

 **METALS & MINING**

23 June 2026

Steel demand resilient; Prices under near term pressure

- Demand growth at 7–9% CAGR; near-term prices weighed down by elevated inventories and increased imports
- Capacity growth has been consistent with rising demand. GoI targets 300mnt capacity by FY30 from 220mnt in FY26
- Imported coking coal dependence to continue; with limited scope for near-term price correction

Sukhwinder Singh
Research Analyst
research@bobcaps.in

We had a Steel sector expert call (Qesrow Research & Strategy Co.) with group of investors on 18th June 2026. Qesrow is a specialist strategy advisory firm focused on capital-intensive industries, including materials, metals, mining, manufacturing, and related industrial value chains. Firm is led by Mr. Sachin Shetty (CEO), who brings over 24 years of experience advising leading Indian companies on corporate strategy, M&A, strategic alliances, and value chain positioning.

Key highlights on steel sector discussion:

Capacity: Capacity and production growth has been consistent with rising demand. GoI targets 300mnt capacity by FY30 from 220mnt in FY26. This is well-supported by ongoing expansions from integrated players such as Tata Steel, JSW Steel, Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel alongside incremental additions from secondary producers.

Demand: India's steel demand remains structurally strong, supported by low per capita consumption. While recent high growth of 8-12% may normalize, demand is expected to grow at a steady 7–9% CAGR, in line with GDP.

Pricing: Over the past one to one-and-a-half months, prices have come under pressure primarily due to a combination of elevated inventory levels and temporary slowdown in consumption activity. Imports have also seen an upsurge.

Iron ore: Iron ore demand remains strongly linked to the production mix. Merchant market remains structurally tight due to high captive consumption by integrated players. This dynamic strengthens NMDC's pricing power.

Coking coal: Steel industry remains dependent on imported coking coal (95%) due to high ash content in domestic coal. Prices are not expected to correct sharply in the near term, and the steel industry will need to manage the resulting incremental cost pressures.



Key points:

- **Capacity:** Capacity growth has been consistent post covid to cater to increasing demand.
 - Steel capacity is 220mnt in FY26 with production at 169mnt, implying utilisation of 77%. Notably, utilisation levels for large listed players remain near peak levels, while inefficiencies persist in the unorganized and smaller mills.
 - Government targets 300mnt capacity by FY30. This is well-supported by ongoing expansions from integrated players such as Tata Steel, JSW Steel, Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel alongside incremental additions from secondary producers.
 - While primary producers are expanding large-scale blast furnace-based capacities, secondary players are upgrading technologically and moving into higher-grade steel segments.
 - Structurally, India is emerging as a pivotal global steel hub, effectively catering to both developed markets (high-grade steel) and developing regions (infrastructure-led demand).
- **Demand:** India's steel demand remains structurally strong, supported by low per capita consumption (108 kg vs global 260–280 kg), implying a long growth runway.
 - While recent high growth may normalize, demand is expected to grow at a steady 7–9% CAGR, in line with GDP.
 - Importantly, demand is shifting toward value-added segments, led by electric vehicles (electrical steel), automotive alloys, defense and aerospace applications, packaging, and renewable energy infrastructure.
 - With China's demand moderating, India is increasingly positioned as the primary global growth engine for steel.
- **Pricing:** Prices witnessed weakness in last one month due to short-term demand disruptions and supply-side imbalances rather than any deterioration in structural fundamentals.
 - Over the past one to one-and-a-half months, prices have come under pressure primarily due to a combination of elevated inventory levels and temporary slowdown in consumption activity.
 - On the domestic side, the long steel segment—closely linked to construction—has been particularly impacted. The onset of extreme heatwaves led to a slowdown in construction activity across several regions, which in turn resulted in deferred project execution and weaker offtake. Since production levels did not adjust immediately, inventories began to accumulate, especially at the distributor and trader level. This inventory overhang has naturally exerted downward pressure on prices, as market participants have had to offer discounts to move material.
 - The flat steel segment has also remained subdued driven by somewhat different factors. Pressure in this segment is largely external, stemming from a

surge in imports and weaker export demand. Increased inflows from global markets, at a time of already soft domestic demand, have led to a supply overhang. Notably, Chinese steel is increasingly being rerouted through other Asian countries and entering India at prices lower than domestic realizations, further intensifying pricing pressure.

