

'India's steel demand to grow by over 7% in 2019, 2020'

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INDIA'S STEEL DEMAND is likely to grow by over 7% in 2019 and 2020, driven by sectors like construction, capital goods and railways, as per the Indian Steel Association.

"The Indian Steel Association has forecast India's steel demand to grow by 7.1% in calendar year 2019 and by 7.2% in calendar year 2020," the domestic steel body said.

As for financial year, the forecast for steel demand growth is 7.2% in both 2019-20 and 2020-21, the Indian Steel Association said.

It also forecast that India's steel consumption is likely to cross 100 million tonne (MT) mark in 2019.

Steel minister Chaudhary Birender Singh had earlier this year said that growth trend in steel consumption in India will continue, due to strong manufacturing sector, diversified demand demographics, accelerated expenditure on infrastructure, anticipated increase in GDP and strong focus on 'Make in India'.

"Investment driven sectors such as



construction, capital goods and railways are likely to maintain the healthy growth momentum driven by infrastructure programmes such as Bharatmala, Sagarmala, railway track electrification, dedicated freight corridors, metro rails, etc," the statement said.

In addition, while, reduction in GST rates will support the real estate demand, ongoing capacity additions in renewable energy segment would continue to boost the electrical equipment demand, it said.