

The background of the entire page is a photograph of an industrial facility, likely a refinery or chemical plant. It features several tall, silver-colored distillation columns and storage tanks. A network of pipes and walkways is visible. In the foreground, there are large, blue-roofed industrial buildings. The sky is clear and blue. A semi-transparent red banner is positioned in the upper right corner, containing the text 'News and Views...' in a white, elegant script font, followed by a small white icon of a pen or quill.

*News and Views...*

Januayr 14, 2021

**GRAND BUSINESS CARNIVAL FOR METAL, MACHINERY AND MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES**



**3-5 September 2021**  
Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai, India

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## INDUSTRY NEWS



### India heading towards normal life against Covid

India has formally approved the emergency use of two vaccines against the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) as it prepares for one of the world's biggest drives and plans to inoculate some 300 million people on a priority list this year. Drugs Controller General of India VG Somani gave the green light for the emergency-use of two coronavirus vaccines, one developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University and the other by local company Bharat Biotech. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called it "a decisive turning point".

Serum Institute of India (SII), has manufactured Covishield, the Indian variant of the AZD1222 vaccine developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca, and already stockpiled some 80 million doses. As such, the rollout can begin fairly quickly.

The other vaccine that has got emergency use authorization, Covaxin, manufactured by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), could take a few days or weeks to be available.

First, the entire vaccination drive will be voluntary. The government has already announced that first in line will be 30 million (3 crore) workers in the forefront of India's battle against the novel coronavirus, including 1 crore healthcare workers and 2 crore frontline workers. Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan announced on Saturday (January 2) that the vaccine will be administered to them for free. Also receiving the vaccine in the first phase will be a third priority group – consisting of some 27 crore persons above age 50, and persons below age 50, but with associated comorbidities.

Details of how further 27 crore priority beneficiaries are to be vaccinated until July are being finalized. The government aims to complete the first phase of vaccinations by August 2021. The timelines for the rest of the population are not known as yet. However, it is not as though the rest of the population will have to wait until the first phase of vaccination is complete.

Other groups will begin to be inoculated simultaneously after some weeks or months.

SII has said it is ramping up production at its facilities. Also, a whole lot of other vaccines – apart from Covishield and Covaxin – are likely to be approved for use in India in the coming weeks. These include the vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna, the Russian Sputnik-V, Zydus-Cadila's ZyCoV-D, NVX-Cov 2373 and Biological E Limited vaccine. The vaccine has given a boost of confidence that an end to the pandemic is close.

– **BBC News, The Indian Express and Hindustan Times**





### **COVID-19 vaccination drive in India to begin on January 16**

The pan-India vaccination drive against novel coronavirus will begin from January 16 after the upcoming festivals, including Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Pongal and Magh Bihu.

Union Health Ministry made the announcement following a high-level meeting on Saturday chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to assess the status of COVID-19 in the country along with the preparedness of states and union territories for vaccination.

The first phase of COVID-19 vaccination will inoculate 30 crore people from priority groups. This includes 3 crore healthcare and frontline workers, along with 27 crore people above 50 years of age and the under-50 population groups with co-morbidities. India has approved two COVID-19 vaccines - Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin - for emergency use.

Commenting on the development later, PM Modi called it a "landmark step towards fighting COVID-19". "On January 16, India takes a landmark step forward in fighting COVID-19. Starting that day, India's nation-wide vaccination drive begins. Priority will be given to our brave doctors, healthcare workers, frontline workers including Safai Karamcharis," the Prime Minister tweeted.

During the meeting, PM Modi was also briefed about the preparedness of Centre in close collaboration with the State and UT governments for roll out of the vaccine in the near future.

"The vaccination exercise is underpinned by the principles of people's participation (Jan Bhagidari); utilizing experience of elections (booth strategy) and Universal Immunization Program (UIP); no compromise of existing healthcare services, especially national programs and primary health care; no

compromise on scientific and regulatory norms, other SOPs; and an orderly and smooth implementation driven by technology," the Health Ministry said in a statement.

PM Modi was also apprised about the status of Co-WIN Vaccine Delivery Management System. The vaccination digital platform will provide real time information of vaccine stocks, their storage temperature and individualised tracking of beneficiaries of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The Co-WIN platform has been built to assist programme managers across all levels through automated session allocation for pre-registered beneficiaries, their verification and for generating a digital certificate upon successful completion of the vaccine schedule. More than 79 lakh beneficiaries have been already registered on the platform.

The training process for vaccinators and vaccine administrators was also detailed out during the meeting. During national level Training of Trainers, 2,360 participants were trained including state immunisation officers, cold chain officers, IEC officials, development partners, etc. More than 61,000 programme managers, 2 lakh vaccinators and 3.7 lakh other vaccination team members have been trained so far as part of trainings at states, districts and block levels.

**– Business Today**



## First flight carrying Covishield reaches Delhi

India is all set to begin its nationwide COVID-19 inoculation drive, starting 16 January. The first flight carrying the Covishield vaccine, reached the national capital on Tuesday morning. The SpiceJet flight SG8937 departed the Pune airport at 8.05 am landed at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport around 10.15 am. The first consignment of Covishield consisted of 34 boxes and weighing 1088 kg, Ajay Singh, chairman and managing director, SpiceJet.

"I am happy to share that SpiceJet has carried India's first consignment of Covid-19 vaccines today [Tuesday]. We will be carrying multiple vaccine consignments to different Indian cities including Guwahati, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Bengaluru, Patna and Vijayawada through the day today," Singh said. "Today marks the beginning of a long and decisive phase in India's fight against the pandemic and SpiceJet is proud to assist in the biggest vaccination drive in the history of mankind," he said.

To fight against novel coronavirus, the country earlier granted emergency approval to two

vaccines — Covishield by Serum Institute of India and Covaxin developed by Bharat Biotech.

"Civil aviation sector launches yet another momentous mission. Vaccine movement starts," tweeted Union aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri. He added four airlines will operate nine flights to transport 56.5 lakh doses of COVID-19 vaccine from Pune to 13 cities across the country on Tuesday.

The central government on Monday ordered 11 million doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine from Serum Institute of India, the Pune-based pharmaceutical firm confirmed. The cost of the vaccine to the government would be 200 per vaccine dose for first 100 million doses, the drugmaker noted.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi underscored the enormity of what he called as the world's biggest vaccination exercise, saying over 30 crore citizens will get the jabs in the next few months in India against only 2.5 crore people vaccinated so far in over 50 countries in around a month.

- *Mint*

## India's economic recovery looks brighter than it actually is; worst over, regaining ground will take time

India's economy is recovering at a better-than-expected pace since the fiscal second quarter but it may take a long time to regain the momentum it had before the pandemic kicked in. The projected GDP growth does indicate that the worst is over, but it still does not indicate whether the economy has recovered the lost ground or surpassed it, said a report by

India Ratings. The size of the Indian economy in FY20 was Rs 145.66 lakh crore at constant prices. Further, it is expected to contract 7.8 per cent on-year to Rs 134.33 lakh crore in FY21, and grow 9.6 per cent on-year to Rs 147.17 lakh crore in FY22, according to the estimates of India Ratings.

Though in on-year growth terms, FY22 would appear to be an extremely good year, in level terms, it would only be slightly better than FY20. It would be only about 1 per cent higher than the FY20 level. This suggested that the economy will be able to just recover the lost ground in FY22, and surpass the FY20 GDP level in a meaningful way only in FY23, the rating agency added.

To further understand the actual impact of the pandemic and calculate the recovery in a more appropriate way, it is important to understand that if the pandemic had not arrived and the Indian economy had posted modest GDP growth of 5 per cent in FY21 and FY22 respectively, the size of the economy by FY22 would have been Rs 160.59 lakh crore. Based on this, even with a 9.6 per cent GDP growth, the size of the economy in FY22 would reach only Rs 147.17 lakh crore, due to the pandemic. On the other hand, to achieve Rs 160.59 lakh crore, the GDP will have to grow at 19.5 per cent in FY22, which looks impossible at the moment.

The above analysis shows how the enormity of the loss to the economy becomes quite unclear with an on-year growth and why there has to be pragmatism why calculating the recovery. India Ratings underlined that if the output loss is converted into loss in consumption demand and employment, the damage to the economy may appear even bigger.

- *Financial Express*



## What is causing drop in Covid-19 cases in India?

India on Tuesday reported 16,375 cases in the last 24 hours. It was the lowest tally of confirmed cases in the last six months.

Cases have been consistently decreasing since September when over 97,000 cases were reported in a single day.

The downward trend in cases is being attributed to 'localised' herd immunity in some of the hardest-hit areas of the country. Fall in testing not proportionate to fall in cases

There has been a slight reduction in daily testing in the last couple of months. However, the testing figures have remained above the 800,000 mark.

In September-October, over a million tests per day were being conducted. The last time a million tests were conducted was on November 29.

It is evident that the drop in testing is not proportionate to the drop in the number of cases.

One of the lowest test positivity rates since the start of pandemic

From a high of 11.2%, the positivity rate has come down to less than 2% in January. The positivity rate is the percentage of all coronavirus tests performed that are actually positive.

