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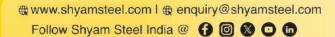
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Table of Contents



DECEMBER 2024 | VOL 34/M 05

SECTION FOREWARD		DECEMBER 2024 VOL	34/IVI U5
SECTION FOREWARD India's Manufacturing and Energy Transi	tion Paving the Path to Economic Gro	wth	02
SECTION A (India's Economy)			
ARTICLE			
India's Economy to Remain Strong Despi	te Subdued Global Growth		05
REPORT			
Index of Eight Core Industries - October,	2024		08
By GOVERNMENT OF INDIA			
SECTION B (Metal & Technology)			
ARTICLE			
Pioneering Circular Economy Practices ir By SMS	the Metals Industry		13
Addressing Steel Decarbonisation Challe	inges for Industry and Policy		19
By OECD	inges for modelity and roncy		13
REPORT			
Crude Steel Production - November 202	1		17
By worldsteel	*		1,
by worldsteel			
SECTION C (Coal) ARTICLE			
The Future of Global Coal Demand A 203	20 Outlook		29
The ruture of Global Coal Demand A 200	30 Outlook		23
Coal Monthly Statistical Report - Octobe	r 2024		33
By MINISTRY OF COAL			
SECTION D (Country Focus) ECUADOR			
ARTICLE			
"Ecuador: Balancing Economic Stability a	and Inclusive Growth Amidst Emergin	g Challenges"	38
By SERC			
SECTION REPORT			
India Strengthens Position as a Global G	CC Hub with New Policy and Incentiv	es	43
"Forging a Sustainable Future: John Cocl	vorill's Vision for Povolutionizing		47
India's Steel Industry and Economy"	Refill's vision for Revolutionizing		47
maia 5 Steel maastry and Economy			
Indo-European Symposium Strengthens	Indo-German Ties in Engineering and	Manufacturing	51
SECTION DATA BANK			
Steel Market Price			52
Registration No. 53085 / 92			
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FOREWARD

SAKUNTALA CHANDA Editor, SERC Industry Scenario

India's Manufacturing and Energy Transition Paving the Path to Economic Growth

India is poised to emerge as a global manufacturing and energy powerhouse, driven by supportive government policies, increasing production capacities, and a firm commitment to sustainability. The manufacturing sector, which currently contributes 17% to the GDP and employs over 27.3 million workers, is a cornerstone of India's economic strategy. The government aims to boost this contribution to 25% by 2025, laying the groundwork for achieving \$1 trillion in goods exports by 2030.

Manufacturing Sector: Towards Global Leadership

India's growth trajectory in manufacturing is bolstered by initiatives such as the National Manufacturing Policy and Production Linked Incentives (PLI). These measures are designed to enhance competitiveness and attract foreign direct investment. Simultaneously, Ease of Doing Business reforms have streamlined processes, fostering an environment conducive to growth. India is also embracing Industry 4.0, integrating digital technologies like automation, IoT, and AI into manufacturing to stay ahead in the global race.

However, despite these advancements, challenges remain. Historically, India's focus on indigenisation to strengthen its civilian and defence industrial base has yielded mixed results. To position itself as a viable alternative to China, India must rethink its manufacturing strategies, emphasizing efficiency, scalability, and international collaboration. Partnerships with countries like the US can be pivotal in transforming India into a global manufacturing hub.

Energy Transition and Sustainability

India's commitment to renewable energy is a key pillar of its economic and environmental strategy. The nation aims to derive 50% of its energy from renewable sources by 2030, a significant leap from 20% in 2024. Notably, India achieved its COP21 renewable energy targets nine years ahead of schedule in 2021, setting an example for other nations.

Currently, 40% of India's installed energy capacity comes from renewables, and initiatives like household electrification and clean cooking gas access have further solidified India's energy landscape. The country's ability to balance rapid economic growth with environmental sustainability underscores its potential to lead

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