

*News and Views...*

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



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## INDUSTRY NEWS



### Nearly 10 lakh healthcare workers received vaccine shots till Thursday 6 pm, says Centre

The number of healthcare workers who have received COVID-19 vaccine jabs in the country till the evening of the sixth day of the nationwide immunisation drive has reached 9,99,065 as per provisional reports, Union Health Ministry said on Thursday. It also said on Thursday, 1,92,581 beneficiaries were vaccinated till 6 pm through vaccination sessions held across 27 states and Union Territories, while adding the final report would be completed by late in the night. India on Thursday handed over one million

doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Nepal and 2 million doses to Bangladesh in sync with its 'Neighbourhood First' policy. On Wednesday, India had sent 150,000 doses of Covishield vaccines to Bhutan and 100,000 doses to the Maldives. India had earlier supplied hydroxychloroquine, Remdesivir and paracetamol tablets, as well as diagnostic kits, ventilators, masks, gloves and other medical supplies to a large number of countries to help them deal with the pandemic.

India's COVID-19 caseload crossed 1.06 crore with 15,223 new infections being reported in a day, while the recoveries have surged to 1,02,65,706, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday. The total cases have increased to 1,06,10,883. The death toll mounted to 1,52,869 with 151 daily new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 1,02,65,706 pushing the national COVID-19 recovery rate of 96.75 per cent. The COVID-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.44 per cent. - The Indian Express

### Covid-19 recovery rate in India at 96.70%

Active caseload the country remains below 3 lakh

With a total of 13,823 infections reported in a day, Covid-19 caseload in India rose to 1,05,95,660, while recoveries surged to 1,02,45,741, said the Health Ministry on Wednesday.

The death toll due to the disease increased to 1,52,718 in the country as 162 new fatalities were recorded, as per the Ministry's data. The total

number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 1,02,45,741, pushing the national Covid-19 recovery rate to 96.70 per cent. The Covid-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.44 per cent, it said.

The active caseload remained below 3 lakh. There are 1,97,201 active Covid-19 infections in the country, which comprises 1.86 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated. India's Covid-19 tally had crossed one crore-mark on December 19.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 18,85,66,947 samples have been tested till January 19, with 7,64,120 samples being tested on Tuesday.

- Business Line





## Biden Inaugurated as the 46th President Amid a Cascade of Crises

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. and Kamala Devi Harris took the oath of office at a Capitol still reeling from the attack of a violent mob at a time when a deadly pandemic is still ravaging the country.

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. was sworn in on Wednesday as the 46th president of the United States, assuming leadership of a country ravaged by disease, dislocation and division with a call to “end this uncivil war” after four tumultuous years that tore at the fabric of American society.

Mr. Biden sought to immediately turn the corner on Donald J. Trump’s polarizing presidency, inviting Republicans to join him in confronting the nation’s dire economic, social and health crises even as he began dismantling his predecessor’s legacy with orders to halt construction of his border wall, lift his travel ban and rejoin the Paris climate agreement. The ritualistic transfer of power ended weeks of suspense as the vanquished president waged a relentless bid to hang on, only to be rebuffed at every level of government, clearing the way for Mr. Biden to claim his office. With his hand on a five-inch-thick Bible that has been in his family for 128 years, Mr. Biden recited the 35-word oath administered by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. at 11:49 a.m., 11 minutes before the constitutionally prescribed noon hour. Vice President Kamala Devi Harris was sworn in a few minutes earlier by Justice Sonia Sotomayor using a Bible that once belonged to Thurgood Marshall, the civil rights icon and Supreme Court justice. Ms. Harris thus became the highest-ranking woman in the history of the United States and the first Black American and first person of South Asian descent to hold the nation’s second highest office. The drama of the moment was underscored by the sight of Mr. Biden taking

the oath on the same West Front of the Capitol seized just two weeks ago by a marauding mob trying to block final ratification of Mr. Trump’s election defeat. Without ever naming Mr. Trump, who left the White House early in the morning for Florida but still faces a Senate trial for provoking his supporters, Mr. Biden said that the United States’ democratic experiment itself had come under assault by extremism and lies but ultimately endured. “Through a crucible for the ages, America has been tested anew and America has risen to the challenge,” the president said in a 21-minute Inaugural Address that blended soaring themes with folksy touches. “The will of the people has been heard, and the will of the people has been heeded,” he added. “We’ve learned again that democracy is precious.

Democracy is fragile. And at this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed.”

Already abbreviated because of Mr. Trump’s refusal to concede, the transition that ended Wednesday was like none before, not just from one party to another but from one reality to another. A president who came to Washington to blow up the system was replaced by one who is a lifelong creature of it. A president who seemed capable of almost anything at any moment was dislodged by one who fits comfortably in the conventions of modern politics.

Mr. Biden’s broader message was conciliatory yet challenging, as he called on Americans to put aside their deep and dark divisions to come together to confront the coronavirus pandemic, economic troubles

and the scourge of racism. “We must end this uncivil war that pits red against blue, rural versus urban, conservative versus liberal,” Mr. Biden said. “We can do this if we open our souls instead of hardening our hearts, if we show a little tolerance and humility, and if we’re willing to stand in the other person’s shoes, as my mom would say, just for a moment.”

Mr. Biden used the word “unity” or “uniting” 11 times, saying that he knew it “can sound to some like a foolish fantasy” but insisting that Americans had emerged from previous moments of discord and could do so again.

“We can join forces, stop the shouting and lower the temperature,” he said. “For without unity, there is no peace, only bitterness and fury. No progress, only exhausting outrage. No nation, only a state of chaos. This is our historic moment of crisis and challenge, and unity is the path forward.”

A historic moment, but also a surreal one. Unlike most inaugurations suffused with joy and a sense of new beginning, the nation’s 59th inauguration on a chilly but sunny day served to illustrate America’s troubles. Amid fear of further violence, Washington was transformed into an armed camp, with 25,000 National Guard troops joining thousands of police officers in blocking off a wide section of downtown.

With the pandemic still raging and the death toll topping 400,000, Americans were told to stay away, leading to the eerie spectacle of a new president addressing a largely empty National Mall, filled not with people but with flags meant to represent the absent crowd.

Mr. Biden and most of the participants wore masks through most of the activities.

Many inaugural customs were scrapped because of the virus, including a lunch with congressional leaders in Statuary Hall, a full-scale parade down Pennsylvania Avenue and the gala evening balls where the new president and his wife typically dance.

Instead, Mr. Biden reviewed military units at the Capitol and later proceeded to the White House escorted by military marching bands as well as drum lines from the University of Delaware and Howard University, the alma maters of the new president and vice president. Mr. Biden and his wife, Jill Biden, his son Hunter Biden and his daughter Ashley Biden, as well as a passel of grandchildren and other relatives, emerged from the motorcade to walk the final blocks to the White House, but it was a gesture aimed more at cameras than the crowd because there were more police and National Guard troops than spectators. Still, one tradition that went forward left an impression. Amanda Gorman, 22, a self-described “skinny Black girl, descended from slaves and raised by a single mother,” became the youngest inaugural poet in American history and drew raves for her powerful words: “Somehow, we’ve weathered and witnessed ‘A nation that isn’t broken, but simply unfinished.’”

In characteristic fashion, Mr. Trump defied custom by leaving Washington hours before the swearing-in, although Mike Pence, his vice president, did attend. In remarks to supporters before boarding Air Force One,

Mr. Trump still could not bring himself to mention Mr. Biden’s name but said, “I wish the new administration great luck and great success.” He did leave the traditional note for his successor, which Mr. Biden later called “a very generous letter.”

Mr. Biden expressed no regret about Mr. Trump’s absence but sought to project common cause with Republican as well as Democratic leaders in the Capitol in a chummy gathering after the ceremony with none of the animus that characterized Mr. Trump’s era. He even tried to persuade them to still call him Joe.

“No, Joe,” Representative Steny H. Hoyer, Democrat of Maryland and the majority leader, corrected him. “You’re ‘Mr. President.’”

