News and Views...

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Coronavirus roundup: Developments in India and rest of world

India is in a much better position than other countries in the fight against Covid-19 as a result of "right decisions taken at the right time", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, asserting that the country has expanded its health infrastructure at a rapid pace.

Speaking after virtually launching Covid-19 testing facilities in Noida, Mumbai and Kolkata, Modi said that in the fight against coronavirus, India has come to a point where it does not lack in awareness, its scientific data is expanding and resources are also increasing.

Here are the top developments:

During the launch, PM Modi also pointed to the rapid pace of health infrastructure development, from testing labs, personal protection equipment to Covid facilities. "In January, where we had only one centre for Covid-19 testing, now there are about 1,300 labs operating in the country," he said.

India's Covid-19 fatality rate has been progressively falling and currently stands at 2.28 per cent which is among the lowest in the world, the government said on Monday, attributing the dip to factors like aggressive testing and an effective containment strategy.

It also said that the recovery rate has been improving consistently and the total recoveries have now crossed the nine lakh-mark.

With a record single-day jump of 49,931 Covid-19 cases, India's caseload climbed to 14,35,453, while recoveries surged to 9,17,567, according to Union health ministry data. The country's death toll rose to 32,771 with 708 fatalities being recorded in a day.

A total of 43,022 health and wellness centres have become operational in different parts of the country to ensure that an array of healthcare facilities reaches the people, the Union health ministry said. The ministry said as many as 13,657 health and wellness centres were operationalised within the period of the coronavirus pandemic itself (between January to July 2020).

A French Air Force aircraft will bring ventilators, test kits and other medical equipments to India on Tuesday as part of Covid-19 assistance by France, its embassy said. President Emmanuel Macron had recently announced the donation of medical equipment to India, as well as provision of technical expertise.

Avra Laboratories Pvt Ltd, a Hyderabad-based pharma company, has been granted regulatory approval by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation to manufacture and marketFavipiravir API, which will help patients suffering from Covid-19.

The Times of India

Unlock 3.0: Cinema halls, gyms expected to reopen from August 1

The Centre is considering requests to permit cinema halls and gyms to reopen as part of the 'Unlock 3.0' phase which is slated to begin on August 1, news reports suggest.

These establishments would have to follow strict social distancing and other safety protocols amid the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Schools, colleges and educational institutions will not be allowed to reopen yet. They would be advised to continue with online classes, reportsadd. Metro rail services are also likely to remain suspended for August.

Earlier, an association of cinema halls had urged the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to allow theatres to function with 25-30 percent capacity. The government is expected to issue detailed guidelines for Unlock 3.0 in the days to come.

Reports suggest that states and Union Territory administrations could be given more authority in deciding their own guidelines based on the situation in there. Multiple states, or at least some areas within, continue to remain under lockdown due to spike in cases.

- MoneyControl

Frontrunner Oxford vaccine for Covid-19 cleared for advanced trial in India

India's top drug regulator has approved the application of Serum Institute of India (SII) to conduct late-stage human trials in the country for the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine candidate.

Researchers in Oxford announced last month that their candidate had triggered an immune response in humans against the novel coronavirus in early trials. The Oxford candidate is considered to be one of the global frontrunners for the Covid-19 vaccine, along with candidates being developed by Moderna with the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and Pfizer with BioNTech.

SII, the world's largest maker of vaccines, has a tie-up with AstraZeneca, the Swedish-British pharma giant, to manufacture the Covid-19 vaccine for low- and middle-income countries. The vaccine is already being tested in the UK, South Africa and Brazil, where participants are being administered two doses nearly a month apart.

The clearance from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) who heads the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) came after an expert committee on Friday accepted a revised proposal submitted by SII.

The Institute can now start larger phase II/III trials of the candidate in India, ahead of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin and Zydus Cadila's ZyCov-D, other candidates that are still in phase I/II trials. The trials for Covishield – the name given to the candidate technically referred to as AZD1222 or ChAdOx 1 nCoV-19 – will have around 1,600 participants at 18-odd sites across the country.

– The Indian Express

India's coronavirus vaccine update: 1 in 5 who enrolled for Covaxin trials already had protective antibodies

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi is currently conducting Phase I trials of India's first homegrown coronavirus vaccine candidate Covaxin, to battle against the novel coronavirus. After getting regulatory approval from the Drug Comptroller of India (DCGI), 12 institutes were selected across the country, including AIIMS Delhi and Patna to start the human trials of Covaxin.

AIIMS Delhi has already screened in 80 volunteers ever since it started enrolling the volunteers for clinical trials of India's first indigenous COVID-19 vaccine. However, as of now, only 16 volunteers have been selected to undergo clinical trials as the rejection rate is very high. According to a report published in the Indian Express, almost 20 per cent of the volunteers who had signed up for the Covaxin trial had already developed protective antibodies against the novel coronavirus. This simply meant that they had already contracted COVID-19 in the past and recovered from the same.

To participate in Phase I of human trials, the volunteer needs to be a healthy individual between the age of 18 to 55, without any co-morbidities. In the first phase of Covaxin human trials, 375 volunteers will be recruited, out of which AIIMS will enrol 100 volunteers to participate in the randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trials.