The World Health Organisation recommends a threshold of 5% for positivity rate. Anything over 5%, is considered too high. It indicates that the virus is either spreading too fast, or the number of tests is not adequate.

The low value of positivity rate indicates that

the virus is abating and the worst phase of the pandemic is likely to be over.

Barring a slight spike in cases in November, cases in Maharashtra have been falling since mid-September.

In Delhi, the only region to witness three peaks of coronavirus, cases have been coming down since November.

The southern state of Kerala too appears to be getting a grip on the virus after an exponential surge in cases in September and October.

Similar fall in cases was observed in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Localised herd immunity

Experts attribute the fall in the number of cases to localised herd immunity.

Herd immunity develops when a sufficient number of people within the community develop immunity against the virus. The virus, which is passed on from person to person, fails to find a sufficient number of people to infect and hence, its growth rate falters.

Experts say that as many as 50-90% of the population needs immunity to develop herd immunity in a country.

"While the actual numbers may well be underestimated, the trend of lower numbers appears to be real and the rate of spread of the infection is likely to have reduced," said immunologist Satyajit Rath.

The crowded urban localities and neighbourhoods where spread was very rapid earlier might be largely saturated, a form of hyperlocal 'herd immunity', Rath, from New Delhi's National Institute of

Immunology, said.

The lack of more travel and the distancing measures – however poorly implemented – may be keeping rates of spread somewhat lower in other less crowded neighbourhoods, he said.

Given a large number of infections in the first wave, it is certainly conceivable that some population immunity has set in and it is difficult for the virus to transmit as easily as it had in the first round, said epidemiologist and economist Ramanan Laxminarayan.

Shahid Jameel, director, Trivedi School of Biosciences, Ashoka University said that while it is unclear what per cent infection or exposure is needed for herd immunity for Covid-19, most epidemiologists believe it would be 60% or above.

If that be the case, we may be closer to it in some but not all locations, Jameel added.

Considering that we went through two important periods without any significant upturn (Dussehra to Diwali festive season and Bihar elections), I think that there would be enough infected people and we will not see a second wave, said the virologist.

– *The Times of India*



## Nesco to invest ₹325 cr. to expand expo centre

Nesco Ltd., which owns and operates the Bombay Exhibition Centre (BEC), one of India's largest private sector exhibition and convention centres in suburban Mumbai, has finalised plans to modernise and expand the facility with an investment of 325 crore.

In the same land parcel, the company operates an information technology (IT) park called Nesco IT Park. Nesco has now planned to build a new infotech park building spread over 40 lakh sq. ft at a cost of about 1,800 crore. and is working to get plan approval to start the construction by 2021.

"The estimated budget for the project is 1,800 crore for 46 lakh sq. ft.

of development. This will include office space, amenities, F&B area as well a 300-room 4 star business hotel. It is being designed by a Singapore based architect," Mr. Patel said,

"We have decided to progressively build new exhibition halls, replacing existing halls and convention halls. The estimated cost is around 325 crore," Sumant Patel, chairman, said in an interview. Mr. Patel said designs for the new Centre have been prepared by a renowned architect from Australia and work would commence in 2021. Nesco was among the first in the private sector to set up an exhibition centre in 1992 in Mumbai and since then, it had been hosting several national and international exhibitions. The company said it had a market share of 18%-20%.

He said all these investments will be made from the company's internal sources. "The

cash flows of about 2,000-2,200 crore will be staggered over a period of 5-7 years. As a policy, we will not be going in for any external debt and all our outflows will be funded by our internal accruals in its entirety," he said. "Our current cash reserves of about 700 crore will be used to fund these projects in addition to yearly net inflows from our various business," he added.

He said the exhibitions industry has been growing every year with increasing demand for more space from Indian and foreign exhibitions organisers. To cater to this the company is increasing exhibitions halls space at the venue. Though no exhibitions were held since the outbreak of COVID-19, he said a turnaround is expected in Q4 of this fiscal.

### – Exhibition Showcase

## India's economic recovery looks brighter than it actually is; worst over, regaining ground will take time

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– Financial Express

## **A second coronavirus vaccine developed in India is set to enter phase three clinical trial 'very, very soon'**

Indian drugmaker Cadila Healthcare is about to start a phase three clinical trial for a potential coronavirus vaccine, its chairman told CNBC.

"We're now moving into phase three, which is going to start very, very soon," Pankaj Patel told CNBC's "Street Signs Asia" on Tuesday. He said the trial will involve about 30,000 volunteers and will take about three to three-and-a-half months to complete.

The pharmaceutical company, which is also known as Zydus Cadila, said Sunday that it received approval from India's drug regulator to begin the phase three clinical trial after earlier studies found its DNA vaccine candidate to be "safe, well tolerated and immunogenic."

"We've seen that the antibody response has been very, very good, in the range of between 20 to 80-fold increase in antibodies has happened after giving the vaccine," Patel said, adding studies so far indicated that volunteers responded well to the vaccine. "We've also seen good virus neutralization with this and we have not seen any side effect which is of a concern."

"Overall we have very good results and we believe that phase three should actually show us the exact efficacy of the vaccine," Patel said. Cadila's candidate will likely become India's second domestically developed Covid-19 vaccine if it receives regulatory approval after its phase three trial.

Unlike some of the other Covid-19 vaccines, which require super-cold storage temperatures, Patel said Cadila's candidate can be kept stable at room temperature. That would make it easier to distribute to remote parts of India.

Patel explained that the company already has a distribution system available within India and that it invested in expanding its manufacturing capabilities. He added that the firm is also in advanced talks with several other countries to supply the potential vaccine once it is ready, but declined to name the nations.

South Asia's largest country currently has more than 10.35 million reported cases of coronavirus infection, second only to the United States. Just under 150,000 people are reported to have died from Covid-19 in India, according to Johns Hopkins University data. But official figures suggest that the number of active infection cases are declining.

India's drugs regulator on Sunday said it approved the restricted use of two coronavirus vaccines in emergency situations. One of them is a vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University, which is being made locally by the Serum Institute of India. The other was developed locally by India's Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the state-run Indian Council of Medical Research and was granted emergency use authorization as clinical trials continue.

**– CNBC**







### **Budget 2021 expectations for health, life insurance: Increase Section 80C, 80D limits, experts suggest**

Union Budget 2021 expectations for health, life insurance: In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, the insurance sector is hopeful that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will announce measures that will help increase the number of life and health insurance policyholders in the country

People's interest in these insurance policies has grown considerably during the pandemic. Certain policy measures may further boost this interest.

While noting that the regulatory environment has been extremely supportive to expedite people's claims during the Coronavirus outbreak, experts suggest increasing section 80C and 80D limits could help in increasing the insurance penetration further across the country.

"With Covid, the importance of health and life insurance has been inevitable, but a large part of the population still remains uninsured or underinsured, both of which are very risky for their healthy financial future. A great tax saving impetus towards insurance in 80C

and 80D would surely help in increasing the insurance penetration in Tier 2 cities and beyond, where the matter is even more prevalent," Dharendra Mahyavanshi, co-founder, Turtlemint, told FE Online.

Anuj Mathur, MD and CEO, Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance, also suggested an increase in section 80C, 80D limits. "In this budget, we also look forward to FM increasing the existing limits for Section 80C and 80D or should introduce new scheme(s) to encourage a self-securing environment in India," he said.

According to Mahyavanshi, the Regulatory framework has been extremely supportive in 2020 during the pandemic to ensure that insurers expedite COVID claims and do not reject the same without proper due diligence. The IRDAI introduced the standardization of health insurance products with Arogya Sanjeevani and also initiated the quick launch of Corona Rakshak and Corona Kavach plans with very affordable premiums to provide coverage to a higher number of people.

Also, to promote technological advancement in the FinTech space, the Regulatory Authority has been supportive of the Regulatory SandBox wherein the InsureTech startups can innovate different technological enhancements within the regulatory framework of the IRDAI to benefit

the policyholders.

"However, there are certain initiatives that the Government can consider in 2021 to educate the average people of India about including insurance as an important part of their financial portfolio," said Mahyavanshi.

Insurance plays an important role in Financial Risk Management for a family. In the ongoing pandemic, insurance has played a very important role in securing the future of an individual's family and his/her loved ones. Hence, experts say that both life and health insurance are must, specially for unprecedented situations like COVID pandemic.

"We believe that there is a need for special focus and attention to provide stimulus to the insurance sector so that citizens are able to secure themselves. At least for the next 3-5 years, there should be additional focus on Life and Health Insurance schemes and stimulus," said Mathur.

"In addition to this, the government may also consider revision in GST structure for insurance products and certain relaxation on existing 18% GST on premiums. Protection premiums are already increasing due to reinsurance premium hikes and Covid impact, so relief is required to ensure that customers are able to protect themselves with limited cost impact on their stretched household budgets," he added.

**– Financial Express**

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This program will cover Industry Updates, Launch of New Technologies, Partnership Opportunities, Industry Views & CSR activities. The purpose of this program is to keep customers up to date with developments in the Industry.