- Simultaneously, export opportunities have weakened, likely due to softer global demand conditions and competition from other exporting nations.
- **Iron ore:** Iron ore demand remains strongly linked to the production mix, which continues to be dominated by the BF-BOF route.
 - Iron ore consumption has grown from 186 mnt in FY20 to 291 mnt in FY26 (8% CAGR), supported by capacity expansion. Domestic iron ore production is expected to reach 400 mnt by FY30 under the base case.
 - However, the merchant market remains structurally tight due to high captive consumption by integrated players. This dynamic strengthens NMDC's pricing power, supported further by higher costs at auction mines and a gradual decline in ore quality, which is driving demand for higher-grade ore.
- **Coking coal:** Steel industry remains dependent on imported coking coal 95% of its coking coal requirements due to high ash content in domestic coal.
 - India has a reasonable level of raw coking coal resources; the availability of usable coking coal is extremely limited only about 10–11 million tonnes out of a much larger raw production base. Against this, annual demand stands significantly higher, with imports accounting for roughly 60–65 million tonnes. These imports are primarily sourced from countries such as Australia, USA, and Russia.
 - Although government initiatives such as the coking coal mission and efforts to classify it under critical minerals are aimed at accelerating domestic production and improving washing capacity, the consensus remains that import dependence will persist in the foreseeable future.
 - Prices have increased to USD243/t from USD198/t in Q3FY26 due to supply disturbance in Australia and rise in freight rates. Prices are not expected to correct sharply in the near term, and the steel industry will need to manage the resulting incremental cost pressures.

NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, IN OR INTO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ("US") OR IN OR INTO ANY OTHER JURISDICTION IF SUCH AN ACTION IS PROHIBITED BY APPLICABLE LAW.

Disclaimer

Name of the Research Entity: **BOB Capital Markets Limited**
 Registered office Address: **1704, B Wing, Parinee Crescenzo, G Block, BKC, Bandra East, Mumbai 400051**
 SEBI Research Analyst Registration No: **INH000000040 (Perpetual)**
 SEBI Stock Broker Registration No: **INZ000159332**
 SEBI Depository Participant Registration No: **IN-DP-728-2022**
 SEBI Merchant Banker Registration No: **INM000009926**
 Phone: +91-22-61389300
 Name of the Compliance Officer: Mr. Sameer Khobrekar
 Email ID: Compliance@bobcaps.in; Phone no.: +91-22-61389358
 For any queries or grievances, you may contact the Grievance Officer.
 Name of the Grievance Officer: Mr. Nilesh Mehta
 Email ID: head-customer@bobcaps.in; Phone no: 92288 60945
 Brand Name: **BOBCAPS**
 Website: <https://www.bobcaps.in/>
 CIN: **U65999MH1996GOI098009**

Logo:  **BOBCAPS**
 TRUST | INNOVATION | EXCELLENCE

Investments in securities market are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing.
 Registration granted by SEBI and certification from NISM in no way guarantee performance of the intermediary or provide any assurance of returns to investors.

Recommendation scale: Recommendations and Absolute returns (%) over 12 months

BUY – Expected return >+15%

HOLD – Expected return from -6% to +15%

SELL – Expected return <-6%

Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

Our recommendation scale does not factor in short-term stock price volatility related to market fluctuations. Thus, our recommendations may not always be strictly in line with the recommendation scale as shown above.

Analyst certification

The research analyst(s) authoring this report hereby certifies that (1) all of the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect his/her personal views about the subject company or companies and its or their securities, and (2) no part of his/her compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendation(s) or view(s) in this report. Analysts are not registered as research analysts by FINRA and are not associated persons of BOB Capital Markets Limited (BOBCAPS).

General disclaimers

BOBCAPS is engaged in the business of Stock Broking and Investment Banking. BOBCAPS is a member of the National Stock Exchange of India Limited and BSE Limited and is also a SEBI-registered Category I Merchant Banker. BOBCAPS is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda which has its various subsidiaries engaged in the businesses of stock broking, lending, asset management, life insurance, health insurance and wealth management, among others.

BOBCAPS's activities have neither been suspended nor has it defaulted with any stock exchange authority with whom it has been registered in the last five years. BOBCAPS has not been debarred from doing business by any stock exchange or SEBI or any other authority. No disciplinary action has been taken by any regulatory authority against BOBCAPS affecting its equity research analysis activities.

BOBCAPS prohibits its analysts, persons reporting to analysts, and members of their households from maintaining a financial interest in the securities or derivatives of any companies that the analysts cover. Additionally, BOBCAPS prohibits its analysts and persons reporting to analysts from serving as an officer, director, or advisory board member of any companies that the analysts cover.