Before a volunteer is recruited, a series of medical tests are conducted to check all the major health parameters (hypertension, diabetes, chronic kidney illness, poor liver function etc) and rapid antibody test is also performed to check for protective antibodies against novel coronavirus.

– The Times of India

Next big Covid-19 treatment may be manufactured antibodies: Reuters

As the world awaits a COVID-19 vaccine, the next big advance in battling the pandemic could come from a class of biotech therapies widely used against cancer and other disorders - antibodies designed specifically to attack this new virus, according to Reuters report.

Development of monoclonal antibodies to target the virus has been endorsed by leading scientists. Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. infectious diseases expert, called them "almost a sure bet" against COVID-19.

When a virus gets past the body's initial defenses, a more specific response kicks in, triggering production of cells that target the invader. These include antibodies that recognize and lock onto a virus, preventing the infection from spreading. Monoclonal antibodies - grown in bioreactor vats - are copies of these naturally-occurring proteins.

– Business Standard

India eases quarantine rules for international travelers

In what is a big relief for many planning to return or travel to India, passengers will be able to seek exemption from mandatory institutional quarantine on arrival. This is part of the new guidelines announced on August 2 which will come into effect from August 8. The guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have also halved the duration of quarantine from 14 days each of institutional quarantine and home quarantine to 7 days.

Passengers can seek exemption on grounds of “compelling reasons”, which include pregnancy, death in the family, and serious illness. Travellers accompanied by children under 10 years also fall into this category. Passengers will have to apply to the www.newdelhiairport.in to seek relief at least 72 hours before boarding the flight. The decision will then be communicated online. Additionally, those who don't fall into any of these categories, may also seek exemption from institutional quarantine “by submitting a negative RT-PCR test report on arrival”. The test should be conducted within 96 hours of undertaking the journey. Such passengers will have to undergo home quarantine for the total duration of 14 days. These guidelines supersede those issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on May 24. Earlier, passengers were required to register with the Indian embassy in their country, but now they can simply register online at www.newdelhiairport.in.

– The Hindu

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

India's crude steel production at 6.8 million tonnes in June, says Steel Ministry

The steel sector in India has started showing signs of improvement and in the month of June the country's crude steel production stood at 6.8 million tonne (MT), according to the Ministry of Steel. At, 6.8 MT, the production was 17.7 per cent higher over May, 2020, but on a year-on-year basis it was lower by 27.2 per cent over June 2019, the ministry said in an update.

It noted that economic activities, after hitting the nadir in April 2020 due to spread of COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown, have started showing signs of improvement from May 2020.

“This was reflected in the performance of eight core industries (with a weight of 40.27 per cent in IIP) which as against a decline of 37 per cent in April 2020 registered a decline of 23.4 per cent in the month of May 2020. Similarly the Index of steel production which fell sharply by 83.9 per cent in April 2020 registered a decline of 48.4 per cent in May 2020," the ministry said. On the output of steel, it said the production has shown a consistent improvement after witnessing a decline in April this fiscal.

The ministry further said the production of finished steel in June 2020 at 5.9 MT, was up 15.6 per cent compared to 5.1 MT in May 2020. However, on year-on-year basis, the output of finished steel in June 2020 was lower by 33.3 per cent.

On month-on-month basis, in June 2020, the retail prices of HRC (hot rolled coil), CRC (cold rolled coil) and rebar increased by 1.43 per cent, 1.69 per cent and 2.17 per cent respectively, due to uptick in various activities because of phased relaxation in lockdown along with an increase in exports during the month.

"BSE Sensex and BSE Metal Indices registered an increase of 6.1 per cent and 4.7 per cent respectively, in the month of June, 2020 indicating recovery after lockdown," it said.

The government has set a target of scaling up India's crude steel making capacity to 300 million tonne by 2030.

The ministry also said while ensuring increase in production of steel and its consumption, it is also necessary to identify and address the challenges the users face in terms of adopting domestic steel products.

Tata Steel to commission first scrap-based plant in Haryana's Rohtak soon

Tata Steel NSE -0.33 % flagged-off the first raw material consignment of ferrous scrap for trials at its steel recycling plant being set-up in Rohtak in Haryana, on Friday last week. The Scrap Processing Plant of 0.5 Million tonne per annum (mtpa) capacity is scheduled to be commissioned soon. It is the first such facility in India, equipped with state-of–the-art scrap processing equipment such as Shredder, Baler, Material Handler etc. The BOO partner is M/s Aarti Green Tech Ltd, a subsidiary of M/s Aarti Steel Ltd.

The scrap would be procured from various market segments such as End-of-Life Vehicle scrap, Obsolete Household Scrap, Construction & Demolition scrap, Industrial Scrap etc. This scrap would be processed through mechanised equipment and the high Quality processed scrap would be supplied to Electric Arc Furnaces (EAFs), Induction Furnaces (IFs) & Foundries for downstream steel making, satiating their long-standing demand. ..

Steel Recycling Business is a definitive green step by Tata Steel towards sustainable steel production and ecosystem. The steel produced through the recycled route entails lower carbon emissions, lower resource consumption & lower energy utilisation, an official statement said.

Commenting on it, Yogesh Bedi, Chief, Steel Recycling Business, Tata Steel, said:“Steel Recycling through the Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) route is a global trend and going forward it would become imperative for India's sustainable growth aspirations."

