



**IRF-IC 5th Webinar**

**Sustainable Alternative Industrial Waste Materials for Infrastructure Development**

# **Sustainable Applications of Iron and Steel Plant Wastes in Infrastructure Development**

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**Research and Development**

## Steel Plant Wastes

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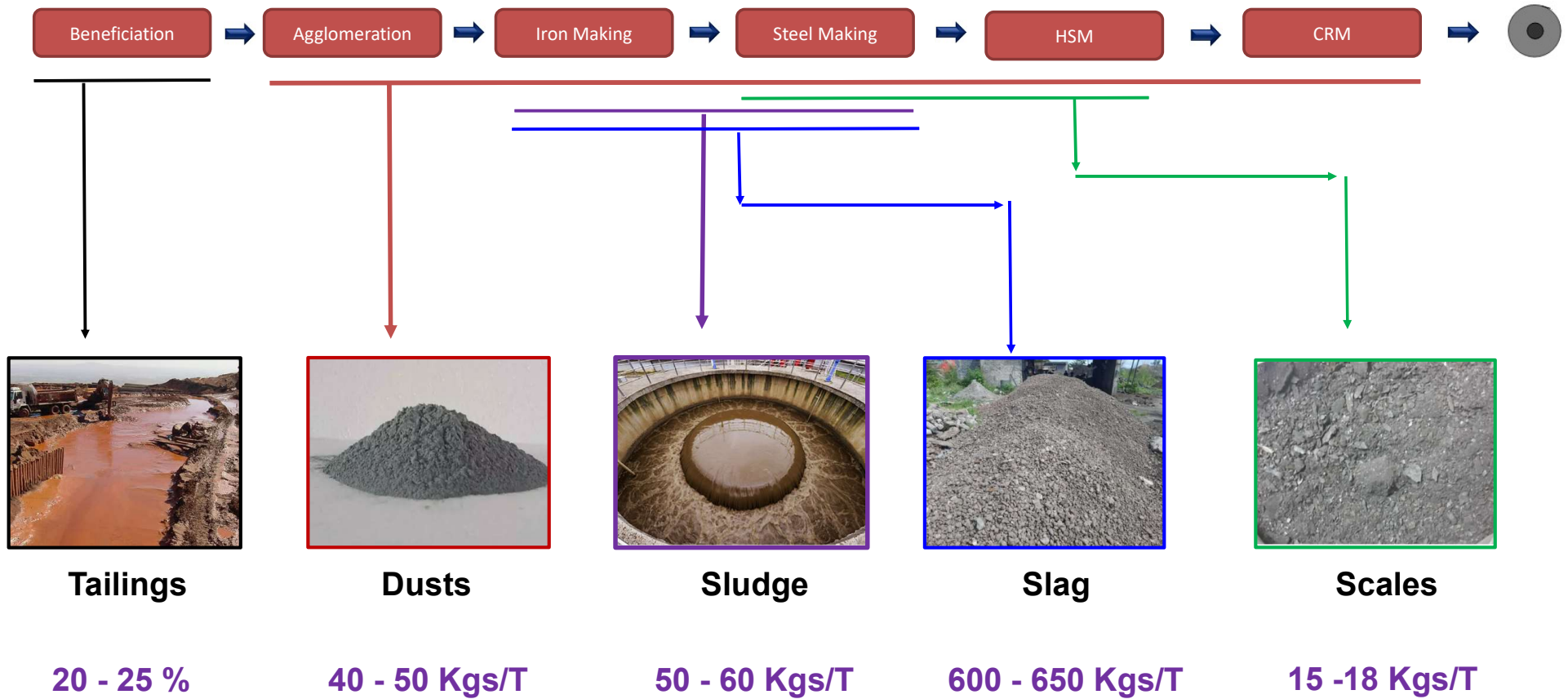
- The iron and steel making processes generate huge amount of wastes in form of **slags, dusts and sludge** .
- The disposal or recycling of these materials is a major concern for the steel industry.
- With increasing capacity of steel production, significant efforts and investments have been made into research over the years to develop the **processing technologies** which enable re-use them either directly or through development of **new products**.
- It is the time to convert the waste disposal and treatment concepts into **Integrated Waste Management** in steel plants.

## Sustainability

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- The requirement of a sustainable technology by meeting the needs of our present industry **without compromising the future growth** is really a challenge to the steel Industry today.
- With growing shortages of energy and materials, waste is now treated as a potential resource complying with Environmental legislation and regulations and the **economics of disposal**.
- Due to intensive reutilization of the wastes some of the solid wastes are now increasingly being referred as **'by-products'**.
- The technologies are being developed to economically convert wastes of steel plants into wealth also provide new **business opportunities** for prospective entrepreneurs.

