

No. S-24013/1/2020-EA-RFD  
Government of India  
Ministry of Steel  
(Economic Division)  
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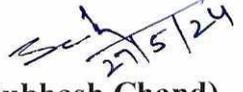
Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated: 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2024

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Monthly Summary for the Cabinet for the month of April, 2024.**

The Undersigned is directed to circulate herewith a copy of the unclassified portion of the Monthly Summary pertaining to the Ministry of Steel for the month of April, 2024 for information.

**Encl:** As above.

  
(Subhash Chand)  
Assistant Director  
Tel: 23060471  
Email: subhash.chand77@nic.in

To,

1. Members of the Council of Ministers
2. Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, NITI Bhawan, New Delhi
3. All Members of NITI Aayog, NITI Bhawan, New Delhi
4. Cabinet Secretary, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi
5. Secretary to the Vice President of India, New Delhi
6. PS to Prime Minister of India, South Block
7. All Secretaries to the Government of India
8. Information Officer, PIB, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi (steel\_pib@nic.gov.in)

**No. S-24013/1/2020-EA-RFD**

**मासिक सारांश  
MONTHLY SUMMARY  
ON  
लौह एवं इस्पात  
IRON & STEEL**

**अप्रैल - 2024**

**April – 2024**

**भारत सरकार /GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
इस्पात मंत्रालय/ MINISTRY OF STEEL**

## Ministry of Steel – Report for April 2024

1. The year began at a strong note. The production of crude steel at 11.92 million tonnes (MT), finished steel at 11.26 MT and consumption of finished steel at 11.08 MT, in April '24, has exceeded their respective levels achieved over the corresponding period of previous four years, as may be seen from the following graph on production and consumption. However, production and consumption of steel was lower than that in the previous month i.e., March'24.

2. The month-wise production of both crude and finished steel as well as consumption of finished steel over the recent months indicates to an overall increasing trend with month-on-month (M-o-M) fluctuations in production and consumption.

**Production and Consumption (in Million Tonne)**



3. In April '24, there was a downtrend in the production of crude steel, finished steel and the consumption of finished steel compared to the previous month.

- Crude steel production decreased by 6.2 % from 12.71 million tonnes in March '24 to 11.92 million tonnes in April '24.
- Finished steel production decreased by 9.1 % from 12.34 million tonnes in March '24 to 11.22 million tonnes in April '24.
- Consumption of steel decreased by 9.6 % from 12.26 million tonnes in March '24 to 11.08 million tonnes in April '24.

It needs to be mentioned that the drop in April '24 vis-a-vis March '24 is less steep as compared to what was seen last year, where the crude steel production had declined by 7.9 %, whereas both the production and consumption of finished steel had declined by 11.5 %, in a sense conveying the resilience of the demand.

4. Among the steel CPSEs, during April '24, SAIL achieved its best ever April production of Hot Metal and Crude Steel in any year. The detailed performance of the Steel CPSEs during April '24 is as below:

