

# Iron Ore - Export, Conserve, or?

Dear Friends,

Iron Ore – that smelts to produce steel is big ticket. Approach it from the point of wealth and it holds the potential of making (or breaking) Nations. See it from the point of its Fe content and metallurgists will wax and wane for aeons. Study it from where the exporters see it and you will be inundated with arguments as to how it can be easily exported in more and more quantities to earn valuable foreign exchange for the country. Look at it objectively and experts will point out how an invaluable national resource is being squandered by self seekers – oblivious to the economic manna that it can unleash for the nation.

Setting the obvious concerns about its mining and its impact on the environment aside (it calls for another dedicated issue that we hope to take up at a later date) we have sought to look at iron ore, and the promises it holds, especially with beneficiation. Fines that have so far been dumped, considering the availability of high grade ores, are today capable of being used, opening up a vast new horizon. Similarly, technological innovations are today opening windows hitherto unknown.

It is in this context that we have strung together the issue, going all the way to Germany where the beneficiation processes first saw the light of life to bring to you the real picture. We stand at the cross roads today – one road will lead us to Sustainable Development, using our scarce (and depleting) resources in a conscious and objective manner, fostering development, albeit in a slower, more surefooted way. The other will continue to meander, bullying and bribing its way to self aggrandisement. Willfully putting interests of the self way above that of the Nation and hiring spin doctors to present its case in the shrillest of the voices.

Which route we follow will depend on who calls the shots – the patriots who have the Nation's long term goals in their hearts, or the self seekers who have only home and hearth as concerns? At Core Sector Communiqué we have always refrained from being didactic, choosing to present the facts as they are and leaving our readers to form their opinion. Here too we will not make an exception an here too, dear reader, the choice is entirely yours, and yours alone.

We are also in the process of giving the final touches to the 1st Core Awards, where we want to honour those who have given their all to make the nation's core sector what it is today. The skeleton site is already up (see the advertisement elsewhere in the issue) and I would like to call on all readers to help us with your valuable comments and suggestions. The event will be to commemorate the fourth birthday of the Core Sector Communiqué and we want your active help and support – something that has brought us this far – to take this further, to attain the escape velocity that we have been working towards since our inception.

Do write back. Brickbats or bouquets, your feedback is what helps us better ourselves, every breath we take.

Happy Reading

With Best Regards,

**Suvabrata Ganguly**

Editor