





## #SteelFact

Recycling 1 tonne of steel scrap saves

## 1.5 tonnes

1.4 tonnes of Iron Ore, 740 Kg of Coal and 120 Kg of Limestone.

Source: World Steel Association



Steel Production through Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) uses scrap as an input & Tata Steel has set up India's first state-of-the-art scrap processing centre at Rohtak, Haryana. The scrap is sourced from market segments like End-of-Life Vehicle scrap, Obsolete Household Scrap, Industrial Scrap etc through Digital FerroHaat App. Sure we make steel.

But #WeAlsoMakeTomorrow.



Tata Steel is now a part of ResponsibleSteel™, the industry's first global multi-stakeholder standard and certification initiative.











## CONTENTS





STEEL SCENARIO V	/OL 31/M03	Registration No. 53085 / 92
EDITOR'S NOTE		Founder Chief Editor
Is this the time to role away from coal?	2	Late Dr. Monoj Chatterjee
		Easte 511 Money chatterjee
SECTION: ARTICLE Coal Conundrum - Would Steel Be Also Affected?	3	Editor & Publisher
By Kingshuk Banerjee	3	Sakuntala Chatterjee Chanda
A Greener Future Begins with a Shift to Coal Alter	natives 8	,
By Christian Bogmans and Claire Mengyi Li		Content & Marketing Executives
Availability of Energy Resources	11	Joyanta Mani
By ENERGY STATISTICS INDIA 2021 Reserves and Potential for Generation	14	Tanumay De
By ENERGY STATISTICS INDIA 2021	14	,
Comparative Risk and Return Analysis of Bombay	Stock 25	Accounts & Admin
Exchanges and Steel Sector in India		Gobinda Roy
By Dr. Pramod Kumar Patjoshi and Dr. Girija Nandir	ni	,
SECTION: REPORT		Design & Layout
Statistical Review of World Energy 2021	20	Prime Serviq
By bp		
		Representative in Bangladesh
SECTION: STATISTICS	6	Rifat Mohammad
SECTION: INTERVIEW		+88-01911394324
"BSE provides the best technology for secure trad	ling" 22	serc.events@gmail.com
By <b>Shri Ashish Kumar Chauhan,</b> MD & CEO, BSE		
CECTION COD A 11 111		EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD
SECTION: CSR Activities Footsteps Foundation Celebrates Joy of Giving We	eek 30	Dr. Narendra Kumar Nanda, M.Tech, Ph.D
Production celebrates Joy of Giving we	SEK 30 1	Sushim Banerjee, Ex-Director General - Institute
SECTION: NEWS		of Steel Development & Growth
Crude steel production - September 2021	31	•
World Steel News		Nirmal Chand Mathur, Stainless Steel Expert
DATA BANK		Dr. Shoeb Ahmed, Ex-Director Commercial -
Steel Market Price	32	Steel Authority of India Limited
		↑ Pritish Kumar Sen, Ex-Tata Steel
INDUSTRY SCENARIO V	OL 01/M03	▲ Debashish Dutta, Ex-General Manager - Institute
		of Steel Development & Growth
SECTION: FOREWARD		▲ Ishwar Chandra Sahu, Ex-Executive Director I/c
The Indian Economy Slipping down as Oil price sp	ikes 35	SAIL, IISCO Burnpur
		A Rakesh Kumar Singhal, Consultant - Steel
SECTION: REPORT		Research Technology Mission of India
Indian Industrial Lubricants - Market Overview	36	Abhijeet Sinha, National Program Director-
SECTION: STATISTICS	38	ASSAR
SECTION. STATISTICS	36	Divya Kush, President of The Indian Institute of
SECTION : ARTICLE		Architects Member (Alt.), Council of Union of
Industry POL & NG Consumption Report July 202	1 39	International Architects
By PPAC		Rajesh Nath, Managing Director, VDMA India
WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK - A Long and Difficult	Ascent 46	
By INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND		Nikunj Turakhia- President, Steel Users
CORRIGENDUM		Federation of India
In September 2021 issue, page number 37, instead of the quelucidate your CSR activities", the revised question will be		Sanat Bhaumik, Director - Sales & Marketing,
achievements during the pandemic period?"	Any significant	Steel Plantech India Private Ltd.
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## Is this the time to role away from coal?

