

[SRMA calls for pragmatic approach to Shah Commission report about illegal mining](#)

Mr RL Arora Executive Director of Steel Re-Rolling Mills' Association of India vide a release said that "These days the illegal mining has detected by Justice M B Shah Commission is high on air and on print media as well. We firmly believe that the persons behind such illegal mining should be brought to book and wealth of the country, be restored back to the nation. At the same time it should also be kept in mind that in a bid to punish the culprits innocent people are not hanged."

He said "Last 3 / 4 years when illegal mining was detected the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India took initiative and formed Justice M B Shah Commission to investigate the matter and at the same time the Apex Court ordered closure of huge number of mines in Karnataka, Goa and Odisha. This resulted in closure of huge number of Steel Industry totally dependent on iron ore and lot of them have run into CDR /NPA with various banks. It is a known fact that steel sector is one of the highest in the CDR / NPA list of various Banks."

He said "If due to such reporting a similar action is taken, steel industry, particularly those who are not supported with captive mind will collapse, endangering the finance involve and livelihood of lakhs of individuals employed directly or indirectly in those industries."

He added "We fear that there may be an unfortunate situation wherein due to knee jerk reaction government may order closure of several mines pending further investigation of report of SHAH COMMISSION. This would be most fatal to the survival of steel industry resulting in complete closure. Therefore , we would request you represent at various state government , Central government level , various leading media houses etc not order closure of any running mines. The government may impose / recover any financial penalty they deem fit. If required the new accrual revenue may be deposited in an escrow account with the Government and day to day running expenditures of the mines may be cleared from that account. The Government may adopt any other modality they deem fit, but no action should result in decrease of mineral production, but only should increase the same."

He added "Further, if ore is not exploited and value addition is not done than the nation will loose not only the timely excavation of the minerals but also the development and revenue of the country."

Source – Strategic Research Institute

www.steelguru.com

[Classification of Steel Plants by Ministry of Steel](#)

Steelemakers have approached Ministry of Steel for certificate that can testify their status them from a Non-primary or Secondary to a Primary Steel plant. Ministry is presently in discussions with a Kolkata based Joint Plant Committee for the classification of Steel plants and issuing certificates to these companies.



Steel plants and producers are classified on the basis of vintage, process route, size, level of integration etc. Some of the commonly used classification of Steel plants is Primary Steel Plants, Secondary Steel Plants, Integrated Steel Plants, Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) Unit, and Electric Induction Furnace (EIF) Unit.

Ministry of Steel has released guidelines to add clarity in the classification of Steel producers in the private as well as public domain released on 23 Dec, 2013.

Guidelines as follows:

- (1) On the basis of Process Route or Adopted Technology
- (2) On the basis of Size or Capacity.

Steel plants on the basis of process route/technology adopted can be further classified as:

a) Primary Steel Producers: Steel Producers who begin production of Iron i.e. production of Hot Metal or Sponge iron, using Iron ore (virgin or processed) are known as Primary Steel producers. They produce Crude Steel of standard specifications, with or without rolling/processing facilities for Iron production.

b) Secondary Steel Producers: Steel producers comprises of those with EAF and EIF regardless of rolling process facility for Crude Steel production and those processors of Hot-rolling mills, Cold-rolling mills, Galvanizing units etc are Secondary Steel Producers.

Steel plants on the basis of size and capacity are also classified as Integrated Steel plants and Mini Steel plants.

Primary Steel producers with rolling facilities having a minimum capacity of 1 MnT pa in terms of Crude Steel in a single location and capable of producing Steel products as per standard specifications are Integrated Steel producers. While, Steel producers with a capacity less than 1 MnT pa are the Mini Steel plants.

Ministry of Steel has issued notifications regarding certification and stated that certificates will be issued on the above mentioned guidelines on a specific request by Steel plants or companies.

Source : <http://news.steel-360.com>

Valuation of Indian iron ore assets of Stemcor falls – Report

Financial Express reported that Stemcor India, which had put up its assets in India for sale since September, has seen its valuations tumble to almost 50% of what was earlier quoted when the asset was first put on the block.

According to sources in companies currently looking at buying the assets, their current value is being pegged at not more than INR 3,500 to 4,000 crore or roughly in the range of USD 600 million, against an earlier estimated figure of USD 1 to 1.2 billion.

