

## Market Scenario over a Fortnight

### News Flash

**Steel Prices hiked for the month of March:** Steel Authority of India Ltd (Sail) raised domestic prices of hot rolled flat products effective 1 March by reducing rebates. Sail's prices for hot rolled coils/sheets and chequered plates have risen by almost Rs 2,000/tonne (\$44/t) and plates by Rs 1,700/t including the increased excise duty (approximately Rs 650/t). Prices of cold rolled and galvanized coils and sheets remain unchanged.

Steel Authority of India Ltd (Sail) reduced rebates by Rs 300-400/t on all long products and added an extra Rs 600-700/t to absorb the higher excise duty. The company once again raised prices of all its long products for the second time this month. Sail achieved the Rs 1,000/tonne (\$22/t) increase – which became effective on 14 March – by decreasing rebates on its products.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL) also raised prices of TMT rebars, structurals and wire rod by Rs 1,000/t and mild steel billets by Rs 1,300/t.

TATA Steel has increased **prices of long steel products by INR 1,000 a tonne and that of flat steel products by about INR 2,000** a tonne on the back of the excise duty hike and uptick in demand of late.

**BHP jacks up coking coal prices 55%:** BHP Billiton, the world's top coking coal producer, has signed a coking coal deal with Indian steelmakers at \$200 per tonne, up 55% from last year's prices. Last year's benchmark prices were \$129 per tonne and were yearly contracts. However, the latest deal is signed only for the first quarter ending June 30, 2010.

**Indian pig iron export price rises:** A bid by MMTC Transnational Pte Ltd (MTPL) at \$415.27/tonne was the highest-priced in the latest pig iron tender by India's MMTC. Other bids for the 9 March tender for 30,000 t for shipment by 31 March include Stemcor, \$413.86/t; Prime Carbon, \$412/t; Cargill, \$411.60/t and Macsteel, \$410.77/t.

**Indian Railways hikes railway freight rates again for export iron ore:** Indian Railways announced a hike of Rs 300/tonne (\$7/t) in iron ore freight rates on 15 March. The new distance-based rates are applicable only to iron ore meant for export, and are effective from 17-31 March. After this latest rate revision, a producer transporting iron ore 400 kms from his mine to Paradip port in the eastern state of Orissa will pay a basic freight of around Rs 1,000/t (\$22/t), an additional 75% of the basic freight (Rs 750/t), another Rs 200/t according to the August 2009 surcharge, plus the newly-imposed Rs 300/t.

Prevailing rail freight rates for Indian iron ore for exports	
	Rs/tonne
0-200 kms	125% of BFR+500
201-300 kms	90% of BFR+500
301-400 kms	75% of BFR+500
401-500 kms	45% of BFR+500
501-600 kms	25% of BFR+500
601-700 kms	10% of BFR+500
>700 kms	500
<i>Source: Indian Railways</i>	

## Iron & Steel Sector

**The domestic flat steel market** remained firm over a week with almost all the flat steel items witnessing a slight uptick in the prices. Indian mills have increased domestic commercial hot rolled coil prices for April production on rising international prices and higher costs of production. Prices have risen by at least Rs. 1,000-1,500/MT ex-mill to Rs. 30,500-32,000/MT. IS2062 16mm plate was concluded at around Rs. 30,000/MT (basic) in the first week.

The market sentiment remained healthy in the second week fuelled by the improving demand scenario from the end users all across the globe. Moreover, as a number of domestic producers are cutting their output this month for the shortage of electricity, so there is a slight slump in the supply of the material in the local market which is again pushing up the flat steel prices.

**Indian plate mills increase domestic prices by USD 22/MT:** Indian domestic plate prices for March have increased by Rs1,000/MT to Rs. 32,000-33,500 per tonne in line with increases in hot rolled coil prices. While Steel Authority of India and Jindal Steel and Power have increased prices by at least Rs. 1,000/MT on thicker plates of 20-40mm, Welspun, a non-integrated steel producer, has reportedly increased prices by only Rs. 600/MT.