# Wastes in Steel Plant



# Wastes in Steel Plant

## Tailings

High Moisture > 60%  
 Fine size < 150 um  
 Fe 30 – 45 %  
 High SiO<sub>2</sub> & Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

## Dusts

Fine size < 1 mm  
 Composition varies  
 in each location  
 High CaO, FeO, C

High Zn	Low Zn
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## Sludge

High Moisture > 20%  
 Fine size < 1 mm  
 Fe 40 – 50 %  
 Composition varies  
 in each location  
 High CaO, FeO

High Zn	Low Zn
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## Scales

High Moisture > 15%  
 Fine size < 5 mm  
 Fe 60 - 70%  
 No impurities

## Slag

Iron and steel slag  
 different treatments  
 3 types of steel slag  
 Met content in steel  
 slag

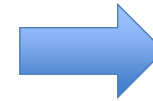
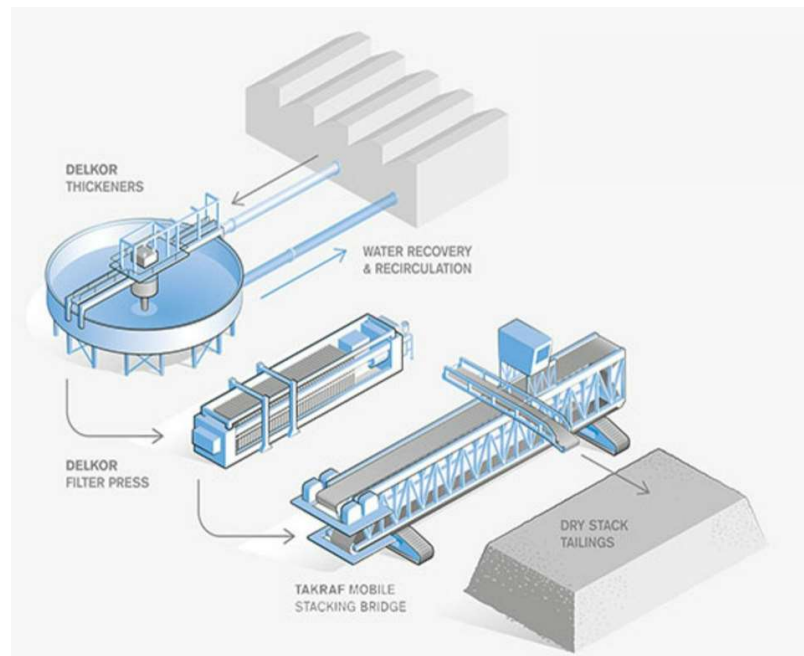
Iron Slag	Steel Slag
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De-S	LD	LHF
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# Tailing Treatment



