

Vedanta Jharsuguda partners with MCL to boost safety in rail siding operations

PBD BUREAU

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VEDANTA Aluminum, India's largest aluminium producer, has launched the 'Suraksha Sampark' initiative at the Lakhanpur Railway Siding in partnership with Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL). This industry-first safety awareness campaign aims to strengthen safety practices in rail siding operations, a key aspect of Vedanta's logistics network.

Building on the success of Vedanta's 'Suraksha Sarathi' road safety campaign across its mines in Samleswari, Garjanbahal, and Lakhanpur, 'Suraksha Sampark' targets



high-risk areas among rail siding workers, including siding supervisors, payload operators, and MCL shift-in-charges. The training covered crucial safety issues like work-at-height risks, vehicle discipline, electrical safety, fire hazards, and fatigue management.

The event featured hands-on training using Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), and advanced simulators,

offering immersive, risk-free safety experiences. Participants engaged in exercises designed to improve reaction times, cognitive ability, and decision-making, helping them understand how fatigue and stress impact safety performance.

Speaking on the occasion, C Chandru, CEO, Vedanta Jharsuguda, said, "At Vedanta, safety is not just a matter of compliance, it is a mindset we nur-

ture every single day. Efforts such as Suraksha Sampark represent our unwavering commitment to extend the circle of safety beyond our plant gates, reaching the loading point and mines level. Through technology-driven experiential learning, we are empowering every individual to make safety a personal responsibility".

The training also showcased innovative technology, including Drunk Buster goggles, which simulate impaired driving, and live demonstrations of fall arrest systems for working at height. Another highlight was the use of VinCense, a wireless health monitoring system that tracks heart rate and stress levels in real-time, and an Advanced

Driver Assistance System (ADAS) for fatigue detection.

Awadh Kishore Pandey, General Manager, Lakhanpur Area, MCL, said, "The Suraksha Sampark training reminded us today that safety must grow into our culture. When safety becomes a natural part of our mindset, we don't need constant reminders, our actions will always reflect it. This joint effort between Vedanta and MCL is a strong beginning, and I hope to see even greater participation as we carry this culture forward."

The event concluded with a safety pledge and the recognition of MCL's technical staff, reinforcing the shared commitment to a safety-first culture in the region.