**The domestic long steel market** across the country exhibited by and large a firm trend in the week following the budget declaration by the Indian government. The market sentiment has received a healthy boost by the price increase decisions made by all the major steel manufacturers across both the long and flat segments in the opening week of the month of March. The price of TMT bar in Mumbai witnessed a slight increase of about 1 per cent in recent one week because the demand turns to be a little stronger and prices of raw materials run high. A clear reflection of the rising market was noticed by the rising ingot prices. The steel ingot market exhibited a w-o-w positive variation in prices at various places of the country varying in the range of 2 to 3 per cent in the first week of the month of March. With the commencement of the second week, ingot prices have continued its rising trend with prices rising in the range of Rs. 600/MT to Rs. 900/MT since the close of the last week.

The market exhibited by and large a firm trend in the second week as well and the market continued to show a healthy upward trend even in this week so far. The market sentiment is on a high at the moment and the transaction across the steel market is on a rising spree. The steel ingot market exhibited a w-o-w positive variation in prices varying in the range of 3 to 4 per cent over a week while this week also began on a positive note with the ingot prices rising on the range of Rs. 600/MT to Rs. 800/MT since the close of the last week.

Prices achieved through **e-auction** have remained aligned with the domestic market. The overall flat market conditions remained firm over a fortnight. HR Plate auctioned exhibited a price rise of almost Rs.1500 per tonne over a week and Rs.2200 per tonne over a fortnight; CR Coil depicted a price rise of around Rs.1300 per tonne over a fortnight. The Longs market saw a whopping rise in price across various items since the announcement of Union Budget. Which Bloom depicted a price rise of around Rs.1000 per tonne over a week and Rs.2000 per tonne over a fortnight, Billet saw a similar price over the same period and Defective TMT too depicted a phenomenal rise of Rs.3000 per tonne over a fortnight.

The **international flat steel market** remained by and large steady in the first week. The northern European rebar price eased back to align with the southern European level. The US plate reference price hovered at USD 775/MT FOB Midwest mill, which is an increase of USD 6.6/MT from a week ago. On the other hand in China, the domestic plate prices have been climbing which is mainly because prices had been sluggish since mid to late January and needed to rebound due to the rising raw materials costs and strengthening of hot rolled coil prices. In Shanghai, Q235 14-20mm plate from Maanshan Iron & Steel (Magang) was offered at USD 593/MT, up by USD 7/MT from the earlier week.

The second week strengthened further at various places. The latest reference prices from The Steel Index have shown that the plate prices in US and Europe rose slightly from the last week. The southern European plate reference price ex-works rose strongly to USD 651/MT. The US plate reference price is

now at USD 775/MT FOB Midwest mill, which is an increase of USD 6.6/MT from a week ago. On the other hand in China, the domestic cold rolled coil prices have been rising briskly since the beginning of March. In Shanghai, 1.0mm CRC is offered for USD 776-820/MT with 17% VAT, up by USD 22/MT from early this month. Cold rolled coil has been traded at USD 10/tonne higher in Southeast Asia in the past two weeks. Taiwanese-origin annealed 1mm CRC, for April shipment, was recently booked at USD 730/MT fob and recently offered at USD 760/MT cfr Hong Kong.

**The international long steel market** remained mostly steady in the first week. The rebar and mesh quality wire rod producers in the north-western Europe continued to try to push through price increases to recover higher costs. Wire rod prices for February were USD 513/tonne delivered, but for March are USD 540/MT, both fabricators indicate, while a producer puts latest offers in Germany at USD 567/MT. Mesh prices have increased to USD 743/MT, one fabricator adds. The long steel market in USA has also depicted a steady trend over a week. On the other hand in China, Shagang kept its early March rebar and wire rod prices unchanged. The prices for 16-25mm HRB335 rebar and 6.5mm Q235 wire rod have been retained at USD 565/MT and USD 593/MT, with 17% VAT, since end-January. The second week of the month further portrayed a rising trend with Chinese domestic prices depicting a rise of around 5 to 6 percent over a fortnight. US import showed a price rise of 7 to 12 percent over a fortnight. The domestic European market also remained strong with prices rising in the range of 5 to 7 percent over a fortnight.

## Ferrous Scrap Sector

The long and scrap steel market across the country exhibited by and large a firm trend in the week following the budget declaration by the Indian government. The market sentiment has received a healthy boost by the price increase decisions made by all the major steel manufacturers across both the long and flat segments in the opening week of the month of March. The price of TMT bar in Mumbai witnessed a slight increase of about 1 per cent in recent one week because the demand turns to be a little stronger and prices of raw materials run high. A clear reflection of the rising market was noticed by the rising ingot prices and scrap prices. The steel ingot market exhibited a price rise of Rs.600 to Rs.900 per tonne over a fortnight at various places. The domestic scrap steel market exhibited a price rise of around Rs.600 per tonne over a fortnight in Mandi Govindgarh market.

