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## **Report on signing of MoU between CSIR-SERC and SAIL-DSP**

CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre (CSIR-SERC), Chennai has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), a PSU Maharatna under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, on 22 June 2017, for condition assessment of concrete and steel structures of different shops and installations in SAIL-DSP situated at Durgapur, West Bengal.

The MoU, for the period of two years with a provision of extension for another 2 years, was signed by Prof. Santosh Kapuria, Director, CSIR-SERC, Chennai, and Shri Nabarun Roy, General Manager (Safety & Fire Services), Durgapur Steel Plant, Durgapur.

SAIL-DSP, a key steel plant of SAIL has the capacity of producing 2.3 million ton hot metal per year and is the only plant that supplies wheels to the Indian Railways. It is a fully integrated steel plant and has a vast network of conveyor belts, hoppers, gas line network and other steel structures and buildings for facilitating the operation of integrated iron and steel making. During the signing of MoU, Shri Roy mentioned that SAIL-DSP is the first SAIL plant that is proactively taking up condition assessment of its structures. He also mentioned that many structures in SAIL-DSP are 50-60 years old and the condition assessment of its structures by CSIR-SERC will greatly help them in their safe functioning and productivity.

Condition assessment of concrete and steel buildings and structures is an important requirement to provide recommendations for suitable repair and remedial measures for restoration and rehabilitation of affected structures, which in turn will ensure the structural integrity and adequacy of such structures. CSIR-SERC has vast expertise and world class state-of-the-art facilities for carrying out testing, research and consultancy services in the areas of condition assessment of civil structures for industries and utilities as per national and international standards. Citing the long association of CSIR-SERC with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for condition assessment of its plants, Prof. Kapuria, Director, CSIR-SERC, mentioned that with this MoU, CSIR-SERC is extending its services to steel sector for the first time. He also pointed out the significance of condition assessment of structures by CSIR-SERC in key sectors such as thermal power, steel etc., which in turn ensures their safe and uninterrupted functioning.