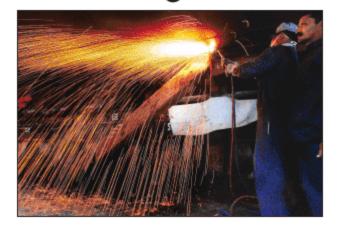
HZL Plans to Produce up to 4 Metals by 2030: CEO

Product basket to include rare earths like neodymium, tungsten

Nikita Periwal

Mumbai: Hindustan Zinc is set to add at least three-four metals, including critical minerals such as neodymium, tungsten and potash, to its product basket by 2030, chief executive officer Arun Misra said.

The Vedanta subsidiary is the largest producer of zinc, lead and silver in the country, and commands nearly threefourths of the domestic market for zinc. It has been eyeing



minerals which are difficult to extract and have a low appearance but are critical for the future.

"Hindustan Zinc's main business remains to mine minerals which are of critical importance to the country and which are extremely difficult to mine being of the nature that they are either too deep into the earth or their occurrence is in traces," Misra said at the compa-

ny's annual general meeting.

The company has already acquired blocks of potash, tungsten and other rare earths. It is also the only company in India to have secured a rare monzonite block.

Monzonite is used in the production of neodymium. While neodymium is used to produce electromagnets, which are used in electric motors for electric vehicles, tungsten finds application in defence. Zinc, which is the company's mainstay business, finds usage in galvanising.

Misra expects two years to be utilised for exploration of these critical minerals and another two years for setting up plants for mining and smelting.