– The Economic Times

India Lockdown: Stainless steel sector's growth in production to fall during 2020

India's stainless steel industry has clocked a domestic melt production of 3.92 million tonnes with growth falling to 5% in 2019 as compared to 7-8% achieved in the previous years. It is estimated to further come down in 2020 due to the nationwide lockdown, said the Indian stainless steel development association (ISSDA) in a statement. "This slowdown in production, despite adequate capacity, can be attributed to a surge of almost 50% in imports of stainless steel flat products last year," said ISSDA's president, K K Pahuja.

It has been aided by unregulated dumping as well as Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) signed by India with ASEAN countries, much to the detriment of the domestic industry. This has, in turn, led to a significant impact on capacity utilization levels, currently at around 60%, he added.

The global stainless steel melt production in the current year 2019 was recorded at 52.5 MT, registering an increase of 2.9% year-on-year as per latest data released by Indian stainless steel forum. For CY2019, China's production figure accounted for more than 50% of the global stainless steel production and stood at 29.4 MT.

Resuming operations after the Covid-19 pandemic, China announced an increase in export rebates on cold-rolled steel, stainless steel strip and others from the present 10% to 13% for a large number of steel products. This may prompt Indian steelmakers to seek higher border tariffs if imports, too were to surge now.

The current pandemic situation, wherein our manufacturing is locked down but other major producing countries continue to operate and build inventories, is worrisome, said Pahuja. "There are trade sanctions in Europe and elsewhere to protect markets. The Indian Government must take prompt action to safeguard our interest and save livelihoods at this critical time."

– The Economic Times

Aluminiuam's role in new technologies for the building & construction industry

The construction industry is considered as the second largest industry after agriculture.

It is responsible for contributing significantly to the Indian economy and generates employment. In addition to that, KPMG predicts that by 2025, the country's construction sector will be the third largest in the world, after China and America, with an overall value of $1 trillion. With the rapid growth of population and urbanization, the construction industry has undergone rapid changes in the last few decades and is still evolving.

Evolutionary pressures have enabled deployment of new technologies in construction industry. Factors including limited availability of natural resources, urbanization, need for faster execution and changing infrastructure landscape have influenced the construction industry to continuously evolve. Exponential growth in cities has paved the way for skyscrapers; the infrastructure industry embraced this change and transformed the way buildings are now created. There are various trends and technologies that are shaping construction are mentioned below:

The Green Building Revolution: Adoption of sustainable processes and materials for creating structures was a key change that the construction industry witnessed. The need for minimizing the negative impact it had on the environment, encouraged builders and architects all over the world to be a part of the Green Building Revolution and create buildings that were energy efficient as well as self-sufficient.

Building automation:

Another technological revolution that changed the construction industry was the automation of buildings where centralized automated processes with the help of technologies and new materials controlled the heating, lighting and well as security systems. This was a massive breakthrough where technology and the construction industry converged paths.

– The Economic Times

Indian steel market showing signs of recovery after COVID-19 pandemic: Aditya Mittal

The Indian steel market has started showing signs of recovery after being hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Chairman Aditya Mittal has said. Aditya, son of steel baron LN Mittal, said that operations at ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India's (formerly Essar Steel) Hazira plant in Gujarat are running at full capacity.

He said that the COVID-19 pandemic severely disrupted domestic demand, in particular during the month of April; however, there is a recovery visible in the market.

"We are seeing the domestic market recover and that's a reason why our operations are running at full capacity (at Hazira in Gujarat)," he told on a query pertaining to the domestic demand.

In December 2019, global steel giant ArcelorMittal announced acquisition of debt-laden Essar Steel and forming a joint venture AM/NS India with Japan-based Nippon Steel.

Aditya Mittal, who is also president and CFO of parent company ArcelorMittal, was appointed chairman of AM/NS India, while Dilip Oommen was appointed as the CEO.

ArcelorMittal posted a net loss of USD 559 million for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020 amid COVID-19 disruptions and termed the quarter as the most difficult period in its history.

Sales in the April-June quarter were USD 11.0 billion, down from USD 19.3 billion in the corresponding period in 2019.

Total steel shipments in the second quarter of 2020 were 23.7 per cent lower at 14.8 million tonnes (MT).

On the performance of AM/NS India, Mittal in an investor presentation said that in the second quarter, the company's crude steel production fell to 1.2 MT from 1.7 MT in January-March 2020, while EBITDA was also lower at USD 107 million as compared to USD 140 million in the first quarter.

The business was impacted by COVID-19, he added.

When asked if AM/NS India would shift its focus on exports to drive its growth, Mittal said the company would continue to focus on the domestic market to increase business.

– The Economic Times

Hitachi ABB Plans for EV Charging System in India with Ashok Leyland

Hitachi ABB Power Grids, which recently launched its Grid-eMotion Fleet, a game-changing grid-to-plug EV charging system for large scale public transports and commercial operators, plans to bring the technology to India with Ashok Leyland as its partner.

The home-grown commercial vehicle manufacturer, earlier this year, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ABB to develop a pilot electric bus based on the latter's flash-charge technology, Grid-eMotion Flash solution, commonly known as TOSA.

