

INDIA'S STEEL SECTOR: TOWARDS SELF-RELIANCE (PIB KEY HIGHLIGHTS)

India currently maintains its position as the **world's second-largest producer** and consumer of steel. It is recognized as a critical "Sunrise Sector" driving the nation's economic growth.

1. CURRENT STATUS & RANKINGS

- **Global Rank:** Second-largest producer of crude steel since 2018.
- **Production Growth:** Crude steel production rose from 88.98 MT (Million Tonnes) in 2014-15 to **168.4 MT** in 2025-26.
- **Consumption:** Finished steel consumption reached **163.7 MT** in 2025-26, driven primarily by rapid infrastructure development.

2. KEY GOVERNMENT POLICIES & SCHEMES

- **National Steel Policy (2017):** Aims to expand crude steel capacity to **300 MTPA** and production to 255 MTPA by 2030-31. India has currently achieved approximately 66% of this target.
- **PLI Scheme (Specialty Steel):** Launched with a financial outlay of ₹6,322 crore to boost domestic production of high-value specialty steel and reduce import dependency.
- **DMI&SP Policy:** Provides preference to "Domestically Manufactured Iron and Steel Products" in government procurement to support local industries.
- **Melt and Pour Rule:** A mandate ensuring that steel must be manufactured entirely in India – from the initial melting of crude steel to the final product – to qualify as domestic.

3. GREEN STEEL & DECARBONIZATION

- **Net Zero Target:** India is committed to achieving net-zero emissions in the steel sector by **2070**.
- **Green Steel:** Defined as steel manufactured without fossil fuels, primarily utilizing **Green Hydrogen** to reduce the carbon footprint.
- **Green Steel Taxonomy (2024):** India is the first country to introduce official standards, defining Green Steel as having an emission intensity of less than 2.2 tonnes of CO_2e per tonne of finished steel.
- **CCUS (Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage):** The 2026-27 Union Budget allocated ₹20,000 crore over five years to deploy these technologies in hard-to-abate sectors like steel.

4. TRADE & GLOBAL REACH

- **Exports:** Finished steel exports increased by **35.8%** in FY 2025-26.
- **Imports:** Sharply declined by **46.47%** during the same period, signaling enhanced domestic capacity.
- **Major Export Destinations:** The top destinations for Indian finished steel include **Vietnam, Belgium, and Taiwan**.

5. OTHER STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- **Mission Coking Coal:** Aiming to reduce reliance on imports by ramping up domestic raw coking coal production to 140 MT by FY 2029-30.

- **Steel Zones:** Fast-tracking logistics across 12 major zones, including **Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Rourkela, Durgapur, and Jamshedpur.**
- **AI in Steel:** A mission-mode adoption of Artificial Intelligence across the value chain – from mining and logistics to quality assurance – to improve operational efficiency.

Key Facts for Exams:

- **CAGR:** ~9% growth in crude steel production between 2021 and 2026.
- **PM GatiShakti:** Geolocation data for over 2,100 steel units has been integrated for data-driven logistics planning.
- **Quality Control:** 143 Quality Control Orders (QCOs) are in place to ensure only BIS-compliant steel is sold in the market.

CPO PORTAL: NITI AAYOG'S NEW STEP FOR REAL-TIME GOVERNANCE

NITI Aayog has launched the **Central Prabhari Officer (CPO) Portal** to strengthen the implementation of its flagship 'Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme' (ADP/ABP).

1. PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

- **Real-Time Governance:** To record field-level observations instantly.
- **Last-Mile Delivery:** Ensuring welfare schemes reach the intended beneficiaries at the grassroots level.
- **Coordination:** Enhancing synergy between Central, State, and District-level officials.

2. HOW IT WORKS?

- **Data Entry:** Central Prabhari Officers (CPOs) upload their field observations and recommendations directly via mobile into the portal.
- **Instant Response:** Once a recommendation is uploaded, the respective District Magistrates (DMs) can view it and initiate appropriate administrative actions immediately.
- **Monitoring:** State Planning Secretaries and NITI Aayog officials monitor the entire process, which enhances transparency and **Accountability.**

3. RELATED PROGRAMS

- **ADP (Aspirational Districts Programme):** Launched in **2018** to transform 112 of the most under-developed districts in the country.
- **ABP (Aspirational Blocks Programme):** Launched in **2023** to achieve development at a more micro level (Block level).

