From extraction to ecosystems

Hindustan Zinc has signalled a strategic shift that mirrors the changing priorities of the global mining industry. As countries compete to secure supplies of critical minerals for the energy transition, the focus is moving beyond extraction towards building integrated industrial ecosystems that generate greater economic value. In her Q1 2026-27 letter to shareholders, **Priya Agarwal Hebbar**, chairperson, HZL, argued that mining companies must evolve into enablers of manufacturing, innovation and technology-led growth. "Mining has always created value from the resources beneath the ground. Increasingly, it must also create value through the industries, partnerships and innovations that grow around those resources," she said. The company's Zinc Parks initiative reflects this approach by promoting downstream manufacturing, supporting MSMEs and expanding industrial applications for zinc. Such value-added ecosystems could help India reduce import dependence while strengthening domestic supply chains. Equally significant is Hindustan Zinc's entry into rare earth elements, a sector central to electric vehicles, renewable energy, electronics and defence. "India's next phase of growth will require a broader and more resilient critical minerals ecosystem. Our entry into rare earth elements marks an important step in building those capabilities," Hebbar noted. Her message underscores a broader industry transition: future mining leaders will be judged not only by the richness of their reserves but by the industries, technologies and partnerships they build around them, creating long-term strategic and economic value.