Commenting on the company's plans to bring Grid eMotion Fleet to India, Andre Burdet, Product Management and Marketing Manager, Hitachi ABB Power Grids, said, "We have already signed an MoU with Ashok Leyland in India for a pilot project where we are supplying our Grid-eMotion Flash solution for their buses, and we also plan to implement our Grid-eMotion Fleet solution as part of the agreement." He further added, "As part of this introduction, we are talking with various parties in India about the opportunity to implement the solution."

Grid-eMotion Fleet uses DC technology and can connect to any type of power network, removing the complexities of integrating AC-DC chargers into a system. Compared to a conventional connection to the AC grid, the pioneering solution brings a 60 percent reduction in space required for large-scale EV fleet charging, whilst the depot cabling is reduced by 40 percent. The fast-to-install solution harnesses renewable energy through grid integration, smart mobility, digital energy management system and incorporates insights from data analytics.

Currently, the company has a 1-Megawatt (1000 kW) system installed in Milan, Italy, and several other projects are currently under development in several other countries.

Pointing to the electric vehicle ecosystem in India, Burdet said, "Compared to other countries, India is a few years behind in terms of adoption, infrastructure and regulations. However, the Government (of India) has taken various measures to boost the domestic manufacturing segment. Schemes such as FAME and 100 percent FDI to ebus manufacturers provide great incentives to lower the costs of electric buses to make it more affordable and facilitate their adoption in the country." Under FAME II (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) and Electric Vehicles) scheme, the Government of India plans to have 5,000 electric buses in India by 2022.

– Modern Manufacturing India

India, Russia exploring robotization projects to reduce covid impact on industry

Russia's Ministry of Industry and Trade is organizing a survey of Russian and Indian companies aimed at getting an understanding of the most pressing issues and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the industries of both countries. The study will be carried out by the Russian autonomous nonprofit organization ANO Data Economy and the Finnish-Russian industrial digitalization leader Zyfra. The desired results of the research are an express evaluation of the current production situation and the creation of clear measures to digitally transform manufacturing companies looking at the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

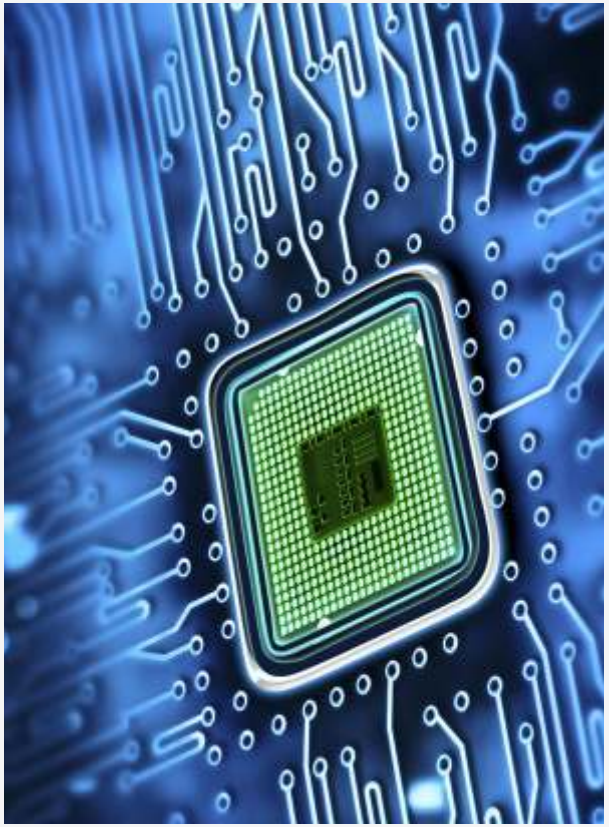
"Under the current conditions, innovations are becoming a tool to provide industry with the opportunity to minimize risks and financial losses. The main goal of the research is to elaborate mechanisms to support the digitalization of enterprises. The adaptation of industrial business processes to the new realities should be a development tool for companies, and should help to stimulate competitiveness," said the Director of the Department of Digital Technologies of the Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade, Vladimir Dozhdev.

"The current economic situation and the epidemic must give a strong boost to the acceleration of the digitalization and robotic automation of production, as these will serve as an effective tool to come out of the crisis. At the same time, experts note the limited scale of the use of innovative solutions in the real sector of the economy at the moment. One of the goals of the survey will be to increase the awareness of Russian companies of what Indian companies are doing, and vice-versa. We believe that Russia and India need well-organized mechanisms to exchange experience in the IT industry, especially in crisis situations, to allow our countries' experts and entrepreneurs to quickly connect and suggest solutions to various problems," commented Pavel Anisimov, Director of the Department of Industry of ANO Data Economy.

The collection of data for the study will be carried out through a survey of members of the expert community, as well as representatives of different kinds of industrial enterprises in Russia and India, and will cover the following consequences of COVID-19 on industry:

how digitalization could solve problems caused by the pandemic; key digital technologies in the production processes, the main barriers to the digitalization in industry; and the priorities of the state and of businesses.

– The Economic Times



INDUSTRY SPEAK

Vijay Jhawar
Gopal Spung & Iron Pvt. Ltd.