This is a downward revision since September 2013 and ushers in better negotiation power for companies like JSW Steel, Jindal Steel and Power, Essel Mining of the Aditya Birla Group, Essar Steel and Visa Steel.

In fact, with the interested bidders now progressing with their due diligence of the 2 main assets of Stemcor India and their accounts, startling revelations have come out forcing the interested companies to look at Stemcor India as not an out an out attractive buyout.

This has been accentuated with the Justice MB Shah Commission's debilitating report released on December 26th accusing most of the mining companies in Orissa of being involved in illegal mining.

The Commission report had said that all 55 mines around the Baitarni river and its tributaries should not be allowed to operate till the time their environmental approvals are revisited.

A top official in the Orissa government's mining department, while refusing to divulge any more information said that "Almost all major companies are part of the Baitarni river iron ore belt and Aryan Mining is one of them."

Aryan Mining, which is the shining jewel in Stemcor India's crown, is also embroiled in litigations apart from the allegations of the Commission report. In 2012 to 13, the company had to keep its operations shut for almost 7 months as the state government had initiated investigation of various statutory compliance being carried out by the mining department.

Source – Financial Express

www.steelguru.com

Government committed to accelerate growth of steel industry - Mr Verma

Mr Beni Prasad Verma, Union Minister of Steel, said that government is committed to accelerate growth of steel industry through various policy measures.

Chairing the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to his Ministry here, he said that at present, the crude capacity for steel production is 96 million tonne per annum. Steel production capacity is being expanded gradually. It is proposed to expand steel production capacity to 300 million tonne by 2025.

Mr Verma said that "A roadmap for achieving the target of 300 million tonne of steel production is under preparation.

Public as well as private sector steel plants need to be involved to take necessary steps for achieving the target. This will result in increased employment both in public and private sector.”

He said that one of the objectives of the meeting is to sensitise about need for growth of steel industry in Kerala.

The review of functioning of MOIL Limited and MSTC Limited, the 2 Miniratna Category I PSUs under the Ministry of Steel were the agenda of the meeting.

He further added his satisfaction on performance of both the companies.

Source - ANI

www.steelguru.com

Shah commission report on mining scam gather dust in Odisha

The Shah Commission report on iron ore mining has the potential to cripple the steel sector, with the impact more devastating than the ban on mining in Karnataka and Goa.

The report has indicted both the central and state government for systematic illegal mining worth thousands of crores in Odisha.

MB Shah Commission has said that INR 60,000 crore should be recovered from miners for conducting illegal mining in the area. Naturally, the miners have trashed the report saying that government has received royalties and taxes over the years and it is improper to go back on contracts as old as 1994.

But, even the miners in Karnataka and Goa were paying a miniscule royalty to the government and selling ore at a huge profit. And where is the logic in not looking at records from 1994 onwards. These companies had started production without having the required clearances, in other words, they started selling iron ore which was not rightfully theirs.

Over the years they have digested the profits which has been ploughed back in their business to help them grow to the current size.

The report said that the TATA group, Birla group, even government owned SAIL and 70 other companies have violated environment and forest laws.

A scam hit UPA government has been sitting on the report for the last 6 months and was scared to table the report or even finalise an action take report.

Thankfully, there is a law that says that the government is obliged to table the report along with a memorandum of action taken in the parliament within 6 months.

According to the Lokayukta, loss to the exchequer in Karnataka was INR 16,085 crore. Shah panel on the other hand pegs recovery to nearly 4 times in Odisha as compared to Karnataka. Yet there is no sound bytes in Odisha, with few so called experts even considering it as a scam. Perhaps because 'big and clean corporates' are involved or the government is now politically immune to scams.

However, the fact remains that if the recommendations of Shah Commission is implemented, the sector will be facing tough times ahead. The commission has recommended a cap on iron ore production, review of environmental clearances to TATA Steel, SAIL and JSPL.

Source – Business Standard

www.steelguru.com

Indian steel market gropes for stability as consumption plummets

Indian steel market remains caught in dilemma of its own making at the end of Q3. Unlike other countries the Indian Financial Year ends in March and the by December end the verdict remains indicative rather than conclusive.