## INDUSTRY UPDATES



### Stainless steel industry seeks zero duty on ferro-nickel, scrap in upcoming Budget

Ahead of the Budget, the Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA) has urged the government to remove import duty on ferro-nickel and stainless steel scrap. Currently, ferro-nickel and stainless steel scrap attract basic customs duty (BCD) of 2.5 per cent.

In its recommendations to Finance Ministry for the upcoming Budget for financial year 2021-22, ISSDA has also sought removal of import duty on graphite electrodes. ISSDA said "it has appealed to exempt the 2.5 per cent BCD levied while importing key raw materials, including ferro-nickel and stainless steel scrap".

At present, both the raw materials are unavailable in the country, making their import mandatory, it said.

Removal of duty on ferro-nickel and stainless steel scrap is a long-standing demand of the industry. The Ministry of Steel has also at times battled for zero duty on these items. Stainless steel industry meets the bulk of its nickel requirements through ferro-nickel and stainless steel scrap route.

ISSDA has also sought removal of existing 7.5 per cent import duty on graphite electrodes, a critical component in stainless steel manufacturing which constitutes a major share of input cost.

Besides, it has sought an increase in import duty on stainless steel flat products to 12.5 per cent to bring it at par with carbon steel products and check undue imports.

These measures will not only boost domestic manufacturing but also curb "undesired" stainless steel imports, it said.

ISSDA President K K Pahuja said, "Stainless steel industry is ready to contribute to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' vision. This is the optimum time for the government to stop considering essential raw materials as a source of revenue and provide stimulus to domestic manufacturing by exempting duties on importing critical raw materials."

The suggested measures, if taken, will improve the competitiveness of the domestic industry and in turn, provide impetus to the MSME segment, which has a 40 per cent share in the domestic stainless steel industry, he added.

Additionally, undue imports have harmed the domestic industry which is operating at 60 per cent of its capacity and is financially stressed after COVID-19 related disruptions, Pahuja said.

"We request the government to rationalize the duty structure in order to catalyze the revival of this sector that has immense potential to generate additional jobs," he said

– **The Economic Times**



### Steel prices continue northward movement, hit all-time high

The northward movement of the steel prices remains unabated, with the rate touching an all-time high of Rs 58,000 per tonne (ex-Mumbai) for benchmark hot-rolled coil (HRC) product. This is amid constrained supply and pick-up in demand from construction, automotive and white goods sectors.

"Domestic HRC prices rose by a further Rs 2,750/tonne compared to previous week as major producers calibrated their notified prices with wholesale ones. As a result, steel dealers also increased prices to preserve their margins," brokerage firm Edelweiss said in a report on January 6.

– **Metal Junction**





## Steelmakers write to PMO defending price hike, demand iron ore export ban

A steel producers' body has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, explaining that the metal price hike was due to surging raw material costs, and demanded a ban on iron ore export for six months, an official said on Tuesday. The Indian Steel Association informed the PMO about the price increase of the metal after Union Road Transport and

Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari wrote a letter to the prime minister on the impact of rising steel prices on infrastructure projects.

"We would like to highlight some of the very serious and compelling reasons which have left the steel industry with no recourse, but to raise prices of steel from time to time," the ISA said in its letter to the PMO. Hot-rolled coil prices have increased by 46 per cent to Rs 52,000 per tonne in November as compared to Rs 37,400 per tonne in July this year. Rebar TMT, which is used in the housing and construction sectors, had touched Rs 50,000 a tonne, industry sources said.

The ISA mentioned about the issues related to iron ore, price rise of raw materials, shortage in global steel supply and lower capacity utilisation due to COVID-induced disruptions.

The steelmakers' body demanded a temporary ban on iron ore exports till the supply side stabilises for the key raw material.

"Due to a temporary shortage of steel in the wake of the COVID-19 disruptions, the international prices surged to over USD 750 per tonne from the bottom of USD 397 per tonne witnessed this year. As India is an open economy, the steel prices in the country move up with the global prices," ISA secretary-general Bhaskar Chatterjee said. He also mentioned that iron ore price has increased more than double from Rs 1,960 to Rs 4,160 per tonne in the period of June-December 2020.

"With an increase of Rs 1,000 in iron ore prices, the minimum impact is Rs 2,000 per tonne in steelmaking," Chatterjee said.

Iron ore production in the April-October period of 2020 was at 92.08 million tonne, registering sharp degrowth of 30 per cent over the same period last year.

On the other hand, iron ore exports had surged by 70.3 per cent to 29.2 million tonne in the first half of the current fiscal. Explaining why the metal price has been raised, the ISA said Indian crude steel production fell by 19 per cent in the current financial year.

"Indian steel industry faced severe disruptions in production caused by the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, many steel companies in India with sub-optimal operating capacity showed substantial cash losses due to non-absorption of huge fixed costs for the quarter ended June 2020," it added.

– *The Economic Times*

## Iron ore price surges to \$169 USD

The iron ore price has risen to \$169 USD per tonne, just shy of the record \$193 USD per tonne set in 2011.

BHP, Rio Tinto and Fortescue Metals have also seen considerable growth in their share prices, reaching record highs.

The materials sector as a whole is performing well, up 0.1 per cent on the ASX in early trade.

– *Metal Junction*





## Shortage of 12 lakh skilled welding professionals may derail India's infrastructure growth story

A number of infra-project contractors are using welding and cutting operators from China, Russia, and East European countries, including India, face a shortage of skilled welding manpower.

All projects in infrastructure, roads, railways, bridges, power, and shipping are highly reliant on the right metal joining technology which can only be successfully executed by trained and certified manpower.

The Indian Institute of Welding (IIW) has estimated a short supply of 1.2 million welding professionals including welders, cutters, fitters, equipment operators, and also engineers and inspectors.

IIW has petitioned the Union Ministry for skill development about shortfall on account of growth-led increased job openings and replacing the retiring workforce.

The current shortage of 1.2 million welding professionals may balloon to 1.35 million in the next three years. In view of the planned Rs

100 plus lakh crore investments in infrastructure development including road, rail, bridges, internal waterways, and power over the next five years.

IIW has sought positive action from the Skill Development Ministry to promote and propagate welding education of International Standard in India.

While addressing the media R Srinivasan, spokesperson and Past President of IIW expressed his reservations about timely execution and completion of adding 90,000 megawatt power generation capacities and creating new construction assets of Rs 52 lakh crore due to insufficient skilled workforce.

The national mission of building 20 kilometers of new highways each day is already falling behind. The 'Make-in-India' campaign has surged the growth prospects of the manufacturing sector but hue and cry of perennial skilled labour shortage have become vociferous in the construction, automobile, power, and defense sectors.

Skilled welding professionals at all levels; pipe and plate welders, supervisors and welding engineers continue to be in short supply.

The union government's skill development machinery which targets to skill over 500 million Indians by 2022 must work to overcome the severe shortage in employable skills of the Indian workforce.

IIW has offered to partner with the union and state government machinery to up-skill Indian youth and overcome the shortage of competency-certified welding workforce.

"We are keenly soliciting participation of bureaucrats and public sector companies in the International Congress 2020 (IC 2020) and Weld India 2020 Expo being held in February 2020 (Mumbai). The IIW will host a daylong session on Role of Welding in Urban and Public Infrastructure - Bridges", said Kamal Shah - Chairman of Mumbai Branch, IIW.

"Subject experts from oil and gas, thermal, nuclear, defence, automobiles across the globe are being invited. IIW-India plans to invite participation from senior officials of Public Works Department and Urban Local Bodies of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, and Karnataka. IIW is also keen to seek participation of National Highway Authority, Indian and Konkan Railway officials," he added.

During Weld India 2020 - Welding Technology Expo to be held on February 7 to 9 February 2020 in Navi Mumbai.

IIW plans to make the Indian welding fraternity sit together with government officials and administrators of the state-run ITI's to update their curriculum, match their syllabus and facilitate training with Industry participation.

"IIW branches are making a presentation to students to consider the possibility of a career in welding. The compensation for certified welders and welding technologists is very healthy, annual packages starting from three lakh up to as high as Rs 40 lakh," Shah further said.

"Many industries want to optimize their capital investments and rely on welders and

welding professionals who have the ability to rebuild fairly old and worn equipment. Such skills have become a rarity and are in great demand. If you dedicate yourself to the welding industry, you will never be out of a job," said Shah.

– **Business Standard**



## **VDW Revises Production Forecast for German Machine Tool Industry**

The Board of Directors of Jindal Stainless (JSL) and Jindal Stainless (Hisar) (JSHL) have accepted the recommendations of the respective Board Committees and approved the merger of JSHL into JSL. As per the approved share swap ratio, 195 equity shares

of JSL will be issued for every 100 equity shares of JSHL.

