

# Target is to double crude steel output in 10 yrs: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said India had set a target to double the crude steel production capacity from 154 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) now to 300 mtpa in the next 9 to 10 years in order to boost indigenous capabilities.

Modi said due to everyone's efforts in the last eight years, the Indian steel industry had become the second largest in the world and there was still immense potential for expansion of the key sector.

In his virtual address as the chief guest at the "bhoomi puja" of expansion of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India's flagship plant at Hazira in Gujarat's Surat, Modi said in the past, India had to import high grade steel for the defence sector, but scenario has changed now. Now, however, steel used in making 'INS Vikrant' (first indigenous aircraft carrier) was made in India, said the prime minister.

The PM said the PLI (production-linked incentive) scheme had helped pave the way for expansion of the industry and given strength to the Centre's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) initiative.

The PLI scheme is aimed at making Indian manufacturers globally competitive, attracting investment in the areas of core competency and cutting-edge technology; ensuring efficiencies; creating economies of scale; enhancing exports and making India an integral part of the international supply chain.

"Due to this, we have succeeded in increasing the production capacity of high-grade steel and reducing its import. The use of this high-grade steel has increased in critical and strategic applications. Before you is the example of INS Vikrant," he said.

The PM said scientists of DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) developed the special steel used in the aircraft carrier and Indian companies produced thousands of metric tonnes of the high-grade alloy.

"INS Vikrant was completely made with indigenous capability and technology. To promote such capability, the country has



THE USE OF HIGH-GRADE STEEL HAS INCREASED IN CRITICAL AND STRATEGIC APPLICATIONS BEFORE YOU IS THE EXAMPLE OF INS VIKRANT

**NARENDRA MODI**, Prime Minister



now set a target of doubling the production capacity of crude steel," he said.

He said India's dependence on other countries for manufacturing of the aircraft carrier was not right.

"To change this, we were required to become self-reliant, and the Indian steel industry accepted the challenge with a new energy," the PM maintained.

Modi said India is rapidly moving towards becoming the world's largest steel manufacturer and the government is actively engaged in framing necessary policies and creating a conducive environment for further development of the sector.

"Due to everyone's efforts in the last eight years, the Indian steel industry has become the second largest steel producing industry in the world. There is an immense potential for (further) development of this industry," he stated.

## AM/NS India kicks off ₹60K-cr Hazira plant expansion

ISHITA AYAN DUTT

Kolkata, 28 October

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) on Friday kicked off a ₹60,000-crore project expansion at Gujarat's Hazira and indicated further investment in the future.

Addressing the ground-breaking ceremony, ArcelorMittal Chief Executive Officer and AM/NS India Chairman Aditya Mittal said: "We have invested almost ₹90,000 crore and have made tremendous progress across many dimensions ensuring the facility is world class, operating safely at full capacity and producing even more quality products."

The expansion comes three years after ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel jointly acquired Essar Steel (renamed AM/NS India) under India's insolvency law. ArcelorMittal has a 60 per cent equity interest in the venture.

Mittal said the company intends to invest a further ₹60,000 crore to grow the capacity from 9 million tonnes (mt) to 15 mt and produce the world's most technologically advanced products. "We are bringing technology in steel-making that has not existed in India. We are going to make products in India that have never been made in the country." "The first bullet train is expected to run on a 50-km section between Surat and Bilimora in 2026 and our steel will be on that train."

**ADITYA MITTAL**  
Chairman, AM/NS India