Not surprisingly the first 3 Quarters reflected the morose in market as steel consumption grew by just 0.5 per cent to 53.789 million tonnes. With yet another 3 months to go before the year closes results are not expected to be trend reversal though marginal improvement is not ruled out.

Reeling under credit squeeze all the core sectors of Indian economy has groveled without any growth thereby stemming consumption. Across the sectors viz., construction, white good sector, auto etc consumption has declined.

The consumption of finished steel, a key indicator of the health of an economy, was at 53.52 million tonnes in the first eight months of the last fiscal, 2012-13.

Indian economy grew by 4.8 per cent during July-September quarter. It had hit a decade's low of 5 per cent in 2012-13 due to poor performance in the farm, manufacturing and mining sectors.

Though the consumption growth in December was better at 1.5 per cent, it saw a 7 per cent decline compared to November this year, indicating that the base level demand conditions continued to remain weak during the current fiscal so far.

As the economy enters in Q4 market is hopeful of an improved performance with annual projects slated for completion before 31st March. Producers and traders are taking solace in increased cost viz., scrap and iron ore levels to push for price buoyancy unconfirmed reports about pick up in buying in Q3.

Recent price hike of INR 1000-1500 per tonne by steel mills has provided a cue for improved market sentiments. However a lot will depend on the credit easing giving liquidity to propel demand. Enhanced export up by 9.5 per cent to 4.136 million tonnes has led to shortage in domestic market providing the straw.

Source - Strategic Research Institute

www.logisticguru.in

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SC refuses to entertain steel ministry plea on mining cap

It is reported that the Supreme Court refused to entertain Steel Ministry's plea seeking relaxation of the limits of permissible production of mines currently functional in Karnataka.

A 3 judge forest bench headed by Justice Mr A K Patnaik did not accept the plea of the ministry after an NGO from Karnataka raised objection saying the application was aimed at seeking review of the apex court's April 18th 2013 verdict.

The ministry had sought raising the cap from 30 million tonne to 50 million tonne to meet the current shortfall of industry's requirement which was opposed by the NGO, Samaj Parivartana Samudaya.

Subsequently after imposing the limit in April 2012, the apex court on April 18th 2013 had ordered complete closure" of mines categorised as having maximum illegalities in Bellary, Tumkur and Chitradurga districts in Karnataka, saying illegal mining there has played havoc with the economy and has had a chilling and crippling effect on ecology and environment.

It had however, permitted resumption of iron ore mining in category A and B mines in the 3 districts but only after fulfilment of the guidelines, including reclamation and rehabilitation, as recommended by the apex court appointed Central Empowered Committee.

Of the 166 mining leases where the court had banned operations on July 29th and August 26th 2011, activity in seven category B mines was suspended by the court as they fell on Andhra Pradesh-Karnataka border.

Source - news.outlookindia.com

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Source - news.outlookindia.com

www.steelguru.com

Indian steel ministry target to achieve 300 million tonne

Financial Express reported that with a decade to meet the ambitious target of producing 300 million tonne of steel as set by Prime Minister Mr Manmohan Singh, the steel ministry has roped in the services of Boston Consulting Group to conduct an independent analysis of the challenges and bottlenecks hampering steel manufacturers and the industry.

Simultaneously, the ministry has also initiated an internal study to assess the current scenario, regulatory and policy hurdles and the overall challenges being faced by steel producers. Both studies are expected to be over in 3 months. Earlier this year, the PM had outlined a target for the ministry to produce 300 million tonne of steel by 2025, which will be almost 3.5 times the current level of 90 million tonne.

The country's largest steel producer, SAIL, has also charted out Vision 2025, in line with the target. During the period, the company intends to reach a production capacity of 50 million tonne per annum from the current 15 million tonne. Mr CS Verma chairman of SAIL said that "We plan to take up our present capacity of 15 million tonne to 19 million tonne by the end of this fiscal."

The ministry, in its mid year plan review, has identified iron ore availability as one of the challenges. It requires 1.5 to 1.6 million tonne of iron ore to produce 1 million tonne of steel. Over the last few years, there has been a decline in production and exports of iron ore. The production has come down from 219 million tonne in 2009 to 10 to 140 million tonne in 2012 to 13.