“He makes me call him that, too,” Dr. Biden joked.

“Marriage is about to get rocky, I can tell,” Mr. Hoyer laughed.

Then, in a laying on of hands of sorts by the world’s most exclusive club — a club that never accepted Mr. Trump, who likewise shunned them — three former presidents from both parties, Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, joined Mr. Biden in placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

– *The New York Times*





## India begins supply of Covid-19 vaccines to six neighbouring nations, first consignment dispatched to Bhutan

India on Wednesday started the supply of COVID-19 vaccines under grant assistance to Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles. News agency ANI reported that the first consignment of 1.5 lakh dosages of Covishield vaccine dispatched from Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport to Thimphu in Bhutan.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India is deeply honoured to be a "long-trusted" partner in meeting the healthcare needs of the global community and that supplies of the vaccines to several countries will commence on Wednesday, and more will follow in the days ahead.

India is one of the world's biggest drugmakers, and an increasing number of countries have already approached it for procuring the coronavirus vaccines.

The Ministry of External Affairs said India will supply COVID-19 vaccines to partner countries over the coming weeks and months in a phased manner keeping in view the domestic requirements. In a statement, the MEA said India has received several requests for the supply of Indian-manufactured vaccines from neighbouring and key partner countries.

"In response to these requests, and in keeping with India's stated commitment to use India's vaccine production and delivery capacity to help all of humanity fight the COVID pandemic, supplies under grant assistance to Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles will begin from January 20," it said.

"In respect of Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius, we are awaiting their confirmation of necessary regulatory clearances," it added.

Covishield, Covaxin

India has already rolled out a massive coronavirus vaccination drive under which two vaccines, Covishield and Covaxin, are being administered to frontline health workers across the country. While Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield is being manufactured by the Serum Institute, Covaxin is being produced by Bharat Biotech.

"India fulfils commitment to give vaccines to humanity. Supplies to our neighbours will start on 20th January. The Pharmacy of the

World will deliver to overcome the COVID challenge," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Twitter.

The MEA said it will be ensured that domestic manufacturers will have adequate stocks to meet domestic requirements while supplying abroad. "Immunisation programme is being implemented in India, as in other countries, in a phased manner to cover the healthcare providers, frontline workers and the most vulnerable," it said.

"Keeping in view the domestic requirements of the phased rollout, India will continue to supply COVID-19 vaccines to partner countries over the coming weeks and months in a phased manner," it added.

Pakistan yet to approach India for vaccines It is learnt that Pakistan is unlikely to be benefitted from India's initiative as that country is yet to approach New Delhi.

The MEA said prior to the delivery of vaccines, a training programme, covering administrative and operational aspects, is being conducted on January 19-20 for immunisation managers, cold chain officers, communication officers and data managers of the recipient countries, both at national and provincial levels.

India had earlier supplied hydroxychloroquine, remdesivir and paracetamol tablets, as well as diagnostic kits, ventilators, masks, gloves and other medical supplies to a large number of countries to help them deal with the pandemic.

The MEA said India has also provided training to several neighbouring countries to

enhance and strengthen their clinical capabilities, under the Partnerships for Accelerating Clinical Trials (PACT) programme.

"Separately, several training courses have been organized for healthcare workers and administrators of partner countries under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, sharing our experience in dealing with the pandemic," it said.

"In an ongoing effort, India will continue to supply countries all over the world with vaccines. This will be calibrated against domestic requirements and international demand and obligations, including under GAVI's Covax facility to developing countries," the MEA added. GAVI is a global vaccine alliance.

**- IndiaTV**



## **India Subcontracting Expo 2021 to highlight trade opportunities in India for US businesses**

The India Subcontracting Expo 2021

focusing on the North American region is scheduled to be held February 16-19 virtually. The expo will bring together exhibitors from India and buyers from Canada, Mexico and the US. Ahead of the expo, Indian government officials, diplomats and industry leaders highlighted business opportunities that the expo will present for both the US and India in areas of trade and investment and help boost economic ties during a curtain raiser event organised Monday by the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) of India.

Joint Secretary (EP-Engg.) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Srikar K Reddy said at the curtain raiser event that the global economy remained virtually stalled due to economic lockdowns imposed across nations to combat the pandemic and as nations begin the process of re-opening their economies, restoration to pre-COVID stage is likely to take some more time.

He said India has emerged as one of the most promising economies for developed regions, especially in terms of trade and investment. He said initiatives introduced by the Narendra Modi government under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan' are attracting attention of nations for trade and investment opportunities in India. He added that India offers tremendous business opportunities in various sectors, especially in manufacturing to North America. Reddy said

a trade show with North America in the "strategically important" segment of subcontracting is very timely and will further promote Indian engineering businesses amid the pandemic.

"I strongly believe that this expo will surely be mutually beneficial for both India and North America, and will be helpful for Indian engineering, especially the MSMEs to find new and sustainable businesses," he said, according to a statement. Manoj Mohapatra, Minister (Commerce) at the Embassy of India in Washington DC said trade, investment and economic cooperation forms an important pillar of the India-US partnership.

He added that New Delhi and Washington are extensively engaging with each other to conclude a trade package, which will create growth opportunities for Indian and US businesses. Mohapatra said at the virtual curtain raiser that COVID-19 has presented India with a rare and unique opportunity to work with the US to build resilient, reliable, and trustworthy supply chains, which will have the ability to weather future shocks.

He highlighted that US was India's largest engineering goods export market in 2019 with 6.4 billion dollars of exports. The goods include products such as iron and steel articles, auto components and electrical machinery. Stressing that Indian exports have remained resilient despite the pandemic, he said that Indian exports in electrical machinery and parts thereof as well as automobiles and auto components have particularly shown strong growth in 2020.

Mohapatra added that this highlights that while there was a commensurate decline in US global imports, India is outperforming the competition. Indian exports registering a significant increase in this product group despite the pandemic indicates that India is finding its place in the global supply chains, particularly supply chains for advanced manufacturing. It is also indicative of the increased competitiveness of Indian exporters/products in these lines, he said.

Mohapatra outlined advice to exporters including that they should diversify product base to cover products which have shown resiliency during the pandemic.

"This will reduce fluctuation in demand and ensure consistent income streams," he said. He added that American businesses appreciate transparency, and clear and timely communication. Indian exporters can tap the US market by keeping lines of communications always open for queries and follow-ups, he said.

EEPC India Chairman Mahesh Desai said that North America is the largest destination for India's merchandise as well as engineering exports and the pandemic has brought new opportunities across several segments of manufacturing to strengthen bilateral trade and investment relations with this region.

"Subcontracting, as a major part of the manufacturing sector, is likely to be one of the major beneficiaries. Continuous support from the embassies will be instrumental to ensure efficient exchange of resources so that the underlying potential can be exploited to the maximum possible extent," Desai said.

"Make in India 2.0 has been launched as an integral part of Atmanirbhar Bharat with a view to accelerate the process of converting India into a 'Global Manufacturing Hub'... Inviting leading global manufacturers to set up their production base in India will not only upgrade Indian manufacturing, but will also increase Indian overseas shipments," he said adding that the expo next month will further strengthen socio-economic ties between India and North America, especially in the areas of trade and investments.

– ***Exhibition Showcase***



## **India Celebrates 72nd Republic Day Today Amid Covid Pandemic**

India celebrates its 72nd Republic Day today with a shortened programme at Rajpath in Delhi amid the coronavirus pandemic. The programme began at 9 am and concluded after the traditional fly past 11.25 am.

Apart from a reduced list of events, the parade also had a shorter route, no chief guest, fewer spectators, no children under 15 in the annual parade, and fewer soldiers in the Army and Navy contingents.

In a display of India's military might, Rafale fighter jets took part in the Republic Day flypast for the first time as the armed forces showcased its T-90 tanks, the Samvijay electronic warfare system and Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jets on the Rajpath.

Depicting the nation's rich cultural heritage and economic progress, 17 tableaux from states and union territories and nine from different Union ministries and paramilitary forces took part in the 72nd Republic day parade.