Press Filters to De-watering

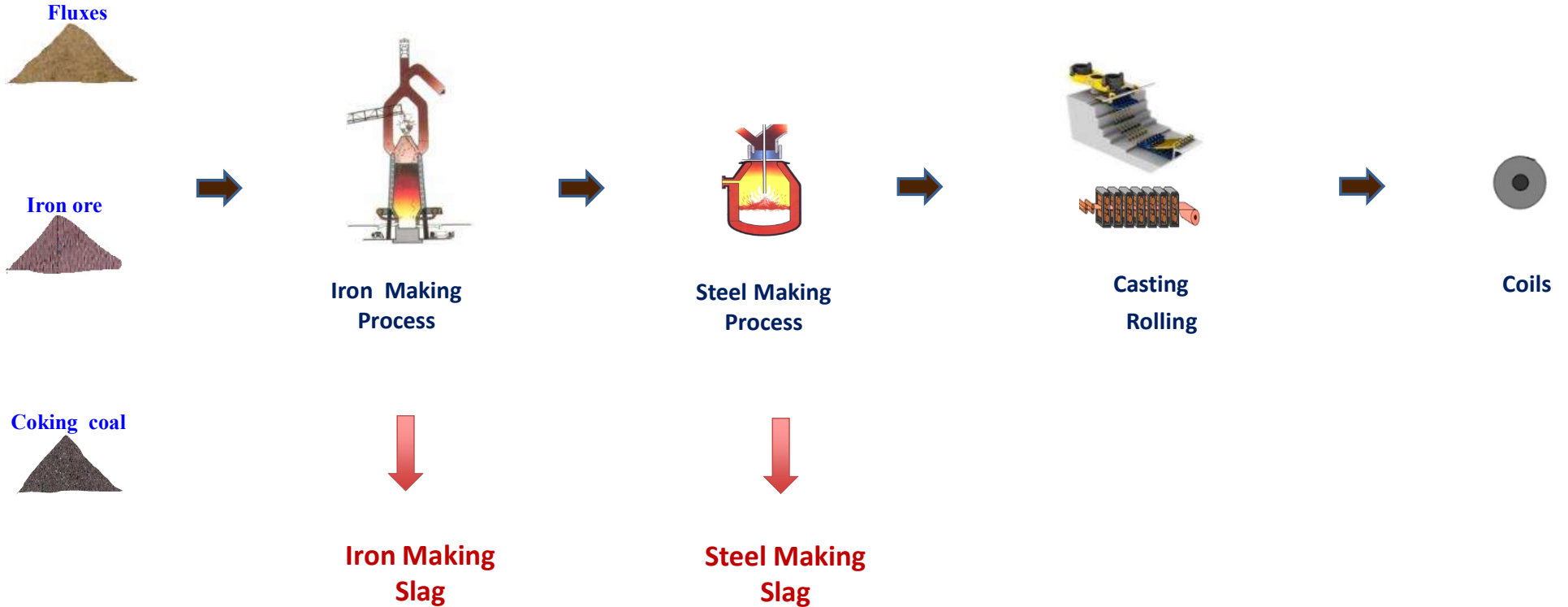


Dry Disposal

**Mine Backfilling**

Moisture : 60 % → < 20%

## Slag Generation



Broadly two different types of slags are generated in steel plants

# Environmental Friendly Aggregates

Fine Aggregates or Sand



Coarse Aggregates

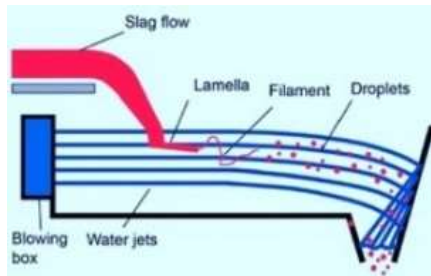




# Iron Making Slag

## Technologies

Blast Furnace  
COREX



- Mostly Granulated
- Dose not have carryover metal
- Does not have Iron oxide
- Cementious – used for cement making (Slag Cement)
- **100 % consumed – no issues to most steelmakers**

## Technologies

BOF / LD  
EAF  
EOF  
Conarc  
Induction Furnace

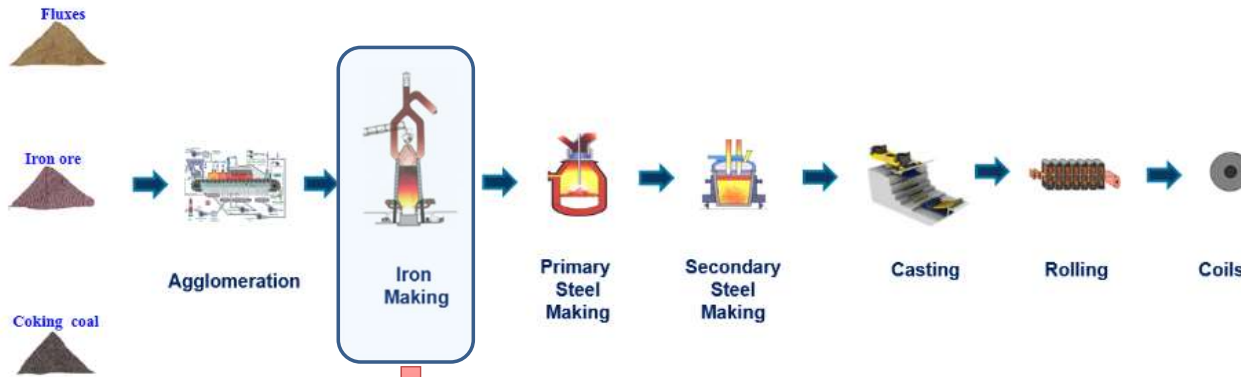


# Steel Making Slag

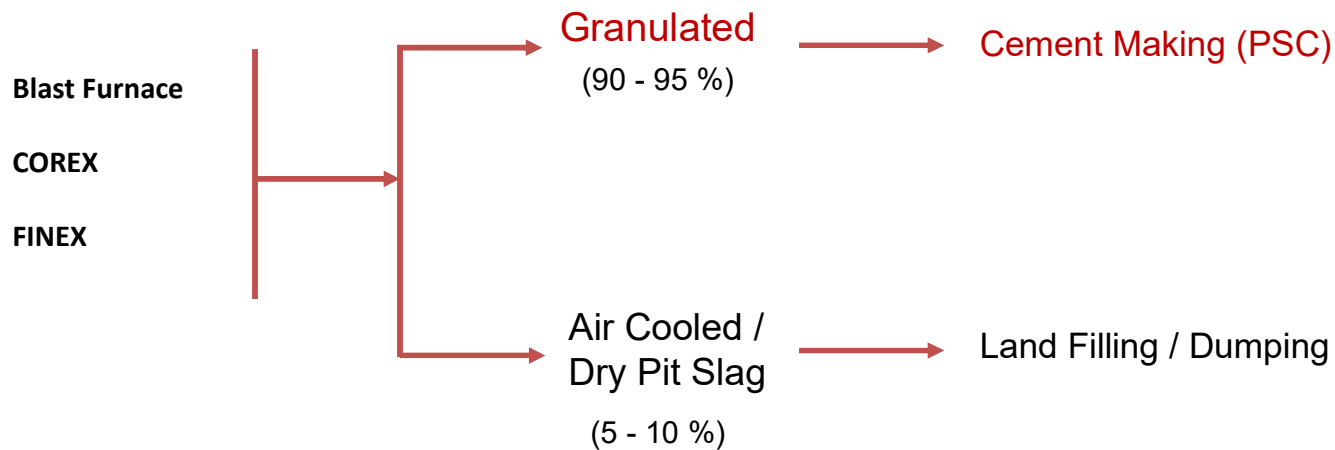
- Mostly Pit Cooled
- Have carryover metal
- Have Iron oxide
- Non-Cementious – not suitable for cement making
- **Disposal is concern – most used for land filled**