The steel industry registered growth of 13.3% and 9.9% during financial year 2010 and 2011, respectively, but Indian steel consumption grew at only 5.5% during 2012 on the back of a slowdown in demand from key consuming industries, construction, capital goods and automobiles.

Source – Financial Express

www.steelguru.com

Ficci for efficient use of resources

The Telegraph quoted Mr Sidharth Birla president of Ficci as said that policy intervention was needed to curb the import of coal and other natural resources, which were available locally.

Unveiling its economic agenda today, Ficci said that transparency in the distribution of natural resources and cutting down on imports were the need of the hour. Mr Birla said that "We need to cut down on imports of natural resources and concentrate on properly using what we have available abundantly. There is a need for transparency and certainty in auctions."

Power firms alone are slated to import 82 million tonne of coal to fire their boilers during this fiscal.

Delay in clearing mining plans by the environment ministry or states and legal cases have hampered the development of mines in India.

The industry association wants structural changes in Coal India Limited to promote private participation in mining. It complained that monopoly of Coal India over mining has huge national costs.

Ficci also wants the Centre to push for the goods and services tax at the earliest, arguing that this would be a game changer for the Indian industry and could add around 2% to GDP growth.

The association wants deepening of domestic capital markets as dwindling foreign direct investment has led to over-reliance on foreign institutional investors. Mr Birl said that "Deepening of domestic capital markets is the only lasting solution to improve resilience to unforeseen events."

He also called into question the efficacy of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, saying that it has drawn people away from productive or industrial employment and has failed to create assets.

Source - www.telegraphindia.com

www.steelguru.com

Chinese steel makers beat Indian counterparts - EEPC

Business Standard reported that Chinese steel makers have managed to beat their Indian counterparts by procuring basic raw material at a much lower price.

EEPC India said that "The international market for steel has been witnessing a turmoil Indian steel-makers have not been able to remain competitive amidst sharp depreciation of rupee."

It said that "What is even more worrying is the fact that domestic steel production will not be able to keep pace with Chinese output. According to estimates, India's production would grow at an annual 6.3% to reach 104 million tonne by 2017 from 78.6 million tonne in 2012."

After dropping from a peak in February 2011, the prices of flat/long hot rolled coils have started shooting up again since August 2012 with a sharp price disadvantage accruing to the Indian user industries such as engineering goods manufacturers.

It said that "Almost all steel makers have raised price between INR 1,000 and INR 1,500 per tonne with effect from January 1st 2014."

EEPC India chairman Mr Anupam Shah said underscoring the need for a national raw material policy which is amongst the top contributor to the country's overall export basket that "The cost of steel and pig iron, essential raw material for products is among the major disadvantages faced by Indian engineering user industries."

After recording smart increase upto October, India's engineering exports fell in November by over 14%. The shipments aggregated USD 4.78 billion in November compared to USD 5.6 billion in October.

Source – Business Standard

www.steelguru.com

Indian steel market remains suspended fraught with hopes of revival

Each passing day the suspense over market revival in Q4 thickens with swinging price levels both in input and finished steel. In its customary flip flop pattern the market swayed between band of +/- INR 200 in pencil ingot, sponge iron and scrap. The TMT and WRC price levels remain largely mute with occasional vibrations in isolated locations.

After a pompous price hike by mills in January borne out of cost compulsions rather than any market blips activity has eluded. It is learnt that construction sector has largely remained unresponsive with exceptions at some locations in South and West viz., Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Mumbai. The other locations remain sullen as usual.

Lending rate remaining hike and RBI obsession with inflation have taken toll of demand and new projects. Despite Indian mills pressing the accelerator on exports resulting in volume diversion from domestic market it has hardly affected the price levels. Stocks of TMT and other finished products continue to remain high. Hence realistically steel price levels have not shown much resilience. Major chunk of surge in export has been on account of steel major's viz., SAIL, TATA, RINL, JSW etc. These mills in any case have not ruled the roost in domestic long market which has been dominated by secondary sector. Domestic inventory value of long product have been unaffected by surge in export.

Market at the same time is not bereft of hope expecting a turn-around at the slight tweak of the lending rate by RBI. An encouraging drop in CPI inflation 9.87% the lowest in 3 months has raised expectation of drop in lending rate by RBI in January 28th review. With industrial growth slowing to six-month low in November, there has been a strong demand from the industry for a reduction in policy rates.