Six tableaux of the defence ministry also attended the event.





## Gujarat government unveils new tourism policy to promote MICE

The new tourism policy has been framed keeping in mind the mission of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' so as to be 'Vocal for Local' thereby boosting local employment, said Chief Minister Vijay Rupani.

In a view to develop and augment tourism in a sustainable manner in the state, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on January 12 unveiled the 'New Tourism Policy 2021-25'. According to a press statement issued by the state government, the New Tourism Policy 2021-25 shall be in effect from 1st January 2021 to 31st March 2025.

While launching the policy, Rupani said, "The New Tourism Policy has been framed keeping in mind the mission of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' so as to be 'Vocal for Local' thereby boosting local employment. The state is gifted geographically. It has hill resorts, natural attractions, beaches, etc. in addition

to a rich legacy of ancient crafts and civilisations."

The New Tourism Policy has been envisaged for not only attracting new investments in the state but also giving high priority to tourism centres by offering lucrative incentives, the statement read.

The new policy promises special incentives on large-scale tourism projects while aiming to introduce new avenues like caravan tourism, MICE (meetings, incentives, conferencing, exhibitions) tourism and rural-based experience tourism, Rupani said.

Incentives for setting up tourism projects in the state will apply to only those projects that come up in the high priority tourism centres identified across 25 districts of the state under the policy, he added.

Gujarat has the World's Tallest Statue at Kevadia, Gir National Park, India's first World Heritage City, World's Biggest Stadium, India's first seaplane services, India's first Blue-Flag certified beach, Seema Darshan, in addition to Somnath, Dwarka, Ambaji, etc. These places have been attracting tourists from various parts of India and the world, the statement said.

It is to be noted here that the state government had recently announced the Heritage Tourism Policy to highlight the ancient palaces and heritage places of kings. Tourists have increased at the rate of 15% CAGR from 2009-2018 which has crossed the national average of 12%. Gujarat also ranks in the top 10 places for receiving one of the highest numbers of local tourists.

## The New Tourism Policy 2021-25

encapsulates various aspects like medical tourism, wellness tourism, MICE tourism, adventure and wildlife tourism, coastal and cruise tourism, rural-based experience tourism, etc., the statement read.

The state has truly imbibed the mantra of 'Atithi Devo Bhava' and provides a safe and secure environment to tourists from various parts of the globe. A dedicated tourism desk will be established at each of the international airports of Gujarat, the statement said.

The new policy will also promote the lesser-explored products. In this regard, Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited will sign an MoU with Gujarat State Handloom and Handicraft Development Corporation Limited to promote local handicrafts to international tourists, the statement informed.

The state government will also provide necessary assistance and co-operation for marketing the products through Digital Media and the TCGL website will provide a platform for the same, it added.

Tourist infrastructure will also be established under this policy which includes hotels, convention centres, etc.

The state government will also assist hotels, resorts and tour operators in finding local guides and tourist guides to boost local employment. The state government will provide a monthly remuneration of 4000 per month per person for 6 months to the hotel/resort for employing a local tour guide, the statement read.

– Exhibition Showcase



## Winter of discontent will be made glorious summer': RBI quotes Shakespeare in a forecast about India economy

Barring another wave of COVID-19 infections, the worst is over for India's economy and policymakers may soon have more room to support a recovery, the central bank said in its January bulletin released on Thursday.

"Recent shifts in the macroeconomic landscape have brightened the outlook, with GDP in striking distance of attaining positive territory and inflation easing closer to the target," the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in an article on the state of the economy.

"If these movements sustain, policy space could open up to further support the recovery," it added.

The RBI slashed interest rates early last year to cushion the shock from the coronavirus crisis, but has left rates unchanged in recent months, cautious of rising inflation.

The RBI expects Asia's third-largest economy to contract by 7.5% in the current fiscal year to March, but analysts believe it is likely to escape recession and see modest growth in the current quarter.

Growth will be mostly consumption driven, the RBI said.

The need to kickstart investment is growing more urgent to secure a durable turnaround and a sustainable growth trajectory, the RBI said.

It also added that the cash sitting idly on the balance sheet of companies and banks and the funds parked with it at the reverse repo must find their way towards productive sectors and into real spending on investment activity, before it imposes a persistent deflationary weight on real activity.

The RBI said stress on financial sector balance sheets could increase, but banks are in a better position now than they were during the 2008 global financial crisis.

It also noted a "vigorous resumption" of government spending which acts as an important growth driver when all other components of GDP are in deep retrenchment due to the pandemic.

"Recent high frequency indicators suggest

that the recovery is getting stronger in its traction and soon the winter of our discontent will be made glorious summer," the RBI wrote, quoting William Shakespeare

. – **The Economic Times**



Hyve India Pvt Ltd has come up with a weekly e news alert program - '**Market News & Views**'

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## INDUSTRY UPDATES



### SAIL planning to set up India's first gas-to-ethanol plant in Chandrapur

SAIL with the help of the Centre is planning to set up India's first gas to ethanol plant at its ferro alloy plant in Chandrapur in Maharashtra, according to an official.

Mukesh Kumar, the Director of Steel Research & Technology Mission of India (SRTMI) told that the plan is in line with the government's aim to reduce the country's dependence on import for crude oil besides addressing the issue of carbon emissions.

SRTMI is facilitating SAIL in setting up the gas-to-ethanol plant.

It would cost around Rs 400 crore for SAIL to set up the plant, of which 20 per cent "viable gas funding" or aid will be provided by the government under the National Policy on BioFuels 2018.

SRTMI is a collaborative research platform

formed jointly by the steel ministry and domestic steel players which facilitates research and development (R&D) in the iron and steel sector by strengthening association among industry, academia and research bodies.

"This would be the fourth such plant in the world in the steel sector, and overall the first in India. As of now the bio-ethanol fuel generation technology is being used at two plants in China and one at ArcelorMittal's plant in Belgium," he said.

SAIL's Chandrapur Ferro Alloy Plant (CFP) is the only public sector unit engaged in production of manganese based ferro alloys in the country. CFP has an installed capacity of 1,00,000 tonne per year (TPY) ferro manganese.

Explaining about the new technology, Kumar said it captures the hot gases like carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrogen that emit from the ferro alloy plant's submerged arc furnace and convert these into ethanol using fermentation technology.

The government has asked SAIL to prepare and submit a detailed project report (DPR) on the project, and SRTMI will facilitate SAIL in the project, he said while replying to a question related to the timeline for setting up the project.

The official said there is a scope to produce 50,000 litre a/day of ethanol from about 10,000 normal meter cube (nmc) per hour gas produced at Chandrapur.

An email sent to SAIL seeking its response remained unanswered.

Steel Authority of India Ltd NSE -0.43 % (SAIL), under the Ministry of Steel, is the

country's largest steel-making company having an installed capacity of about 21 million tonne per annum (MTPA).

– *The Economic Times*

### In Karnataka, govt offers to step in to help MSMEs get steel

Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation (KSSIDC) has offered to buy steel directly from JSW Steel NSE 0.68 % in Ballari district and sell them to medium and small scale industries at the same price at which it was bought.

Corporation's new managing director V Ram Prasath Manohar, in an interaction with industry body Kassia, has suggested this as an option in view of the steep hike in steel prices due to its shortage. This, Kassia members said, has severely hurt many medium, small and micro industries even as they are struggling to wriggle out of the Covid-19 crisis.

Manohar has asked Kassia to gather the requirement of steel in terms of quantity and specification from the industrial units and submit it to his corporation. This will prevent a demand-supply mismatch and also help negotiate a competitive price from the steel producing companies.

The KSSIDC will set up godowns in districts for storing the steel. Three godowns will be established in Peenya to enable easy lifting of the raw material by the MSMEs which are present in large numbers in the Peenya Industrial Area, Manohar said.