- SAIL: During April '24, SAIL produced 16.86 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of Hot Metal and 15.67 LMT of Crude Steel registering an increase of 1.3% and 2.0% over April '23. While its production at 12.77 LMT of Saleable Steel and 27.44 LMT of Iron ore registering a decline of 12.0% and 0.1% over April '23. However, as compared to the previous month, i.e. M-o-M over March '24, there was a decrease of 7.1% in production of Hot Metal, 8.1% for Crude Steel, 20.0% for saleable steel and 7.9% for iron ore. The cumulative production of SAIL during FY '24 for Hot Metal stood at 204.96 LMT, Crude Steel at 192.39 LMT, Saleable Steel at 184.37 LMT and Iron ore at 344.90 LMT registering an increase of 5.6%, 5.2%, 6.9% and 2.1% respectively over CPLY. Similarly, sales of saleable steel by SAIL at 171.04 LMT during FY '24 was higher by 5.6% over CPLY.
- NMDC: Production of iron ore by NMDC at 34.77 LMT in April '24 registered a decline of 1.0% over April '23 and 28.5% M-o-M. The cumulative production of iron ore by NMDC during April-March, FY '24 at 450.99 LMT witnessed an increase of 10.5% over CPLY. Sale of iron ore by NMDC at 35.34 LMT in April '24 was higher by 3.0% over April '23, and lower by 10.7% M-o-M. During FY '24, sale of iron ore by NMDC at 444.77 LMT was higher by 16.4% over CPLY.
- KIOCL: During the month of April 2024, KIOCL could not sell Iron Ore Pellets in domestic market (Sea Route) at the sale price fixed. However, order for a quantity of 13,000 Metric Tons  $\pm 10\%$  was finalized in the domestic market for road mode of dispatches and sold 11,129 Metric Tons of Iron Ore Pellets during the month through road mode, with a closing stock of 1,66,770 Metric Tons of Iron Ore Pellets.
- MOIL: During April '24, production of Manganese ore by Manganese Ore (India) Limited (MOIL) at 1.60 LMT was higher by 22.1% over April '23 but 7.0% lower over M-o-M. Sales of Manganese ore by MOIL during April '24 at 1.15 LMT was higher by 17.3% over March '23 but 20.7% lower M-o-M. During FY '24, production of Manganese ore at 17.56 LMT was higher by 34.9% and its Sales at 15.36 LMT was higher by 30.4% over CPLY.
- RINL: During April '24, RINL's production of Liquid Steel stood at 2.82 LMT, Hot Metal at 2.90 LMT and Crude Steel at 2.71 LMT, which was lower by 32.0%, 30.8% and 31.9% respectively over April '23 and also lower by 32.7%, 31.8% and 32.4% respectively over its production in March '24. During FY '24, the production of Liquid Steel stood at 46.04 LMT, Hot Metal at 47.01 LMT, Crude Steel at 44.11 LMT and Saleable Steel at 42.13 LMT, which was 6.6%, 6.7%, 6.6% and 6.4% higher than their respective productions during CPLY.
- During April '24, NMDC Steel Limited's (NSL) production of Hot Metal stood at 1.45 LMT, Crude Steel at 1.08 LMT and Hot Rolled Coil at 1.06 LMT, which was lower by 4.0%, 1.8%, and 1.9% respectively over its production in March '24. During FY '24, i.e. in its first year, the production of Hot Metal stood at 9.66 LMT, Liquid Steel at 5.18 LMT, Crude Steel at 5.02 LMT and Hot Rolled Coil at 4.94 LMT.

<b>Table 1: Performance of Steel CPSE's (In LMT)</b>									
<b>CPSE</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Apr-23</b>	<b>Mar-24</b>	<b>Apr-24</b>	<b>(YoY) Change over Apr '23 (%)</b>	<b>(MoM) Change over Mar '24 (%)</b>	<b>April- March 2022-23</b>	<b>April- March 2023-24</b>	<b>Change over CPLY (%)</b>
<b>SAIL</b>	Hot Metal	16.64	18.15	16.86	1.3	-7.1	194.09	204.96	5.6
	Crude Steel	15.37	17.05	15.67	2.0	-8.1	182.91	192.39	5.2
	Saleable Steel	14.51	15.96	12.77	-12.0	-20.0	172.46	184.37	6.9
	Iron Ore	27.45	29.78	27.44	0.0	-7.9	337.76	344.90	2.1
	Sales of Saleable Steel	11.91	17.20	14.41	21.0	-16.2	161.97	171.04	5.6
<b>NMDC</b>	Iron Ore Production	35.11	48.63	34.77	-1.0	-28.5	408.17	450.99	10.5
	Iron Ore Sales	34.30	39.58	35.34	3.0	-10.7	382.23	444.77	16.4
<b>KIOCL</b>	Pellets Production	2.30		-	-	-	15.10	19.05	26.2
	Pellets Sales	1.68		0.11	-	-	14.60	17.90	22.6
<b>MOIL</b>	Manganese Ore Production	1.31	1.72	1.60	22.1	-7.0	13.02	17.56	34.9
	Manganese Ore Sales	0.98	1.45	1.15	17.3	-20.7	11.78	15.36	30.4
<b>RINL</b>	Liquid Steel	4.15	4.19	2.82	-32.0	-32.7	43.19	46.04	6.6
	Hot Metal	4.19	4.25	2.90	-30.8	-31.8	44.07	47.01	6.7
	Crude Steel	3.98	4.01	2.71	-31.9	-32.4	41.37	44.11	6.6
	Saleable Steel	3.63	3.98	2.69	-25.9	-32.4	39.59	42.13	6.4
<b>NSL</b>	Hot Metal	-	1.51	1.45	-	-4.0	-	9.66	-
	Liquid Steel	-	1.11	1.12	-	0.9	-	5.18	-
	Crude Steel	-	1.10	1.08	-	-1.8	-	5.02	-
	Hot Rolled Coil	-	1.08	1.06	-	-1.9	-	4.94	-

