

## METALWORLD – February 2025

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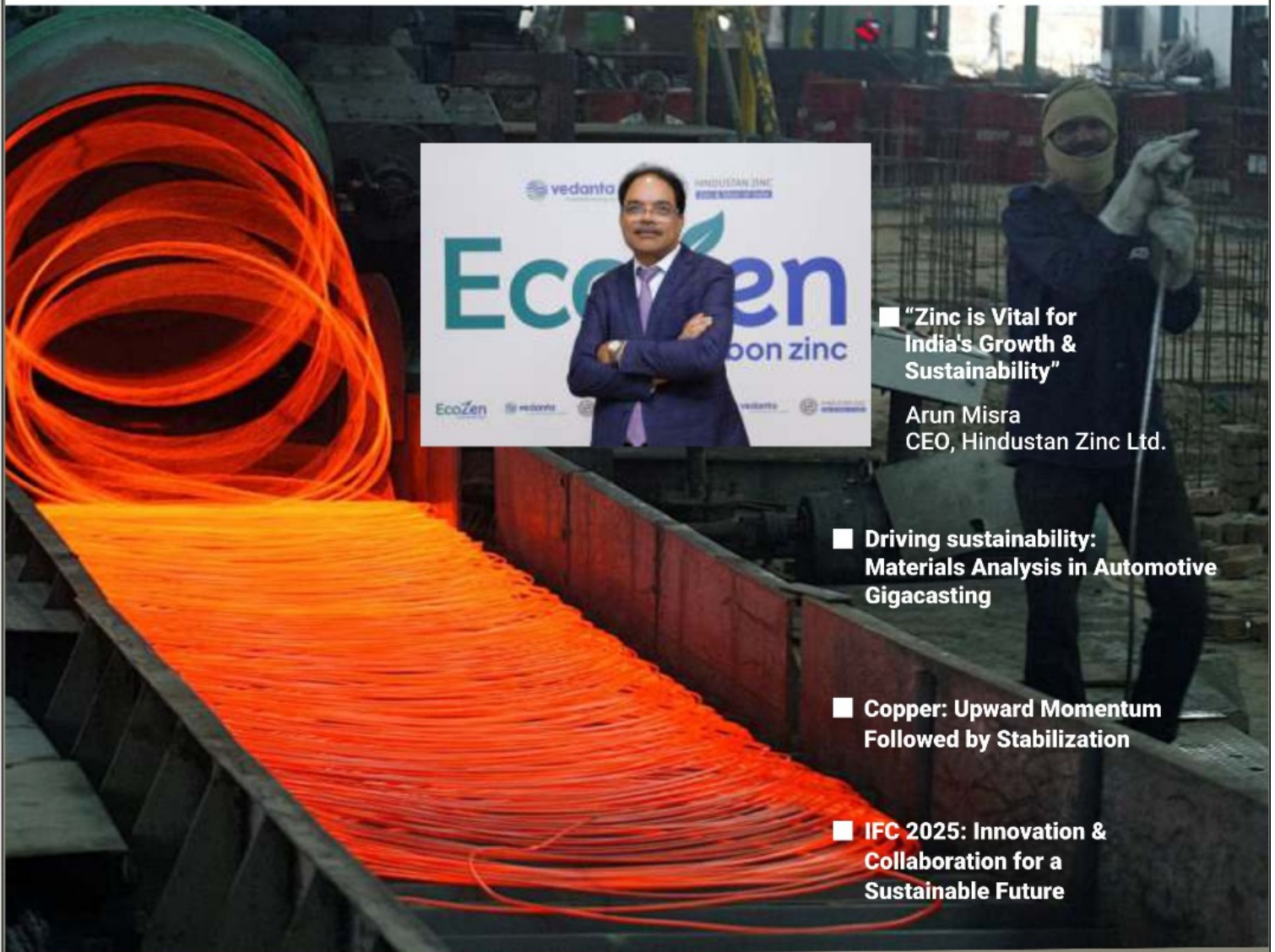
# METALWORLD™

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■ “Zinc is Vital for India's Growth & Sustainability”

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CEO, Hindustan Zinc Ltd.

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# “Zinc is Vital for India's Growth & Sustainability”

**Arun Misra**  
CEO, Hindustan Zinc Ltd.



Arun Misra is the CEO of Hindustan Zinc Ltd., a subsidiary of Vedanta Limited and India's largest integrated zinc-lead-silver producer. With decades of experience in the mining and metals sector, he has played a pivotal role in driving sustainable mining practices, technological advancements, and operational excellence. Under his leadership, Hindustan Zinc has strengthened its position as a global leader in zinc production while emphasizing ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) initiatives and innovation in the industry.