– *The Economic Times*



## Engineering exporters seek govt intervention to stem steel prices

Engineering exporters' body EEPC India on Monday sought urgent government intervention to stem the runaway rise in steel prices, a key raw material for manufacturing. "With a whopping 55 per cent rise in prices of steel, the mother raw material for manufacturing, the path to Atmanirbhar Bharat has become very tough and arduous," EEPC India said, seeking urgent intervention of the government on the issue. It said the wholesale price of Hot Rolled Coil (HRC) has gone up to Rs 58,000 a tonne – an unbearable increase of 55 per cent between January 2020 and January 2021. "The engineering exporters, who account for more than one-fourth of the country's total merchandise exports, and comprise mostly

the MSMEs, are battling the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 on global trade," EEPC India Chairman Mahesh Desai said.

He said for the April-November period of the current fiscal, the engineering exports fell by 13.24 per cent to USD 43.9 billion from USD 50.5 billion during the same period of the previous financial year.

As many as 29 out of 33 engineering panels exhibited a year-on-year decline in exports.

Likewise, only five out of top 25 countries recorded positive cumulative growth in engineering exports during April-November 2020 over April-November 2019.

"Under these circumstances, an unprecedented increase in steel prices is making the situation for the engineering industry unbearable, hitting exports the most," Desai said.

– *The Economic Times*

## Long road for Tesla in India with infrastructure, supply chain woes

Tesla Inc is gearing up for an India launch but the U.S. electric carmaker is likely to remain a niche player for years, catering only to the rich and affluent in the world's second-most populous nation.

India's fledgling electric vehicle (EV) market accounted for only 5,000 out of a total 2.4 million cars sold in the country last year. A lack of local production of components and batteries, negligible charging infrastructure and the high cost of EVs mean there have been few takers in the price-conscious market.

It's also difficult to see how Tesla's sought-after and expensive autonomous driving features will work on India's congested roads.

Ammar Master, a forecaster at consultancy LMC Automotive, said he expects Tesla to annually sell only 50-100 of its Model 3 electric sedans in India, at least in the first five years.

"As a country, India is still not so environmentally conscious to pay that much of a premium," Master said.

"It always comes down to the price point. There will be some high net-worth individuals like movie stars and top business executives who will look at it for the brand value. But then, how many buyers are there?"

The world's most valuable automobile manufacturer registered a local company in India earlier this month, a step towards its entry in the country, expected to be as early as mid-2021.

Tesla plans to import and sell the Model 3 in India for around \$65,000-\$75,000 - roughly double the price in the U.S. market, sources familiar with the plans said.

This means it will compete in India's even smaller luxury EV segment that has recently started seeing interest from the likes of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) and Daimler's Mercedes Benz.

The Mercedes Benz EQC, India's first luxury EV launched in October for \$136,000, and has since sold 31 units, according to auto researcher JATO Dynamics. British luxury carmaker JLR, owned by India's Tata Motors, plans to launch its I-PACE EV before March. It





sells in the United States for around \$70,000. Although India's road infrastructure has improved in recent years, traffic discipline - like lane driving - is still rudimentary. Auto analysts say that means many of Tesla's features like the automatic lane changing function will be tough to deploy on crowded Indian streets.

Stray animals, including cattle, and potholes on the road are a further problem.

"Most of Tesla's high technology features will be redundant and users will not get the bang for the buck despite paying premium prices", said Ravi Bhatia, president for India at JATO Dynamics.

#### LOCAL PRODUCTION

Rohan Patel, a senior public policy executive at Tesla in the United States, is among those leading efforts around its India launch, the sources familiar with the plans said. The EV

giant is looking to hire 15-20 people mainly for sales and marketing, one source said. Tesla and Patel did not respond to a request for comment.

India has some of the world's most polluted cities and wants more clean cars on its roads, but the federal government still does not have a comprehensive policy like China which mandates carmakers to invest in the segment.

One reason is that auto manufacturers have pushed back saying there is no demand for EVs in India as costs of components like batteries remain high, and push up prices.

And Tesla CEO Elon Musk has himself expressed concern about India's high import taxes on cars.

In contrast to India, China sold 1.25 million new energy passenger vehicles, including EVs, in 2020 out of total sales of 20 million.

Tesla is a major player in China, which last year accounted for more than a third of the carmaker's global sales, according to JATO Dynamics, and where it also has a factory.

Daniel Ives of U.S.-based Wedbush Securities said however that within 7-8 years, India could account for 5% of Tesla's total sales. The key to success, however, will be local manufacturing, he said.

"It is a matter of when, not if, they build out a factory in India," said Ives, adding that building out a local supply chain will be a multi-year effort.

"India is a potential sweet spot and Tesla does not want to be late to the game."

**- Money Control**

## Hindustan Zinc to set-up zinc smelter plant with zero liquid discharge in Gujarat

Hindustan Zinc (HZL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of Gujarat to set up 300 KTPA greenfield zinc smelter at Doswada, GIDC. Spread over 415 acres, the facility will entail an investment of Rs. 5000-Rs 10,000 crore in phases, create more than 5000 direct and indirect jobs and will be operational by 2022. The new facility - the first for Hindustan Zinc in the state of Gujarat - will be set up with zero discharge technology and will be among the lowest cost smelters in the world. Located in proximity with port and key markets of consumption, the new facility will produce Zinc and other minor metals.

The MoU was signed by M K Das, IAS, Addl. Chief Secy, Industries and Mines, Govt of Gujarat and Arun Misra, CEO, Hindustan Zinc in the presence of Chief Minister of Gujarat, Vijay Rupani. Anil Agarwal, Founder and Non-Executive, Chairman, Vedanta virtually attended the signing. This is one of the largest MoUs signed by the state of Gujarat under the State's modified industrial policy.

Speaking on the occasion, Vijay Rupani, Chief Minister of Gujarat, said "We will extend all support to ensure that the plant is commissioned in stipulated time. The plant will substantially increase employment and thereby boost the economy in the region".

Doswada GIDC is located in Tapi, and offers unmatched proximity to the existing Hazira port (110 kms) and upcoming Megdala port (90 kms). The new facility will be a model



plant - incorporating the latest technology, automation and highest standards of environment and health safety compliance.

Commenting on the MoU, Anil Agarwal, Non-Executive Chairman and Founder, Vedanta Group, said, "It is my honour to lead the foray of our group company Hindustan Zinc into the illustrious state of Gujarat. At Vedanta Group, we believe that tough times are the best times to invest into the future. This new plant is not just a world class facility but the culmination of the Group's learning in creating a model that embodies the highest standards of efficiency, eco-friendliness, technology and automation, quality and infrastructure. Given the reputation of Gujarat as an industrial hub of the country, it is our pleasure to build our dream project in zinc here. With this facility, we will together take India to the map of most efficient producers of zinc in the world. We have set out on a path towards Prime Minister Modi's vision of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat. With this pioneering initiative, I would like to thank CM for giving us an opportunity to lead the way."

The new facility will be in close proximity to the downstream user industries. Besides, it will aid in development of industrial clusters as well as ancillary industries in the future.

On the occasion of signing the MoU, Arun

Misra, CEO, Hindustan Zinc, said, "Vedanta Group and Hindustan Zinc have always held community development and upliftment agenda as the focal point of our business. We are excited to set up coast based operations in the state of Gujarat and the location couldn't be more apt for this project. We plan to complete the Doswada unit by 2022 and this plant will not only create jobs for thousands of people in the state; but more importantly, will set a benchmark among industry as an environmentally-responsible and future-ready facility".

Hindustan Zinc has been a pioneer in multiple technology-led and operations initiatives. Recently, the company launched EVOLVE, India's first online marketplace for non-ferrous metals.

*– EPC World*

## **Virus, short supply cut Japan's 2020 steel exports by 5%**

Japan's total steel exports during calendar 2020 fell 4.8% on year to 31.26 million tonnes, according to preliminary data released by Japan's Ministry of Finance on January 21. Last year's result marked the fourth year in a row that annual export volume had fallen below 40 million tonnes, with the reduction mainly attributed to the negative impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on steel consumption worldwide.

