going forward, it is hoped that a greater focus on the domestic industry, coupled with innovations and indigenous R&D, will reduce the dependence of infrastructure sectors on imported steel.
- The mission of this conference is to examine recent trends and developments for the use of steel in the infrastructure and construction sectors, highlight the key applications and technologies, and discuss the challenges. The conference will also showcase the most promising technologies, innovations, solutions and best practices for the infrastructure industry.

Target Audience

The conference is targeted at top and middle-level managers from:

- Primary steel producers
- Secondary steel producers
- Stainless steel companies
- Government and policymakers
- Infrastructure development companies
- Railways
- Metro rail developers
- Buildings and real estate developers
- Roads and bridges organisations
- Pipeline operators (oil, gas, water, etc.)
- Transmission and telecom tower manufacturers
- Construction companies
- Technology providers
- Logistics companies
- Contractors
- Consultants
- Legal firms
- Financial institutions & investment firms
- Metallurgical equipment companies
- Etc

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AGENDA/STRUCTURE

KEY TRENDS AND OUTLOOK
- What are the recent trends and developments in the steel sector?
- What are the key issues and challenges?
- What is the outlook for the sector (demand, supply, imports, prices, etc.)?

GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE: FOCUS ON NATIONAL STEEL POLICY, 2017
- What are the key features of NSF 2017?
- What has been the response to the policy since its launch?
- What impact is NSF 2017 expected to have on the sector over the next five years?
- What other policy initiatives can be expected over the next three to four years?

STEEL PRODUCERS’ PERSPECTIVE
- What is the perspective of Indian steel producers on the steel industry?
- What are their investment plans and strategies to meet future demand from the infrastructure sectors?
- What are the key issues and challenges?
- What are their expectations from the government?

CUSTOMER PERSPECTIVE: TRANSMISSION AND TELECOM TOWERS
- What is the demand for steel from the transmission and telecom tower segments?
- What are the recent innovations and best practices?
- What are the key issues and challenges?

CUSTOMER PERSPECTIVE: PIPING AND PIPELINES
- What is the demand for steel from the piping and pipeline industry (water, oil and gas, etc.)?
- What are the recent innovations and best practices?
- What are the key issues and challenges?

CUSTOMER PERSPECTIVE: RAILWAYS
- What are the requirements of the railways with respect to steel?
- What are the recent innovations in products? What are the best practices?
- What are the key issues and challenges?

CUSTOMER PERSPECTIVE: ROADS AND BRIDGES
- What is the demand for steel from the roads and bridges sector?
- What are the recent innovations and best practices?
- What are the key issues and challenges?

CUSTOMER PERSPECTIVE: URBAN METRO SYSTEMS
- What is the demand for steel from urban metro systems?
- What are the recent innovations and best practices?
- What are the key issues and challenges?

CUSTOMER PERSPECTIVE: BUILDINGS AND REAL ESTATE
- What is the demand for steel from the buildings/real estate sector?
- What are the key innovations and best practices?
- What are the key issues and challenges?

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS
- What are the current challenges regarding the handling and transportation of steel and its raw material?
- What is the potential of using the waterways and coastal shipping route for the transportation of steel?
- What are the plans to improve connectivity (rail, road, conveyors, etc.) to major steel producing states?

TRENDS IN STEEL COSTS AND TARIFFS
- What have been the trends in steel production costs?
- What have been the trends in steel prices? How is the recent increase in international steel prices expected to impact demand?
- What is the outlook for costs and prices?

MAKE IN INDIA INITIATIVE
- What are the opportunities for the steel industry under the Make in India initiative (specialised types of steel like CRGO, electric steel, etc.)?
- What are the specific initiatives being undertaken in this regard?
- What are the key issues and challenges?

IMPACT OF GST
- What is the impact of GST on steel producers and other stakeholders?
- What is the impact on the major raw materials and their costs?
- How are the major consuming sectors such as infrastructure expected to be impacted?
- What are the key concerns for infrastructure sector consumers?

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
- What are the key trends in the technology market?
- What are the recent innovations in steel in India?
- What are the global advances? Which of these are the most relevant for India?
- What are the key issues and challenges?

The key technologies that will be covered here include:
- Earthquake-resistant steel
- Stainless Steel
- Corrosion-resistant steel
- High tensile steel
- Energy-efficient steel products
- Dry slag granulation technology
- Others

KEY CHALLENGES FOR THE STEEL INDUSTRY
- What are the key raw material procurement challenges being faced by the steel industry?
- What are the challenges being faced with respect to material handling?
- What are the key solutions/technologies being adopted to improve steel handling in India?

Organisers
The conference is being organised by India Infrastructure Publishing, the leading provider of information on the infrastructure sectors. The company publishes Indian Infrastructure (a magazine on infrastructure policy and finance), Power Line (India’s premier power magazine), and Renewable Watch (covers the entire spectrum of renewable energy). It also publishes a series of reports on the construction and infrastructure sector including Construction in India; Infrastructure projects in pipeline; Real estate in India, and many more. India Infrastructure also has reports on railways, metros, roads and highways, gas pipelines, etc.

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