**Indian imported scrap prices going up, buying remains thin:** Indian importers of steel scrap are caught between increasing international offer prices and weak domestic demand, with the 31 March end of India's fiscal year approaching. Although delivered prices of imported scrap have strengthened since early February, buying remains thin as end-users prefer to wait for international prices to soften.

Containerized HMS 1&2 (80:20) from the Middle East and Africa was being offered to Indian end-users at \$375-395/tonne cfr in the second week. Similarly, offers for containerized shredded scrap from Europe and USA ranged between \$405-415/t cfr but Indian buyers refused to pay above \$390-400/t cfr. The beginning of Week 03 saw some further rise in import price as containerized HMS 1&2 (80:20) was being offered to Indian users at \$400-405/tonne cfr and Containerized shredded scrap offers hovered at \$420/t cfr. Transactions however remain sparse as buyers wait for international prices to soften and for domestic finished product prices to increase.

**The international Scrap steel market exhibited a firm market trend at various places.**

**Scrap import prices heading toward USD 400/MT cfr East Asia:** East Asian importers are resisting new offer prices for imported scrap which are up by USD 10-20/MT since last week and close to or above USD 400/MT cfr. According to the Chinese traders, the prices are too high. There is no recent Chinese scrap importing activity. Limited offers of bulk shipment of mixed HMS 1&2 80:20/shredded are being offered at around USD 420-430/cfr East Asia.

**UK scrap firms on tight supply, export demand and prices:** According to the market sources, the scrap prices in the UK have risen this month on constricted supply, improved demand and a firming global

market. Prices have increased by USD 20-40/tonne taking plate and girder material to around USD 306-315/MT delivered, several sources concur.

**Turkish scrap demand strengthens; import prices rise on growing demand:** Prices of scrap imported into Turkey are increasing as Turkish demand shows some recovery.

The latest transaction confirmed in the second week was an EU-origin cargo sold at \$388/tonne cfr Turkey. Bought from the USA in the first week was a mixed cargo at \$385/t cfr, composed of 16,000 t shredded and 24,000 t HMS 1&2 80:20.

The offer prices are rising from all over the world for Turkish mills: EU is asking \$390/t cfr and above for HMS 1&2 80:20 while USA is asking over \$395/t cfr for the same material. The HMS 1&2 70:30 is being priced from EU at \$380-385/t and shredded scrap is being offered at \$400/t cfr from US suppliers. These prices represent a \$15-25/t increase over a week. The CIS region suppliers are also increasing their offers to Turkey by around same amounts. A3 grade scrap is currently being offered to Turkey at around \$385/t cfr.

## Iron Ore Sector

Post Chinese holiday, the Iron Ore fines market has revived with Fe 63.5% prevailing at \$127-\$129/tonne, cfr at the close of week 03 and Indian FOB prices ruling at USD105/t on Feb 21, USD6-7/t higher than that of ten days ago. Week 04 remained strong as most Chinese importers, which are major customers of Indian iron ore, plan to import new materials because they mostly hold low inventories in hand. Fe63.5% prevailed at \$135-136/tonne cfr, Fe 61% ruled at \$122-123/tonne cfr and Fe 58% ruled at \$109-110/tonne, cfr.

*The month of March has seen some mixed trend with export market seeing a stable movement in the first few days; however since then there has been a downtrend observed across various grades due to weak market demand and high inventory at Chinese ports.* Fe63.5% grade has seen a fall in price of around 2% since the close of Feb to prevail at around 136 USD/tonne, cfr China.

Weak demand has also pulled down prices of low grade ore with Fe58% grade prevailing at around USD85-86/tonne, FOB Indian port.

The export price of iron ore moved down in India due to the inactive trading. The price of iron ore fines 63.5% rejection below 62.5% was USD112/t FOB Indian major ports in Week 02, USD1-2/t lower than that of late first week. Importers from East Asia, the major market of Indian iron ore, reduced the purchase quantity because their domestic demand for imported iron ore has weakened.