5. Among the CPSEs of Ministry of Steel, the financial health of RINL is a matter of concern. RINL incurred an operating loss of Rs. 445 crore during FY:2024-25 (Upto April'24) as against a loss of Rs. 235 crore during CPLY. It incurred an operating loss of Rs. 4,451 crore during FY: 23-24. Total borrowings (Capex plus Working Capital loan etc.) of RINL stood at Rs. 17,465 crore as on 30.04.2024 as against Rs. 20,440 crore as on 30.04.2023. There has been a considerable increase in interest rates on borrowing as well. Average interest rate on working capital loan has increased to 9.82% on 30.04.2024 from 9.34% a year before, and average interest rate on Capex loan increased to 10.28% on 30.04.2024 from 9.89% a year ago. The effect of increase in rate of interest has pushed up the Finance cost by 5% over the previous year. Net worth of RINL stood at Rs. (-) 4,420 crore as on 30.04.2024. RINL also has a considerable cost disadvantage due to lack of captive mines. Ministry of Steel has taken steps to infuse liquidity in the company which include the monetization of non-core assets such as land and building. These efforts are expected to infuse about Rs. 476 crore on completion of the transactions (on sale of outstation properties) and are expected to provide short-term relief to the company. The Alternative Mechanism (AM) approved sale of non-core land amounting to 24 acres in

Visakhapatnam during the month in two phases and directed it to be sold in 2 phases, with auction of 13.89 acres to be taken forthwith at a reserve price of Rs.480 Cr. NLMC, the nominated agency for this transaction, has completed the first phase of auctions on 15th March 2024 through which about 6 acres of land has been auctioned. This will result in infusion of Rs.249 crores to RINL on completion of land transfer in the next few months. RINL's plant operations were curtailed to 30% capacity utilization due to the labour unrest in Adani Gangavaram Port Limited (AGPL) through which RINL imports coking coal. Though the situation has improved now due to the strike being called off on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2024, this has severely impacted the already fragile cash flows of RINL. Ministry of Steel is in discussion with Ministry of Finance to explore ways for an immediate partial relief to the liquidity crisis being faced by RINL which is staring at an imminent shut down unless cash is infused.

6. During the month of April, 2024 for the FY 2024-25, KIOCL has reported a loss of ₹17.33 Crores. KIOCL had incurred a loss of ₹82.76 Crores (provisional & subject to Audit) in the last financial year i.e. 2023-24. The financial performance of the Company for the month of April, 2024 is as under:

**Table 2: Performance of KIOCL**

	(₹ in Crores)
	<b>For April, 2024</b>
Total sales turnover	10.87
Profit Before Tax	(17.33)
Profit After Tax	(17.33)

*(Note: - Figures are provisional, Subject to Audit)*

Post closure of mining operations, KIOCL is solely dependent on external sources for its requirement of Iron Ore Fines for its Pellet Plant. Irregularity of availability and variability in prices of quality Iron Ore and fall in Pellet price has adversely affected the operations of the company. Necessary action is being taken for commencement of mining operations from Devadari iron ore mining lease (the newly allotted mining lease to KIOCL) which is expected to help KIOCL sustain its operations and improve its financial position. During April 2024, the seaborne Iron Ore prices have remained under pressure due to the factors such as to steel production cuts by steel mills, subdued China's domestic Steel market amid slow end-user demand recovery and rising port inventories. Seaborne Iron Ore Pellet market in China also depicted a similar trend that of Iron Ore Fines during the month of April, 2024. Asian Iron Ore Pellet premiums continued to drop during April, 2024, due to rising Chinese Port inventories and weak Chinese demand. The FOB, India prices of Iron Ore Pellets reported in international market was very low (around US\$ 99/- per Metric Ton). Hence, KIOCL could not conclude any export contract during April, 2024. In the domestic market, Iron Ore Pellet prices have witnessed an upward trend due to an increase in Iron Ore Fines offers and improved Steel and sponge Iron prices. The price of Iron Ore Pellet in Barbil and Bellary Region at the end of April, 2024 were at ₹8,600/- per Metric Ton and ₹10,500/- per Metric Ton, respectively.

