

# Sustainable Mining: Separating Fact from Fiction

Bhubaneswar: The future of mining will not be judged by what we extract, but by what we restore. This principle reflects a decisive shift in how mining is governed today. With a plethora of modern tech, deep research and innovative frameworks at its disposal, mining has undergone a sea change over the past few decades. Scientific mining practices are enforced by bodies such as the Ministry of Mines and the Indian Bureau of Mines, while safety standards are governed by the Directorate General of Mines Safety. The country is the second-largest aluminium producer globally and also a leading producer of coal, iron ore, and bauxite, each of which are fundamental building blocks of our fast-growing economy. Vedanta

Aluminium has deployed this approach across its mining footprint. At its Jamkhani mine in Odisha, for instance, concurrent reclamation is integrated into daily operations, with mined-out areas systematically restored even as production continues. Scientific overburden management and water conservation measures are built into mine planning, ensuring that environmental stewardship is not deferred but continuous. The project also adopted the Miyawaki method to plant 3.65 lakh saplings over 18 hectares, aiming to create a fast-growing greenbelt. These efforts have contributed to Vedanta's Jamkhani operations earning a prestigious 4-star rating from India's Ministry of Mines.