# Iron Making Slags – Existing Technologies

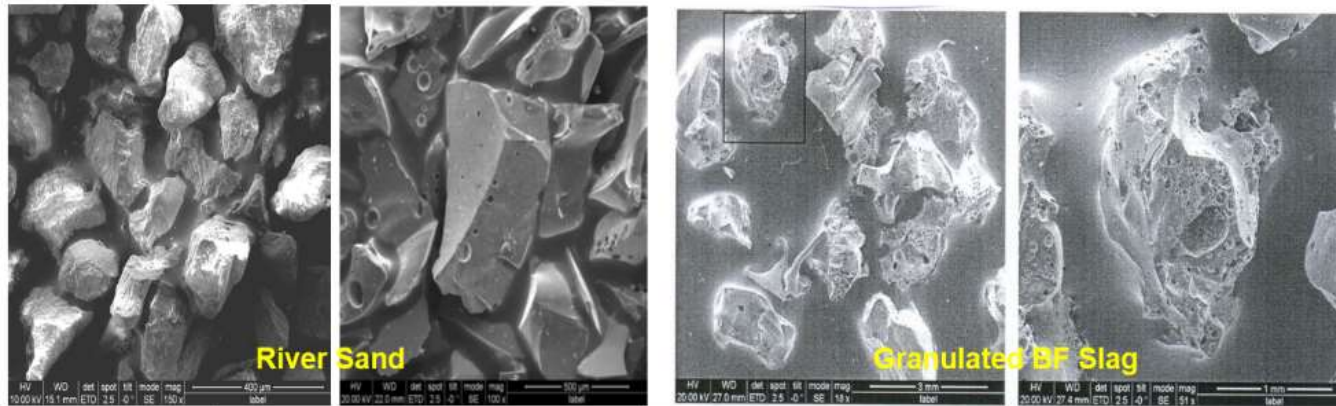


Similar slags are generated from all Process Variants

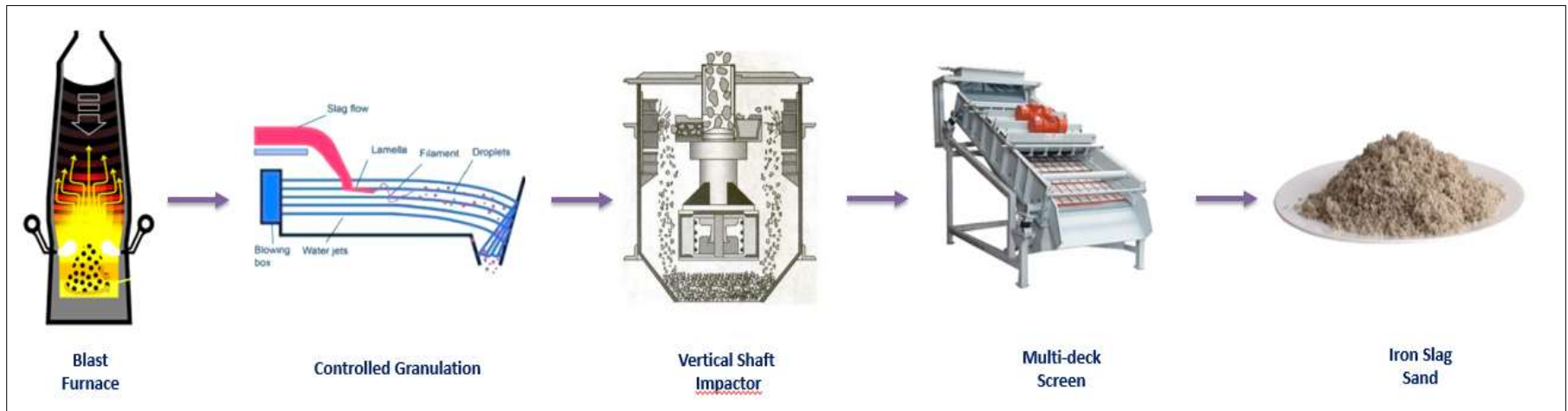


## Iron Making Slag

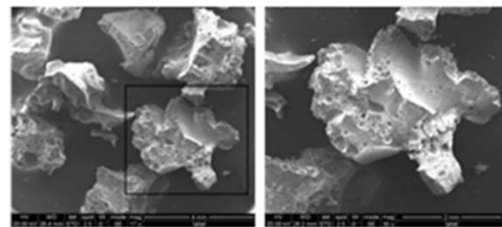
PROPERTIES	RIVER SAND	GBFS
Size	IS 383 - Zone II / Zone I	IS 383 - Zone II / Zone I
Deleterious Material	0.2 %	Nil
Soundness	Good	Good
Density, Kg/m <sup>3</sup>	1400 - 1700	1000 - 1100
Sp Gravity	2.6 - 2.8	2.3
Water Absorption	1 - 3 %	4 - 6 %



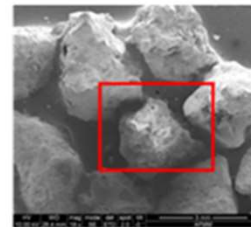
Lower density in slags is due to its vesicular structure with presence of micro pores



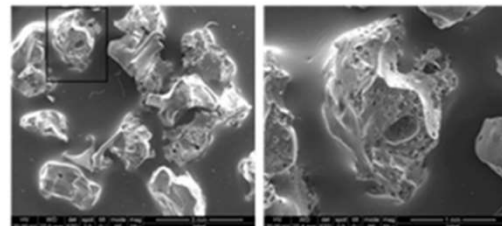
**Granulated  
BF Slag**



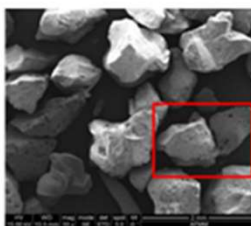
Coarse fraction (4.75 - 2.00 mm)