7. The Indian delegation led by Secretary (Steel) attended Institute of Steel Recycling Industries (ISRI) (renamed as ReMA- Recycled Material Association during the Convention) 2024 Annual Convention & Exposition held during April 15-18, 2024 in Las Vegas, USA. ReMA is the voice of recycling industry promoting safe, economically sustainable and environmentally sound recycling through networking, advocacy and education with more than 1600 member companies operating at nearly 4000 locations in USA and 41 countries world-wide. ReMA members provide high quality raw materials needed to make essential infrastructure and everyday items, thereby, promoting greener way of steel making and sustainability. The delegation visited SA Recycling- Major Auto Shredder. SA Recycling is the largest recycler in the USA having more than 140 units and 25 shredders across USA. The Company is operating in the area of recycling of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap generated from various sources. The Company has MoU with Dealers of scrap collectors to get continuous supply of input material for the Shredder. After segregating ferrous and non-ferrous recycled material, the companies supply shredded material to the secondary sector industries domestically and also export

to other countries. It is a good example of complete supply chain of scrapping of recycled material and supply to the concerned industry to ensure raw material security for these industries. It needs to be replicated in India keeping the local circumstances in mind to develop an eco-system and closed loop supply chain for collection, recycling and supply of shredded recycled material to the Secondary Sector for production of steel through greener route. The following learning/action points emanating from the tour:

- i. More engagements with the organizations like ReMA, BIR in future for sharing of data, papers, best practices in the realm of recycling to get better insight into latest development in the field.
- ii. Government-Industry collaboration (with ReMA, BIR etc.) in the area of training, knowledge sharing, dialogue etc.
- iii. To explore possibilities of collaboration with ReMA in workforce development programme for the manpower of recycled industries in India.
- iv. To study the eco-system and supply-chain developed in USA/Europe for collection, recycling and supply of shredded recycled material to the Secondary Sector for production of steel through greener route.
- v. Possibilities of adoption and transfer of technology in the realm of recycling both in software as well as in hardware.
- vi. To work with MoEFCC on minimum recycled content in specific product categories for promotion of use of recycled materials.

8. Coking coal is one of the major inputs in steel production, and India is mainly dependent on imports from Australia. As seen from the graph, the international price of coking coal is volatile. Due to the volatility of coking coal prices, the production cost of steel is affected. To address price volatilities and issues related to assured availability of coking coal, Ministry of Steel constituted the following three committees comprising officers of Ministry and steel companies:

- i. High-Powered Committee for Source Diversification:
- ii. Investigation Committee to analyze “One Nation One Buying of Coking Coal in LTA”:
- iii. Committee to “Find new Geographies for importing Coking Coal”:

All three committees have submitted their reports. The recommendations of the Committee are being considered in the Ministry for their implementation.

9. The CAPEX by Steel CPSEs in April'24 at Rs. 333.14 crore was 80.2% lower over the previous month (M-o-M) and 17.6% lower over April '23. The CAPEX by steel CPSEs during April '24 was 3.2% of the BE for the FY '25. The CAPEX by steel CPSEs is regularly monitored by the Ministry and steel CPSEs are being encouraged and directed to ensure achievement of CAPEX and expedite spending.

10. Ministry of Steel has introduced Steel Quality Control Order (QCO) thereby banning sub-standard/ defective steel products both from domestic & imports to ensure the availability of quality steel to the industry, users and public at large. As per the Order, it is ensured that only quality steel conforming to the relevant BIS standards are made available to the end users. As on date 145 Indian Standards stands notified under the Quality Control Order covering carbon steel, alloy steel and stainless steel have been notified under the QCO. Out of these, QCO on 138 Indian Standards have been enforced. Draft notification for inclusion of six additional products standards in the QCO has been issued on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 for seeking the comments from stakeholders.

