

# Tata Steel clears land hurdle for Phase-II of Kalinganagar project

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Tata Steel has overcome land hurdle for Phase-II expansion of its Kalinganagar project in Odisha comprising five-million tonne annual steel capacity.

This follows shifting last of the squatters from the project site who continued to stay in villages marked for displacement even 13 years after allotment of land to the company for a mega steel plant.

The company had started a three-million-tonne annual steel plant at the location in the first phase in November 2015, but was unable to start work on the second phase as it did not have the full area allotted to it under its possession.

The Odisha government had allotted 3,475 acres to Tata Steel in 2004 at Kalinganagar to set up a six-million-tonne annual integrated steel plant in two phases.

However, the land acquisition suffered a major setback when 13 tribals were killed in police firing in 2006 while protesting displacement.

With easing of the situa-



tion, the company had managed to take possession of 2,100 acres and rehabilitated 1,000 of the 1,234 families identified for displacement by the end of 2011, which helped speed work on the first phase of the project.

Though the company planned to start work on the second phase immediately after completion of first phase, it could not do so as 121 families still remained in villages, resisting the project and hosting leaders of the agitation till about the middle of last year.

“With consistent efforts to convince these people to vacate the land, now all remaining villagers have been relocated and the entire

3,475 acres have been made encroachment-free,” said a district administration official involved in shifting the people.

Meanwhile, Tata Steel has revised the scope of its second-phase work, enhancing the capacity of the module to five million tonnes from three million tonnes per year initially.

As a result, it is now reconfiguring the engineering design for Phase-II, which would entail establishment of a blast furnace, the largest in the country yet.

“The ground work for the second phase will start after the engineering designs are ready,” said a source.