In total exports, the average unit price calculated in Yen was Yen 80,876/tonne (\$756/t) FOB, lower by about Yen 11,000/t on year, Mysteel Global calculates from the data.

*– Metal Junction*

## **Sandvik Coromant Partners with Autodesk**

Sandvik Coromant has partnered with Autodesk to bring major benefits to the future of Computer-Aided Manufacturing (CAM). The first step in this new partnership will remove the time-consuming nature of data selection by offering Autodesk customers access to the Sandvik Coromant tool data.

Sandvik Coromant is known for its experience in machining solutions and launches more than 2,500 new products per year. The partnership is part of a long-term vision for the company and will allow it to share its product knowledge with even more CAM users in Autodesk Fusion 360. Both the companies have similar goals to help customers remain competitive with new technologies and to deliver digital design and manufacturing solutions.

"Materials are lighter, harder and stronger, machines are more advanced, batch sizes are smaller and component design is increasingly complex – all of this leads to an increased need for CAM programming and skilled CAM users," explained Jonas Ström, Product Manager, Sandvik Coromant. "As engineers, CAM users love seeking new technologies and testing solutions, but they are often limited by the time constraints associated with CNC machining. By providing them access to tool information, recommendations, and knowledge of unique machining methods at the click of a button, we hope to simplify their process."



“Manufacturing and metal cutting are already complex processes, and they’re often made more difficult by manually managing tooling information resulting in delayed setup times and increased room for machining error,” asserted Srinath Jonnalagadda, Vice President - Business Strategy for Design and Manufacturing, Autodesk. “By pairing our CAM software solutions with Sandvik Coromant’s deep tooling knowledge and expertise, we’re helping customers reduce time and improve efficiency in the preparation phase.”

– **Modern Manufacturing India**



## Hyundai Steel bumps up its first ESG bond offering on explosive demand

South Korea’s Hyundai Steel Co. has bumped up its first-ever environment, society and governance (ESG) bond issues to 500 billion won (\$453.5 million) after its initial offering attracted overwhelming investor interest during a book building session.

The steel-making arm of Hyundai Motor Group announced in a regulatory filing on Tuesday that it is issuing 500 billion won worth green bonds after its original 250 billion won offering drew 2.07 trillion won from institutional investors, which is more than eight times oversubscribed, during a book session.

The company will issue 130 billion won in three-year bonds, 230 billion won in five-year maturity and 140 billion won in seven-year maturity with their prices set below 17 basis points (bps), 22 bps, and 23 bps than the market average, respectively. The company will float all the three trenches on Jan. 25.

Green bond is a type of ESG debts issued for the purpose of socially responsible investment. Its use is limited to green industry-related purposes such as carbon reduction, energy efficiency, renewable energy and other eco-friendly projects.

It is the first ESG bond issuance by the company and among Hyundai Motor Group affiliates except financing business. Hyundai Steel’s unsecured green bond was granted GB1(E1/M1), the highest credit rating evaluated by Korea Investors Service.

Hyundai Steel plans to use the fund to cover

environment-related project costs. Key projects include the introduction of a heat recovery system and improvement of facilities for exhaust gas desulfurization and denitrification to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Hyundai Steel has so far used a wet cooling system that relies on cooling water but decided to replace it with a coke dry cooling system (CDQ) to utilize waste heat generated during the cooling process.

– **Metal Junction**



# NEW TECHNOLOGIES

## De Neers Tools LLP

### Hydraulic Bottle Jack

Is a device used for lifting, pushing, spreading, bending, pressing or straightening requirements, widely used in machinery, construction, automobile industry, vehicle repair etc.

- Compact structure, sturdiness.
- Wide base design for stability & strength.
- Polished Ram provides durable performance.
- Hydraulic oil by-pass system prevents Ram from being over extended.
- Low maintenance cost.
- Ideal for Passenger cars, pick-up Vans, Trucks, Heavy Duty Trucks, Agriculture, Mining & Marine applications.
- DN-50T Packed in Wooden Case.



### ER-UM Type Wrench Spanner

- Suitable for ER Nut Collect Chuck Holder of CNC Milling Lathe Tool.
- High Quality Material.
- Offers High Torque.
- Ensure No Distortion.
- Fits Most Tool Holders.
- Black Finish with Blue Dip Coated Sleeves.
- Available sizes ER-25/30/40/50 UM.

## Electrex Power Tools

### BLOWER (EBC 650V)



### HEAT GUN (EGH 2100)



### CUT OFF MACHINE (ECM 14)





**HIGH PRESSURE JET WASHER (EPW 100)**



**20 MM ROTARY HAMMER (EH 20)**



**180/230 MM HEAVY DUTY METAL BODY  
LARGE ANGLE GRINDER (EG 7M/9M)**



**PLANER (EHP 2)**



**125 MM MINI ANGLE GRINDER (EG 1200)**



**125 MM LONG BODY HEAVY DUTY  
MINI ANGLE GRINDER (EG 1500R)**



## Flexco

### MECHANICAL BELT FASTENERS VS. VULCANIZATION



Mechanical Belt Fastening is the process of joining conveyor belt ends by metal hinges or plates. Vulcanization is the process of joining belt ends through heat or chemicals.

The vulcanization of heavy-duty conveyor belts – whether hot or cold—is a time-consuming process that requires special skills, expensive equipment, extreme accuracy in the cutting and stripping of belt ends, and a thorough knowledge of solvents, bonding materials, and compatible cover and fill materials.

Mechanical Belt Fastening involves the use of mechanical belt fasteners (also called conveyor belt lacing). Mechanical belt fasteners combine strength and durability with affordability and easy installation.

### HEAVY-DUTY BELT FASTENER TYPES



In heavy-duty applications like coal, cement, mining, and aggregate, there are two main belt fastener types: Hinged Plate and Solid Plate. Hinged plate fasteners, often used with small pulleys, are installed into each end of the belt and then joined together and held in place with a pin.

Solid plate fasteners consist of one plate that is installed into both ends of the belt and fastened together.

Solid plate fasteners are used with larger pulleys and for applications that require a sift-free splice. These fasteners are installed into the belt using bolts, rivets, or staples (depending on belt type and application) and are available in a variety of metals.

## Growel

### Cleaners:

Surface conditioning is an essential requisite to obtain fine plating finishes. It comprises of a planned cycle of controlled steps precisely selected for cleaning and subsequent preparation of substrates.

Pre cleaning, either by solvent emulsion degreasers or heavy duty soak cleaners are employed to remove heavy accumulation of soil such as oil, grease, buffing compounds and drawing lubricants by immersion, electrolytic or by spray.

To obtain a 'water break-free' surface, the substrates are often further cleaned by industrial detergents with or without the help of electrolysis.

### Ginbond Electrocleaner

Electrocleaner which is a synergical blend of builder alkalies along with specially designed surface active agents. The composite has one of the highest degree of cleaning & scale removing abilities.

Alkaline derusting is removal of metallic oxides, primarily from iron alloys. Red rust is removed by immersion, whereas black oxides generally require use of electricity. Electrolytic alkaline derusting is very effective for removal of smuts and residues of acid pickling.

### Growspace Aqueous Cleaner

Non-caustic, silicate free surfactant based liquid cleaner for ferrous and non-ferrous metals – No base metal etching. Specially designed to clean Aluminium, Magnesium & Titanium substrates.



## 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

### 49 Indian steel, iron items to be preferred for public works

The government has put in place a new mechanism to offer preference to 49 domestically manufactured iron and steel products in public contracts, including tubes, pipes, railway tracks, wires, tables and household items, tanks, containers, railway coaches and rolling stock. The move is part of the Centre's efforts to boost domestic production, for which it had put in place public procurement norms a few years ago. Since then, the programme has moved from the 'Make in India' campaign to 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' with steel being among the sectors that have come into special focus.

Steel is seen as a key input for a host of sectors, ranging from construction to building ships and railway lines & coaches.

In fact, the steel ministry, which has issued the order, had earlier pushed railways to buy domestically manufactured rails at a time when the public transporter was citing the lack of capacity in the country and was arguing for imports.