Managing Director, JSL & JSHL, Abhyuday Jindal said, "I am confident that the proposed merger of JSHL into JSL will enhance value to shareholders of both the Companies. The consolidation will enable harnessing of the complementing strengths of the individual Companies. Seamless integration of infrastructure, processes and operational synergies, along with a strengthened balance sheet, would improve financial flexibility. The merger of JSL and JSHL will also induce a simplified capital structure, expanding the turnover of the merged business to ~Rs 20,000 crore. With 1.9 MTPA melt capacity, the merged entity will be the only Indian Company in the league of top 10 stainless steel companies in the world. This transition will also bolster the government 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' mission."

Rationale: Consolidation of complementing strengths

Merger of JSHL into JSL will create a mega stainless steel entity that will be among the top 10 stainless steel companies in the world and the largest stainless steel company in India. The merger will not only enhance the Company's product portfolio, along with a 360-degree reach to better serve its customers, but will also offer a seamless, single-window, pan-India, as well as global network access to customers and further boost the 'Just-in-Time' approach. The consolidation of businesses will recast the merged entity as an integrated, modern

and 'state-of-the-art' manufacturing facility, bringing the diversified technology, talent and R&D under one roof. The merger will lead to the realisation of enhanced operational synergy, with JSL's proximity to port and raw materials, along with world-class finishing lines, and JSHL's strategic location around key domestic consumption centres. Furthermore, the merged entity will present reinvestment opportunities for growth by leveraging ready infrastructure at Jajpur for cost-efficient Brownfield expansions.

Structure and timelines:

Post the merger, JSL will be the single listed entity on the stock exchanges and the promoter holding will be ~57%, while the remaining 43% will be held by the public. As per the proposed structure, the mobility business of JSL Lifestyle, a domestic subsidiary of JSHL, would be merged into JSL. Non-mobility businesses would be carved out as a separate new entity, named Jindal Lifestyle. Post restructuring, Jindal Stainless Steelway (JSSL) and Jindal Lifestyle will operate as Indian subsidiaries, while overseas operational subsidiaries of JSL in Spain and Indonesia will continue to operate as business units of merged JSL. With the appointed date of April 1, 2020, the merger process is expected to be completed in H2 FY22. The merger is subject to approvals from statutory authorities, shareholders, creditors, and NCLT.

– **EPC World**



### **APL Apollo unveils low diameter high thickness steel tubes, "Apollo Mechanical"**

APL Apollo Tubes (APL Apollo) has launched 'Apollo Mechanical', a wide range of Low Diameter High Thickness steel tubes for use in heavy duty applications. Tough, long lasting and robust, Apollo Mechanical tubes are unique size tubes that offer high strength, uniformity and cost effectiveness at the same time.

Apollo Mechanical tubes boast immense mechanical capabilities owing to their sturdy built. An unrivalled innovation Apollo Mechanical tubes are ideal for applications that require higher load bearing capacity, hardness and toughness like agricultural machineries, lifting & handling equipments, industrial instruments, among others.

Announcing the launch of 'Apollo Mechanical tubes', Sanjay Gupta, CMD, APL Apollo said, "Apollo Mechanical tubes are our most talked about technological innovation that provides enhanced load bearing capacity, hardness, toughness and the ability to withstand maximum stress making them ideal for use in industrial instruments, machineries and lifting & handling equipments. Over the years, authentic and robust R&D capabilities have

been the key driving force behind our ever-growing ability to create new products and adopt new applications."

Apollo Mechanical tubes are used in Cultivator, Rotavator, Harvester, Tower Crane Mast Section, Mobile Gantry Crane, Spreader Beam, Monorail Crane, Hydraulic Cylinder, Axle, Trailer Hitch, Trailer Frame, Heavy Duty Chain Conveyor, and various such mechanical applications. Moreover, their pleasing surface finish, rigid dimensional tolerance, uniform strength and durability coupled with greater ease of fabrication altogether offer flexibility to the designers and engineers.

Produced from heavy-duty tube mills, Apollo Mechanical tubes are manufactured using high frequency induction welding and they pass through stringent quality checks at each stage to provide the valued customers the much-needed assurance about durability, performance and efficiency. Offered at a competitive price, "Apollo Mechanical" tubes are available in a wide range of sizes.

**- EPC World**

### **Kennametal Launches Online Aerospace Academy with TITANS of CNC**

Kennametal Inc. launched 'Aerospace Academy' in partnership with TITANS of CNC, a world leader in free manufacturing education. It is an online education platform designed to teach programmers and machinists about next-generation aerospace machining and manufacturing. Powered by the company's tooling, the Aerospace Academy, latest in the TITANS of CNC education series, includes modules on

CAD/CAM/CNC machining, automation & business management processes, and quoting. It provides a tailor-made, self-paced learning experience with aerospace projects that take the user from the design concept of an aerospace part through final machining and inspection, with each part of the process documented to ensure successful completion.

An included Knowledge Base provides suggestions for feeds and speeds, tooling and approaches required to excel in multiple aerospace applications. Each tutorial specifies the preferred Kennametal tool for the task, eliminating complexity of tool selection and enabling users to complete each build with confidence and precision.

"Through this special promotion and our partnership with TITANS of CNC on the Aerospace Academy, we're making it easy for a broader range of customers than ever before to access the sophisticated tooling and training needed to position themselves to win in aerospace manufacturing over the long term," expressed Ron Port, Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer, Metal Cutting, Kennametal.

Further commenting on the collaboration, Titan Gilroy, CEO, TITANS of CNC, Inc. added, "We've relied on and trusted Kennametal tooling for the most challenging aerospace applications with tremendous success. Through this new Aerospace Academy, we are teaching students as well as professionals the skills they need to be successful in the aerospace industry."

**- Modern Manufacturing India**





## ARCH cutting tools tops ANCA's third 'Tool of the Year Competition

With 28 entries, 1.2 million social impressions and almost 4500 votes, ANCA's Tool of the Year loudly celebrates the contribution modern cutting tools make to manufacturing, surgery, woodworking and other diverse industries. For example, finalist Ocmandy's tool makes the outside profile of the windows for the Louvre Museum in Paris. The competition glitters and celebrates these tools that shape our world.

ARCH Cutting Tools won the ANCA Tool of the Year with ZMK coming in as the runner-up in that category. ARCH designed a complex multi-functional tool measuring an inch in diameter with a long functional cutting length. The ARCH tool ticked every box to win the prestigious ANCA Tool of the Year 2020.

JG Group and Turcar both won the Virtual Tool category with entries that were so impressive, the Judges found it impossible to split JG Group and Turcar's submissions. They agreed that both virtual tools were complex and demonstrated great use of different cycles and operations.

Pat Boland, ANCA Co-Founder said: "The cutting tool sector has faced a significant challenge with the onset of COVID-19. In these conditions it is even more important to promote and recognise our contributions as an industry. This year we saw the most complex and sophisticated entries to date. Having been part of the industry for over 40 years, the technical advancements demonstrated by cutting tool manufacturers continue to amaze."

"I think of ANCA's Tool of the Year as the Oscars for cutting tools and am proud to take the time to recognise and reward the creativity and skill of manufacturers globally," Pat continued.

Winner of ANCA Tool of the Year – ARCH Cutting Tools

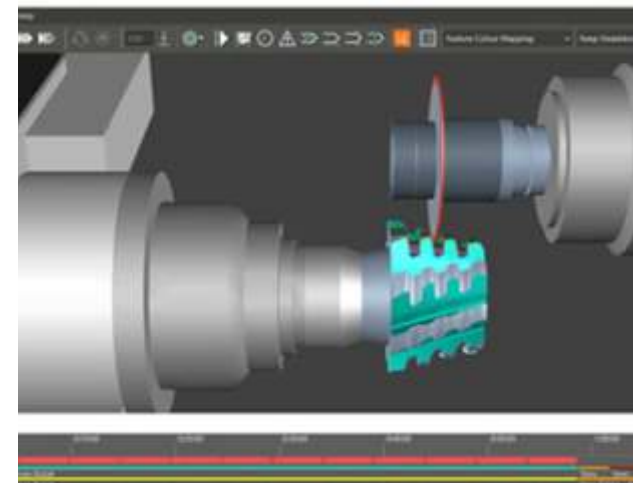
The overall winner, ARCH's entry demonstrated excellent use of multiple iGrind operations with several complex profiles. The tool came out in front of others when compared to the DXF and measured on the Zoller for Profile OD and Runout. The surface finish measurement on the Alicona produced a superb result. The tool also stood out in terms of complexity of grinding and was a large diameter (1") multi-functional cutting tool with many features.

Overall the tool was complete – ticking every box to be the Tool of the Year winner and was an exceptional effort from the team at ARCH.

"We entered to present and showcase our capabilities as a cutting tool manufacturer and to demonstrate the complex capabilities of the ANCA Tool and Cutter Grinder," said Jim Gray, President and General Manager, ARCH Cutting Tools – Latrobe. "Additionally, we entered to share with customers our own custom capabilities with solid carbide tools.

"Our entry was based on what we provide for our customers," he added, "it's multi-functional, providing the customer a single high-performance tool that's multiple tools in one. A solution-driven tool, that reduces the need for tool changes and increases productivity," Jim concluded.