11. Ministry of Steel got requests from the importers/ applicants seeking clarification on the applicability of the certain imported steel grades from the purview of the QCO, on the ground that these are complying with foreign standards and no equivalent Indian Standards exist. To address this issue, a Technical Committee, comprising members from the BIS, steel producers & end users, was

constituted to examine the applications and clarify whether the imported steel grades are falling under the purview of the QCO or otherwise. An upgraded portal was launched by the Ministry in April '24 for receiving, analyzing and communicating the decisions of the Ministry of Steel.

12. Ministry also got requests from the importers/ applicants seeking exemption of certain steel grades from the purview of the QCO, on the ground that these are required in critical applications. To address this issue, an Empowered Committee was constituted to examine the applications for exemption from the purview of the QCO for the steel grades being imported. Exemptions are granted to critical application grades based on the prescribed guidelines formulated for according such exemptions. Two meetings of the Technical Committee were held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 & 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 wherein 2209 applications for clarification on the applicability of QCO on the imported steel grades were examined. Further one intermediate meeting of the Committee was held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 for fast tracking of the 123 applications for the repeat cases. One meeting of the Empowered Committee was held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 wherein 10 applications for exemption were examined.

13. **Export-Import Scenario:** In April '24, India's steel exports declined to 5.1 lakh metric tonnes (LMT), compared to 8.4 LMT in March '24. India's imports of finished steel increased from 5.7 LMT to 5.9 LMT during the same period. India has been a net exporter of steel since January 2024, and the net export of 2.7 LMT is the highest since May 2023. During FY '24, India was a net importer of steel with imports exceeding exports by 8.3 lakh tonnes. In contrast, India was a net exporter in FY '23 with exports exceeding imports by 7.0 lakh tonnes.

Table 3: Export and Import of Steel- April 2024								
	Apr'23	Mar'24	Apr'24*	Change over Apr '23 (%)	Change over Mar' 24 (%)	April-Mar FY '23	April-Mar* FY'24	Change over CPLY (%)
<b>Exports (LMT)</b>	8.5	8.4	5.1	-40.0	-39.3	67.2	74.9	11.5
<b>Imports (LMT)</b>	4.6	5.7	5.9	28.3	3.5	60.2	83.2	38.2
<b>Net Export</b>	3.9	2.7	-0.8			7.0	-8.3	

Source: JPC, \*Provisional

14. India's month-wise imports and exports of finished steel from April '23 is given below:

**Table 4: Month-wise Imports and Exports of Finished Steel**

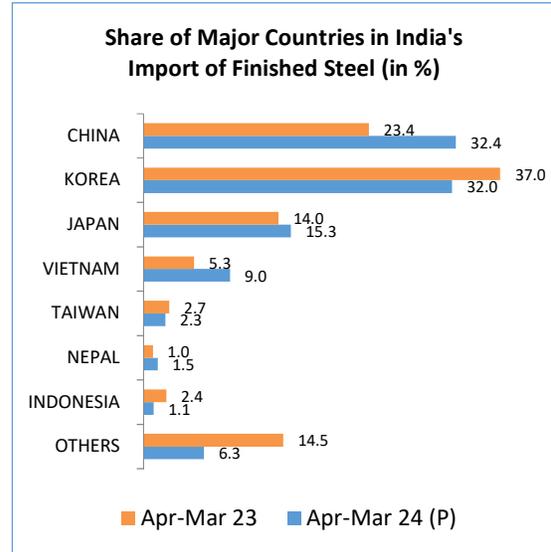
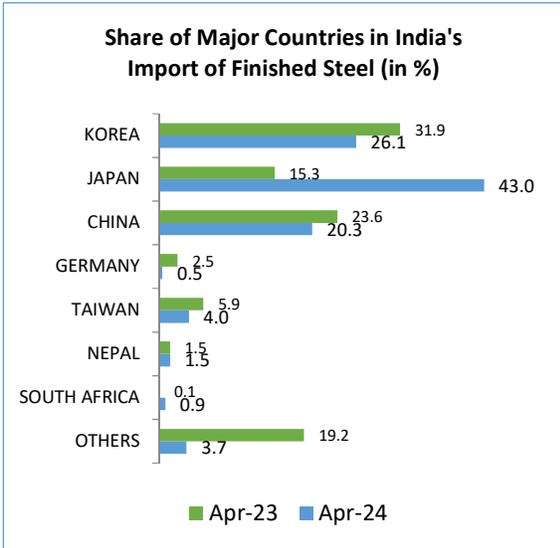
(LMT)