The latest order will extend to centrally sponsored schemes, and even local bodies executing public contracts will have to follow this if the procurement value exceeds Rs 5 lakh. The government has specified minimum domestic value addition, ranging between 20% and 50%, for various steel products.

Besides, the ministry has armed itself with powers to restrict import of iron and steel

from countries that do not allow Indian companies to participate in procurement due to restrictive conditions. In case such instances are proven, then it can "restrict or exclude" bidders from that country from the eligibility norms.

A supplier or bidder shall be considered to be from a country if the entity is incorporated in that country, or majority shareholding or effective control of the entity is from that country. It will face restrictions even if over 50% of the value of the item being supplied has been added in that country that restricts Indian steel companies' access, the new order said.

For long, Indian companies have complained of getting a harsh treatment in government contracts in China, as well as some Asean countries and the latest clause, first inserted by the department for promotion of industry and internal trade, is seen to be a counter-offensive.

While the government cannot restrict imports due to its commitments at WTO, it had not offered to bind itself by signing the public procurement agreement at the multilateral body.

– *The Economic Times*



### Appliances, consumer electronics companies seek silver lining in 2021; pin hopes on new launches

The appliances and consumer electronics industry, which lost around 25 per cent of annual sales in the COVID-19-hit 2020, expects to regain the lost ground next year through a special focus on digital initiatives, emerging trends, change in consumer behaviour as well as the impetus to ramp up domestic manufacturing activities.

From WFH to DIY, 2020 has been unique with many challenges and possibilities for the industry. Leading brands witnessed rapid increase in digital consumption, changes in demands where more consumers are seeking value propositions with a comfortable, convenient, and connected experience to support a changed lifestyle amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Helped by high double-digit growth in festive season sales – where consumers purchased larger screen TVs, bigger refrigerators and washing machines to manage changing lifestyles under WFH (Work From Home) and DIY (Do It Yourself) trends – the industry expects the second half of the current fiscal ending March 31, 2021 to be better.

Companies will continue to introduce products based on new technologies to establish themselves even more firmly in the segment by tapping the emerging demand for automation and digitisation, expanding presence in the digital medium with a special focus on omni-channels as well as semi-urban and rural markets.



According to Sony India, 2020 was an "unprecedented year". However, in the past few months, it has witnessed a "sharp tendency shift" towards established brands and customers are now prioritising overall value proposition rather than just price.

"Overall, we see ourselves as a stronger brand in 2021 with Sony launching technologically advanced products and nicely meeting the demand from our customers," Sony India Managing Director Sunil Nayyar said.

Samsung India, whose electronics business saw strong double-digit growth in the second half over last year, witnessed some very interesting trends among consumers who wanted to buy larger screen TVs, bigger refrigerators and washing machines to help them manage their changing lifestyles.

"This trend was visible even in smaller towns, leading to our premium products running out of stock across categories. This year, we have strengthened our lifestyle and luxury product portfolio. We are now excited to enter 2021 with our new vision of Powering Digital India and expect consumer demand to stay strong in the New Year," Samsung India Senior VP of Consumer Electronics Business Raju Pullan said.

The pandemic changed the scope and range of home appliances that evolved from conventional to smart, aiding in multi-tasking, Panasonic India and South Asia President and CEO Manish Sharma said.

"Consumers today are seeking a value proposition, having a comfortable, convenient, and connected experience to

support their lifestyle," he said, adding the company plans to enhance the connected ecosystem of its products through Miraie, the connected living platform powered by IoT (Internet of Things) and AI (Artificial Intelligence).

However, there is a warning for the sector as well. According to the Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA), rising commodity costs could hit the industry in 2021.

"Rising commodity costs of late is now expected to impact the industry in the immediate months ahead," CEAMA President Kamal Nandi said.

Though with predictable production and demand patterns, the industry is now able to cope up with the increase in demand but logistics still remains a challenge for some imported products due to freight issues and delays in port clearances, Nandi said. He is also the Executive Vice President of Godrej Appliances.

Besides, the industry also faced several challenges on sourcing of components, particularly from China on which it is largely dependent, due to COVID-19 earlier this year and later on account of deteriorating relationship between the two countries.

The industry took on the challenge, helped by the government's Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to reduce India's dependence on China, and is creating a base for domestic component manufacturing.

Terming the move of PLI as a "game-changer", the country's largest contact manufacturer Dixon said it will help to create

a world-class manufacturing base for the consumer electronics and appliances segment.

"PLI announcement for the sector is a game-changer for the Indian industry. Now, we can be a global champion in manufacturing. It has laid a strong foundation for the years to come and will help to make India as the global hub for manufacturing for the sector," Dixon Technologies Chairman Sunil Vachani said.

Moreover, to promote domestic manufacturing in the segment, the government re-imposed customs duty on import of open-cell for TVs from October this year. It had also put restrictions on imports of finished air conditioners.

LG Electronics India is expecting a 50 per growth in the premium segments of home appliances such as refrigerators and washing machines. It also had a "huge spike" in demand for other products like microwave and dishwashers, and is investing to create multiple contents engaging the customers, LG Electronics India VP of Home Appliances Vijay Babu said.

In 2020, new product categories such as dishwashers picked up substantially. "This was also a year of new product categories like dishwashers and air purifiers witnessing a good pick up and we expect them to continue to gain popularity, as the market penetration is currently low and limited mostly to metros," Voltas MD & CEO Pradeep Bakshi said.

BSH Home Appliances MD & CEO Neeraj Bahl said, "our dishwashers, mixer grinders

and washing machines picked up substantially and we are happy to share that we will cross our original top line and better our bottom line".

It expects 2021 to be "very promising" and anticipate a growth of 25 per cent.

As per a joint report by CEAMA and Frost & Sullivan, the appliances and consumer electronics industry's total market size was Rs 76,400 crore in 2018-19.

– ***The Economic Times***



## Impact of COVID-19 on welding & cutting equipment industry

Welding and cutting equipment are critical components in almost all of today's worksites. As per a Persistence Market Research report, "The market of welding and cutting equipment is expected to grow at a substantial rate through 2020. Some of the major drivers contributing the overall market growth of welding and cutting equipment include increasing demand from the energy, automotive and construction industries. Slow growth of the ship building, aerospace and defense industries are expected to pose challenge to the growth of welding and cutting equipment market."

The report adds, "Countries that are part of the BRIC group (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) are considered to record the fastest market growth in the coming years."

Laser welding offers several technical advantages, such as deep narrow welds, minimal distortion, and ease of automation, over conventional welding procedures. According to a report published by Technavio, the global laser welding machine market size is expected to grow by USD 246.50 million.

Commenting on the impact of COVID-19 on Indian industries, V.V. Kamath, Managing Director, Fronius India Pvt Ltd said, "The COVID-19 pandemic has affected worldwide and all the industries are having the strain due to the effect of the same. However the governments have taken a lot of steps in improving the situation. In India, the

government has put in lots of efforts in promoting the manufacturing sector with the 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' schemes and also announcing special focus on MSMEs with special schemes. This has helped the manufacturing industries a lot to improve the situation. Also after a long time, the automotive industry is also reviving and the year-on-year comparison is showing positive growth."

Like many other industries, welding and cutting equipment industry has also got affected due to COVID-19. Highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on welding and cutting equipment industry, he said, "As far as the welding and cutting equipment industry is concerned, we are directly connected with the manufacturing industries. The manufacturing industry has few challenges like the migrant labour, uncertainty of the future and thereby lack of investment on capital equipment and also the inconsistency in the orders from OEMs etc. With all these now the industry is reviving slowly and meeting the challenges."

Mr Kamath further suggests, "What is now important is to focus on Total Cost of Production (TCOP) instead of Total Cost of Ownership (TCO). The TCO is not only the cost of machine plus running cost; it also includes the machine not running due to breakdown or idle time etc. Hence, we need to make right investment on equipment that will give good life, quality and improves productivity instead of going for cheaper imports from eastern World especially China. We at Fronius offer the best TCOP to



our customers and we are also seeing that this trend for investing on quality product is increasing very rapidly and customers seeking for the long-term players instead of the 'fly by night' companies."