D.A.Chandekar, Editor & CEO of Metalworld magazine had an exclusive interaction with Mr. Arun Misra CEO of Hindustan Zinc Ltd., to get insights into present situation in the global and Indian zinc markets, the future of zinc market in India, How do global economic trends impact Hindustan Zinc, etc

while Indian markets will witness a healthy demand for zinc. At present zinc is fetching high premiums due to supply shortfalls and rising demand as the production is forecasted to be in deficit. In India, Hindustan Zinc has maintained production in alignment with the Indian demand with an unmatched competitive advantage as an integrated producer of this critical metal.



## 1. How is the present situation in the global and Indian zinc markets?

Globally, zinc production was flat in the last 5 years. However, the growth of Indian demand and production was at CAGR 5% on the back of country's massive infrastructural push and strong rebound post covid restrictions removal. Steel, a major raw material in India's infrastructure push

witnessed the highest growth in terms of percentage increase making our country the second largest steel producer worldwide as per Ministry of Steel. Zinc is primarily used for steel galvanization, that protects steel from corrosion - a significant issue costing India up to 5% of its GDP annually. The global refined zinc market is forecasted to remain in deficit in 2025

## 2. How do you see the future of zinc market in India?

In 2025, global steel demand is expected to grow by 0.5-1.5%, whereas India is expected to lead the steel demand growth underpinned by its expanding infrastructure and construction projects, eventually increasing the demand for zinc and making India the third largest zinc consumer globally.





## Face to Face

The demand will be driven by key sectors like infrastructure, automotive and emerging applications

Vedanta Metal Bazaar. Vedanta Metal Bazaar, an innovative e-commerce platform offers one of the

committed to sustainability and innovation. We have launched Asia's first low-carbon zinc, EcoZen, offering customers a competitive edge in decarbonizing their own value-chain. Produced using renewable energy, EcoZen has a carbon footprint 75% lower than the global average and supports the transition to a low carbon economy.



such as energy storage, defence and renewable energy. The infrastructure sector, particularly in emerging economies like India, will remain the largest consumer of zinc due to increasing investments in ambitious projects such as roads, railways, public infrastructure and smart cities.

India's growth and infrastructure development rely heavily on metals like zinc. Its use in galvanization will ensure durability and longevity of public infrastructure ensuring that it will last for generations, while its role in clean technologies and energy storage highlights its importance in the nation's progress.

### **3. What are the new-age initiatives of Hindustan Zinc in digitalization and product development?**

Hindustan Zinc has ushered into a new era of online metal buying through

world's largest zinc product portfolios online and brings ease of doing business for customers on their fingertips. The platform hosts several industry-first features globally such as, live shipment tracking, financial ledger reconciliation, online price discovery and many more.

Traditionally, zinc procurement process involves customers to keep track of price movement, discuss on various parameters which is often complex and time consuming, plan metal buying in advance with no visibility of pricing opportunities. Vedanta Metal Bazaar simplifies this process, providing a streamlined, digital-first solution that enables businesses to procure zinc efficiently and cost-effectively.

As the world's second-largest integrated zinc producer, Hindustan Zinc is

Zinc is expanding its role beyond traditional steel applications, demonstrating its versatility across various industries. It is gaining traction in the energy storage sector, and Hindustan Zinc is also exploring the application of zinc in the battery ecosystem. These batteries offer a safer, more stable alternative to lithium-ion batteries. Unlike lithium, which is expensive and imported, zinc is abundant in India, making zinc-based energy storage solutions more cost-effective and locally viable. Zinc-based batteries provide long-duration storage,



enhanced energy performance, lower ownership costs, and reliable operation in all weather conditions, making them highly versatile.

### **4. How do global economic trends impact Hindustan Zinc?**





The global economy remains volatile due to monetary tightening, supply chain disruptions, and geopolitical tensions. A slowdown in China's economic recovery has contributed to a dip in global zinc demand, while crises in the US banking sector have impacted construction and automotive industries.

Despite these headwinds, Hindustan Zinc's strategic focus on cost optimization, operational efficiency, and volume expansion has ensured strong financial and operational performance. The company's resilience and dynamic decision-making have enabled it to meet annual targets and achieve record cash flows, reinforcing its leadership in the industry.

**5. What does the zinc producing industry expect from policy makers?**

The zinc producing industry expects the sector to not overly rely on imports of scrap & waste metals & minerals owing to questionable quality. Historically, global manufacturers tend to dump low-quality scrap and waste

in developing economies leading to poor quality of end-use products. To avoid such issues, the government should introduce quality standards linked to the specific end-use of the critical minerals on this list. This will help create a sophisticated production ecosystem that promotes high-quality end products through the use of high-quality raw materials.

