

GROUND ZERO

MR. RAHUL SHARMA, CEO ALUMINIUM BUSINESS, VEDANTA LTD.

1. What motivated you to start working in this industry?

I was always drawn to working in an industry where my contribution can help unlock the most potential. And the Indian metals and manufacturing industry has the most potential to unlock, given our rich and expansive mineral reserves, skilled human capital, a burgeoning domestic market, a strategic geographic location for trade, huge opportunities to leverage new technologies and more. There's nothing more fulfilling than seeing your work impact the GDP, fuel the growth of key industry sectors, and also transform the lives of millions of people whose are connected with your value chain – not just in India, but also the world.

2. Name a global leader that inspires you.

Our Chairman, Mr. Anil Agarwal is the person who has perhaps been the biggest source of inspiration for me. Within just one generation, he has singlehandedly built a natural resources conglomerate that is today the backbone of India's manufacturing industry. Vedanta is proudly of Indian origin and amalgamates global insights and best practices. He is a visionary having decades of experience coupled with the unfettered passion of a newcomer, which brings fresh energy and transformative thoughts to our organization. He always aspires to set the global benchmark, which broadens the thought process of our people, builds a shared vision and fuels us to aspire for it passionately.



3. If you were on a TED talk, what would you speak about?

It would be 'leadership'. I truly believe that people are the CEOs of their own lives. We have the power to shape our own destinies. We must chart out our own career path, our life journeys, because no one else will do it for us. We must plan where we want to be 2-5 years from now, only then we will start working on it and follow that up with a strong commitment. People don't have to be a certain age, say, 30 or 40 or 50 years to be a CEO.

4. Should one wish be granted to you, what would you change about your professional journey?

Nothing, really. It's been an exciting professional journey, one that I'm deeply grateful for. It continues to shape who I am, and I wouldn't want to change anything.

5. What does work-life balance mean to you?

I believe that work-life integration is rather, more sustainable. Managed well, it creates avenues for true fulfilment on both sides of the personal-professional spectrum.

6. Name one thing that you indulge in to relax.

I love listening to music.

7. If given a chance to give one advice each, to your younger self and your future self, what would it be?

To my younger self, my advice would be – nurture an entrepreneur's mindset and bring in disruption. Until and unless you don't bring in the differentiator or x-factor, you will always follow the herd, never lead it.

To my older self, I would say, 'always be learning'. The world around us is rapidly growing more and more interconnected, technology is evolving, and people's priorities are changing. Whatever one's age or experience may be, the process of learning, both professionally and personally, should never stop.

8. What did you do with your first salary?

Gave it to my parents.

9. If you could have a superpower, what would that be and why?

The ability to see things from any perspective. It is critical for any leader to evaluate their decisions or actions from different points of view, from those involved in the process to those it would affect. I like debating the various things on the table with my team, which is quite diverse in terms of experience, age, gender, education, etc., because it helps throw light on the subject from multiple perspectives and helps shape a well-rounded decision eventually. A "superpower" that could take it to the next level and allows me to tune in to the perspective of any stakeholder is welcome!