Fronius India Pvt Ltd is headquartered in Pune and having regional offices at Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Gurgaon. More than 28,000 Fronius machines are installed and working in the field of Indian market.

"Fronius International is in the celebration of 75 years globally and with the commitment to India with its own new facility in Bhosari near Pune soon. It is an assurance to Indian market that Fronius India will support the Indian customers with its world-class products and services with its 'permanent address' in India," Mr Kamath asserts.

Manufacturing industry has few challenges like the migrant labour, uncertainty of the future and thereby lack of investment on capital equipment and also the inconsistency in the orders from OEMs etc.

**– OEM Update**



## Indian modern machining tools market has tremendous potential in future

As shops look to expand capacity, they are increasingly turning to lights-out machining instead of adding machines, employees or shifts. Utilising overnight and weekend hours to produce parts with no operators present, shops are able to get more production out of their existing machines. However, unattended machining can be risky and not advisable – if a machine or cutting tool were to fail with no one around to quickly address the situation, the results could be costly

In order to successfully transition a production process from attended to unattended machining, shops should reconsider every aspect of the process and optimise it for lights-out production. The new process may require new equipment, such as the addition of automation for loading and unloading the machine in the form of bar feeders, machine-tending robots or pallet systems. Machine monitoring software can provide data and insights into the process that can drive optimisation. Moreover, chip and coolant management systems need to be robust enough to continue working through unattended shifts. Cutting tools may be the one aspect machine shops may overlook when building a lights-out machining process.

Being one of the leading manufacturers of machine tools and a key player in the industry, India offers several investment opportunities. The industry is moving towards increasingly



advanced CNC machines, driven by demand from critical user segments, such as electronics, medical equipment, die and mould, automobiles, consumer durables, etc. Hence, modern manufacturers of machine tools should leverage the capabilities to cater to this demand and investments to yield long-term benefits.

As the government emphasises on 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbharta', the spotlight is on the Indian manufacturing sector. Going by the industry reports of the last few years, there has been encouraging response to the Indian machine tools industry and is also projected to grow further in the coming years. So, how do we work towards the future and realising a positive outcome? As the process of automation is integrated with the latest CNC

controllers and machine tools, it allows the user to implement a process that delivers precision, quality, and higher productivity.

The machine tool industry is gaining prominence and has started adopting innovative solutions. The technology push in the machine tools industry is driven by user industries demand for automation and an increase in productivity. Hence, there is a significant demand for more flexible machine tool designs that can quickly adapt to new products, as well as for sophisticated CNC controllers that can operate and deliver precision.

In order to make India the focus of major investments, we need to establish India as a global brand, the products manufactured in India should be backed by higher accuracy and sophisticated machines catering to a wide range of Industries. The right technology and correct pricing will be the deciding factor for Indian businesses. Organisations need to encourage R&D activities to cultivate and process the ideas of Machine tool manufacturing.

It's important that companies should also indulge in activities like Vocational Trainings at various training institutes to bridge the gap of technical knowledge among the youth. In turn supporting the future of the Indian machine tool Industry.

The most common types of machining and metal fabrication tools can be categorised as the following:

- Lathes
- Drilling machines
- Milling machines

- Hobbing machines
- Honing machines
- Gear shapers
- Planer machines
- Grinding machines
- Broaching machines

Three reasons to watch the Indian machine tool industry, even from a vantage as distant as North America are as follows:

**They Have North American Ambitions**

Generally, majority of the builders focus on the domestic market first, and many cite North America as a target for the distant future. However, there are entities who are already here, or likely soon will be. By the time this article is published, Marshall Manufacturing will be offering “plug-and-play” Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) turning technology from an office in Atlanta.

An Indian company, Bharat Fritz-Werner (BFW), which is a manufacturer of milling and turning machines, sees opportunity in the mould and die sector in particular. Company representatives say they could foresee opening a U.S. office within a year.

**They Are Focused on the Future**

Emerging technologies like additive and data-driven manufacturing are essential if India is to be a major player in the advanced manufacturing markets of the future, and by the look of things there is ample evidence of manufacturers focusing on both. Advanced knowledge of when machines need maintenance and tools will wear—a critical concern when machining of materials like titanium and Inconel—has significantly reduced labour costs.

**They Have the Drive to Succeed**

Recently, at a concluding celebration of IMTEX, representatives of the India Machine Tools Manufacturers' Association (IMTMA) recalled that many people did not take the organisation seriously when it began construction of the BIEC in 2007. The detractors said that many other large machine tool exhibitions have taken place at venues built and funded by governments, not privately-owned trade associations. Suffice it to say, these representatives consider their critics have been silenced.

**– Machine Tools World**





# Grand Business Carnival

**6 co located events and one Grand Business Carnival** for Metal, Machinery and Manufacturing industries

- HTF - for **Advanced Hand Tools, Power Tools and Fasteners**
- CWE - for **Advanced Cutting and Welding Equipment & Technology including Laser Technology**
- IMEX - for **Latest Machine Tools** (CNC, Laser, Shot Blasting, Measuring & Testing Equipment and more.....)
- UMEX – for **Economical Pre-owned machinery in the industry**
- World of Metal – for **Mineral, Metal, Metallurgy & Materials**
- TECHINDIA - for **Engineering and Manufacturing** (Pumps, Valves, Compressors and more.....)



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- **4 Open Seminars**
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  - > *Advancements In Cutting & Welding Equipment*
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  - > *Technology Innovation for Metal & Metallurgy Industries*
- Various New Launches by exhibitors.



## Business Connect Program

- Market News & Views, a weekly e news alert program covering Industry Updates ,Launch of New Technologies , Partnership Opportunities , Industry Views, CSR activities
- International Business Networking Program (IBNP) a monthly webinar covering key industry across Indian as well as some neighboring countries including China, Taiwan, Bangladesh, etc
- Open Seminars during the event, a unique opportunity to have face to face interaction with industry leader and knowledge transfer



### Contact Us



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**3-5 SEPTEMBER 2021 at Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai, India**



## SOME LEADING COMPANIES AT THE EVENTS

### De Neers Tools LLP



Since 1952, De Neers has been a prominent name in the Hand Tool Industry.

Today the company is run by the fourth generation of the Aggarwal family, Mr. Neeraj Kumar Aggarwal, whose hard work and passion for continuous improvement have made De Neers one of the top industrial tool manufacturers.

Synonymous with reliability, quality, innovation, and value, De Neers is the first name that pops up in customers' minds when it comes to finding the best industrial tool suppliers. We have worked hard to build our excellent reputation and are always dedicated to delivering the best to our clients. Our constant efforts are towards testing, designing, and improving our products to ensure their maximum quality and functionality. Maintaining our standing as one of the top industrial tool distributors, we never leave any stone untouched to meet the expectations of our customers.

We aim to provide the highest quality hand tools backed with German technology with the essence of "Make in India." We have a team of the best industry experts that focuses on delivering the highest value to customers for every penny they have invested in our products. Our R&D team has experienced professionals on the board that regularly check the latest technologies and trends in the market to improve the design and structure of the products. Our offered tools meet the demands of customers who use these tools every day. De Neers is famous for providing the widest range of products to its customers in India.

The range includes:

- Sledge, Cross Pein, Ball Pein, Brass, Dead blow, Claw, PU, and Copper Hammers.
- Forged C-clamps in size ranging up to 300 mm.
- Chisels, Centre punches in different sizes and types.
- Double-ended, Combination, Tubular, and Ring Spanners.

