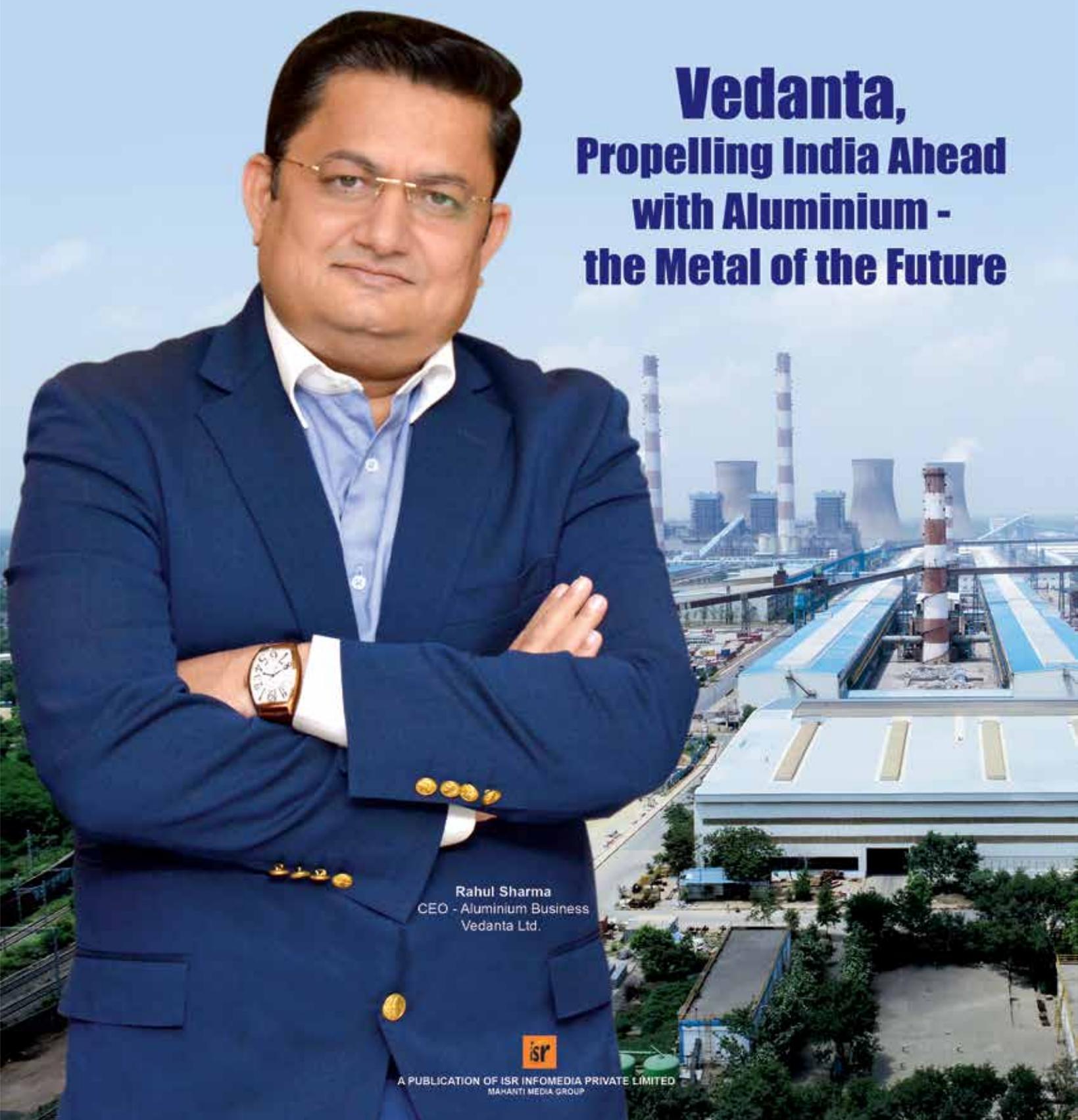


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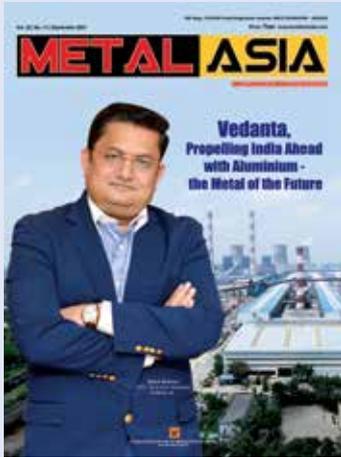
A COMPLETE METAL & CASTING MAGAZINE

Vedanta, Propelling India Ahead with Aluminium - the Metal of the Future



Rahul Sharma
CEO - Aluminium Business
Vedanta Ltd.