Make in India, National Steel policy 2017, there has been a transparent mechanism in respect to giving linkages and mine allotment to resources – allotments have been made through auction. Now the Prime Minister has given us vision of AtamaNirbhar Bharat. If we link all these four aspect, then can foresee a bright future. 'Commercial Coal Mining' which was launched by our Prime Minister on 18th June, will prove to be a foundation stone for steel industry and sponge iron secondary steel sector in the coming 2 to 3 years.

Gopal Gupta
Managing Director
M/S Laxcon Steel Ltd

The per capita consumption in India has doubled in the last 10 years from 1.2 kg per capita to 2.5kg per capita. The World is now shifting its eyes from other countries to India. The Shift in focus from China to India is one of the biggest opportunities that India has ever had and the opportunity is now.

MEDIA SPEAK

Banks Sanction Rs. 1.27 Lakh Crore to MSMEs

According to the Finance Ministry, banks have sanctioned loans worth Rs. 1,27,582 crore under the Rs. 3 lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the MSME sector affected by the economic slowdown due to the ongoing Covid-19.

However, disbursements against this stood at Rs. 77,613 crore till July 20 under the 100 percent ECLGS for MSMEs. The latest numbers on ECLGS, as released by the Ministry, include disbursements by all 12 public sector banks (PSBs), 22 private sector banks and 21 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

"As of July 20, 2020, the total amount sanctioned under the 100 percent ECLGS by PSBs and private banks stands at Rs. 1,27,582.60 crore, of which Rs. 77,613.06 crore has already been disbursed," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's office informed. Under ECLGS, the loan amounts sanctioned by PSBs has risen to Rs. 70,894.59 crore, of which Rs. 45,797.29 crore has been disbursed as of July 20. Whereas, private sector banks have sanctioned Rs. 56,688 crore and disbursed Rs. 31,815 crore.

"Compared to July 15, 2020, there is an increase of Rs. 4,237.44 crore in the cumulative amount of loans sanctioned and an increase of Rs.9,301.51 crore in the cumulative amount of loans disbursed, by both PSBs and private sector banks combined as on July 20, 2020," Sitharaman said.

Maharashtra leads among the states by sanctioning the highest amount of Rs. 7,358.59 to MSMEs, of which Rs. 4,785.85 crore has been disbursed.

SBI has sanctioned loans worth Rs. 20,988 crore and disbursed Rs. 14,811 crore, followed by Punjab National Bank, which has sanctioned Rs. 9,372 crore and disbursed Rs. 5,047 crore as of July 20.

On May 20, the Cabinet approved additional funding of up to Rs. 3 lakh crore at a concessional rate of 9.25 per cent through ECLGS for the MSME sector.

The scheme provides 100 percent guarantee coverage by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company for additional funding of up to Rs. 3 lakh crore to eligible MSMEs and interested Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency borrowers in the form of a guaranteed emergency credit line (GECL) facility. To this end, a corpus of Rs. 41,600 crore has been set up by the government, spread over the current and next three financial years.

The scheme is applicable to all loans sanctioned under GECL facility during the period from the date of announcement of the scheme to October 31 or till the amount of Rs. 3 lakh crore is sanctioned under GECL, whichever is earlier.

All MSME borrower accounts with an outstanding credit of up to Rs. 25 crore as on February 29, which were less than or equal to 60 days past due as on that date, i.e., regular, SMA-0 and SMA-1 accounts, and with an annual turnover of up to Rs. 100 crore are eligible for GECL funding under the scheme.

– Modern Manufacturing India

Machining sector witness growth despite pandemic gloom

Machine Tools market worldwide is projected to grow by US$40.1 billion, driven by a compounded growth of 6.2 per cent. Machining Centres, one of the segments analysed and sized in this study, displays the potential to grow at over 6.1 per cent. In view of the shifting dynamics supporting this growth makes it imperative for businesses in this space to keep abreast of the changing pulse of the market. Poised to reach over US$24.9 billion by the year 2025, machining centres will bring in healthy gains adding significant momentum to global growth.

Representing the developed world, the United States will maintain a 5.3 per cent growth momentum. Within Europe, which continues to remain an important element in the world economy, Germany will add over US$1.4 Billion to the region's size and clout in the next five to six years.

Over US$1.2 billion worth of projected demand in the region will come from Rest of Europe markets. In Japan, Machining Centres will reach a market size of US$814.4 million by the close of the analysis period.

China, being the world's second largest economy and the new game changer in global markets, has the potential to grow at 9.1 per cent over the next couple of years and add approximately US$10.8 billion in terms of addressable opportunity for the picking by aspiring businesses and their astute leaders.

Apart from the above-mentioned reason there other dynamics at play, too. Several macroeconomic factors and internal market forces will shape the growth and development of demand patterns in emerging countries in Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Middle East. The research viewpoints and numerical data presented in this article are based on validated engagements with influencers in the market, whose opinions supersede all other research methodologies.

– Machine Tools World

Icertis eyes industry-specific tools

PremjiInvest-backed Icertis plans to build industry specific solutions to help large organisations manage contracts with vendors and suppliers, its top executive said.

Icertis offers clients a contract management platform, which has apps built on top of it, helping large companies such as Microsoft and Airbus manage their contracts. The Pune-based unicorn works with five of the ten most valuable companies in the world.

"We will invest more in R&D in India this year and expand our team, as we work to build more apps to deliver value to specific problems," said Samir Bodas, CEO, Icertis. In July last year, the firm raised $115 million from PremjiInvest and Greycroft at a valuation of over $1 billion, making it among the few Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) unicorns out of India.