- Ring Spanners and Slogging Open ranging up to 220 mm and in SAE sizes up to 5.1/2 SAE.
- Pipe Wrenches in Stillson pattern, Aluminium, and Heavy-duty style
- Truck Wheel wrenches, Hook Wrenches, Torque Wrenches, etc
- Wire rope cutters and Bolt Cutters up to 1200 mm
- Aviation Cutters, Cable Cutters, Rebar Cutter, and Pipe bender
- Adjustable Wrenches
- A comprehensive array of Sockets and its accessories and Socket sets of all feasible drives including 1/4", 3/8", 1/2", 3/4", 1", and 1-1/2" drive.
- Allen Keys (both Short and Long pattern), Brown S-2 Material Allen keys, Torx Allen key, Flag Allen keys, etc.
- A wide variety of Screw Drivers, including Screwdrivers with Flat tips, Torx tips, Phillips tips, Electrician patterns, Stubby Screwdrivers, Striking Screwdrivers, Impact Screwdrivers, Line Testers, Screwdriver Sets, Screwdriver bits, Two in One Screwdrivers, etc.

### Manufacturing Facility

The Company has its fully equipped manufacturing units in Jalandhar and Ludhiana, spreading over a total area of 31000 sq meters. All our manufacturing facilities are backed with advanced technology from Germany and Taiwan, and incorporate both capital and labor-intensive techniques.

Each production unit has its own fully equipped and modernized labs with all the

necessary testing equipment. We also have the most excellent manufacturing facilities like Forge Shop, Machine Shop, Heat treatment, Polishing, Nickel chrome plating, and so on.

Every product manufactured in our production unit has to go through the Quality Assurance Department that ensures the quality of the tools before they are delivered to our final customers.



## Electrex Power Tools



Electrex India Limited (EIL) was incorporated on 22nd December 1982 as a private limited company. It was converted into a Public Limited Company on 21st June 1989.

ELECTREX was initially set up as a S.S.I unit for manufacturing Power Tools. In the initial phase of the project Canara Bank invested Rs.1 Cr as Venture Capital while K.S.F.C and IDBI assisted the project by providing Seed Capital and Soft Loan apart from Term Loan. Subsequently Hitachi Koki Co., Ltd., world's 4th largest manufacturers of Power Tools invested Rs.25 Lacs towards Equity Capital of the Company and extended Technical Collaboration.

EIL went public in 1993. The company's initial public offer (IPO) in November 1993 was placed at a premium of Rs.40 per equity share of Rs.10 each and received very good response and was oversubscribed many times. EIL's shares were initially listed on (i) BSE (ii) NSE (iii) Bangalore & (iv) Ahmedabad stock exchanges. After the listing in the year 1994, the shares were actively traded in BSE and had touched high of Rs.180. The shares of the company are presently under the suspended group due to penal (nonpayment of yearly listing fees) at BSE. The Company is now in the process of complying all listing regulations for re-listing of its equity at BSE.

EIL has manufacturing facility situated at Peenya Industrial Area, Bangalore with land

area of 3.16 acre of land (1,37,415 sq.ft). This was originally allotted by KIADB (Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board) on lease-cum-sale basis. It is now free-hold property of the Company.

EIL has two blocks of constructed factory area of 50,000 sq. Ft.

EIL started with a manufacturing capacity of 7500 tools per annum and now has installed a capacity to manufacture more than 5,00,000 tools per annum.

EIL had entered a technical collaboration with Hitachi Koki Co. Ltd, Japan in 1988 and thereafter have absorbed the technology for manufacturing power tools. EIL presently have an integrated manufacturing facility with equipped research and development facility.

It has strength of 170 employees and same number of contractual labor with an average age of less than 40 years and having over 15 years' experience with EIL.

ELECTREX has created a Revolution in the way Power Tools are used in India. Until ELECTREX launched niche products for specialist applications like Marble & Granite cutting and polishing Power Tools were generally limited to a common Drill or a Grinder that too used mostly by institutional customers. The overall size of the Indian market was then small with limited range, manufacturers who made old outdated models which were extremely price prohibitive for an average common customer to buy and use.

ELECTREX entered the business of manufacturing Power Tools with the aim of

providing a variety of specialty tools to common man at an affordable price. The mantra of International Quality at Indian Prices helped the company to create Demand to a level which was unheard earlier. This propelled common man like Masons, Carpenters, Electricians, Contractors, to abandon their old style of working manually with no tools and switch over to using time and labor saving and extremely productive and efficient tools to carry on their trade or work.

The result of this understanding on the part of these uneducated but skilled labor was almost a phenomena in the sense that having realized Economic Value they get by using these Niche Tools in their daily operations they then dreamt of owning a Tool and being self employed by themselves. What followed thereafter is a History. "Power Tools" as a Product started getting noticed at every level - from an un-initiated user to a Shop Keeper to an Ancillary prospect. All of them saw a Great value and business opportunity. This led to expansion of market - both in terms of number of Shop keepers who began to display and sell power tools to SSI & SME segment units who felt business potential in manufacturing and supplying Spare Parts & Components not only to ELECTREX for its production of tools but to end users as replacement parts for after sales service. Thus, Power Tools market started growing in leaps and bounds creating jobs for Millions of people all over India. Most importantly it created Self Employment among Millions of Indians with barely an investment of few

thousands of Rupees. This is the single biggest contribution of ELECTREX.

Brand - ELECTREX is a generic brand in the power tool sector.

Presence in the power tool industry since last three decades.

Manufactures wide range of products ranging from cutters, drills, saws grinders, polishers etc.

- Cutting
- Grinding
- Polishing
- Drilling
- Sawing
- Cleaning and other applications

Well-equipped for future growth with no significant investment in capacity.

Technically skilled and experienced employees and workforce with an average age of less than 40 years and having 15 years of experience with EIL.

Superior technology - Technology absorbed from Hitachi Koki Co. Ltd, Japan.

Distribution network - Pan India

Distribution Network





## Flexco



**Our Approach:**  
Flexco partners with companies that complement each other in providing the best of the best in products and services. These companies include conveyor manufacturers, belt manufacturers, original equipment manufacturers, allied product manufacturers, industrial distributors, service companies, and others. We want our customers to know that when they work with Flexco they get the benefit of access to our highly valued partners as well. We will ensure that our customers have the right products and get the best possible performance from their belt. With our experienced team to advise you, you will be able to address almost any challenge.



## Growel



Since 1957, Growel has been a trendsetter in the General Metal Finishing Industry and a formidable player in the field of Electroplating & Specialty Chemicals and Engineering equipments. In 2005, Growel ventured into real estate development and built a sprawling 475000 square feet Shopping Centre in the Western Suburbs of Mumbai. In 2007, with the addition of Protective Coatings & Industrial Lubricants into its manufacturing foray, Growel has become a One Stop Solution Provider for protection of all types of substrates across the various industrial segments. Growel's R&D is recognized by The Indian Council of Science & Technology for its innovative & technological prowess in the Chemical & Paint divisions. This recognition stands testimony to our unwavering commitment towards developing and producing quality products that are safe for the environment. Growel's Chemical & Paint division is IMS (Integrated Management System) Certified. We are also the first Chemical Company in India to have received the coveted AS9100 Aerospace Certification, established by The Aerospace industry, which demonstrates our ability to satisfy DOD, NASA and FAA quality standards. As a Corporate citizen conscientious of our environment & people's welfare, we are constantly engaged in the development of

newer & sustainable green practices within our organization and so also, work with the local communities through our various CSR activities, ensuring development of the human capital at large.

We are bound to all our stakeholders to build trust & deliver the highest quality products & services by embracing fair trade practices through ethical & transparent dealings. We are dedicated to operating our facilities with utmost respect for the communities & environment in which we all live & work as they constitute an integral part of our business philosophy effectively driving sustained growth.

Our commitment to excellence, innovation, people strategy, systems and processes have been designed to make Growel an employer of choice.





...and many more





...and many more



# Thank You

**COMBATING**  
**COVID-19**

Basic  
Protective  
Measures



USE FACE MASK



CLEAN AND DISINFECT



WASH YOUR HANDS  
FREQUENTLY



KEEP DISTANCE  
FROM OTHERS



AVOID TOUCHING  
EYES, NOSE OR MOUTH



STAY AT HOME  
WHEN YOU ARE SICK