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*Rahul Sharma, CEO - Aluminium Business
Vedanta Ltd.*

“Vedanta Aluminium to play a vital role in India’s vision to become a USD 5 Trillion economy”

Vedanta Aluminium, India’s largest producer of the green metal, is committed to building a sustainable future with aluminium. Boasting world-class expertise, the company satisfies its customers by producing high-quality aluminium for a greener tomorrow.

In an exclusive interview with Metal Asia, Rahul Sharma, CEO – Aluminium Business, Vedanta Ltd., talks elaborately about the company’s investment & expansion plans, performance, financial goals and future roadmap. He also speaks about Vedanta’s continuous efforts in making Odisha a global aluminium hub.

Q How is the overall aluminium market growing in India over the past decade? What is the future prospect of growth of demand?

A The aluminium industry is the largest non-ferrous metal industry in the world economy and ranks second, next only to steel, in terms of volumes used due to its versatility and diverse applications. The global aluminium consumption has been driven majorly by India and China, having a growth rate of ~10% till pre-COVID times. The last decade has seen India’s consumption grow from 2.2 Million Tonnes (MT) in FY’11 to as high as 4 MT in FY’19. India is a leading player in the global aluminium industry with the second largest aluminium production capacity of 4.1 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA), ex-China. The aluminium industry has invested over Rs. 1.2 Lakh Crores (USD 20 Billion) to enhance the domestic capacity from 2 MTPA to 4 MTPA. India’s aluminium demand is estimated to double to 7 MT by the year 2025 with the current resilient GDP growth rate driven by increasing urbanisation and push for boosting domestic infrastructure, automotive, aviation, defence and power sectors.

Q How do you look to scale up Vedanta’s aluminium production in the coming days? Is there any expansion or modernisation plan?

A Our primary goal is to operationalise our assets to 100% capacity, and we are working towards this objective. While we intend to sweat our assets, we are also looking

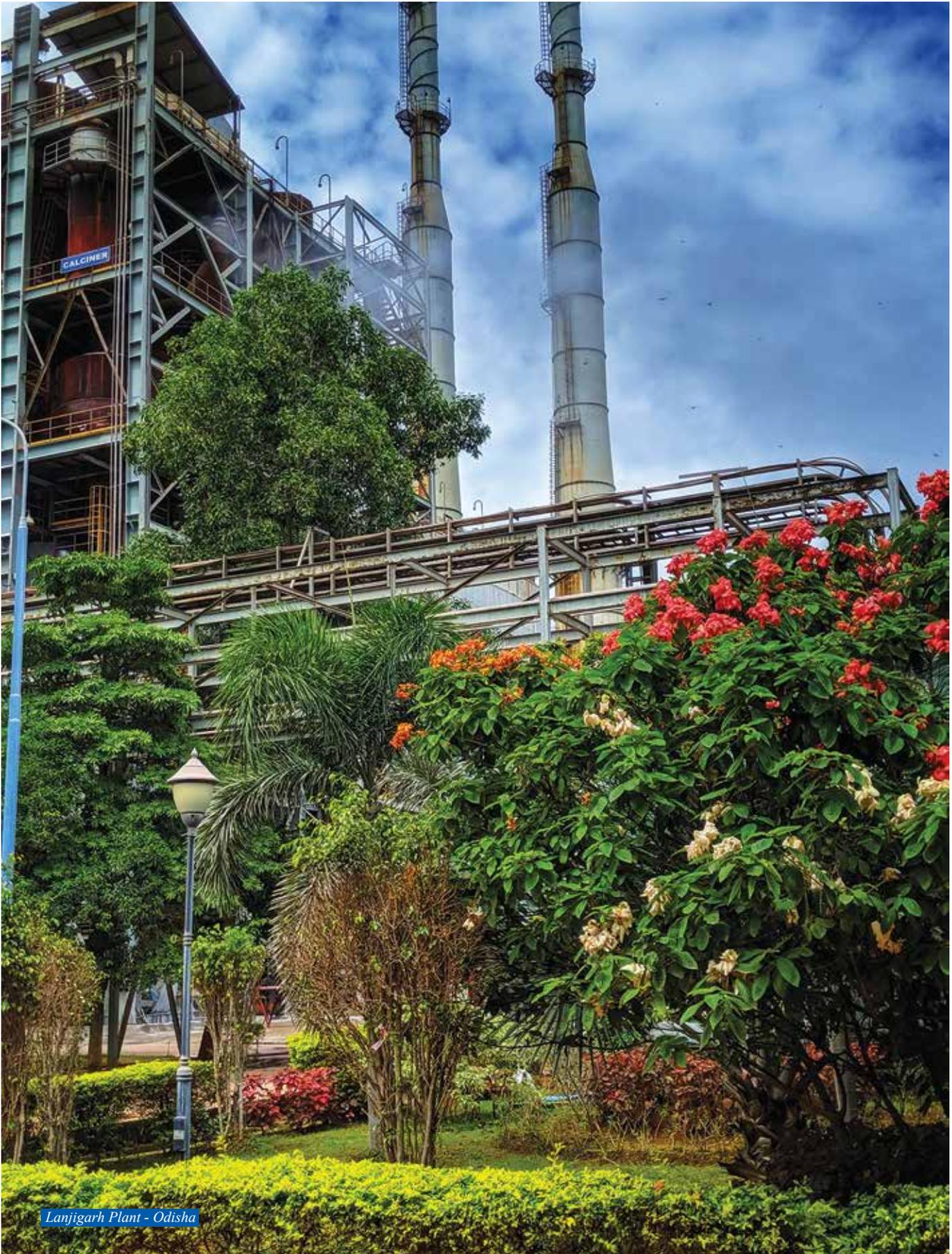
towards integrating our operations, and with this philosophy, we have undertaken the expansion of the Lanjigarh Alumina Refinery to 5 MTPA. Recently, the Vedanta board has also approved the expansion of BALCO to 1 MTPA. We have also announced few projects to enhance our value-added product capacity.