Coarse fraction (4.75 - 2.00 mm)



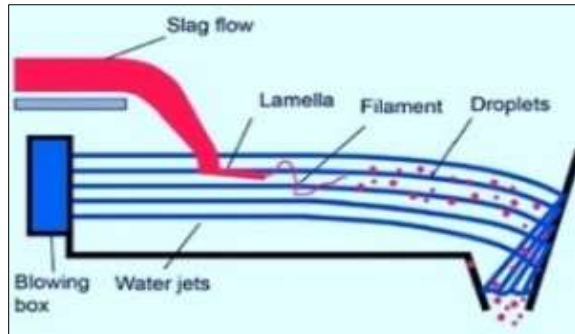
Medium fraction (2 - 0.425 mm)



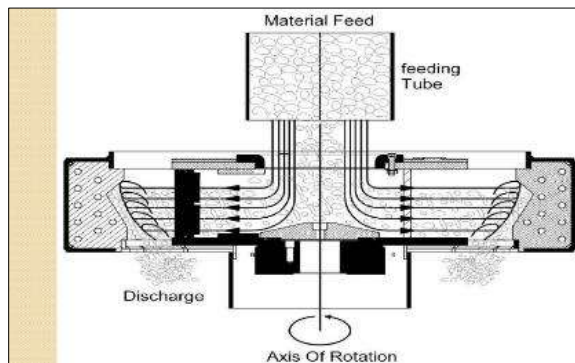
Medium fraction (2.00 - 0.425 mm)

**Processed  
Granulated  
BF Slag**

## Iron Making Slag Sand



- **Step 1: Altering granulation parameters**



- **Step 2: Shaping and Screening**



**India's First Iron  
Slag Sand Plant**

# DRY SLAG GRANULATION

Dry slag granulation is the future technology of granulation

First  
Time in  
World



Technology	Wet granulation	Dry granulation
Medium	Water	Air
Water Consumption	0.6 – 0.7 Nm <sup>3</sup> /T	0.1 – 0.2 Nm <sup>3</sup> /T
Operational cost	1	0.75
Capital cost	1	0.80
Heat Recovery	NA	Possible
Slag handling	Wet Condition	Dry Condition
Steam Emissions	Yes	No
Corrosion	Yes	No
Glassy Phase	> 90 %	> 90%
Size	< 5 mm	< 5 mm
Application	Cement making	Cement making

# Dry Pit Slag – New Applications

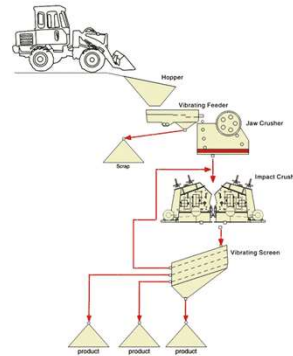


Ideal Air Cooled Dry Pit Slag

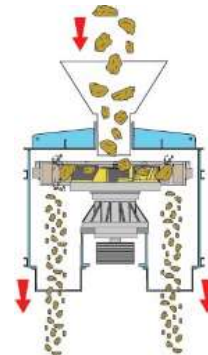


Existing Water Cooled Dry Pit Slag

Water is sprayed over the molten slag to cool it fast, results in foaming and porous slag



Crusher + Screen + Pug Mill



Jaw crusher + Vertical Shaft Impactor + Screen

To be used as coarse aggregate in lower layers of roads mixed with Steel Slag



NH-67: Hosapete to Ballari: Total Length 95 KM

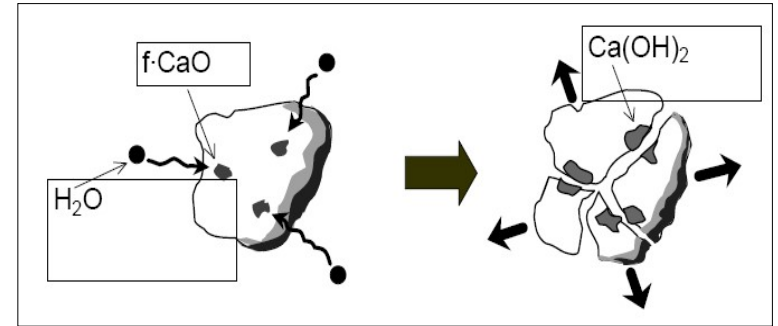
To be used sand as replacement of river sand



## Steel Making Slag

### Issues :

- Presence of Metal
- Irregular shape
- Wide range of size
- Higher density
- Higher amount of fines
- Expansive Nature



Expansion tendency is due to free lime/periclase pockets in slag, which when crushed to finer sizes, gets exposed and aged naturally.