Steel consumption has increased by meager 0.5% in April-December YoY the slump must have just bottomed out.

Source – Strategic Research Institute

(www.steelguru.com)

In Jan 2014, new TMT (Re-bar) Re-rolling mills are going to begin in Raipur (Central India).

Central India, which has premium TMT (Re-bar) brands like Goel, Kamdhenu, GK and 20-22 other brands with total production capacity of approx 3 MnT pa, is about to add few more TMT brands in its capital Raipur.

SteelMint learned that there are 4 new TMT units which will start till Jan'14 by existing Steel producers of Raipur.

- One of them is Hira Group, also well known as Godawari Power & Ispat for its Pellet manufacturing. The group is starting unit for TMT with production capacity of approx 7,500-10,000 MT per month in Raipur.
- Raipur based Vandanaa Energy & Steels has also planned to produce approx 15,000 MT TMT per month.
- Gravity ferrous will manufacture approx 9,000 MT “Swadeshi500” TMT per month in Raipur.
- Other rolling mill is Raipur alloys & Steels, will produce approx 7,500-8,000 MT TMT in a month. TMT production has already increased by 15-20% in the installed capacity of approx 29.3 MnT pa on improved Finish Long buying and it seems that new plant will increase the production further in Central India.

Region	Annual Production Capacity (in MnT)
East	5.6
West	6.1
Central	3.6
North	7.8
South	6.2
Total	29.3

SteelMint 2012-13 (Provisional data)

Structure Demand seems Good in January – Market Players

Prices of Structure remain unchanged in Central India. Whereas, Western India's prices move up by INR 200/MT in last 2-3 days, but market recovered quickly by INR 200/MT after falling slightly.

Central India's Structure market remains constant from last week. Average demand hold the prices, while Re-bar offers fell by INR 150/MT in W-o-W basis.

During the conversation, a responsible person from well known Structure plant said, "*we already received booking for January in large quantity and expects that to increase in coming days. According to us demand is good till February, after that demand may slow down.*"

On the other side in Maharashtra prices marginally fell, but it's also recovered quickly as well. Prices increased by INR 200/MT and offers at INR 36,100/MT for 40 mm Angle. On an average basis 150-200 MT material sold per day in Maharashtra.

Source : Steelmint.com

India: Primary Steel Producers Increase TMT Prices by INR 500-1,000/MT for Jan'14

Increased Finish long demand already pushed the secondary Steel market northward. Sustaining this upward trend, now primary Steel producers have also raised their TMT offers by INR 500-1,000/MT for January, 2014.

- SAIL, one of the largest state-owned steel-making company has increased TMT and Wire offers by INR 500/MT.
- Tata Steel, an Indian multinational steel-making company has improved TMT offers by INR 800/MT.
- RINL, an Indian government-owned Steel producer, based in Visakhapatnam, has moved up its offer by INR 400/MT for TMT and by INR 500/MT for Round.

- JSW, India's leading integrated Steel producer has increased its TMT offer by INR 900/MT.

Whereas, respective dealers presently increased the prices by INR 500-1,000/MT which may further rise as per the new price list that will receive by the Company, SteelMint learned.

Primary 12 mm TMT Offers in all major cities:

Company	City	Price
SAIL	Mumbai	43,250
SAIL	Chandigarh	42,500
RINL	Bangalore	43,200
RINL	Mumbai	43,250
TATA	Mumbai	43,500
JSW	Bangalore	43,500

ED Included Price in INR/MT, VAT Extra

The demand of Finish Steel increase in comparison to last month. Demand is now more desirable and we are receiving calls regularly, said a well known primary TMT trader. Owing to shortage in raw materials and stimulated finished demand, TMT prices are increasing in the range of INR 200-300/MT on daily basis. Hike in primary Steel prices can also support to keep this increment, he further added.

India: TMT Prices boost up by 2-4% on M-o-M Basis

- Finish Long (TMT) demand increased across India. In contrary, North India is quite stable.
- High Price of Raw material (MS Ingot/Billet and Sponge Iron) supports the increment.
- Construction activity improved across India by domestic housing construction and Govt. projects.
- Primary TMT producers may hike offers by 2% for Jan'14.