– **Machine Tools World**



## Indian Casting Industry Poised For Significant Growth In Performance

The recession resulting from the pandemic has led to a devastated economy across the world in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic affected three primary aspects of the global economy: production, supply chain, and firms along with the financial markets. After the opening up of the lockdown started and manufacturing gradually began picking up, several emerging sectors are throwing up new opportunities, the more than \$18 billion Indian foundry or casting industry is looking to double growth rates.



Top industry officials are of the opinion that the sector, which has been reporting a growth of five to seven per cent in the last few years, is expected to witness 13-14 per cent growth in the next couple of years.

Over the years, India has been the world's third-largest casting producer after China and the U.S. While China accounts for 40 per cent of the world's 105 million tonnes casting production while the U.S. and India produce between 11 and 12 million tonnes per year.

Ravi Sehgal, an industry veteran who recently organised the 65th edition of the Foundry Congress said, "pan India, the targeted growth rate is 13 to 14 per cent as compared to around five to seven per cent currently. Make in India and other efforts initiated by the government to rejuvenate the economy will play a major role in this."

The Indian automotive industry, the fourth largest industrial sector in the country, is on the upswing and all global producers are relocating their manufacturing units to this region to be near the upcoming biggest consumer markets. At present, India is the third-largest casting producer in the world. This will further create more opportunities for castings and forging industries both for domestic production and for exports.

Casting and forging are one of the key engineering segments supplying various components to end-user industries such as Railways, Automobile, Defence, Aerospace, Material handling, Construction equipment, and Mines. In this regard, the Indian casting and forging sector is in a good position to

generate higher revenues from the auto sector. Major expansion of manufacturing units, by way of organic and inorganic growth, has been playing an important role in this industry.

Industry stakeholders are taking initiatives to acquire technology, knowledge, experience, and expertise in the industry. Meanwhile, the Indian casting and forging industry has upgraded itself to be in sync with international practices. In view of the enormous potential, domestic players have started building up world class capabilities by either putting up greenfield projects or acquiring sick global units and turning them around to set up foreign businesses in India.

According to recent data coming in, the Indian automobile sector is presently moving towards faster growth in the new fiscal year with robust sales across all vehicle categories. Industry body, the Association of Indian Forging Industry (AIFI), recently said that in comparison to the usual trend of low production during the months of April-May, the year 2018-19 saw the industry facing continuous higher demand during the first quarter.

Government of India's 'Make in India' programme aims to raise the contribution of the manufacturing sector to 25 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product by 2025. The Indian Automotive industry commands 22 per cent of India manufacturing GDP and seven per cent of India's overall GDP. The mammoth shadow of China on the Indian automotive industry should be decreasing in the days to come, as the world's biggest car

market at about 28 million a year, is expected to finally report a slowing down of growth.

Any automotive industry depends significantly on steel-forged metal components. The industry's products are used for demanding applications such as crankshafts, transmission gears, and bearings, and are essential in handling the torque and stress placed on these components.

Stiff competition among key auto industry players is primarily driving the demand for more attractive and lightweight vehicles in the country. Tecnova, the India management consultant hopes that in almost no time, the Indian casting and forging industry is going to be at par with China. Moreover, the forging industry is looking to double its growth rate spurred by imminent demand from emerging sectors, resulting in an increase in the set-up of foreign business in India.

Around two years ago, the industry was passing through a lean phase with many units shutting down due to lack of business. But things have looked up now and an air of optimism prevails.

Though the industry is hit by demonetisation and the effect of GST is yet to come, still, there is a sense of positivity. With the opportunities, India is doubling the growth targets. Fundamentally, the growth should be coming from agriculture, infrastructure, water pipes, wind turbines, automotive, railways, defence and oil and gas sectors, industry players said.

The first two years, i.e. from 2014 to 2016, of the NDA government, the regime could not deliver any major infrastructure project. But now that the government has actually settled in, it is kick starting infrastructure development, said industry players.

Significant amounts of orders are expected to come from the railways sector as more than 2,000 locomotives are to be manufactured in India. New railway lines also provide opportunities to the foundries, said industry executives.

Although the automotive sector, the main stay of the sector, is picking up, the tractor industry is also poised for growth as India had a good harvest this year. The Union government's decision to provide clean drinking water in every village should also augment business for the sector.

Moreover, organisations in the sector are eyeing a boost in their exports as well. At this point in time, the Indian casting industry caters to only four per cent of the global market. This means that it can scale up the exports way more and do good for the sector. If the country can achieve six to seven per cent, we will be almost doubling the capacity. This actually means there is a huge potential for the Indian companies to drive up revenues.

However, in spite of the opportunities, the industry faces several challenges and these need to be addressed on a priority basis. Primarily, the industry lacks acutely the resources for upgrading its technological status and there is also a dearth of quality or skilled manpower.

*– Engineering Review*

## **Top 4 steel players output rises 6% to about 15MT in Oct-Dec**

The country's top four steel makers jointly produced 14.95 million tonne (MT) steel in the October-December quarter of the current

fiscal, registering a 6 per cent year-on-year rise. The total steel output of JSPL, JSW Steel, SAIL and Tata Steel India was 14.09 MT during the same quarter of 2019-20. During the quarter under review, the total sales of the steel producers - excluding JSW Steel - surged 2.25 per cent to 10.88 MT, as against 10.64 MT in the year-ago quarter, according to the data provided by the companies. Among all four steel players, Tata Steel India was the top producer in the October-December period of FY21. Its total output from India operations was 4.60 MT during in the quarter. Also Read - 'Include natural gas under GST to push for gas-based economy' At 4.60 MT, the company's output was 3 per cent higher compared to 4.47 MT steel it had produced in the year-ago period. Its sales from India operations slipped 4 per cent to 4.66 MT from 4.85 MT. State-owned Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) production grew 9 per cent to 4.37 MT steel during October-December compared to 4 MT a year ago. Its total sales were at 4.32 MT, up about 6 per cent from 4.09 MT in the same quarter preceding fiscal. JSW Steel's output during the period under review rose 2 per cent to 4.08 MT, as against 4.02 MT in the year-ago period. The company did not provide its sales figures for the quarter. Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) output surged 18 per cent to 1.9 MT in the October-December quarter from 1.6 MT a year ago. Its sales increased by 12 per cent to 1.9 MT from 1.7 MT. JSPL, JSW Steel, SAIL and Tata Steel India jointly contribute about 45 per cent to India's total steel production annually.

*– Metal Junction*



## India Ratings & Research and CARE upgrade JSL rating from BBB to BBB+

Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL) has been accorded rating upgrades to 'IND BBB+' by India Ratings and Research, and 'CARE BBB+' with a stable outlook by CARE Ratings, for its credit facilities. Previously assigned ratings by the agencies were that of 'IND BBB' and 'CARE BBB' respectively, assigned in August, 2020. The rating upgrades come after a series of positive developments in the last few months, despite pandemic-induced disruptions.

Managing Director, JSL, Mr Abhyuday Jindal said, "The rating upgrade reflects an overall improvement in the financial profile of JSL. Both agencies have shared a positive response for the way JSL was able to cope with the effects of the pandemic. Our focus on strengthening our balance sheet, along with maintaining robust operating performance, have been the key drivers of this upward revision. The ratings acknowledge our well diversified product portfolio and sound risk-mitigation strategies."

India Ratings & Research (Ind Ra) ascribed the upward revision to Company's faster-than-expected balance sheet deleveraging, supported by better-than-expected capacity utilisation, higher-than-expected improvement in EBITDA/tonne, well managed working capital cycle and only modest capex outflows. The agency took note of operating performance of JSL led by strong domestic demand momentum. Ind Ra has placed JSL on Rating Watch Positive (RWP), which reflects its optimistic expectation on the

proposed JSL-JSHL merger, through 'industry-leading scale of operations and better financial metrics, greater financial flexibility and improved liquidity position'.

CARE Ratings points to a better than expected recovery in the operational performance and has found JSL's consistent debt reduction as one of the major reasons for this rating upgrade. The ability to increase production as per sustained market demand has also worked in JSL's favour. Furthermore, CARE has placed JSL on credit watch with developing implications on account of the recent announcement of the merger of JSHL with JSL, in compliance with SEBI guidelines on monitoring and review of ratings by Credit Rating Agencies.

Excerpts from the reports:

India Ratings reports JSL's key rating drivers as, "...the entity would also have operational diversification, as JSL's Jajpur plant would benefit from efficient raw material procurement and export markets due to port proximity, while JSHL's Hisar plant would benefit from its proximity to domestic consumption hubs. Ind-Ra expects a meaningful improvement in the financial profile of the merged entity, given the loan knock off, resulting in lower leverage, greater financial flexibility, and better access to the banking system and capital markets. Ind-Ra expects the total balance sheet debt (including letters of credit (LC) acceptances) of the combined entity to be around INR 58 billion at end-FY21, (FY20: INR 67.5 billion), with EBITDA of around INR 20.6 billion (INR 20.7 billion), on account of the debt repayment and intercompany debt knock

off, resulting in the net adjusted leverage being below 3x. Ind-Ra expects the consolidated EBITDA/tonne to increase to INR 13,600 in FY21 (FY19-FY20: around INR 12,500), against the agency's earlier expectations of INR 11,700 amidst COVID-19-led concerns, due to the strong uptick in gross margins from 2QFY21 onwards. The management has enhanced focus on strengthening the balance sheet over FY21, with accelerated long-term debt repayments using strong free cash flows achieved by strong profitability, optimized working capital cycle and minimal capex outflows. The agency expects its debt-service coverage ratio to be comfortable at about 1.3x and 1.6x over FY21 and Fy22, respectively, as per the scheduled repayments."