Item	April 23	May 23	June 23	July 23	Aug 23	Sept 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24	Feb 24	Mar 24	Apr 24
<b>Export</b>	8.5	6.9	5.0	6.1	5.1	4.3	2.9	2.3	6.4	8.4	10.3	8.4	5.1
<b>Import</b>	4.6	4.9	4.8	6.1	7.3	5.5	7.3	10.9	9.0	8.5	8.4	5.7	5.9
<b>Net Exports</b>	3.9	2.0	0.2	0.0	-2.2	-1.2	-4.4	-8.6	-2.6	-0.1	1.9	2.7	-0.8

Source: JPC

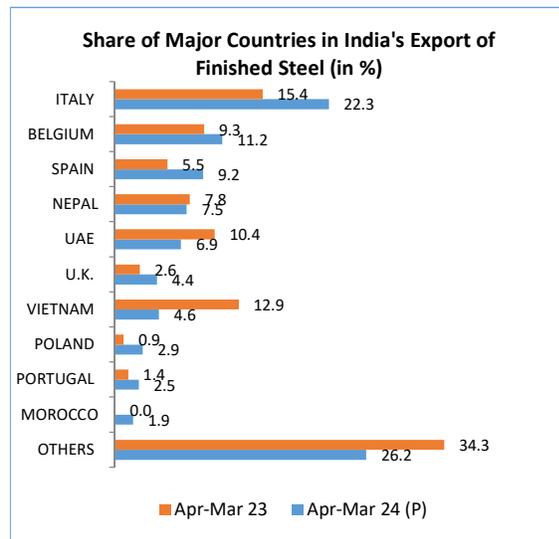
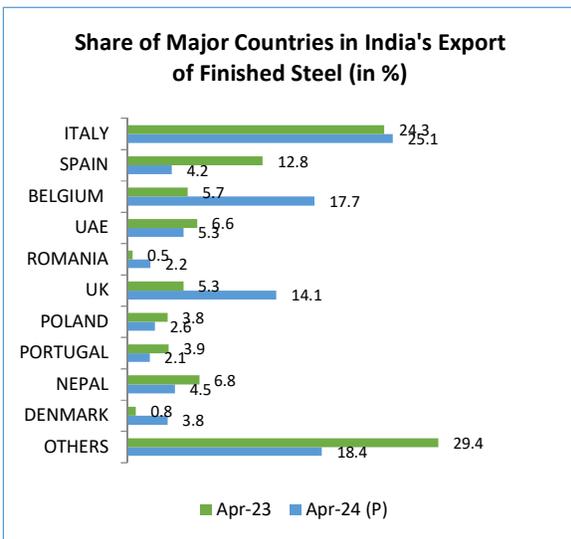
- i. Share of Japan, Nepal and South Africa increased in total steel import of India in April '24 as compared to April '23 while share of Korea, China, Taiwan and Germany declined over this period as may be seen from the following Graphs:

## Share of Major Countries in India's Import of Finished Steel (in %)

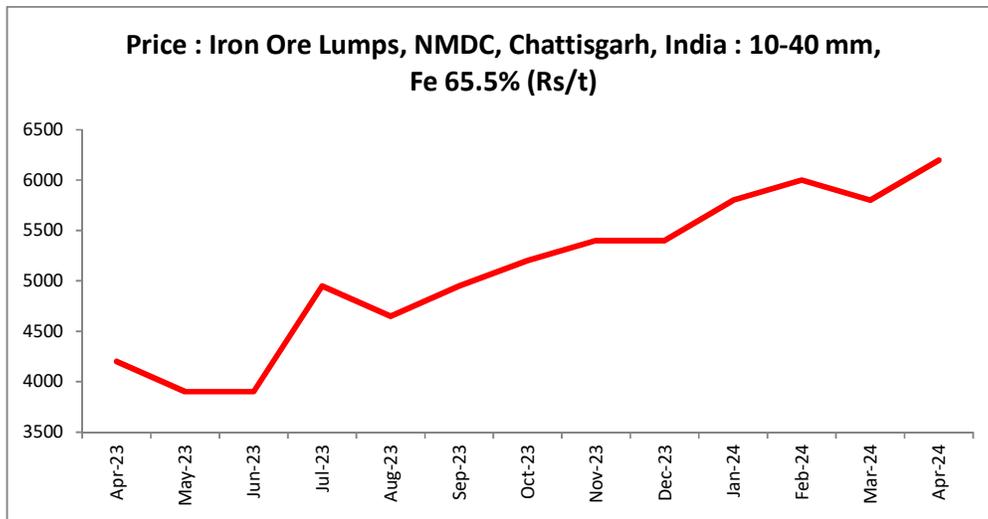


ii. Share of, Italy, Belgium, UK and Denmark increased in total steel export from India in April '24 as compared to April '23 while share of UAE, Nepal and Spain declined over this period as may be seen from the following Graphs:

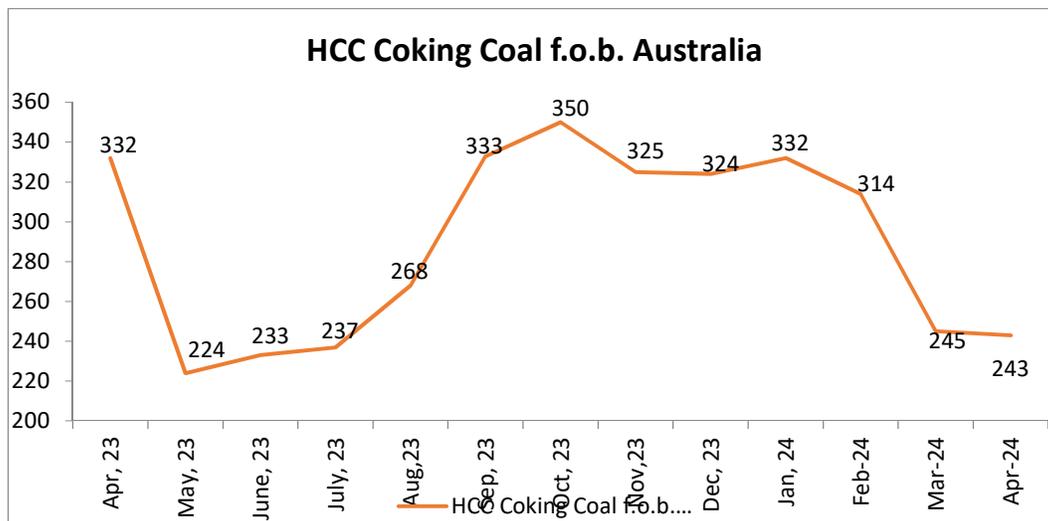
## Share of Major Countries in India's Export of Finished Steel (in %)



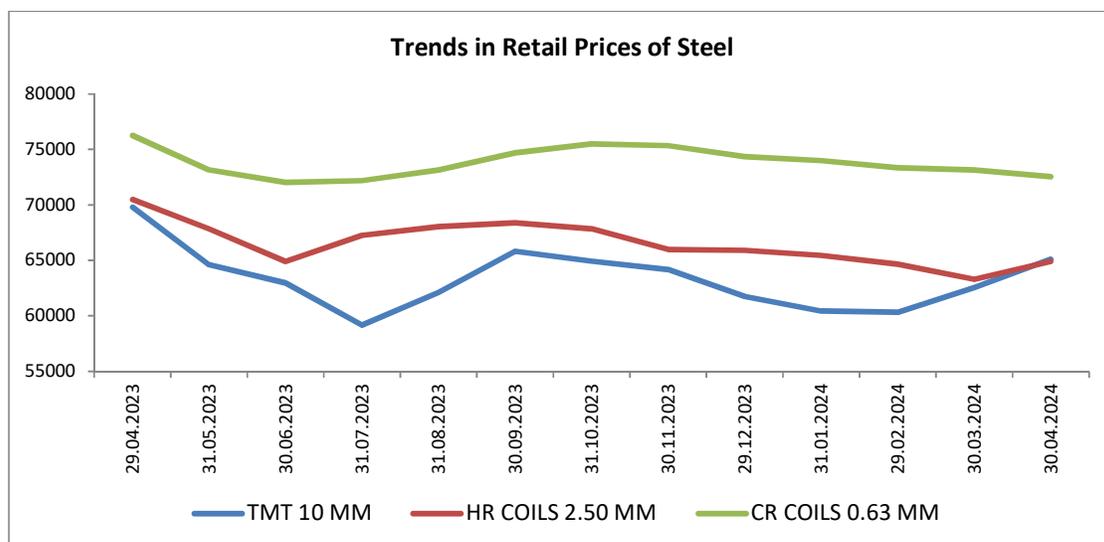
15. Movement of prices of Iron Ore since April '23 may be seen in the following Graph.