4. KEY PERSONALITIES

- The portal was launched by NITI Aayog CEO, **Ms. Nidhi Chhibber.**
- The Mission Director for ADP/ABP is **Shri Rohit Kumar** (Additional Secretary).

5. KEY EXAM POINTS

- **Nodal Agency:** NITI Aayog.
- **Technology:** Driven by **Data-driven Governance** and a unified digital platform.
- **Governance Model:** It facilitates building a "high-trust, transparent, and responsive" governance ecosystem by bridging the gap between field insights and policy action.

200 YEARS OF HINDI JOURNALISM: SPECIAL ISSUE OF 'SANCHAR MADHYAM' RELEASED

Marking the **200-year journey** of Hindi journalism in India, the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) has released a special commemorative issue of its flagship research journal, '**Sanchar Madhyam**'.

1. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- **First Hindi Newspaper:** The first Hindi newspaper ever published was '**Udant Martand**'.
- **Commencement:** It was first published in **1826** from Calcutta (now Kolkata).
- **Significance:** The launch of this newspaper marked the official beginning of Hindi journalism in India.

2. ABOUT IIMC & SANCHAR MADHYAM

- **IIMC:** The Indian Institute of Mass Communication is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- **Sanchar Madhyam:** It is a prominent research journal published by IIMC that analyzes emerging trends, transformations, and developments in the media landscape.

3. KEY ADDRESSES - MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

Shri Harivansh, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, highlighted the following points:

- **Viksit Bharat 2047:** Communication, research, and innovation are the pillars for shaping India's future and achieving the "Developed India" vision.
- **Skill-Driven Era:** The current age is a "skill-driven era." Beyond traditional education, continuous learning and adapting to new technology are essential.
- **Responsibility of Journalism:** The primary duty of journalism is to ensure information reaches the marginalized sections of society and to build public consensus on issues of national importance.

4. KEY EXAM POINTS

- **Organization:** IIMC (Indian Institute of Mass Communication).
- **Journal Name:** Sanchar Madhyam.
- **Occasion:** Completion of 200 years of Hindi Journalism (1826 - 2026).
- **First Publication:** Udant Martand.
- **Current Vice Chancellor (IIMC):** Dr. Pragya Paliwal Gaur.

INS SUNAYNA'S MYANMAR VISIT: STRENGTHENING INDIA-MYANMAR NAVAL TIES

The Indian Navy ship **INS Sunayna**, as part of the **IOS Sagar** deployment, entered Yangon Harbour in Myanmar on **May 04, 2026**.

1. PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE VISIT

- **Bilateral Ties:** To enhance maritime cooperation and strengthen the bond between India and Myanmar.
- **CNS Visit:** The port call coincides with the official visit of the Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), **Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi**, to Myanmar, underlining the strategic importance of the engagement.

2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

This visit aligns with two major pillars of India's foreign and defence policies:

- **MAHASAGAR:** Acronym for '*Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security And Growth in All Regions*'. It is India's initiative to promote security and inclusive growth among nations in the Indian Ocean Region.
- **Neighbourhood First Policy:** A core Indian diplomatic strategy that prioritizes stable, friendly, and cooperative relations with immediate neighbors.

3. MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISIT

- **Professional Exchange:** Personnel will visit Myanmar Navy training establishments to share best professional practices.
- **Cultural & Sporting Ties:** The visit features friendly sports fixtures and cultural interactions between the personnel of both navies to build camaraderie.

4. KEY EXAM POINTS

- **Vessel Name:** INS Sunayna.
- **Location:** Yangon Harbour, Myanmar.
- **Associated Policies:** MAHASAGAR and Neighbourhood First Policy.
- **Chief of the Naval Staff:** Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.