

By Niranjan Mudholkar

## FASTER, BETTER, STRONGER!

There is huge scope for further growth in the steel industry, and the Government's mission to achieve 300 million MT by end of the next decade should be an achievable target, says **Sameer Nagpal**, CEO, Dalmia-OCL



**Dalmia Seven (a JV between the Dalmia Bharat Group and Seven Refractories of Europe) has set up an integrated state-of-the-art manufacturing facility at Katni to meet the growing demand of Steel in India. How will this help Dalmia OCL in its growth plan for the India market?**

Government of India has set up aggressive growth targets for Steel production in India. The industry is also witnessing advancement in the quality of Steel being produced in India. Our new production line at Katni, MP is one of the most advanced monolithics production facilities in the world and is well poised to cater to both these requirements through production of advanced monolithics with high flexibility. Combined with this, the latest application techniques that Dalmia Seven brings to India will help us grow significantly.

**Tell us about the unique technology deployed by Dalmia Seven at the Katni plant? Has this technology been used before in India?**

This facility is India's first technologically advanced Monolithic production line. The production line features high level of automation which enables precision dosing of several raw materials for efficient production of high-grade refractory. The line allows for faster

production cycles with minimal human intervention making it the most advanced monolithic refractory production line in India, ensuring highest standards of technology and quality. The technological augmentation at the facility is symbolic of the Groups' commitment to manufacturing excellence and sustainability.

**What will be the production capacity of this new unit?**

The new line at Katni MP adds a capacity of 45000 MT per annum to our existing facilities. This expansion will help meet the growing demand of high-grade refractory products from iron, steel, cement and other industrial segments in a big way.

**What is your analysis of India's steel industry?**

**Where do you see it heading?**

Indian steel industry has been undergoing structural changes with production assets moving to new owners. This will help put the assets to a more productive use. Though India has become second largest producer of



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steel recently, per capita consumption at 68kg is still significantly lower than global average of 200kg. Thus, there is huge scope for further growth and I believe that the Government of India's mission to achieve 300 million MT by end of the next decade should be an achievable target.

**How will the new plant help in fulfilling India's steel growing demand and reduce our dependency on imports?**

The new line has been set up to cater to the increasing demand of high grade steel from iron, steel and industrial segments. Aligned with the Government's 'Make in India' mission, this facility will help us substitute high-end products which are still imported from Europe. We are committed to bring to our customers, products that match global standards.

**What kind of employment is generated through this facility? Are you providing any special training or skill development to the employees?**

We are committed towards sustainable business operations through communities in and around the facility by creating both direct and indirect employment opportunities. Like every new technology deployment requires training, we will have special training programs designed to skill the workforce on the use and impact of the new process at the facility. Few people have also been trained in Europe in this regard.

**How's been the last one year for Dalmia- OCL in terms of business?**

Last one year has been quite an eventful year for Dalmia-OCL. Not only we are the fastest growing refractory company in India, we also expanded our foot print in Europe with the acquisition of GSB Group, Germany. This takeover has given us access to customers in the heartland of steel and refractory making belt in Europe. Additionally, commissioning of Katni, MP facility positions us as the top-notch manufacturer in India. 