North India: TMT prices increased by INR 400/MT in the North region. 12mm TMT offer in Mandigobindgarh, Punjab is at INR 42500/MT and in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh is at INR 40,100/MT.

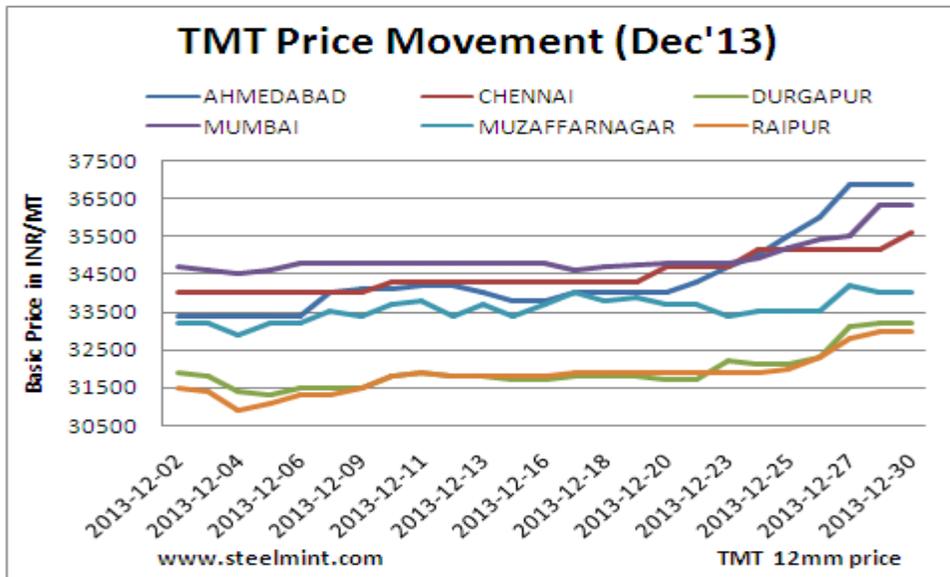
East India: In Eastern region of India, TMT prices stirred by INR 400-1,200/MT. In Rourkela 12mm TMT offer is at INR 37,500/MT, which is increased by INR 400/MT. Correspondingly, in Durgapur offer for 12mm TMT is at INR 39,200/MT and higher by INR 1,200/MT from last one month.

Central India: In Raipur, Chhattisgarh as well as Indore, Madhya Pradesh, 12mm TMT prices touched a range of INR 38,000-45,100/MT having growth of INR 1,300-1,500/MT.

West India: Major hike of 4-9% in prices is seen in Maharashtra and Gujarat. In Mumbai, TMT prices have improved by INR 1,500/MT to INR 42,800/MT for 12mm, whereas it is raised by INR 3,200/MT to INR 43,500/MT in Ahmedabad.

South India: In southern region, sustaining the price hike rally, TMT prices moved up by 4-7%. TMT prices see a northward trend in Chennai and Karnataka by INR 1,600-2,400/MT in a month.

Note: Prices are Inclusive of VAT



Technology has a major role in steel making

Satyendra Kumar Sarna, former ED, RINL & former MD, NINL, explains about the role and importance of technologies used in steel making process.

Technologies used in the steel industry can be broadly divided into the following four categories.

- Technologies related to the process of Iron making and supporting processes
- Technologies related to Steel making and casting
- Technologies related to Steel processing and shaping
- Technologies related to the processes which support the main processes of Iron making, Steel making and Steel processing

Satyendra Kumar Sarna

Former ED (Works), RINL & Former MD, NINL

Iron Making and Supporting Technologies

Iron is produced either in blast furnace or through direct reduction. As per World Steel Association statistics, 1,112.4 MnT of iron was produced throughout the world during 2012, mainly by the blast furnace process out of which a small amount was produced through smelting process. The contribution of India in the production of iron was 48 MnT in 2012.

Another 74 MnT of Iron was produced in 2012 by the direct reduction processes which have set a new record for the industry, according to the data compiled by Midrex Technologies Inc and audited by World Steel Dynamics. As per this data, DRI production in India declined from 21.97 MnT in 2011 to 20.05 MnT in 2012.