Following the fundraising, Bodas said the company was creating apps to tackle industry specific challenges, such as rebate management contracts for the retail sector. He said all tech development work would happen out of Pune, which houses 95% of its R&D team.

In 2019, the company grew its headcount here by 60% to 1,000 employees, and Bodas said it would add another 400 people over the course of this year.

Most companies have struggled to find qualified tech talent, but Icertis has attracted interest following its unicorn status and the kind of work it does, Bodas said. The company mainly focuses on machine learning, natural language processing and blockchain, and deals almost entirely with large global firms.

– The Economic Times

Industrial lubricants may buck economic trends post lockdown

Asia-Pacific (APAC) has been the largest industrial lubricants market, on account of swift industrialisation in emerging economies such as India and China. In addition to this, modernisation of industrial machinery is predicted to play a significant role in the growth of the domain in the APAC region. The post-lockdown resumption in manufacturing and industrial activities in the developed countries is also expected to result in the rising demand for industrial lubricants in the years to come.

Industrial lubricants are fluids, liquids, and greases that are utilized for lessening the wear and tear of materials while reducing friction and binding. The lubricants can also prevent corrosion from both outer and inner surfaces where they are applied. This growth of the metalworking industry is additionally resulting in the rising need for industrial lubricants, which are quite common in a number of other industries as well. As per a P&S Intelligence report, in 2016, the global industrial lubricants market generated a revenue of $48,860.7 million and is predicted to reach a value of $68,412.0 million by 2024, registering a growth of 4.3 per cent CAGR during the forecast period (2017–2024).

There are different product types of industrial lubricants such as engine oil, process oil, metalworking fluid, and general oil. Some other product types are turbine oil, industrial gear oil, chainsaw oil, compressor oil, demolding oil, and lubricating grease. The largest usage in the past was made of primary oils in different industries, as primary oil makes the functioning of industrial machinery smooth by keeping the temperature constant and decreasing the friction between the components. The demand for these oils for several manufacturing processes is further expected to increase in the near future due to swift industrialisation in countries including China and India.

Apart from metalworking industry, industrial lubricants also find applications in energy, textiles, food processing, chemical manufacturing, and hydraulic machinery industries. Out of these, the largest demand for industrial lubricants was created by the chemical manufacturing industry, since these lubricants aid in enhancing the manufacturing process, keep the contamination of chemicals in check, and preventing the machine temperature from rising too much. For instance, machines pressed into production of nitrogen fertilizers must bear extreme pressure and temperature, while being compatible with ammonia and catalyst, which is why industrial lubricants are used for applications in polymers, industrial gases, and fertilizers manufacturing processes.

The industrial lubricants market is already fragmented, and the extent of fragmentation should be accelerating during the forecast period that is between 2017 and 2024. Indian Oil Corp. Ltd., Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd., BP Plc, China National Petroleum Corp., Exxon Mobil Corp., FUCHS PETROLUB SE, Idemitsu Kosan Co. Ltd., PJSC LUKOIL, Royal Dutch Shell Plc, and Total SA are a few of the major stakeholders in the market. Despite the fact that the increasing demand from end-user industries will offer immense growth opportunities, the weak global economic scenario will challenge the growth of the participating companies. However, to make the most of the opportunities, market vendors have to focus more on the growth prospects in the fast-growing segments, while simultaneously, maintaining their positions in the slow-growing segments.

– Machine Tools World

New industrial policy for Karnataka: Business turnover, jobs added to decide state sops

Karnataka has switched from tax-based sops for investors to an incentive system linked to the size of business turnover and new jobs added, under the new industrial policy that the cabinet cleared on Thursday.

The policy, which will be valid for the next five years, seeks to offer more sops if industries decide to invest in remote areas of Karnataka, away from big cities, in order to achieve equitable development across the state. We aim to attract investments of 5 lakh crore and add two million jobs over the next five years. We want to improve Karnataka's ranking in merchandise exports from the current fourth to third position in the next five years," industries minister Jagadish Shettar told ET.

One of the focus areas of the policy, he said, is to develop an enabling ecosystem for technology adoption and innovation. The policy, the minister said, has removed bottlenecks with regard to buying of land for industrial purposes, and compliance with labour laws and regulations.

The policy has grouped districts into three zones, with backward districts falling into the top two zones, and seeks to give a push to automobile and auto components, pharmaceutical and medical devices, engineering and machine tools, knowledge-based industries, logistics, electric vehicles, aerospace and defence, and renewable energy.

The government has sought to give a big push to medium, small and micro industries (MSMEs), as the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) will reserve 30% of plots in its industrial estates for MSMEs. The government has also decided to extend a slew of support to MSMEs, including equity and incentives, considering their potential to add jobs.

The government will issue an acknowledgement certificate to investors after they receive approval from the high-level or single-window committee, which is treated as deemed approval for downstream approvals for an initial period of three years or from the date of commencement of commercial operations. The certificate will enable starting of work at the industrial plot, as per the policy.

– The Economic Times

India to be next manufacturing hub after China

As the Covid-19 pandemic takes a vice-like grip on the world, the question is can India benefit from a global endeavour to shift focus from the supply chains rooted in China? The socio-economic moment may look imminent, but without overhauling its economic policies India is likely to struggle to keep pace with nimbler rivals like Vietnam and Thailand.