# Existing Solutions

## Natural Ageing

Storage for land for a period of 1.5 - 2 yrs



## Dry and Wet Cycle Aging

Frequent water spraying on slag heaps 3 - 6 months



## Open Steam Ageing

Steam Injection into slag heap for 5-7 days



## Pressurized Steam Ageing

Steam Injection into slag in closed system for 4-6 hrs

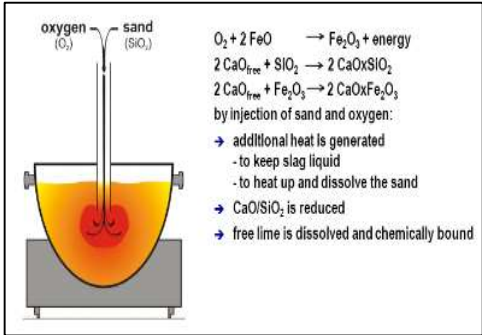


## Steam Box Technology

Subjecting slag with water and steam in closed box during solidification



## Chemical Stabilization of Molten Slag



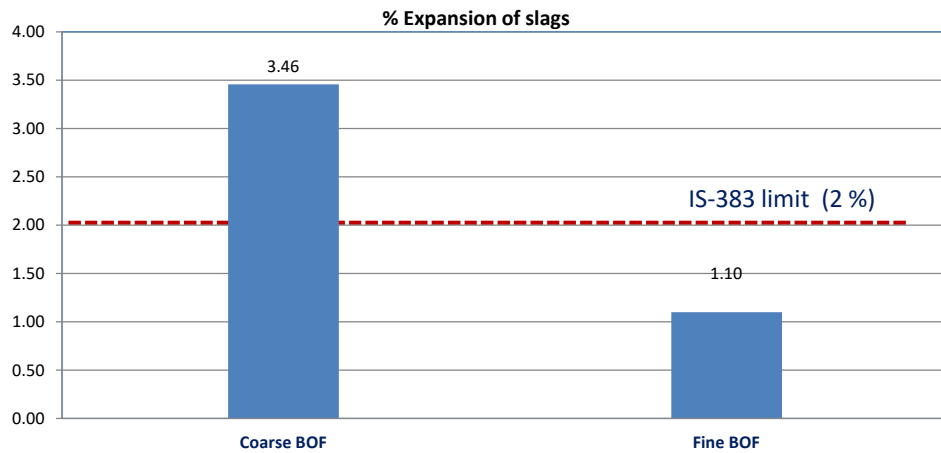
# Steel Making Slag



**Expansive**



**Non- Expansive**



**Comparison of Expansive Behaviour as per IS-383**



**World's First Steel  
Slag Sand Plant**



Customised Process

Starts from Steel Melting shop

In-house designed circuit – Assembled Units

No Such Full Scale Set-up Reported

No Rejections

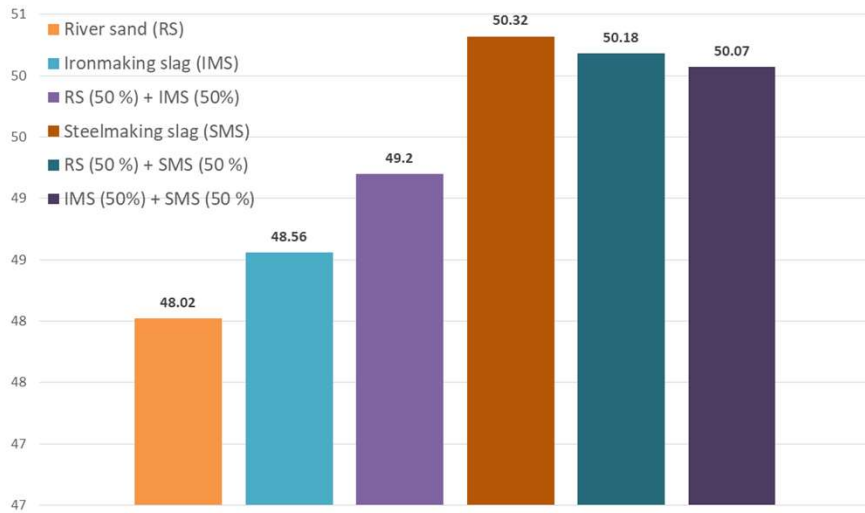
Applications for all components

**First of its kind in the World**

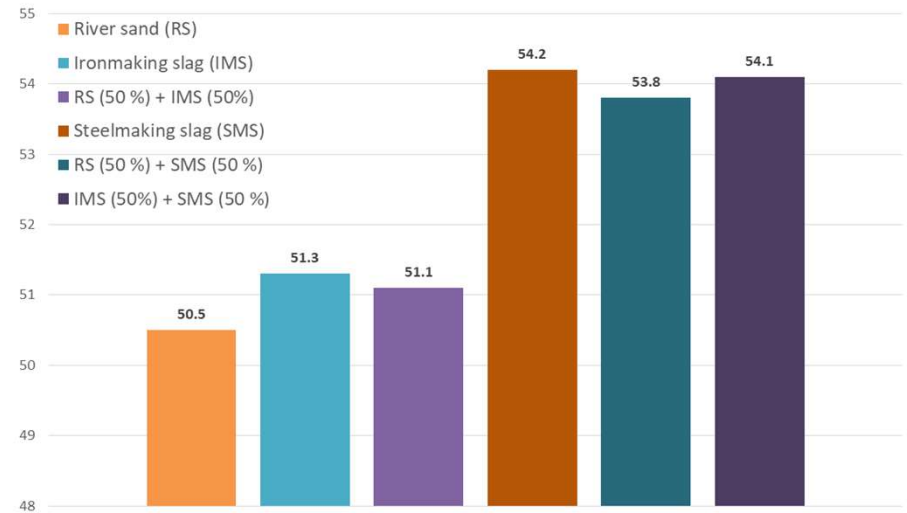
## Test Results



28th day, Mortar Strength, MPa



28th day, M40 Grade, Concrete Strength, MPa





Iron slag sand manufacturing unit



Steel slag sand manufacturing unit



## Fine Aggregates Available



From  
Rivers



From  
Mountains

Slag Sand

**Eco-Friendly**

**Saves Natural Resources**



From  
By-Products

# Applications of Slag Sand



## Advantages

- No Expansion Issues
- Better strength than river sand
- Environmental friendly alternative.
- Controlled Physical and Chemical Properties.
- No deleterious material.
- Available through out the year.
- Graded products to meet specific needs.
- Suitable for Roads, Concrete, Plaster, Mortars, RMC Plants etc.

