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**METALS & MINING**

# Vedanta chairman Anil Agarwal pushes for unlocking domestic natural resource potential amid West Asia crisis

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Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal

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Highlighting how global conflicts can directly impact countries dependent on imports, Agarwal said India must reduce its reliance on overseas resources and build self-sufficiency by enabling domestic production.

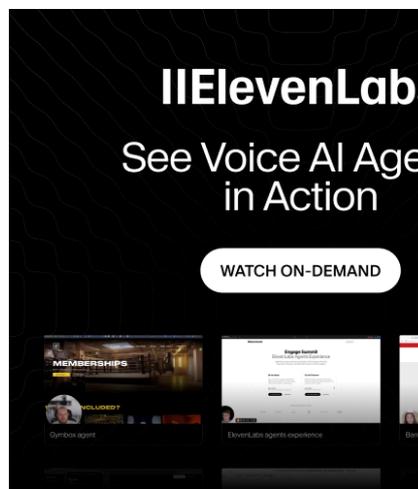
By PTI

Mar 10, 2026, 11:18:00 PM IST



New Delhi: As the ongoing war in West Asia disrupts global supply chains, impacting Indian energy imports, **Vedanta** Chairman **Anil Agarwal** has called for urgent measures to unlock the domestic natural resource potential to strengthen the country's energy and mineral security.

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Highlighting how global conflicts can directly impact countries dependent on imports, Agarwal said India must reduce its reliance on overseas resources and build self-sufficiency by enabling domestic production.

"It is painful to see India face the adverse consequences of a war we have nothing to do with," Agarwal said in a statement, referring to global disruptions that impact commodity prices and supply chains.



"We import nearly 90 per cent of our oil, 95 per cent of our copper and 99.5 per cent of our gold, despite the fact that the mother earth has given India one of the best geologies," he said in a statement.



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Drawing from over four decades of experience in the minerals, metals and oil industry, Agarwal argued that India's natural resources, if developed efficiently, could dramatically reduce import dependence while creating jobs, industries and exports.

Recounting his own entrepreneurial journey, Agarwal said he arrived in Mumbai from Bihar at the age of 19 and built Vedanta from scratch.

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Over the years, the company acquired major assets including Hindustan Zinc, BALCO, the oil and gas business of Cairn India, and Sesa Goa Iron Ore, with the aim of significantly expanding production.

According to Agarwal, Vedanta's operational turnaround of some of these assets demonstrates what private enterprise can achieve.

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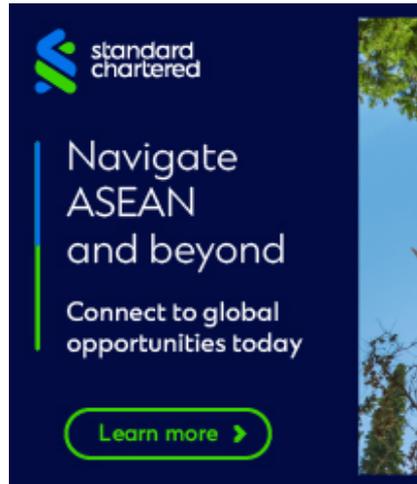
"We increased zinc production ten times and aluminium twenty times. As a result, more than 1,000 companies have emerged around these value chains," said, adding that Vedanta has contributed Rs 4.5 lakh crore to the national exchequer in the last decade.

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Agarwal also outlined ambitious targets for the future. In oil and gas, the

envision production of 100 million tonnes, equivalent to roughly a third of India's current output.

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He emphasised that India needs globally competitive mining champions.

"Vedanta should be for India what Rio Tinto and BHP are for Australia or Vale for Brazil. And there should be many more Vedantas," he said.

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However, Agarwal stressed that policy reforms and a change in regulatory mindset are critical for the sector to flourish. He called for simpler regulations, greater trust in businesses and a shift towards self-certification and audit-based oversight rather than prolonged approvals and litigation.

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