Glimpsing the Indian Steel Industry (Q3, 2024-25)

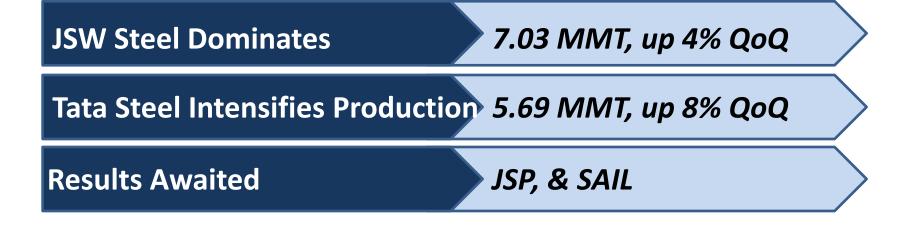
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New Milestone in Production	38.12 MMT, up 5% QoQ
Imports Plunge	2.57 MMT, down 10% QoQ
Vertiginous Exports	1.29 MMT, up 25% QoQ
Consumption Skyrockets	38.43 MMT, Up 3% QoQ

In the first three quarters of 2025, production at 110.99 MMT ascended by 4% relative to the same period in 2024, reflecting a subtle yet positive trend. Imports burgeoned by 20% year-on-year to 7.27 MMT, highlighting a notable surge in demand for foreign steel, while exports plummeted by 25% to 3.60 MMT, signaling a contraction in international trade. Meanwhile, consumption witnessed a robust 11% year-on-year growth to 11.25 MMT, underscoring the expanding appetite for steel within domestic markets.



In the first nine months of 2025, JSW's production demonstrated a modest 1% uptick compared to the same period in 2024 to 20.16 MMT, reaching 20.16 million metric tons, while Tata Steel experienced a more pronounced 5% increase, escalating to 16.22 million metric tons, further solidifying its position in the market

Iron Ore CC Averaged ₹8,656	Up 13% QoQ, from ₹7,642
Coking Coal CC ₹12,650	Down 39% QoQ, from ₹20,784
HR Realization ₹45,543	Down 5% QoQ, from ₹50,121
Spread Averaged ₹26,237	Up 21% QoQ, from ₹21,685

Indian steel mills saw a decline in EBITDA for the quarter, driven by a 21% QoQ widening of the spread between hot rolled realization and the cost of iron ore and coking coal. This was mainly due to a ₹5,000 drop in hot band realization, impacted by weak demand, surplus domestic availability from overcapacity and a slowdown in export volumes, particularly due to the influence of Chinese mills. As a result, domestic competition intensified, putting further pressure on margins and profitability in the sector.



Indian steel mills are poised to encounter mounting pressure driven by sluggish domestic demand, a surge in imports, and constrained opportunities arising from Chinese aggression. Additionally, the ramp-up and commissioning of hot band capacities will further intensify competition, challenging these mills to adapt and innovate in an increasingly volatile market.

 Coking coal continues to be a wildcard factor that determines the health and prosperity of steel mills. Its volatile pricing and unpredictability have always been a challenge for steelmakers, especially with the recent disruptions caused by shifting trade flows. Nevertheless, coking coal remains a necessary evil for the steel industry, and detailed analysis and strategic planning are required to mitigate its impact and ensure a stable and profitable steel production process.