## Applications

- Plain Concrete
- Reinforced Concrete
- Standard Ready-Mix Concrete
- Dry Lean Concrete
- Pavement Quality Concrete
- Rapid-setting Concrete
- Asphalt Concrete



**Flooring for heavy loads**





**Used in all three Layers**



PQC – Pavement  
Quality Concrete

DLC – Dry lean  
Concrete

GSB – Granular  
Sub-Base



**NH-67: Hosapete to Ballari: Total Length 95 KM  
Concrete road made up of slag aggregates (Fine and Coarse)**

# Steel Slag Usage in Roads

Ministry of Steel Sponsored Project

National Guidelines released on 29th June 2024 by CRRI

Approved to be used as aggregates in Roads



**GUIDELINES FOR PROCESSING AND UTILIZATION OF STEEL SLAG AS PROCESSED STEEL SLAG AGGREGATES FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION**

**Table 9.1: Engineering Properties of Processed Steel Slag Aggregates for Road Application**

S.No.	Properties	Typical Range of Processed Steel Slag Aggregates			Permissible Limits for Processed Steel Slag Aggregates			Test Method
		BOF	EAF	CONARC	Surface Course (DBM, BC, DLC and PQC)	Base (WBM & WMM)	Sub-base (GSB)	
1	Aggregate Impact Value % (Dry Condition)	10-22	12-20	10-20	Max. 27	Max.30	Max.30	IS 2386 (Part IV)
2	Aggregate Impact Value % (Wet Condition)	12-24	14-18	12-16	NA	Max. 30	Max. 35	IS 5640
3	Los Angeles Abrasion Resistance, %	11-18	10-14	10-14	Max. 30	NA	NA	IS 2386 (Part IV)
4	Water Absorption Test %	1-2	0.5-1.5	0.5-1.5	Max. 2	Max. 2*	Max. 2	IS 2386 (Part III)
5	Specific Gravity	2.93-3.20	2.95-3.4	2.95-3.4	Permissible Range 2.9- 3.45			IS 2386 (Part III)
6	Combined Flakiness & Elongation (FI+EI) Index %	8-22	10-21	10-21	<30	<30	<30	IS 2386 (Part I)
7	Soundness Test - Sodium Sulphate in %	0.2-1.8	2-4	2-4	< 12	< 12	< 12	IS 2386 (Part V)
	Magnesium Sulphate in %	0.3-2.1	3-5	3-5	< 18	< 18	< 18	
8	Stripping Value Test % (Bitumen coating retention)	98-99	99-99.5	99-99.5	Min. Retained coating 95	NA	NA	IS 6241
9	Iron unsoundness ** %	Nil	Nil	Nil	< 1	< 1	< 1	IS 383 (Annexure D)
10	Iron Stain Index Test*** (Staining from Iron compound)	0-40	0-40	0-40	<60***	NA	NA	ASTM C 641-07
11	Volumetric Expansion Test, %,	1-2	0.8-1.40		< 3			EN:1744-1

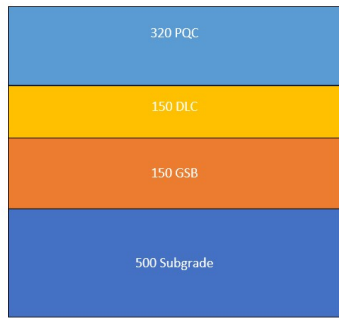
## Benefits of Steel Slag Aggregates

- Reduction in overall **Bituminous Road Thickness by 30 to 40 %**
- Conservation of around **80000 tons of Natural Aggregates** for construction of 1 Km six lane road
- Reduction in construction cost **by 40 to 45 % in Bituminous and Cement Concrete Steel Slag Road**
- Improved Durability of **Road by 4 to 5 times**
- Negligible Maintenance cost
- Reduction in **Green House Gases Emission by 48 %** by substituting natural aggregates with processed steel slag aggregates
- Cheaper, economical option of **Natural Aggregates** for Road Construction



**WASTE TO WEALTH**  
Swachh Bharat Unnat Bharat

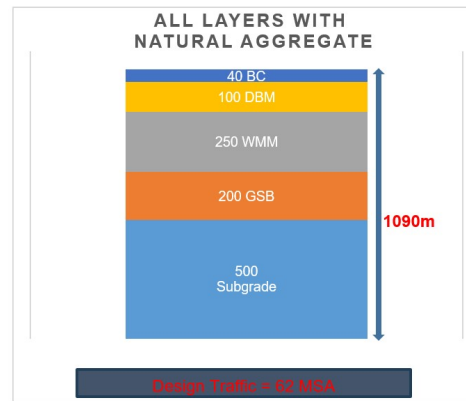
# Saves Cost and Environment



**CONVENTIONAL CONCRETE ROAD**



**STEEL SLAG ROAD WITH REDUCED THICKNESS**



**CONVENTIONAL ASPHALT ROAD**



**STEEL SLAG ROAD WITH REDUCED THICKNESS**

## On-Site Applications



### Steel Slag being tested to build national highways

1 min read • [Livemint](#)