Q How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted your operation? What has been your strategy in combatting this crisis?

A The health and safety of our employees and business partners have been our top priority throughout the pandemic as we ensured adherence to all necessary COVID protocols. Vedanta Aluminium operated its plants under the continuous process category with all due approvals from the government and respective district administrations, with minimum required manpower. Aluminium is a vital raw material for the country and, hence, it is particularly important to sustain production to ensure that the wheels of economic recovery keep turning.

Intensive precautions are being taken to protect our employees, business associates and communities against COVID-19.

With our proactive approach and the learnings from the first wave, we were able to tide over the second wave without any impact on our plant operations across all our sites. We accelerated the adoption of our digitalisation programme, and it played a vital role in ensuring safe operations of the plant with a minimum required manpower. We maintained a



Lanjigarh Plant - Odisha



Rolled Products



sufficient inventory of raw materials inside our premises to cater to any supply chain disruptions.

Q How has Vedanta performed in FY'21? What are the key production and financial goals for FY'22?

A In FY'21, the aluminium segment performed exceptionally well despite the COVID-19 challenges and witnessed the highest-ever aluminium production and optimum production costs by improvement in our operational

efficiency and cost control measures through effective technology upgradation and digitalisation initiatives. In FY'22, we further intend to ramp up volumes across all our units and continue the growth streak.

Q How much investment do you plan to make in the current fiscal?

A We will be revisiting our Capex allocation plan for this fiscal post approval of few projects by the Vedanta board. We have planned significant investments for our expansion projects to enhance the capacity of BALCO Aluminum Smelter from the current 0.57 MTPA to 1 MTPA and Alumina Refinery from 2 MTPA to 5 MTPA, and develop three coal mines that we have won in the recent coal auction rounds, to expedite the commencement of coal production.

Q What role can Vedanta play in making Odisha a global aluminium hub?

A Odisha has abundant natural resources and constitutes over 50% of the country's bauxite reserves and 25% coal reserves, along with a strategic geographical location.



Vedanta Jharsuguda - Odisha

This natural advantage has to be leveraged to develop a globally competitive aluminium industry. Vedanta has always been at the forefront of Odisha’s overall socio-economic development and to make Odisha a global aluminium hub. We have invested Rs. 52,000 Crores (amongst the single largest investments in Odisha) to set up the largest single-location integrated Aluminium Complex with 1.6 MTPA Aluminium Smelter, 2 MTPA Alumina Refinery and 3,700 MW Power Plants. These investments have generated direct employment for over 30,000 people and over 4 Lakh indirect employment (80% from the state of Odisha). Vedanta is also setting up an Aluminium Park, which will further develop over 100 SMEs in downstream sector creating over 10,000 jobs, to boost Odisha’s position on the global map.

Q What is the contribution being made by Vedanta towards giving adequate support to the ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ mission?

A Vedanta has a firm belief in the vision of our Hon’ble Prime Minister for making an ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’, and we are fully committed to partner and support this. The core purpose of our investments and upcoming expansion plans is to boost domestic manufacturing towards a self-

reliant India through a completely integrated value chain, creating jobs for locals and the development of MSMEs in the downstream sector. Our focused approach for enhancing domestic value addition has resulted in developing various special aluminium alloys and value-added products catering to the domestic market and facilitating import substitution, which can save a massive chunk of forex outgo due to the import bill.

Q Where do you see Vedanta heading to in the next 3-5 years?

A As a group, Vedanta is one of the largest diversified natural resource companies with major interests in Oil & Gas, Aluminium, Copper, Zinc, Lead, Silver, Steel and Power, and contributing ~1% of India’s GDP through its operations (direct & indirect). The mineral sector has a vital role to play in India’s vision to become a USD 5 Trillion economy. With upcoming expansion plans across its assets and venturing into new businesses, Vedanta is poised to be among the top three aluminium companies in the world in the next 3-5 years’ time, spearheading India’s self-sufficiency in this sector. ■