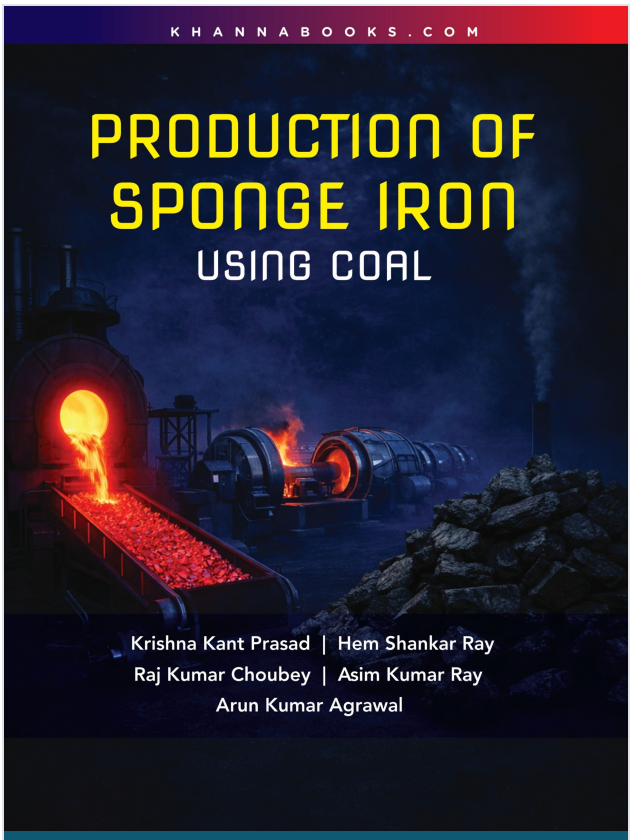


**Krishna Kant Prasad, Hem Shankar Ray, Raj Kumar Choubey, Asim Kumar Ray, Arun Kumar Agarwal**

# Production of Sponge Iron Using COAL

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## Product Description

### Production of Sponge Iron Using COAL

Production of Sponge Iron using Coal: Rotary Kiln, Tunnel Kiln and using Gas from Coal is a definitive technical guide that explores India's global leadership in the coal-based direct reduction of iron ore. While international markets often rely on gas-based shaft processes, this book highlights how India has pioneered and perfected the use of rotary kilns to utilize abundant, high-ash non-coking coal-resources often dismissed by foreign experts as "muck". The text provides an exhaustive analysis of the thermodynamic, kinetic, and aerodynamic principles that govern the solid-state reduction of iron oxides.

The book serves as a vital bridge between theoretical research and industrial application, documenting decades of expertise from leading metallurgists. It broadens the traditional focus on rotary kilns to include emerging commercial successes in tunnel kiln technology and coal gasification-based shaft furnaces. Beyond technical specifications, the authors connect modern engineering with India's ancient metallurgical heritage, such as the storied Iron Pillar of Delhi. This work is an essential resource for metallurgical students, researchers, industry professionals, and entrepreneurs seeking to understand the economic and technical nuances of sustainable ironmaking in coal-rich regions.

### Salient Features

- Rotary Kiln Dominance: Detailed analysis of the rotary kiln's primary role in India, covering its versatility in processing lump hematite and its unique operational strengths and weaknesses.
- Scientific Process Modeling: Comprehensive chapters on mathematical modeling, CFD analysis, and reaction kinetics that allow for precise control over heat transfer and solid movement.

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- Alternative Reduction Technologies: In-depth exploration of tunnel kilns as a viable solution for reducing magnetite and iron ore fines, filling a critical gap in traditional kiln operations.
- Coal Gasification Insights: Evaluation of the economic and technical feasibility of converting coal into reducing gas (CO and H) to supplement production in shaft furnaces.
- Resource Optimization: Strategies for utilizing high-ash Indian coal and recirculating char to enhance energy efficiency and reduce the environmental footprint of ironmaking.
- Practical Engineering Focus: Guidance on plant design, refractory management, and overcoming common industrial hurdles like accretion or "ring formation" inside kilns.
- Historical Contextualization: A unique addendum on India's ancient ironmaking legacy, offering a perspective on the longevity and evolution of sponge iron technology.
- Future-Ready Strategies: Critical projections on hydrogen-based ironmaking and the integration of sponge iron into blast furnaces to reduce costly metallurgical coke consumption.