Updated: 15 Mar 2023, 07:26 PM IST

*This initiative will help to address challenge of shortage of material used in development of the national highways, and could replace natural aggregates such as sand, gravel, or crushed stone with the waste material from the steel industry, road transport ministry said*



The NHAI permitted CRRI to construct 1 km long trial patch in Raigarh district for PGC of Panvel – Indapur section of NH 66 near Mumbai where 100% natural aggregates were replaced by steel slag derived aggregates. The results from the trial have been encouraging.

## Slag Bound Roads



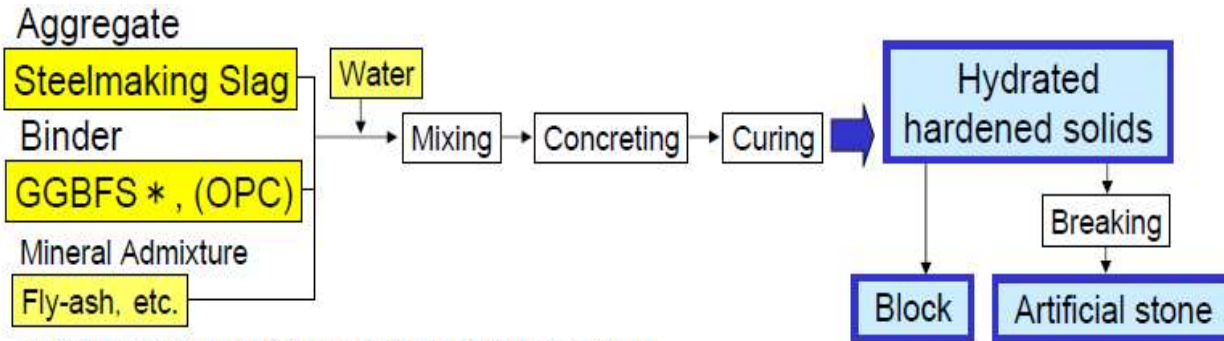
Building of self-hardening road pavings



**A special advantage of slag mixtures resides in their hardening by carbonic and/or hydraulic reactions without using a binder like cement or bitumen.**



# Stone Blocks and Breakwaters



\* GGBFS: Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag

Coastal levee block



Artificial stone (for port construction work, etc.)



Break-water Block

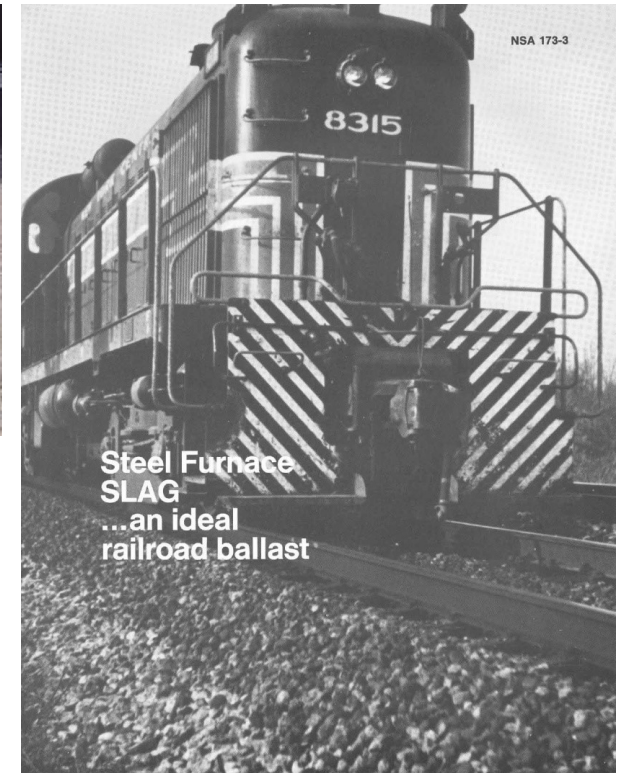


# Railway Ballasts

High angle of internal friction and high aggregate interlocking characteristics



- Steel Slag complies with the requirements of:
  - American Railway Engineering Association (AREA)
  - Federal Specification SS – S – 449
  - Brazilian Standard Association (ABNT) - NBR 5564
  - Canadian National Railways (CNR) Specification 12 – 22, Slag Ballast
  - EAF Slag selected for use as railway ballast in Canada



## Conclusions

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- Indian steel plants should recognize that if they are to remain competitive they **must take a fresh look at ways to minimize waste/prevent** pollution arising from their production processes and supporting activities.
- In present scenario, Steel plants have to aim for converting the waste management system into a profitable business to achieve **“zero waste concept”**.
- Proper management of waste and its effective reutilization will **convert waste into wealth**. Therefore, waste treatment and its reuse be made as an essential process step in almost all integrated steel plants.



**Thanks .....**