Our salespeople, traders, and other professionals may provide oral or written market commentary or trading strategies to our clients that reflect opinions contrary to the opinions expressed herein, and our proprietary trading and investing businesses may make investment decisions that are inconsistent with the recommendations expressed herein. In reviewing these materials, you should be aware that any or all of the foregoing, among other things, may give rise to real or potential conflicts of interest. Additionally, other important information regarding our relationships with the company or companies that are the subject of this material is provided herein.

This material should not be construed as an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any security in any jurisdiction. We are not soliciting any action based on this material. It is for the general information of BOBCAPS's clients. It does not constitute a personal recommendation or take into account the particular investment objectives, financial situations, or needs of individual clients. Before acting on any advice or recommendation in this material, clients should consider whether it is suitable for their particular circumstances and, if necessary, seek professional advice. BOBCAPS research reports follow rules laid down by Securities and Exchange Board of India and individuals employed as research analysts are separate from other employees who are performing sales trading, dealing, corporate finance advisory or any other activity that may affect the independence of its research reports.

The price and value of the investments referred to in this material and the income from them may go down as well as up, and investors may realize losses on any investments. Past performance is not a guide for future performance, future returns are not guaranteed and a loss of original capital may occur. BOBCAPS does not provide tax advice to its clients, and all investors are strongly advised to consult with their tax advisers regarding any potential investment in certain transactions — including those involving futures, options, and other derivatives as well as non-investment-grade securities — that give rise to substantial risk and are not suitable for all investors. The material is based on information that we consider reliable, but we do not represent that it is accurate or complete, and it should not be relied on as such. Opinions expressed are our current opinions as of the date appearing on this material only. We endeavour to update on a reasonable basis the information discussed in this material, but regulatory, compliance, or other reasons may prevent us from doing so.

We and our affiliates, officers, directors, and employees, including persons involved in the preparation or issuance of this material, may from time to time have "long" or "short" positions in, act as principal in, and buy or sell the securities or derivatives thereof of companies mentioned herein and may from time to time add to or dispose of any such securities (or investment). We and our affiliates may assume an underwriting commitment in the securities of companies discussed in this

document (or in related investments), may sell them to or buy them from customers on a principal basis, and may also perform or seek to perform investment banking or advisory services for or relating to these companies and may also be represented in the supervisory board or any other committee of these companies.

For the purpose of calculating whether BOBCAPS and its affiliates hold, beneficially own, or control, including the right to vote for directors, one per cent or more of the equity shares of the subject company, the holdings of the issuer of the research report is also included.

BOBCAPS and its non-US affiliates may, to the extent permissible under applicable laws, have acted on or used this research to the extent that it relates to non-US issuers, prior to or immediately following its publication. Foreign currency denominated securities are subject to fluctuations in exchange rates that could have an adverse effect on the value or price of or income derived from the investment. In addition, investors in securities such as ADRs, the value of which are influenced by foreign currencies, effectively assume currency risk. In addition, options involve risks and are not suitable for all investors. Please ensure that you have read and understood the Risk disclosure document before entering into any derivative transactions.

No part of this material may be (1) copied, photocopied, or duplicated in any form by any means or (2) redistributed without BOBCAPS's prior written consent.

Company-specific disclosures under SEBI (Research Analysts) Regulations, 2014

The research analyst(s) or his/her relatives do not have any material conflict of interest at the time of publication of this research report.

BOBCAPS or its research analyst(s) or his/her relatives do not have any financial interest in the subject company. BOBCAPS or its research analyst(s) or his/her relatives do not have actual/beneficial ownership of one per cent or more securities in the subject company at the end of the month immediately preceding the date of publication of this report.

The research analyst(s) has not received any compensation from the subject company or third party in the past 12 months in connection with research report/activities. Compensation of the research analyst(s) is not based on any specific merchant banking, investment banking or brokerage service transactions.

BOBCAPS or its research analyst(s) is not engaged in any market making activities for the subject company.

The research analyst(s) has not served as an officer, director or employee of the subject company.

BOBCAPS or its associates may have material conflict of interest at the time of publication of this research report.

BOBCAPS's associates may have financial interest in the subject company. BOBCAPS's associates may hold actual / beneficial ownership of one per cent or more securities in the subject company at the end of the month immediately preceding the date of publication of this report.