In a blast furnace, [Iron](#) is produced through reduction of iron oxide charged in the furnace in the form of Sinter, Pellets and calibrated Iron ore with metallurgical coke which is produced in coke oven batteries by the carbonization of coking coals. Sinter is produced by agglomerating Iron ore fines in a sinter plant while, Pellets are normally produced from low grade Iron ores which are first beneficiated in an iron ore beneficiation plant and then pelletized in a Pellet plant. Blast furnace coke is produced either in coke ovens by indirect heating of coking coals in absence of air or in non recovery ovens where coking coal is heated with the combustion of generated gases within the ovens with controlled air.

In direct reduction process, Iron is produced either in vertical shaft kiln which uses reformed natural gas as reductant or in rotary kilns where non coking coal is used as reductant.

The Iron smelting processes are in various stages of development. Out of many Iron smelting processes, presently COREX, FINEX and HIs melt have reached commercial stage. There are many other processes out of which HIsarna process is showing a lot of promise.

Steel Making and Casting Technologies - Steel making technologies follow three process routes which are (i) Oxygen steel making, (ii) Electric steel making and (iii) Open hearth steel making. As per World Steel Association, share of these three technologies in the steel production during 2012 was in the ratio of 69.6%: 29.3%: 1.1%. The corresponding ratio of these technologies in [Indian steel production](#) was 31.2%: 67.5%:1.3%. Oxygen steel making process includes processes like top blown converter (LD converter), bottom blown converter, combined blowing process and energy optimizing furnace (EOF). Under these processes, impurities of molten iron (hot metal) are oxidized with pure oxygen gas (99.9%) which is blown in the converter.

In Electric steel making process, electricity is used as a medium of heat. Under this route, Steel is made either in electric arc furnace (both AC and DC arc furnaces) or in induction furnace. Originally, these furnaces were used for melting to utilize the Steel Scrap which is generated during processing of Steel or from the Steel products which are discarded when their useful life is over. But now the use of these technologies has been extended and Steel is being made with input materials like Sponge iron and even hot metal along with Scrap. Use of these input materials has helped in control of tramp elements in Steel made by these processes.

[Steel](#) made by these processes is cast into shapes either by ingot casting or by continuous casting. Casting of Steel in Ingots is inefficient way of casting and has been discarded in most of the plants around the world. As per World Steel Association the percentage of continuous casting in total steel production was 97% in the world during 2012. The corresponding figure for Indian steel industry was 79.9%. Continuous casting process is used for casting slabs (width > 500 mm and thickness > 150 mm), Blooms (cross section > 150 mm x 150 mm) and Billets (cross section 150 mm x 150 mm or less). Continuous casting process is also available for casting of Steel directly into thin slabs (thickness 80 mm or less) or even strips in case of production of flat products.

Steel Processing Technologies - These [technologies](#) convert Cast Steel into final shaped products which are sold to the consumers. This activity is carried out mostly by rolling processes. Rolling is the process of plastically; deforming metal by passing it between rolls. It is the most widely used forming process, which provides high production and close control of final product. Rolling mill can be semi finishing mill (Blooming mill, Billet mill) or finishing mill to roll final saleable products. It can be hot rolling mill or cold rolling mill. It can be flat product mill or long product mill. The rolling mills are usually designated by the product it rolls such as rail mill, wire rod mill, plate mill and structural mill etc. Rolling mills are now-a-days set up with inbuilt heat treatment processes to roll out high quality products. Further, low temperature rolling is adopted to save on fuel. Universal rolling of structures has several advantages not only in rolling but it saves Steel weight when the rolled product is put to use.

Technologies supporting the above Processes - There are some other technologies which exist in the steel industry. These technologies are not connected directly with the making and shaping of Steels but they support main processes. Some of these technologies are calcination of limestone and dolomite, production of oxygen, nitrogen and argon gases by air separation process and production of steam and power in power plants using the by-product gases and thermal coal and waste energy. Also, in use are environment protection technologies, water and effluent treatment technologies, solid waste management technologies and many others.

Further, incorporation of computerized controls and higher level of process automation to various processes makes a big difference in productivity, reliability in operation and techno economics. Also, in each area of process technologies, several small, medium or big changes are taking place without making principle changes in the main technology. These changes are enhancing productivity, reducing specific consumptions, improving the process reliability, product quality and working environment besides making the processes safer.