The close of Week 02 and the opening week of Week 03 has seen a rising trend once again across various grades. Backed by increasing Chinese interest, export prices of Indian iron ore fines have been moving higher. Chinese buyers are already agreeing to premium prices of \$142-145/t for 63.5% fines from larger and more reliable suppliers. At present Fe63.5% is prevailing at around 142-143 USD/tonne cfr China and 114-115 USD/tonne FOB India, Fe61% is prevailing at 128-129 USD/tonne cfr China and 104-105 USD/tonne FOB India while Fe 58% grade is prevailing at around 117-118 USD/tonne, cfr China and 87-88 USD/tonne FOB India. The export market is expected to turn stronger in the coming days with the announcement in hike in freight rates.

## Sponge Iron Sector

Domestic Prices have seen rapid rise in the last few days: Indian local sponge iron prices have risen by Rs. 1500 per tonne within a week on increased buying activity and the growing cost of raw materials. Sponge iron prices now stand at Rs16,800-17,000 per tonne ex-plant compared with Rs15,300-15,500 per tonne a week ago.

"The market was depressed for a long time; we have been waiting for this kind of spurt in prices," an official from a sponge iron making plant in Chhattisgarh said. A key trigger for the increases has been the increase in raw material prices, the official said, adding that the rises will continue for another week or two. "Once the buying starts, prices will keep rising for another week or two. Today everyone is a

buyer; sellers are few and far between," the official said. The rapid rise in sponge iron prices is quite a common occurrence, one user said. "It happens twice or three times per year – whenever producers see a good opportunity to raise the price," he said, adding that the market will settle within a week when the buying frenzy may subside.

But many sponge iron producers are bullish that prices will increase further and even touch Rs20,000 per tonne ex-plant next week. "The prices of basic raw materials – both iron ore and coal – are high enough for us to seek and sell at a higher price: we have to maintain profitability," a Delhi-based sponge iron producer said. Many producers are only booking limited tonnages, expecting prices to continue rising, another sponge iron buyer said. General sentiment in the steel industry is very bullish, which is bolstering a sustained increase in sponge prices, he added.

## Base Metals Sector

**Nickel:** Nickel market remained buoyant in the first week of the month supported by the firmer Euro and worries about the earthquake in Chile. Nickel prices soared up by 2 per cent at LME in Mar week 01 as compared to the week before while its counterpart at Mumbai rose by 3 per cent over the same period. The nickel market depicted a conspicuous increase in the metal demand as well as prices even in the second week of the month due to the pick up in the industrial demand across the globe and exhibited a firming trend both at London Metal Exchange and at home; registering a rise over 8 per cent in the second week as compared to the week before.

**Zinc:** Zinc market remained by and large stable in the opening fortnight of the month after depicting a rising trend in the closing week of the month of February. Zinc remained somewhat subdued all across the globe in the first week with the prices dropping by around 1 per cent over a week. In the second week, the white metal still continued to portray a droopy trend with the prices improving meagerly in the range of 0.5 to 1 per cent as compared to the week before.

**Aluminium:** Aluminium kicked off on a positive note with the inception of the month of March with demand scenario firming up for the metal across the world. Aluminium witnessed a price improvement of 2 per cent both at home and abroad in Mar week 01 as compared to the previous week. The metal continued to sail upward even in the second week with the prices rising in the range of 2 to 4 per cent as compared to the week before.

**Copper:** Copper went berserk with the commencement of the month of March as the demand conditions for the metal bettered. Copper prices jumped by more than 7.5 percent both at home and LME in the opening week of the month as compared to the week before. However, the acceleration in the copper prices that was noticed in the first week was not visible in the second week though the metal still continued to remain upward in the second week with comparatively lower w-o-w percentage increase of around 2 per cent as compared to week 01.

**Lead:** Lead like copper went frenzy in the first week of March with the improvement in the demand scenario. Lead depicted a rise of over 8 per cent both at LME and at home in week 01 as compared to the week before. However, in the second week lead depicted a sluggish but a stable trend with the prices not moving as briskly as was observed in week 01 and witnessed a w-o-w price rise of around 1 per cent both at home and at LME.

## Ferro Alloys Sector

The month of March has seen some positive signal in the Ferro-alloys sector.