BOBCAPS or its associates may have managed or co-managed a public offering of securities for the subject company or may have been mandated by the subject company for any other assignment in the past 12 months.

BOBCAPS may have received compensation from the subject company in the past 12 months. BOBCAPS may from time to time solicit or perform investment banking services for the subject company. BOBCAPS or its associates may have received compensation from the subject company in the past 12 months for services in respect of managing or co-managing public offerings, corporate finance, investment banking or merchant banking, brokerage services or other advisory services in a merger or specific transaction. BOBCAPS or its associates may have received compensation for products or services other than investment banking or merchant banking or brokerage services from the subject company in the past 12 months.

Other disclaimers

BOBCAPS and MAYBANK (as defined below) make no representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of any information obtained from third parties and expressly disclaim the merchantability, suitability, quality and fitness of this report. The information in this report has not been independently verified, is provided on an "as is" basis, should not be relied on by you in connection with any contract or commitment, and should not be used as a substitute for enquiries, procedures and advice which ought to be undertaken by you. This report also does not constitute an offer or solicitation to buy or sell any securities referred to herein and you should not construe this report as investment advice. All opinions and estimates contained in this report constitute BOBCAPS's judgment as of the date of this report and are subject to change without notice, and there is no obligation on BOBCAPS or MAYBANK to update this report upon issuance. This report and the information contained herein may not be reproduced, redistributed, disseminated or copied by any means without the prior consent of BOBCAPS and MAYBANK.

To the full extent permitted by law neither BOBCAPS, MAYBANK nor any of their respective affiliates, nor any other person, accepts any liability howsoever arising, whether in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability or any other basis, including without limitation, direct or indirect, special, incidental, consequential or punitive damages arising from any use of this report or the information contained herein. By accepting this report, you agree and undertake to fully indemnify and hold harmless BOBCAPS and MAYBANK from and against claims, charges, actions, proceedings, losses, liabilities, damages, expenses and demands (collectively, the "Losses") which BOBCAPS and/or MAYBANK may incur or suffer in any jurisdiction including but not limited to those Losses incurred by BOBCAPS and/or MAYBANK as a result of any proceedings or actions brought against them by any regulators and/or authorities, and which in any case are directly or indirectly occasioned by or result from or are attributable to anything done or omitted in relation to or arising from or in connection with this report.

Distribution into the United Kingdom ("UK"):

This research report will only be distributed in the United Kingdom, in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations of the UK, by Maybank Securities (London) Ltd ("MSL") who is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA") in the United Kingdom (MSL and its affiliates are collectively referred to as "**MAYBANK**"). BOBCAPS is not authorized to directly distribute this research report in the UK.

This report has not been prepared by BOBCAPS in accordance with the UK's legal and regulatory requirements.

This research report is for distribution only to, and is solely directed at, selected persons on the basis that those persons: (a) are eligible counterparties and professional clients of MAYBANK as selected by MAYBANK solely at its discretion; (b) have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005, as amended from time to time (the "Order"), or (c) fall within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) (high net worth companies, unincorporated associations, etc. as mentioned in the stated Article) of the Order; (all such persons together being referred to as "relevant persons").

This research report is directed only at relevant persons and must not be acted on or relied on by any persons who are not relevant persons. Any investment or investment activity to which this material relates is available only to relevant persons and will be engaged in only with relevant persons.

The relevant person as recipient of this research report is not permitted to reproduce, change, remove, pass on, distribute or disseminate the data or make it available to third parties without the written permission of BOBCAPS or MAYBANK. Any decision taken by the relevant person(s) pursuant to the research report shall be solely at their costs and consequences and BOBCAPS and MAYBANK shall not have any liability of whatsoever nature in this regard.

No distribution into the US:

This report will not be distributed in the US and no US person may rely on this communication.

Other jurisdictions:

This report has been prepared in accordance with SEBI (Research Analysts) Regulations and not in accordance with local regulatory requirements of any other jurisdiction. In any other jurisdictions, this report is only for distribution (subject to applicable legal or regulatory restrictions) to professional, institutional or sophisticated investors as defined in the laws and regulations of such jurisdictions by Maybank Securities Pte Ltd. (Singapore) and / or by any broker-dealer affiliate or such other affiliate as determined by Malayan Banking Berhad.

If the recipient of this report is not as specified above, then it should not act upon this report and return the same to the sender.

By accepting this report, you agree to be bound by the foregoing limitations.