

MINING IN
WILDERNESS

06

"NMDC IS SUCCESSFUL IN
RETAINING ITS MARKET SHARE"

20

STEEL RISES TO THE
CHALLENGES OF INDUSTRY 4.0

56

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AN IMPENDING TRADE WAR?

TRUMP
ARIFF
RADE WAR



INDUSTRY

- 04** | Can India cross 1 mnt in DRI exports?
- 06** | Mining in Wilderness
- 08** | Commercial Coal Mining: A Game changer for Coal Market
- 10** | Scrap recycling policy likely to be finalised by July
- 12** | Indian steel exports double in 2017, where is it going?
- 28** | 'Impact of US tariffs on India to be short lived'
- 40** | Indonesia Producers Brace for Chinese Steel Glut as U.S. Imposes Duties
- 50** | Sponge Iron producers, foundrymen knock Steel Ministry's door

BANGLADESH

- 26** | Bangladesh steel, scrap market snapshot

INTERVISTA

- 16** | "Secondary Steel Sector on firm ground"
- GAURAV AGRAWAL,
Head of innovation and digitization program, Real Ispat and Power Limited
- 20** | "NMDC is successful in retaining its market share"
N BAIJENDRA KUMAR, CMD, NMDC
- 44** | Coal India envisages producing about 1000 mnt by 2020
- P K SINGH RATHOR, Principal General Secretary, (AIACE)

COLUMN

- 30** | Raw Material Security: A Necessity for Indian Steel Industry
- 42** | Sustained training at fore front of ship recycling industry's transformation
- 56** | Steel rises to the challenges of Industry 4.0

STEEL INNOVATION

- 24** | India Perspective on Heavy Plates & its Technology
- 52** | Circored process of ironmaking

COVER STORY

BY STEEL 360 BUREAU



TRUMP
ARIFF
RADE WAR

AN IMPENDING TRADE WAR ?

US President Donald Trump's decision to put duties on steel and aluminum resulted in counter action from China, triggering a trade war and slowly hurting global economic growth. The impending global trade war is on as Donald Trump has announced steep tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum into the US to address what he says is an “assault on our country.” The president said a 25% tax will apply to steel imports, and 10% will be added to aluminum brought into the US. He said the excess of imported steel and aluminum was a “travesty” and hurts American workers and industry. Making the long-awaited announcement on 8th March, the president said the industry had been “ravaged by aggressive foreign trade practices”. “It's really an assault on our country,” he said.

“We have to protect & build our Steel and Aluminum Industries while at the same time showing great flexibility and cooperation toward those that are real friends and treat us fairly on both trade and the military”. — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) March 8, 2018

Trump & Trade War

On 23rd March as the news started to trickle with tariff imposition slowly taking shape and the picture became more clear when White House gave the European Union, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and South Korea, until May 1 to negotiate levies on steel and aluminum. The administration said the suspensions can be renewed or revoked then, “pending discussions of satisfactory long-term alternative means to address the threatened impairment to U.S. national security.”

But the trade conflict between China and the U.S. escalated, with Beijing announcing its first retaliation

against metals levies hours after President Donald Trump outlined fresh tariffs on \$50 billion of Chinese imports and pledged there's more on the way. China, being the largest aluminium exporter to the US, has decided not to remain silent about Trump's USD 3 billion tariffs imposition on Chinese aluminium and steel imports. The country has unveiled its plan on 23rd of March, 2018 to consider a 15 per cent tariff on US products including dried fruit, wine, and steel pipes, and 25 per cent on pork products and recycled aluminium, said the commerce ministry in a statement on its website.

INTERVISTA

The Steel360 covers intervista of prominent personalities of the industry.

The Magazine showcases the outlook on the industry, development, policies, technology growth through these interviews.

“NMDC is successful in retaining its market share”

NMDC is the largest iron ore producer in India and the company is engaged in the exploration of a range of minerals. Their principal operations include its three iron ore mining at Bailadila in the State of Chhattisgarh and Donimalai & Kumaraswamy in the State of Karnataka, each of which consists of several iron ore mines. The company sells most of their high grade iron ore production to the Indian domestic steel market, primarily pursuant to long term sales contracts.

NMDC has been reporting record production amid two price increases in the recent fiscal. It is also expected to benefit from the recent mining ban in Goa and Odisha. In first eleven months of FY18 that is during Apr'17-Feb'18, NMDC's iron ore production has been recorded at 31.32 mnt, up 3% against 30.33 mnt in the last fiscal.

The CMD of NMDC N. Baijendra Kumar, who took charge in Sept'17, an IAS officer of 1985 batch of Chhattisgarh Cadre was prior holding the post of Additional



N Baijendra Kumar, CMD, NMDC

Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh as well as Commerce & Industries and Energy Departments in the State Government of Chhattisgarh. In an exclusive interview with Steel360 he tells in length the strong presence of NMDC in the market, also about expected operational of the Nagarnar Plant.

Q. NMDC plans to produce 50 mnt by FY19, 67 mnt iron ore by FY21? What made NMDC to revise its target?

A. NMDC would produce ~35 million tonnes of iron ore in the current financial year. Production capacity will go up gradually to 67 million tonnes per annum in the next 4-5 years. NMDC has revised its targets keeping in view the potential of expansion and evacuation from its mines as well



NMDC Iron and Steel Plant at Nagarnar, Chhattisgarh

as changes in the legislative framework such as MMDR Act, 2015.

Q. Iron ore supply in India's largest iron ore producing state – Odisha have disrupted following SC order against payment of penalties. How do you see the iron ore supply from here on?

A. Yes, production in Odisha has been impacted for a few months on account of stoppage of mining operations from a few miners, who did not pay the penalties in time. Going forward, Odisha iron ore production is likely to be robust, keeping in view the growing steel production in the country. Further, production up to 2020 is likely to be high with many of the leases for non-captive miners expiring in 2020 as per the MMDR Act, 2015.

Q. Several reports are indicating high generation of scrap in China, do you see it as a challenge for global iron ore industry?

A. In the medium to long-term, China's domestic steel scrap is set to increase on account of fast growth of China's steel consumption that we have seen over the past two decades. In response to the same, limited quantities of substitution of BOF steelmaking with EAF is envisaged, sooner or later. However, huge capacities of steelmaking in China are through the BF-BOF route,

utilizing iron ore, which will ensure iron ore demand from the country.

Q. Indian Govt. is talking of uniform pricing policy on iron ore. What is your view on this?

A. With respect to pricing of iron ore, my personal opinion is that it should be market driven. At the same time, NMDC will abide by any decision taken by the Government of India.

Q. SC has increased iron ore output cap in Karnataka to 35 mnt pa. Will it put pressure on prices?

A. In the short term, there may not be any impact on supplies and pricing in the state, as the permissible capacity of the working leases in Karnataka remains the same at ~28 million tonnes. In the medium term, prices may ease due to increase in working leases and enhanced permissible capacities, as the cap of production has gone up to 35 million tonnes.

Q. Does NMDC plan to participate in upcoming iron ore auctions in order to increase its presence and market share?

A. Yes, NMDC will be participating in upcoming iron ore auctions based on the techno economic viability of the mine block put up for auction in order to enhance its iron ore resource base and increase its market share.

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