**Ferro-chrome** – The domestic **Ferro chrome market** depicted a firm trend with the commencement of the month of March. Currently due to active purchases from the domestic consumers and high expectation for the contract price of South African has charged up the chrome ore for next quarter,

many domestic suppliers are raising their offers for high carbon Ferro-chrome. The high carbon Ferro-chrome (60% min) prices have shot up as much as by Rs. 5,000/MT since the close of the last month and is currently prevailing at around Rs. 61,500/MT (basic). On the other hand, the US high carbon Ferro-chrome market slowed down slightly in pricing last week, but the overall demand continued to remain at a strong level, according to the market sources.

**Ferro-molybdenum** – The **Ferro-molybdenum** market remained subdued since the beginning of the month of March. In a usual slow reaction to the price changes in the international Ferro-molybdenum trend, the buyers and end-users in the local market are slowly restraining from making further enquiries until the direction of the domestic market becomes clear. The Ferro-moly (60% min) prices slumped by Rs. 25/Kg in Mar week 02 and is currently prevailing at around Rs. 1,150/MT. On the other hand in China, the mainstream price of Ferro-molybdenum (60%) has decreased from USD 38.56-39.78/Kg to USD 38.07-39.29/Kg these two days, since the demand kept slow in the past ten days in China.

**Ferro-manganese** – The market for **Ferro-manganese** across the country exhibited a healthy trend in the month of March with demand for the alloy remaining steady at the moment. In the domestic market, the high carbon Ferro-manganese (65-70%) witnessed a price rise of Rs. 2,000/MT since the close of the last month and is currently prevailing at around Rs. 57,000/MT (basic). On the other hand in China, the demand for the high grade manganese ore is slow at present, while traders are still keeping the offers firm. Since the replenishing cost of manganese ore is high now, it is expected that the Chinese traders will not decrease the offer in the short term.

**Ferro-silicon** – The domestic **Ferro-silicon** market remained mostly stable over the last couple of months with no major change in the demand scenario. In India, Ferro silicon (70% min) is currently prevailing at around Rs. 60,500/MT (basic). On the other hand, the US Ferro-silicon pricing rose slightly in the first week of the month of March as domestic traders continue to report steady demand during the start of general procurement for second quarter requirements.

## Base Metals, Steel, Metallics & Ferro-Alloy Prices

### International Base metal Prices:

Price at LME in USD/tonne	Mar'10 Week 02	Feb'10 Week 04	Feb'10 Week 02	Jan'10 Week 04	Jan'10 Week 02
Nickel	21906	20355	17729	18288	18081
Zinc	2333	2194	2094	2232	2495
Aluminum	2167	2085	2003	2148	2281
Copper	7462	7142	6572	7170	7470
Lead	2244	2212	2023	2135	2462

Source: LME

### Indian Base metal Prices:

Price at India in Rs/kg (basic)	Mar'10 Week 02	Feb'10 Week 04	Feb'10 Week 02	Jan'10 Week 04	Jan'10 Week 02
Nickel	999	940	820	848	824
Zinc	106	102	97	103	114
Aluminum	101	97	93	99	104
Copper	341	333	305	328	342
Lead	102	102	94	98	113

Source: NCDEX, MCX

**International Steel & Scrap Prices:**

Items	Mar'10 Week 02	Feb'10 Week 04	Feb'10 Week 02	Jan'10 Week 04	Jan'10 Week 02
China Domestic HRC Yuan/tonne	4060	3820	3750	3750	3830
China Domestic CRC Yuan/tonne	5350	5100	5050	5050	5280
China Domestic Rebar Yuan/tonne	3740	3610	3610	3600	3700
Europe Domestic HRC Ex-Works €/t	460	440	440	360	360
Europe Domestic CRC Ex-Works €/t	560	500	500	480	450
US Domestic HRC FOB \$/tonne	690	610	610	610	610
US Domestic CRC FOB \$/tonne	810	710	710	710	710
CIS Export HR Coil \$/tonne	565	565	530	530	510
CIS Export Slab Black Sea/Baltic Sea \$/tonne	440	440	440	440	400
CIS Export Billet Black Sea/Baltic Sea \$/tonne	460	460	460	460	420
CIS Export Rebar Black Sea/Baltic Sea \$/tonne	520	480	480	480	450
Shredded Scrap US fob East Coast \$/tonne	360	315	310	315	320
HMS I &II (80:20) United States fob East Coast \$/tonne	355	310	305	310	315
HMS I&II(70:30) fob Rotterdam Export \$/tonne	349	305	298	306	312
HMS I\$II(80:20mix) Rotterdam Export \$/tonne	351	312	303	309	315
IOF Fe=63.5% CNF China USD/tonne	141	137	128	125	131

