

# Metal and Manufacturing Power Odisha's Employment Growth

Bhubaneswar: Odisha is the highest producer of Alumina, Aluminium and Steel in the country today. But for decades, Odisha's economic story was marred by limited local opportunities, driving large-scale labour migration. The state has historically witnessed both push and pull factors, with distress-driven migration particularly prevalent in the south-western belt due to limited non-farm employment, agrarian stress, and low industrial absorption. This is evident through the periodic labour force survey, which indicates a steady decline in agricultural workforce and while labour force participation in manufacturing rising to almost 27% in the state as per the recent Economic Survey 2025-26. Vedanta has significantly strengthened local industrial ecosystems through a cumulative investment exceeding Rs.1 lakh crore. The company has generated an estimated 5 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities to date. Its world-class assets, including the 5 MTPA alumina refinery at Lanjigarh and the 1.8 MTPA aluminium smelter at Jharsuguda, among the largest of their kind globally. Odisha's positioning as an industrial powerhouse is still unfolding. As this transition takes shape, Vedanta Aluminium is leading the way as the state's largest investor and one of its highest employment generators.