Beijing's bumbling efforts to control the pandemic in its initial moments, as well as its outsize role in supplying protective equipment such as masks and gowns, has raised concerns around the world.

As more and more global companies look towards shifting their production from China, German footwear brand Casa Everz Gmbh is the latest to shift its entire production setup from China to India. Casa Everz Gmbh, the owner of healthy footwear brand Von Wellx, has decided to set up its production at Agra in Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with Iatric Industries Pvt Ltd. This came shortly after Uttar Pradesh Government conducted a webinar with several international companies in an attempt to persuade them to invest in the country.

Of late, several industries have realised the shortcomings of being excessively dependent for their manufacturing on a single country and have started looking to expand the geographic spread of their facilities.

The Indian growth story will continue to require free flows of capital, labour, goods and services. In a world where distrust over China has been increasing, India can be a part of multiple economic webs and gain from them.

India requires another engine of growth in the post-Covid evolving world. Large-scale manufacturing offers could be one such opportunity. China beat India in this game in the pre Covid-19 world but in a new world where China is distrusted, India can be part of more economic webs and build its own strength.

A decade ago, China surpassed the US to emerge as the world's leading manufacturing hub. However, the rise of China as the world's factory began way back in the 1980s initially as a producer of low-end products which gradually turned to become a manufacturing hub of everything under the sun – from drugs to electronic gadgets. According to estimates of the UN Statistics Division, China accounted for 28 per cent of global manufacturing output in 2018. Yet, the Coronavirus epidemic has begun to change this scenario in various ways. The supply shock created by the Chinese shutdown has prompted global firms to look for new manufacturing centres as a part of a risk hedging strategy for the future. Several industries have realised the disadvantages of being excessively dependent for manufacturing on a single nation and increasingly looking to expand the geographic spread of their facilities.

– Machine Tools World

NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Amptronics Techno Pvt. Ltd.

MSS Converter (Mild to Stainless Steel Converter) – An Economical way of production of stainless steel

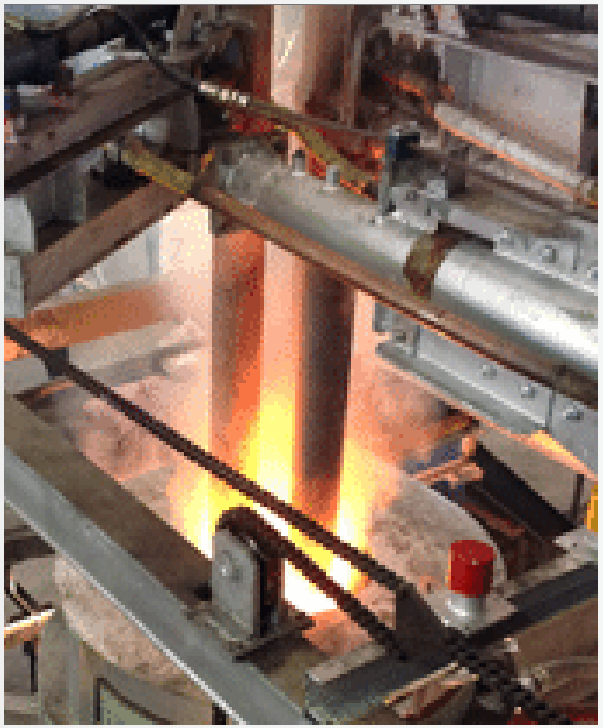
An international technology makes remarkable progress in to the world of alloys & super alloys. The requirement for with the need for reducing production cost as well as cleaner steel homogeneous chemical composition coupled increasing productivity has led to development of more efficient metallurgical tools in secondary

metallurgical process become a necessity for mini steel plant.

The process concerns itself with production of wide range of steels and high grade alloy steels.

The recognized benefits are:

- To make any type of qualitative steel production
- Homogenization of melt for chemical analysis
- Reduce carbon percentage
- Improvement of purity in terms of gaseous impurities
- To reduce nonmetallic enclusion.
- Reduction of power consumption cost by adding 30%
- Desulphurization & dephospherisation made easily possible



Cotex Chem Pvt. Ltd.

We are offering Cotex Deburring and polishing Chemicals to provide and improve working and non-working components surfaces towards both functional and aesthetic ends, which meets most ferrous and non-ferrous requirements, combinations to suit unique. The main purpose of chemicals is to do the necessary work (such as deburring, cutting, polishing, degreasing, scale removal, inhibiting, etc.) on the component, in conjunction with the proper media.

For reference : www.cotexchem.in

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**
- MMMM – for **Mineral, Metal, Metallurgy & Materials**
- TECHINDIA - for **Engineering and Manufacturing** (Pumps, Valves, Compressors and more……..)

A Sneak Preview

- Expected Presence of **500+** leading Exhibitors from **15+** countries

- **4 Open Seminars**
  - *> Hand Tools, Power Tools & Fasteners Know-How*
  - *> Advancements In Cutting & Welding Equipment*
  - *> Machine Tools: Bringing Depth to Manufacturing in Industries*
  - *> 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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MINERALS METALS METALLURGY MATERIALS | CWE CUTTING AND WELDING EQUIPMENT EXPO | IMEX INTERNATIONAL MACHINE TOOLS EXPO | UMEX USED MACHINERY EXPO | TECHINDIA ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING EXPO | HAND TOOLS EXPO | FASTENER EXPO

17-18-19 DECEMBER, 2020 Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India

SOME LEADING COMPANIES AT THE EVENTS

Proweld Industries Pvt. Ltd.