Source: Metal Bulletin

**Indian Steel & Scrap Prices:**

Items	Mar'10 Week 02	Feb'10 Week 04	Feb'10 Week 02	Jan'10 Week 04	Jan'10 Week 02
Pig Iron at Kolkata	24430	24130	23700	23300	21850
Pig Iron at Mumbai	22500	22500	22500	22000	21500
Sponge Iron(Coal Based) at Kolkata	15700	15570	16070	16120	16510
Melting Scrap(HMS I) at Kolkata	20280	17360	18720	19240	21320
Melting Scrap(HMS II) at Kolkata	19240	16340	17680	18200	20800
Billet(100mm) at Kolkata	28410	27560	28620	28510	28410
Billet(100mm) at Mumbai	27530	27530	27530	28390	28630
Bloom(150*150mm) at Kolkata	27290	26360	27500	27390	27290
Wire Rod(6mm) at Kolkata	32740	32080	32560	33290	33560
TMT Bar(10mm) at Kolkata	32930	32490	33040	33290	33570
TMT Bar(10mm) at Delhi	33880	33310	33100	33970	34250
Angles(50*50*6mm) at Kolkata	34500	33910	34350	34580	34680
Angles(50*50*6mm) at Delhi	34830	33960	34350	35120	35290
Plate(6mm) at Kolkata	36350	35840	35960	36010	35860
Plate(6mm) at Delhi	37350	37020	37020	37020	37160
HR Coil(2mm) at Kolkata	35070	34710	34720	34760	34660
HR Coil(2mm) at Delhi	35840	35540	35590	35590	35690
CR Coil(0.63mm) at Kolkata	39380	39270	39270	39380	39070
CR Coil(0.63mm) at Delhi	40090	40090	39530	39530	40250
GP Sheet(0.63mm) at Kolkata	43480	43230	42970	43200	42820
GP Sheet(0.63mm) at Delhi	44820	44350	44050	44050	43270

Price quoted above in Rs. /tonne is all inclusive. Source: JPC

**Ferro-Alloy prices:**

Ferro Alloys- Raipur market (Basic price in Rs./kg)	12.03.10	10.03.10	08.03.10	05.03.10	04.03.10	03.03.10	02.03.10
Ferro Silicon 70/75	67	65	64	66	67	65	64
Ferro Manganese 70/75	55	53	53	54	54	53	56
High Carbon Ferro Chrome	67	63	63	65	64	63	60
Ferro Titanium 30/35%	105	104	104	102	102	104	102

Source: MMR

Ferro Alloys- Mumbai market (Basic price in Rs./kg)	12.03.10	05.03.10	26.02.10	19.02.10	12.02.10	05.02.10	29.01.10
Ferro Molybdenum	1160	1160	1080	1070	1080	1080	1100
Molybdenum Oxide	1130	1100	1050	1040	950	1050	1080
Ferro Manganese HC	68	67	68	68	68	68	68
Ferro Manganese MC	110	78	88	88	83	105	80
Ferro Chromium LC	138	135	135	135	135	135	135
Ferro Vanadium	775	775	775	775	775	775	750

Source: MMR

**Producer's Prices:**

**Zinc**

Hindusthan Zinc Ltd. (Prices are Rs/MT, Excl. ED & ST,VAT)	11.03.10	06.03.10	04.03.10	22.03.10	20.03.10	18.03.10	13.03.10
<b>Ex-smelter: Debari / Chanderia</b>							
Prime Western	124,800	120,200	119,200	121,700	121,700	112,100	114,900
High Grade	126,300	121,700	120,700	123,200	123,200	122,600	116,400
Special High Grade	127,300	122,700	121,700	124,200	124,200	123,600	117,400
<b>Ex-Bangalore</b>							
Prime Western	127,000	122,400	121,400	123,900	123,900	123,300	117,100
High Grade	128,500	123,900	122,900	125,400	125,400	124,800	118,600
Special High Grade	129,500	124,900	123,900	126,400	126,400	125,800	119,600

