

Steel players expect Budget measures to boost demand

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INCREASED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, provisions for industrial clusters, and focus on MSMEs in the Budget are expected to strengthen economic activities and support steel demand, industry players said on Monday.

Naveen Jindal, president of the Indian Steel Association, said that a 22.2% effective increase in capital expenditure, focus on freight corridors and inland waterways, and the ₹10,000-crore container manufacturing scheme are expected to strengthen infrastructure activity, improve trade logistics and support steel demand.

Dilip Oommen, CEO of AMNS India, said the steps to strengthen project financing, revive industrial clusters and expand infrastructure in Tier-II and Tier-III cities will boost domestic manufacturing and enhance competitiveness.



The support extended to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) is a significant move as a substantial portion of India's stainless steel capacity lies in this segment. The measures will empower smaller units to upgrade technology, improve quality and compete more effectively against standard imports, said Rajamani Krishnamurti, president of the Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA).

According to Abhyuday Jindal, managing director of Jin-

dal Stainless, MSMEs are the backbone of manufacturing and initiatives such as the SME Growth Fund, the Self-Reliant India Fund top-up and simplified compliance norms will boost the overall value chain.

In her Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed a ₹20,000-crore allocation for carbon capture, utilisation and storage. Parmod Sagar, chairman, MD and CEO of RHI Magnesita India, said the continued momentum of infrastructure-led growth, supported by an enhanced capex outlay of ₹12.2 lakh crore, is a welcome move and will significantly benefit enabling industries such as refractories. CCUS will help steel companies capture and reuse carbon emissions, reduce environmental impact and align with global climate commitments, including India's net-zero target by 2070, Harsh Bansal, managing director at BMW Industries, said.