Since incorporation in 1993 (Hi-Tech Enterprises and Proweld Industries Pvt. Ltd.) has grown to become one of the leading manufactures and distributors of Welding Products in INDIA. Our commitment to quality product supplied at competitive prices backed by the best possible is the cornerstone of our philosophy. Products manufactured by us comply with all required industry standard i.e. Indian Standards Strict adherence to our quality procedures registered to ISO 9001:2008 standards insures our customers receive quality products. We manufacture full range of welding products i.e, Welding DC Rectifiers, CO2 MIG/MAG Machines, Welding Electrode Drying ovens, Welding Electrode Holders and importing full range of inverter base welding Rectifiers. Our entire team looks forward to the opportunity to server you!

Niko Arc

NIKO Arc soaked deep into Metal welding process.We deal in all kinds of Welding Machines, Accessories, Spare parts etc. We offer consultancy services and solutions for all kind of metal joining needs. We deal in machines like MMA /Arc, Tig, MIG, CNC, Plasma Cut etc.Our basic endure is to give best equipment and dependable after sales service. We are your comprehensive one stop solution centre for all welding requirements, always waiting to serve you.

Velmoc International

Velmoc international is the premier provider of high-quality and innovative Power tools, Abrasives, Diamond Saw Blades, TCT and a wide range of other technically advanced tools to clients from diverse backgrounds and industries. The company has been at the forefront of delivering best in class tools that boast of high-quality and standards. Our products are duly tested for unwavering quality, reliability, durability and performance, which further empower us to offer the best shopping experience to clients including leading businesses and factories.

Velmoc International has introduced several brands in the market. Our popular brands like SUPERTECH, VELMOC, RDX, ZAITO are preferred by professionals for their specific needs and applications. Our products lay emphasis on features like low noise operation, high performance, high durability, user friendly, easy to repair, reasonable price and above all sturdy and long lasting for their products.

Guided by the old-age philosophy of putting the customers first, we at Velmoc International are always striving to achieve development across all our operations. We believe in providing 100% customer satisfaction through an assortment of products and proactive services enabled by excellent market insight, advanced engineering & production, innovative designing and development methods and testing equipment.

With years of experience and know-how in the field of designing and development of agricultural tools, machine tools and accessories, we are committed to providing vendors with a variety of products that further allow them to fulfill the market demands efficiently. Sooner, Velmoc is also introducing several other series like Supertech–YODHA, Velmoc–COBRA, Velmoc-Red Bull.

The company takes great pride in supplying genuine and best quality products through their extensive network of suppliers. With over 500 distributors across India, the company has emerged as the market leader in supplying world class power tools, abrasives, accessories and more.

Amptronics Techno Pvt. Ltd.

We are a group of Qualified Engineers having more than 25 years' Experience in the field of Power Electronics, Process Control and Automation in the Steel Industry. The jobs executed by us are in line with stringent quality control procedures and high standard of design and production methods. We have the experience in executing projects for various steel industry like MSS Convertor, VD-VOD, Electric Arc Furnace, LRF, Induction furnaces, Continuous Casting Machine, FES, etc. Our services include but are not limited to design, documentation, detailed engineering based on basic drawing, revamping of old installation, software development of PLC based automation, site trials,
commissioning of total plant equipment etc.
We also under take mechanical fabrication and erection for structural HVAC and various types of electrical / mechanical equipment. We have a state of art design department with auto cad / Math cad facilities. Other services offered by us including consultancy services for total electrical and process engineering equipments, instrumentation piping mounting, installation and revamping of existing machinery.
Amptronics is an Engineering Company of a group of technocrat with strong experience in the field of engineering industries. Senior technical personnel have a wide experience of:

1) Detailed study of selection of technical, cold storage (HT/LT) & steel plant related equipments.
2) Modernization of existing steel plant by adopting latest technology of secondary metallurgy using MSS Converter
3) Technical backup to train technical team for production of quality alloys, carbon & stainless steel through MSS Converter route
4) Detailed design and engineering in special eq. like MSS CONVERTER fumes exact ration systems, other steel plant eq. & cold storages.

Amptronics at this stage is fully equipped to undertake any or all of the services mentioned above and complete

Cotex Chem Pvt. Ltd.

We Cotex Chem Pvt. Ltd., we were established in 1996. We are located at Dombivali M.I.D.C., near Mumbai.
We are recognized as a trustworthy company & we are the leading manufacturer & supplier of the best quality products in hand tools and other metal industries. We are an ISO 9001:2015 Certified company, with over 24 years of expertise in manufacturing of Inorganic chemicals and vibratory finishing chemicals, with installed capacity of more than 500 metric tons per month.
Owing to our tie-ups with various well-known chemical companies across the globe, we have been able to provide best quality chemicals all over India. The products range offered by us consists of drubbing chemicals, polishing chemicals, finishing chemicals and many more.

...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