Source: MMR

**Binani Zinc (Prices are Rs/MT, incl. ED)**

Binani Zinc (Prices are Rs/MT, incl. ED)	12.03.10	09.03.10	08.03.10	24.02.10	17.02.10	15.02.10	11.02.10
<b>Ex Godown: Bhiwandi</b>							
High Grade	131,500	134,500	130,500	127,500	130,500	127,500	129,500
Special High Grade	132,000	135,000	131,000	128,000	131,000	128,000	130,000
Super Special High Grade	132,500	135,500	131,500	128,500	131,500	128,500	130,500
<b>Ex Godown: Daman/Silvasa</b>							
High Grade	131,500	134,500	130,500	127,500	130,500	127,500	129,500
Special High Grade	132,000	135,000	131,000	128,000	131,000	128,000	130,000
Super Special High Grade	132,500	135,500	131,500	128,500	131,500	128,500	130,500

Source: MMR

## Copper

Hindusthan Copper Ltd. (Prices are Rs/MT, Excl. ED, Sales Tax, VAT)	01-Mar-10	01-Feb-10	01-Jan-10	01-Dec-10	01-Nov-09	01-Oct-09
Copper Cathode (Full)	350,179	373,860	358,755	343,083	324,768	333,218
Continuous Cast Copper Rods (8mm)	356,120	379,753	364,729	349,049	330,752	339,428

Source: MMR

Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. (Excl ED)	01-Mar-10	01-Feb-10	01-Jan-10	16-Dec-09	01-Dec-09	01-Nov-09
Copper Cathode (Full)	359,185	349,202	373,071	432,000	352,893	337,759
CC Copper Wire Rods (8mm)	362,814	352,868	376,700	436,000	359,198	334,065

Source: MMR

## Lead

Hindusthan Zinc Ltd. (Prices are Rs/MT, Excl. ED & ST, VAT)	11-Mar-10	04-Mar-10	27-Feb-10	20-Feb-10	18-Feb-10	13-Feb-10
Purity 99.99%(Ex-smelter Chanderiya)	118,700	116,200	119,200	120,000	118,700	110,700
Purity 99.99%(Ex Bangalore)	121,700	119,200	122,200	123,000	121,700	113,700

Source: MMR

## Aluminium

NALCO					
	CG Ingot (purity 99.0 to 99.5%)	EC Ingot (99.7 to 99.799%)	CG Wire Rod (cond. less than 61%)	EC Wire Rod (cond. 61.5% and above)	Alloy Wire Rod
19-Dec-09	126,400	126,650	132,350	133,450	135,450
01-Jan-10	127,400	127,650	133,350	134,450	136,450
27-Jan-10	127,400	127,650	133,350	134,450	136,450
08-Feb-10	119,400	119,650	125,350	126,450	128,450
02-Mar-10	121,400	121,650	127,350	128,450	130,450

Prices in Rs./t, basic, ex-smelter, Excluding ED Source: MMR

HINDALCO					
	CG Ingot (purity 99.5% min)	EC Ingot (99.6% min)	CG Wire Rod	EC Wire Rod (cond 61% min)	Alloy Wire Rod
09-Dec-09	119,900	120,900	131,500	131,500	139,000
04-Jan-10	125,400	126,400	137,000	137,000	144,500
09-Feb-10	117,400	118,400	129,000	129,000	136,500
04-Mar-10	119,400	120,400	131,000	131,000	138,500

Prices in Rs./t, basic, ex-smelter, Excluding ED Source: MMR

## Outlook

**Indian steel prices expected to rise next fiscal on high input costs, demand:** Steel prices in the country are set to go up on account of rising input costs and demand for the commodity, according to experts. Increasing price of coking coal and iron ore are expected to put pressure on steel makers to pass on the burden to consumers.

**Base metals outlook expected to remain strong.** With the Indian market gradually integrating with the global market, it is necessary for market participants — producers, consumers, traders — to hold a worldview of market fundamentals of demand and supply, in addition of course to the Indian market conditions. The outlook for 2010 looks positive on current reckoning. One can be more than certain that prices will be polarized by macro conditions. Industrial growth outlook appears positive, with Asia demonstrating robust increase. Continued Chinese import demand and emerging prospects of OECD demand recovery — largely restocking demand — are also rated high at this point of time. All these are sure to boost metals.

*Source: Asian Metal, SBB, Metal Bulletin, MMR, Reuters, Bloomberg, NCDEX, MCX, JPC, LME.*