CARE Ratings reports JSL's key rating drivers as, "...After a subdued operational performance in Q1FY21 (refers to the period of April 1 to June 30) due to covid-19 led disruptions, the company has witnessed substantial increase in sales volumes in Q2FY21 leading to a total sales volume of 3.19 lakh MT in H1FY21 (FY20: 9.16 lakh MT and H1FY20: 4.55 lakh MT)... JSL's overall gearing improved as on September 30, 2020, however, stood moderate at 1.65x (March 31, 2020: 1.94x)... CARE expects the merger is expected to bring in more financial flexibility to the group with a reduction in debt levels of JSL to the tune of Rs 900 crore due to cancellation of inter corporate deposits extended by JSHL to JSL.

**– Metal Junction**



## Indian auto industry is expected to see stronger growth in 2021-22: Nomura Research Institute

The Indian auto industry is expected to see stronger growth in 2021-22, after recovering from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, with electric vehicle sales, especially two-wheelers, also likely to see positive movements, according to Nomura Research Institute Consulting & Solutions India.

However, in the personal vehicles segment, the levels reached in 2018-19 would be reached only in 2022-23, it added.

In 2018-19, passenger vehicle sales rose 2.7 per cent to 33,77,436 units from 32,88,581 units in 2017-18, according to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

"After the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is expected that the auto industry will see stronger growth in 2021-22," Ashim Sharma, partner and group head (business performance improvement consulting-auto, engineering and logistics) at NRI Consulting & Solutions India, said.

As far as personal vehicles are concerned, the 2018-19 levels would be reached only in 2022-23 whereas for two-wheelers, it will be achieved maybe a year after that, he added.

"This is also on account of some price hikes expected with introduction of new regulations," Sharma said.

In 2018-19, total two-wheeler sales rose 4.86 per cent to 2,11,81,390 units as compared with 2,02,00,117 units in 2017-18.

As far as electric vehicles (EVs) are concerned, Sharma said 2021-22 would also see positive movements, especially in the two-wheeler EV segment, with new players like Ola Electric getting into the fray.

"In addition, on the EV components side, we could finally see cell level manufacturing starting off in India with technological collaborations focusing on cutting-edge technologies such as LTO (lithium titanium oxide) batteries," he said.

The LTO batteries can be fast charged at high temperatures as well as last for 10,000-

plus cycles and other enhanced chemistries like NMC811, he said. NMC811 is a cathode composition with 80 per cent nickel, 10 per cent manganese and 10 per cent cobalt..

In case of other EV components such as motors and controllers, Sharma said, "We could see a wider participation by local component players and also the entry of some new players especially to cater to the rise in domestic EV two-wheeler and three-wheeler demand."

In addition, export opportunities for EV components as well as batteries could certainly emerge for domestic players as the world struggles to find alternative sources for supply chain resilience, he added.

Sharma said players that show preparedness for this can certainly capitalise on the opportunities.

– *The Economic Times*





# NEW TECHNOLOGIES

## Foster Tools (India) Private Limited

### IMPACT DRILL MACHINES

FID-13NX (13MM CHUCK SIZE)



With the launch of new FID-13NX Professional Impact Drill Machine, the power delivered in your hands is going to increase. This beast machine boasts power of 810W and is equipped with Metal Gear

Box that makes it much more powerful and strong. Now power through the toughest of jobs with this high performance impact drill. The drill machine is exceptionally powerful and highly durable. Its 810W motor with Forward/Reverse Function and full ballbearing construction accompanied with Metal Gear Box is built for the tradesman who needs an affordable and dependable workhorse. This impact drill comes with a rotating brush plate that helps with the forward and reverse rotation function while you are drilling. The brush ensures that you have a clean and neat-looking surface while you are drilling to remove plugs or nails. It also improves the efficiency of the tool.

#### Power Source

- Corded
- Power Requirement
- 220V, 50Hz
- Other Power Features
- High Speed of 2800RPM
- Heavy Duty Motor of 810W
- Metal Gear Box which makes the machine best in class

Most sturdy and best suited for heavy duty home applications

#### Additional Features

- Forward/Reverse Rotation
- Variable Speed Function
- Auxiliary Handle for Finest Stability
- Comfortable and Easy to Use

#### Product Applications

- Use it for Screw driving application i.e Tightening and loosening screws?
- Metal Gear Box supports heavy duty applications and on hard surfaces
- Drilling holes in metal surface upto

13mm using HSS bits.

- Drilling holes in wood upto 20 mm.
- Can be used as prime mover for kits comprising of various accessories for various applications.
- Drilling holes in brick walls with FID-13RE upto 16mm with carbide tipped bits.

### JIGSAW

FJS-065 (65 MM)



Intended for making separating cuts and cut-out in wood, plastic, metal, ceramic plates and rubber while resting firmly on the work piece. It is suitable for straight and curved cuts with angles to 45°.



#### Features:

- Adjustable stroke rate for various materials
- Individual speed selection wheel for easy handling
- Compact design, minimal vibration, slim handle and lightweight for easy use
- stroke rate at no load: 0 - 3000 spm
- Product Applications:
- Suitable for straight and curved cuts
- Adjustable stroke rate for various materials
- cut irregular curves, such as stenciled designs, in wood, metal, ceramics etc.

### CONCRETE VIBRATOR

FCV 35-18 PRO



FCV 35-18 Pro is a powerful concrete vibrator which will help in consolidating concrete and will reduce the number of air pockets inside the concrete mass with ease and least possible effort.

Foster concrete vibrator is a construction tool used on concrete pouring sites. This machine and the assortment of attachments are designed for multiple applications built on state-of-art-technology.

This vibrator is used to ensure that the pour is free of air bubbles and are even. This is so that the concrete remains strong and has a smooth finish even after removal of the form work.

#### Features:

- Bigger armature assembly.
- Powerful 1850W motor.
- Comes with a sturdy metal body.
- The machine is suitable for upto 4m needle.
- Product Applications:
- The vibrator reduces internal friction of the mix components of cement, aggregate, and water.
- Allows the mix to move around more easily in whatever form you are placing the concrete
- The vibrations help to bring the air bubbles to the surface where they escape

### VACUUM CLEANERS

FVC-20 PRO



Loaded with 3 type Filter action and ability to clean both wet and dry surfaces and a Powerful 1400W motor , FVC-20 Pro is designed to give your house the perfect cleanliness and hygiene.

A clean place is indeed a Safe place. This FVC - 20 Pro multi-purpose high powered vacuum cleaner which delivers a strong power of 1,400 watts. It comes with a stainless steel container that makes it sturdy and not prone to external damages. It also has a suction capacity of 18KPA that helps you cover lots of space in so little time. This Foster vacuum cleaner is compact and light in weight, thus allowing you to operate it without any hassles. It also comes with an extra 2.5 mtr nozzle which allows you to reach the ceilings and keep your fan and ceilings clean. Not only this, with 5 mtr long power cable you now have the access to reach larger area at your home.

#### Features:

- Powerful 1400W Motor
- HEPA, Cloth, Sponge Filter for effective wet & Dry filtration
- Wide range of accessories
- 5m Power cable for wider area coverage
- "Pull & Push" locking system for quick, easy and safe opening and closing of the container.
- Vacuity of 18kPa
- Product Applications:
- High Power of 1400W
- 3 Filter Action : HEPA, Cloth and Sponge Filter for Wet & Dry filtration
- Wide range of accessories
- 5m power cable for wide area coverage
- "Pull & Push" locking system for quick, easy and safe opening and closing of the container.

## PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Partnership gives an excellent opportunity to stand out from the crowd, reinforce, enhance and establish corporate visibility amongst the targeted audience. Partnership is a great way to reinforce your brand message with benefits including:

- Enhance your leadership status
- Educate and inspire a targeted audience with your products and services
- Raise brand awareness and create preference to a targeted audience
- Build leadership status in the industry
- Create positive PR and raise awareness of the organization as a whole
- Build brand positioning through associative imagery
- Create internal emotional commitment to the brand
- Provide innovative solutions to the industry
- Provide revenue generating ideas



## MEDIA SPEAK

### FIMI urges Centre to withdraw protective support provided to domestic steel players

Miners' body FIMI has urged the government to revisit its protectionist approach towards indigenous steel manufacturers and said that domestic players are taking "undue advantage" by fixing steel prices almost at par with the international level despite all the protection and incentives.

Union Transport and MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari last month said that he had sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attention towards 55 per cent hike in steel prices by players during the past six months, making projects unviable.