- i. During the month of April '24, prices of iron ore lumps increased to Rs. 6,200/ tonne as against Rs. 5,800/ tonne in March '24.
- ii. International prices of coking coal have been volatile in last one year and have moderated from US\$ 332/tonne in April '23, to US\$ 243/tonne by April '24. The prices of coking coal have been in the range of US\$ 243/tonne – US\$ 350/ tonne in last 6 months. The trend in price of HCC Coking Coal f.o.b. Australia is shown in following graph.



16. During April '24, prices of TMT and HRC increased while prices of CRC moderated over March '24 as may be seen from the following graph.



16. The retail prices of TMT (10 mm) and HRC (2.50 mm) in Mumbai market stood at Rs. 65,100/tonne and Rs. 64,900/tonne respectively on 30<sup>th</sup> April '24, recording a growth of 4.0% and 2.5% respectively over their prices on 30<sup>th</sup> March '24. In case of CRC (0.63 mm) retail price stood at Rs. 72,550/tonne on 30<sup>th</sup> April '24, recording a decline of 0.8% over its prices on 30<sup>th</sup> March '24.

17. According to WSA (World Steel Association) estimates on overall global production, the global steel industry witnessed diverse trends across key producing countries in March '24. China, the largest producer, experienced a decrease in production in March '24 compared to March '23. India, the second largest producer, experienced an increase in production in March '24 compared to March '23. Despite fluctuations in monthly figures, the yearly aggregates for 2023 indicated a modest increase in global steel production as compared to 2022, underscoring the sector's resilience amidst evolving market dynamics. Following table shows the data on production of crude steel in March '24 by top 6 countries in world.

	Mar-23	Feb-24	Mar-24	Change in Mar '24 over Mar'23 (%)	Change in Mar'24 over Feb'24 (%)	2022	2023	Change in 2023 over 2022 (%)	Share in 2023 (%)
China	95.7	81.2	88.3	-7.7	8.7	1013.0	1,019.1	0.6	54.0
India	11.7	11.8	12.7	8.5	7.6	124.7	140.2	12.4	7.4
Japan	7.5	7.0	7.2	-4.0	2.9	89.2	87.0	-2.5	4.6
United States	6.9	6.5	6.9	0.0	6.2	80.7	80.7	0.0	4.3
Russia	6.5	5.7	6.6	1.5	15.8	71.5	75.8	6.0	4.0
South Korea	5.8	5.1	5.3	-8.6	3.9	65.9	66.7	1.2	3.5
<b>World</b>	<b>168.4</b>	<b>148.8</b>	<b>161.2</b>	<b>-4.3</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>1,878.7</b>	<b>1,888.2</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

18. Presently, there are twelve ongoing projects of CPSEs (SAIL-9, NMDC-3) uploaded on the OCMS portal of MoSPI. The total cost of these projects is Rs. 11,911.23 crore and an expenditure of Rs. 5,141.21 crore (49.37 %) has been incurred till April '24.
19. There are Nine National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) Projects related to slurry pipelines of various steel companies having a total cost of Rs. 26,628 crore uploaded on IIG/NIP Portal and an expenditure of Rs. 4,650.85 crore has been incurred on these projects till April '24.
20. The status of pending payments to MSMEs by CPSEs of the Ministry is being monitored on weekly basis to ensure payments to them within the 45 days' time limit for such payments. Payment of Rs. 634.96 crores was made by Steel CPSEs to MSMEs during April '24 which is 1.0% higher than payments made during April '23 and 1.8% higher than previous month. During FY '24, Steel CPSEs have made payment of Rs. 7,505.01 crore to MSMEs, which is 2.2% lower than Rs. 7,673.95 crore made during CPLY.