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- Addendum

## Author

**Krishna Kant Prasad**

Dr. Krishna Kant Prasad (born on 24th January 1945 in Bhagalpur, Bihar), after completing B.Sc. Hons. (Chem.) from Bhagalpur University, he did his B.E., M.E. and Ph.D. in Metallurgical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. After brief teaching stints at the Banaras Hindu University and MR Engineering College, Jaipur he joined R&D Division of Tata Steel, Jamshedpur in 1972. He moved to RDCIS, SAIL, Ranchi in 1981 as in-charge of R&D activities in the Sponge Iron Pilot Plant Complex and since then he was actively involved in steering R&D activities both in Sponge Iron Making and Alternate Iron Making areas. He retired from SAIL, in January 2006. Thereafter, he served as a visiting professor in the Department of Metallurgical Engineering in IT (now IIT), BHU, Varanasi, for two and then joined NITK (National Institute of Technology Karnataka) in Surathkal, initially as the Ministry of Steel Chair Professor, and then in various capacities - all equivalent to a visiting professor - for seven and a half years. Dr. Prasad has guided four Ph.D. students. He has to his credit over 130 research papers, five registered copyrights and holds two patents on sponge iron making. He has authored four books entitled Sponge Iron Making in Rotary Kiln, Chemical and Metallurgical Thermodynamics, Advances in Rotary Kiln Sponge Iron Plant and Integrated Iron- and Steelmaking. He has also edited two books - "Trends in Beneficiation and Agglomeration of Iron Ore' and 'Steel Plant Technologies: An Overview. He is life member of the Indian Institute of Metals, Electrochemical Society of India and the Computer Society of India. E-mail: kkpmprnc@gmail.com. Professor

**Hem Shankar Ray**

Hem Shankar Ray (born on 19th June 1940, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh) unfortunately left for his heavenly abode on 28th April 2023 just as the preparation of the manuscript

started. Prof. H. S. Ray is widely regarded as one of the greatest minds of the Indian scientific community and a very well-known name in the field of Extractive Metallurgy. He obtained his B.Tech. (Hons.) in Metallurgical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (1962) and M.A.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Toronto, Canada (1963, 67). He was with I.I.T. Kanpur from 1967-80 as Lecturer and Asst. Professor. In between he served as Manager/Senior Technologist - Research and Development, Pilkington Research Centre, Lathom, England (1977-1979). He then served as Professor of Metallurgical Engineering (1980-1990) and Dean of Students Affairs (1988-90) at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. Prof. Ray served the Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar (now IMMTD) as Director from 1990-2000 (two terms). On retirement he served as an Emeritus Scientist at the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Calcutta. He holds several patents including 2 U.S. patents to his credit. His areas of interest included thermal analysis, kinetics, extractive metallurgy, energy and R&D administration. He guided about 40 Ph.D. students and 20 M.Tech. students for their thesis work. He has published about 500 papers in reviewed journals and conference proceedings and over 26 books. He also edited 15 Conference proceedings and written about 50 technical reports. He also wrote numerous other non-technical articles, editorials, etc. Prof. Ray received several awards in recognition of his work and these include the National Metallurgists Day Award, G.D. Birla Award and two Kamani Gold Medals of the Indian Institute of Metals. He received the Distinguished Alumni award from IIT Kharagpur, which, interestingly, he shared that year with the Google CEO, Sundar Pichai. He served several companies and R&D laboratories as consultant or member of Boards/Research Councils. He was associated with several Professional Bodies and served as President, Indian Institute of Mineral Engineers and Indian Thermal Analysis Society; also, as a Vice President of the Millennium Institute of Energy and Environment Management and was an Editor of a popular science magazine Everyman's Science. He also served in several other institutions in various capacities. He was deeply involved with professional bodies such as IIM (Indian Institute of Metals),

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**Raj Kumar Choubey**

Raj Kumar Choubey , was born on August 11, 1954 at Sikariya, Bhojpur, Bihar (unfortunately he passed away on February 19, 2024). He passed B.Sc. from the University of Burdwan in 1974 and Bachelor of Engineering from MREC (now MNIT) in Jaipur Rajasthan in the year 1980. He joined M/s Jaipur Metals and Electricals in 1980 and operated the first induction furnace of India. In 1982 he joined M/s Hindustan Motors and served till the year 2000. There he developed various grades of automobile grade steel and was a part of the team who fabricated the first Diesel Engine for automobiles in India. Thereafter he decided to be a start-up entrepreneur. His portfolio lately read: Owner -

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**Asim Kumar Ray**

Dr. Asim Kumar Ray was born at Calcutta in 1952. He graduated with Honours in Chemical Engineering from Jadavpur University in 1974. He did his Masters in Chemical Engineering from IIT Kanpur and Ph. D. in Metallurgical Engineering from IIT Kharagpur. After a brief stay of about one and a half year each at Indian Iron and Steel Company, Burnpur and Indian Oil Corporation, he joined Research & Development Centre for Iron & Steel (RDCIS), SAIL, Ranchi in 1978. After a long stay at RDCIS, SAIL, Ranchi, he assumed charge of General Manager (Quality) at Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP), SAIL in 2008. Dr Ray was instrumental in commissioning Sponge Iron Pilot Plant and associated Process Research Laboratory and carried out R & D activities related to Sponge Iron & other Alternate Iron Making processes, Steelmaking and Continuous Casting. He established Computational Laboratory at RDCIS and carried out mathematical and physical simulation of different metallurgical processes. He steered several projects on process improvement and product development in all SAIL plants. Under his leadership, DSP had received several awards on Quality including prestigious Golden Peacock Award on Quality -2010 of Institution of Directors (IOD). Dr. Ray retired from SAIL in December 2012. Presently, Dr. Ray is with M/s Lechler (India) Pvt. Ltd. Dr. Ray has co-authored the Book on "Rotary

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