"In order to take undue advantage and profiteering, the integrated steel companies fix up the steel prices almost at par with the international steel prices despite all the protection and incentives provided to steel industry backed up with secured iron ore and other raw material supply," Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) Secretary General R K Sharma said in a letter to Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister P K Mishra.

"This Federation would therefore request the Government of India to withdraw import duty @15 per cent and other undue protective support provided to Indian steel industry," he added.

The Indian steel industry is well protected from international competition because of the 15 per cent import duty on steel as per

Indian Customs Tariff, in addition to other protectionist measures, including minimum import price, antidumping and countervailing duties, Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS), preference to domestically manufactured steel products in government procurement among others, Sharma said.

Any firming up of steel demand propels the steel companies to raise price of steel unabatedly. Since COVID-19, the steel industry has been raising prices of steel very frequently, he said.

During the last two months itself, the prices of steel have increased six times which is unprecedented, the letter said.

While working out the price of steel, the Indian steel industry takes international price as base whereas it gets high grade iron ore at comparatively much lower prices, either from domestic sources or captive mines.

At present, almost all the primary steel producers have captive iron ore mines where iron ore is available to them at transfer prices. Some of the primary producers of steel are exporting and selling iron ore in the open market.

The consumption of high grade iron ore at lower than the international price, coupled with cheaper labour costs should give more and better quality steel at a competitive price.

"The domestic steel industry hides these vital information and reaps windfall profits," Sharma said.

With a view to reap windfall profits, the domestic steel industry fixes its products

prices almost at par with international level. On the contrary, Indian iron ore prices are always much lower than the international prices. During the month of December, the domestic prices are cheaper to the extent of Rs 7,128 per tonne in comparison to international prices, it said.

Apart from the price advantage for domestic iron ore and depressed coking coal, there is lot of cushion in the formula for working out the price of steel.

"The average grade of iron ore required by domestic steel industry is 63 per cent Fe against the world average of 60 per cent Fe. However, it uses 1.65 tonnes of iron ore per tonne hot metal (world average of 1.37 tonnes) which is abnormally high and has lot of scope to make windfall profits," the letter said.

– *The Economic Times*





## Robotic Welding Market to Hit USD 8.31 Billion by 2027; Growing Automotive Sector to Stimulate Demand

The global robotic welding market size is expected to gain momentum by reaching USD 8.31 billion by 2027 while exhibiting a CAGR of 7.6% between 2020 and 2027. This is attributable to the increasing adoption of automation in the manufacturing process that propels the demand for advanced robotic welding machines across the globe. This information is published by Fortune Business Insights, in its latest report, titled, "Robotic Welding Market Size, Share & COVID-19 Impact Analysis, By Type (Arc, Spot, MIG/TIG, Laser, Others (Plasma etc.)), By Payload Capacity (Low (6-22 kg), Medium (30-60 kg), High (80-300kg)) By Industry (Automotive, Aerospace & Defense, Construction, Mining, Railway & Shipbuilding, Electrical & Electronics, Others) and Regional Forecast, 2020-2027." The report further observes that the market stood at USD 4.66 billion in 2019 and is likely to experience significant growth in the forthcoming years.

The lockdown imposed by several government agencies has led to the shutdown of manufacturing units owing to a reduced workforce across the globe. This has led to unprecedented economic loss across several industrial applications such as automotive, electronic, construction, and others. However, to bring back the economy on track, the companies are focusing on adopting automation services that have several advantages over manual labor. This is expected to boost the demand for automated

robotic solutions in the forthcoming years. The growing focus on reducing manual intervention in challenging manufacturing operations is driving the demand for advanced robotic welding machines globally. The major companies are either developing or adopting advanced industrial robots to significantly increase productivity while reducing costs.

The emergence of modern technology has positively affected the manufacturing sector across the globe. Several major industrial sectors are experiencing a paradigm shift by adopting advanced automated welding services. The adoption of automation has brought upon several advantages such as improved efficiency and accuracy, reduced uptake time, and a high level of productivity. This is expected to favor the demand for advanced robotic welding systems across the manufacturing processes. Additionally, the rising automotive sector is expected to contribute to the growth of the global robotic welding market during the forecast period.

– **Fortune Business Insights**



## Indian Tooling Industry to rise to Rs 26,000 crore in value by 2025, says report

Indian tooling industry is estimated to grow up to Rs 26,000 crore in value by 2025 on back of strong growth in key end-user segments but government support and intervention is required on many forefronts to augment tooling ecosystem in India, according to a report by NRI Consulting and TAGMA. Inverted duty structure, challenges in access to finance and lack of skilled workforce are some of the key challenges ahead of the industry and it needs government support to address these hurdles, said these hurdles, said the Indian Tool Room Industry by Nomura Research Institute Consulting & Solutions India Pvt. Ltd (NRI Consulting) and TAGMA (Tool and Gauge Manufacturers Association).

As per the report, the market size of tool room industry in India is estimated to be around Rs 18,000 crore with around 70 per cent of demand being met domestically and approximately 30 per cent from imports.

It further said that tooling imports into India are about five times the exports from the country by value with China and Korea accounting for almost 40 per cent of the total tooling imports. Captive tooling supply has not changed much in the last two years but imports have captured a larger portion of incremental demand than commercial tool rooms.

Commenting on the total tooling demand expectations over the next five years, the report said: "Indian tool room industry is estimated to grow to Rs 25,000 crore to Rs 26,000 crore in value by 2025 on back of strong growth in key end user segments."

As per the report, in terms of key end-users of the Indian tool room industry, the automotive segment is expected to grow 8 per cent, consumer durables 9 per cent, plastics 12 per cent, electronics 14 per cent and electrical by 21 per cent over the next five years.

Calling for government intervention, the report said rationalisation of duty structure is needed to ensure imported finished tools incur more duty than imported raw materials and standard components.

Also, reduction in import duty on raw materials and components will aid in enhanced cost competitiveness, it said adding concession in import duty (around 8 per cent) or complete waiver on machinery required for press tools will be of immense help to tool rooms.

"Such a provision already exists for plastic injection moulding machines," it said.

In order to address the challenges in access to finance by the industry players, the report said tools, dies and moulds need to be recognised as priority sectors for lending at low interest rates at around 2-3 per cent.

Besides, there is a need for special consideration on quick and easy access to availing of formal credit from organised channels without pledging of property as collaterals and repayment terms should be more flexible with the option of deferred

payback period in case of prolonged demand slowdown such as the current scenario.

It also suggested waiver for the requirement of owned premises for granting loans for small and medium size tool rooms.

On the issue of lack of skilled manpower, the report by NRI Consulting and TAGMA

highlighted the need for revising curriculum in tool training institutes and introducing advanced courses on tool engineering.

While suggesting technical tie up and collaboration with overseas tool

rooms/training institutes for sharing

knowledge and best practices, the report

also called for setting up dedicated R&D

institutes specific to the die and moulds

sector and incentivising R&D spend in tool

rooms

**– The Economic Times**

### **Honorable Minister of Steel Apprised Over AM/NS India Expansion**

A joint venture between two of the world's leading steel firms, ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS) India, welcomed Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, at its Hazira manufacturing facility. In the maiden visit to the plant, the Minister toured various units of the manufacturing facility and was briefed with a detailed presentation by the leadership, on the company's future and its ambitions to significantly enhance contribution to the Atmanirbhar Bharat's vision.

Moving forward, AM/NS India's long-term intention is to double the production potential from the existing 9 million tonnes in a phased manner and provide a spectrum of diversified and superior products making a notable contribution to the country's steel needs.

On this occasion, the Hon'ble Minister elaborated, "The clarion call for an Atmanirbhar Bharat has paved the way for bold decisions and investments. I am happy that AM/NS India has evinced interest for expanding its investment in Odisha, especially in the areas of value added & special steels. Our government led by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji is committed to make Odisha the nerve centre of Purvodaya in steel. Eastern India, especially Odisha will play a pivotal role in driving national economic growth making India a \$5 trillion economy & achieving the vision of a self-reliant India."

Wishing a new year and expressing deep gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister, Dilip Oommen, CEO, AM/NS India added, "It is encouraging to receive the government's support to deliver on our promise of providing better steel to New India. AM/NS India is confident of sustainably meeting the growing steel demand through various products and significantly contribute to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat."

**– Modern Manufacturing India**



## Modern multitasking machines can enhance productivity exponentially in manufacturing

Multitasking machines have been around for decades and it will be hard to find a machine shop that does not have at least one on the shop floor. More multitasking machines are sold today than stand-alone machines. This happened because the machines have changed significantly over the years, making them faster and more rigid.

A multitasking process will see a milling cutter machining a rotating workpiece. The combination of milling and turning techniques has many advantages, but only recently have multitasking machine tools displayed its full benefits. Integrating multitasking with the manufacturing process can solve quality problems and substantially improve output as highly productive machining using this method is possible with modern machines and correctly chosen cutting tools.

Fundamentally, there are two kinds of machining employed in a multitasking operation: peripheral, in which the axes of the workpiece and the cutter are parallel, and face, in which these axes cross. Helical interpolation is quite similar to peripheral multitasking and may apply both to external and internal surfaces of the revolution; while, with the use of face multitasking only, the external surfaces can be machined.