World coal consumption fell by 6.2 exajoules (EJ), or 4.2% (its fourth decline in six years), led by declines in the US (-2.1 EJ) and India (-1.1 EJ). Higher natural gas prices and electricity demand are set to slow the structural decline of coal use in the European Union and the United States, which both might see their coal consumption grow for the first time in nearly a decade. China and India, the two most coal-reliant major countries, are taking steps to ensure adequate coal supply to fuel their economies and rein in imports. In China, the government is continuing efforts to increase the competitiveness and profitability of the coal sector. By 2025, global coal demand is forecast to flatten out at around 7.4 billion tonnes. Trends are expected to vary by region over the next five years. The international coal trade was seriously disrupted in 2020 by the Covid-19 crisis. Exports contracted by around 11%, with more than two-thirds of the decline coming from thermal coal.

Coal is at the crux of critical political discussions that government leaders need to decide if they are to transition to a green economy. Scientists say greenhouse gas emissions need to be halved by 2030 in order for the world to have a fighting chance at limiting dangerous levels of warming.

Today, several forces are rising against coal. People are clamouring against deadly levels of air pollution, caused by its combustion. Wind and solar energy, once far costlier than coal, are becoming competitive, while some countries are facing a glut of coal-fired plants already built. So, even in countries where coal use is growing, the pace of growth is slowing. In South Africa, after years of lawsuits, plans to build a coal-fired power station in Limpopo Province were cancelled last November. Activists celebrated outside the Supreme Court in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2019 after construction of a coal plant was blocked.

In at least three countries, Chinese-funded projects are in trouble or dead. In Kenya, a proposed coal plant has languished for years because of litigation. In Egypt, a planned coal plant is indefinitely postponed. In Bangladesh, Chinese-backed projects are among 15 planned coal plants that the government in Dhaka is reviewing, with an eye to cancelling them altogether.

Pakistan, saddled by debts, announced a vague moratorium on new coal projects. Vietnam, which is still expanding its coal fleet, scaled back plans for new plants. The Philippines, under pressure from citizens' groups, hit the pause button on new projects.

With coal used to produce almost 70% of all electricity, spot power rates have surged, while supplies of the fuel are being diverted away from key customers, including aluminium smelters and steel mills. Coal and coal-dependent sectors are providers of livelihood, infrastructure and cost-competitive electricity. The transport of coal contributes to 44% of Indian Railways' freight revenue, and since it is India's largest employer, any transition from coal is met with strong opposition.

Like China, India is contending with two key challenges: soaring electricity demand as industrial activity rebounds after pandemic curbs were lifted and a slump in local coal output. The country meets around three-quarters of its demand locally, but heavy rains have flooded mines and key transport routes. Coal-fired plant operators are faced with a choice: pay high premiums at domestic auctions to secure any available local supply, or enter a seaborne coal market where prices have risen to their highest level on record. There are some big exceptions. Indonesia and Australia continue to mine their abundant coal deposits. Perhaps most oddly, Britain, which is hosting the next international climate talks, is opening a new coal mine. And then there are the world's biggest coal consumers, China and India.

The future of coal will largely be decided in Asia. Today, China and India account for 65% of global coal demand. With Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Southeast Asia included, that share rises to 75%. China, which currently accounts for half of the world's coal consumption, will be especially influential. By 2025, the European Union and United States will account for less than 10% of global coal demand, down from 37% in 2000. Those pushing to end fossil fuel production now are missing the point that fossil fuels will still be needed for some time in certain sectors. Eliminating unpopular energy sources or technologies, like nuclear or carbon capture, from the conversation is short-sighted. Renewable electricity generation alone won't get us there — this is an all-technologies-on-deck problem. Alternatives can be adopted only as a long-term strategy, but the current crisis could be considered as a window of opportunity to not go back to producing more coal but to begin the transition to exploring green and renewable methods of producing energy.

Sakuntala Chanda

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