Despite the fact that multitasking is similar to turning by a rotating mill, there is a substantial difference between these two machining processes and the cutting speed in multitasking is defined not by the rotary velocity of the workpiece like in turning but by the peripheral speed of the milling cutter.

However, the questions regarding multitasking application, tool choice, and cutting data deserve careful consideration and should be examined individually.

Nakamura-Tome NTY3-100 is a three-turret, 3-Y-axis multitasking machine centre, with an ergonomic 60-degree slant bed. Productivity is increased with simultaneous machining on the left- and right- hand spindles, as well as the Y axis on all three turrets. Photo courtesy of Elliott Matsuura.

It should be noted that indexable face milling cutters are good tools for multitasking. Moreover, productive machining with this method also demands proper cutter positioning regarding the workpiece, and the correct choice of insert geometry and tool path.

For instance, cutter positioning, influences form errors, and insert geometry influences

surface finish. Generally, the final shape is produced by a wiper insert, which is mounted on the cutter.

It's time to start looking into multitasking machines for shops that both turn and mill parts. The machines can perform these two operations in one footprint, eliminating the need to move the workpiece through the shop. Contemporary multitasking machines have a dynamic design and differ in operational capability depending on a shop's needs. Additionally, the machine on the shop floor goes beyond simply combining turning and milling operations as it can transform a shop's ability to effectively implement an integrated approach to production.

As there are many types of machines available on the market, shops may not see the value of a multitasking machine. Unfortunately, these machines tend to be much more expensive than their single-operation counterparts. That might be a negative point but shops should not undervalue the advantages of having one on the shop floor.

Moreover, a multitasking machines can substitute a minimum of two machines and generally takes up a smaller footprint compared to traditional single machines, and requires only one operator. It is imperative for shops that have multiple sequestered machining departments, where the milling machines are kept in one area and the turning machines in another.

A multitasking machine is designed for high-mix, small- to medium-volume runs. Generally, they are not recommended for



high-volume production because multiple stand-alone machines can apply more spindles to the task. Types of parts being produced is another consideration. This machine scores basically in the production of highly complex components, particularly in the aerospace and energy industries. Multitasking machines are also suited for production of small parts like those found in medical parts manufacturing. It is, however, not recommended for extremely heavy parts that require more rigid turning and minimal milling.

Incidentally, a significant benefit of multitasking is the increased part accuracy. The data points on the part features don't change because both operations (milling and turning) are done in a single setup, which eliminates any problems with stacked tolerances. This is compared to workpieces having to move between four or five different machines where accuracy is at the hands of the operator when it comes to loading and gauging the part correctly multiple times to get all the part features just right.

Multitasking machines, over the years, have grown to include hundreds of different models and multiple configurations to meet any shop's production needs. From simple two-axis machines to highly robust hybrid additive/subtractive multitasking machines, there is something for everyone.

More the number of tools fitted in the machine, less the setup time will be needed to go from part to part. However, the more tools the better as the first thing some customers say is that they don't have that kind of volume. But you really don't need it

because not all turrets will be running at the same time. However, what this does is give the shop more flexibility and minimises cycle time, allowing them to take on more projects. As discussed earlier, one of the biggest factors is cost. However, the value of these machines is a shop gets all the features they need to expand in the future. It's not just about what is needed right now, and if a shop isn't willing to invest in the features and accessories that maximise the machine's effectiveness, then it may not be worth looking into a machine like this. Assessing the budget, a shop can customise the multitasking machine to fit its specific needs.

DMG MORI's NTX 3000 turn-mill centre offers six-sided, heavy-duty machining for the aerospace industry, automotive and energy sectors, and medical engineering. It includes an upper B-axis spindle with a  $\pm 150$ -mm Y axis and a lower turret (BMT type) with driven tools and Y-axis ( $\pm 40$  mm). Photo courtesy of DMG MORI.

When purchasing a multitasking machine, one has to consider the graphical user interface and how easy it is to use. And if the machine asks very direct and simple questions to allow you to get into production faster, that's a huge advantage. Additionally, you will also want to ensure, especially if this is a first-time buy, that the machine builder offers strong support to help you with any challenges that may arise and can help to maximise the machine on the shop floor.

Multitasking machines have become much more ergonomic over the years. Earlier configurations made it somewhat

challenging for the operator to interact with the machine. But now we are seeing many of the latest machines have moved the spindle closer to the front of the machine, making it easier for the operator to work. Practically, every component that requires human interaction is brought forward to increase accessibility.

**– Machine Tools World**



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### Contact Us



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## SOME LEADING COMPANIES AT THE EVENTS

### PowerTex Tools Company Pvt. Ltd.



PowerTex Tools established in 1998 in India. We have proud of our heritage and our reputation as one of India's renowned Power Tools Suppliers. Our focus is the serious "Do-It-Yourself" as well as businesses that make a living working with our tools. With a firm belief in good ethics, fair sales practices and putting the customer first.

Our head office located in Hyderabad, which is our main distribution center, also features India's largest Hand Tools & Power tools parts department with over 1,00,000 parts in stock at all times. Our parts help service our own machinery, as well as most of our competitors.

Since the beginning, we have been selling the products direct to our customers. We carry our own wide range of Machinery, Hand Tools, Power Tools and Accessories as well as the industry's most popular brands. We love reasonable prices and are committed to saving you money.

In addition, our Domestic network of PowerTex Power Tools dealers ensures that you get the products you want, when and wherever you want them. These

centers feature the latest in supply chain logistic technologies so that our product stocking levels meet your delivery demands.

#### OUR HISTORY

PowerTex devote to producing industrial quality power tools. PowerTex Tools is a leading supplier of industrial power tools such as Angle Grinders, Cordless Tools, Pneumatic Power Tools, Drilling Machines, Welding Tools & Spare Parts of best brands in India and other parts of the world with proven quality and after sales service.

PowerTex was established in 1998 beginning with selling the spare parts of products such as Armatures, Gears, and Switches etc., then the company involved in multi brands with the wide range of products & Accessories. Later in 2013 PowerTex introduced Sunflower Power Tools as its Economic range for with Best quality.

After that company became the reliable for Power Tools such as Angle Grinders, Cordless Tools, Drilling Machines, now the company having 500+ dealers and 5,00,000+ end users in all over India. In the perspective of Information Technology revolution and integrating the all business with the online e-commerce PowerTex also launched the official website [www.powertextool.com](http://www.powertextool.com) for Sales & Service of the products through online portal.

We have launched new range of Power Tools & Garden Tools as "PowerTex Gold" with the One-Year Warranty also adding to this we have high quality Marble Blade, Abrasive and Chain Saw Accessories in this range.





## Foster Tools (India) Private Limited



Foster Power Tools & Abrasives, established in 2013, is a manufacturer, importer and exporter of

Power Tools, Abrasives & Spares providing widest possible and ever increasing range of power tools.

As the brand name suggests, the company believes in Encouraging and Fueling the Development of its customers.

Foster Power Tools aims to provide Premium Quality tools at an Affordable price to its users hence empowering the users across the pyramid i.e. from a Home D-I-Y enthusiast to a highly skilled Technician to a daily wage Craftsman.

The products find application in various industries such as Fabrication, Wood-working, Automotive, Construction, Shipbuilding and Railroad Industry etc.

The company provides a range of top-of-the-line products, reasonably priced spare parts, abrasives and accessories with a chain of knowledgeable service professionals and a Pan-India Dealer Network.

### QUALITY ASSURED

Since its inception, it has been the company's endeavor to Equip its customers with the most advanced technology conforming to the highest international standards at the most competitive prices. Also, the company finds pride for itself in the satisfaction and happiness of its customers

and thus have carved a niche for itself in After Sales Support Pan India. It desires a complete trust of its customers, assuring the fact that it will always deliver with unwavering accuracy.

Manufactured with a strict compliance to Highest Global Quality Standards, the Tools are designed to provide best customer experience and thus the Quality and Precision that Foster offers has made it stand out from others



## Champion Abrasives



Incorporated in the year 2016, we Champion Abrasives, one of the foremost Manufacturer,

Wholesaler, and Importer of an exceptional quality assortment of Cutting and Grinding Wheel. Offered products range consists of Cutting Wheel, Grinding Wheel, and Flap Disc. To design these cutting and grinding wheel ranges, we use high-quality inputs. Also, our range of products is renowned for attractive attributes like sturdy design, easy to use, strong construction, lightweight, and low cost.

Our professionals work in close coordination to assure a high-quality assortment of cutting and grinding wheel to the customers. We have recruited experienced quality auditors, who observe the whole process to make sure that all the rules of industrial quality are being followed. Adding to this, by maintaining quality, we ensure providing maximum satisfaction to the customers. In addition to this, for the purpose of avoiding any hassles in the work environment, our professionals work dedicatedly.

Under the direction of our mentor, Mr. Sunny Shah, we are able to create a long list of clients. Also, owing to his knowledge and ethical business policies, we have been able to achieve a renowned position in the market.



...and many more



...and many more



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