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Automotive 3 Min Read

Vedanta invests over ₹21,000 crore till FY26 to strengthen India's EV metals ecosystem

The group is expanding capacity across aluminium, zinc, copper, nickel and other metals while securing 10 critical mineral blocks as India looks to build a more localised EV supply chain.

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The company is expanding smelting and value-added capacity at its BALCO plant in Chhattisgarh and Jharsuguda operations in Odisha for automotive, electrical and advanced applications.

Vedanta Group has invested over ₹21,000 crore through FY26 in ongoing metal production and capacity expansion projects as it seeks to strengthen India's domestic materials ecosystem for electric vehicles, batteries and the broader automotive industry.

The investments span aluminium, zinc, value-added alloys, copper, steel, nickel and ferrochrome, at a time when India's demand for critical minerals and rare earth elements is expected to rise sharply alongside the growth of electric mobility and clean-energy technologies.

The company said it has also secured 10 critical mineral blocks across commodities including copper, nickel-chromium-PGE, tungsten, graphite, vanadium, rare earth elements and potash. Exploration has already commenced across five of these blocks.

India currently imports more than 80 per cent of its critical mineral requirements, while demand for critical minerals and rare earth elements could increase by four to ten times by 2047, according to the company.

“As EV adoption accelerates, the strength of India’s journey will increasingly depend on its ability to secure reliable access to the metals and critical minerals that underpin vehicles, batteries and charging infrastructure. Building these capabilities domestically will be essential to creating supply chains capable of supporting India’s long-term mobility ambitions,” Arun Misra, CEO, Vedanta Group, said.

Aluminium, copper and nickel in focus

Vedanta's investments come as automakers and EV manufacturers

increase their focus on securing access to materials used across batteries, electric motors, power electronics, charging infrastructure and lightweight vehicle components.

Aluminium is expected to play an increasingly important role in EV manufacturing, particularly in reducing vehicle weight and improving energy efficiency. In FY2025-26, Vedanta Aluminium Metal Limited produced a record 24.5 lakh tonnes of aluminium.

The company is expanding smelting and value-added capacity at its BALCO plant in Chhattisgarh and Jharsuguda operations in Odisha for automotive, electrical and advanced applications.

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Vedanta has also developed low-carbon aluminium products under the Restora and Restora Ultra brands, while recently launching a Copper-Doped Alloy for high-performance automotive applications and Vedanta Foundry Alloy, developed in collaboration with IIT Delhi.

Nickel is another key focus area for the group, given its role in the battery-metals ecosystem. Vedanta said its position as India's sole

primary nickel producer could help strengthen domestic availability of the critical mineral.

Copper demand is also expected to rise with electrification, as EVs require significantly higher quantities of the metal than conventional vehicles. Vedanta recorded its highest-ever cathode production of 170 kt in FY2025-26, supporting applications across motors, cables, conductors and electrical systems.

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The company is also investing in a Copper Rod Plant in Saudi Arabia to strengthen its downstream copper production capacity.

Vedanta's zinc and silver business, operated through Hindustan Zinc, is also targeting opportunities arising from India's growing electrification ecosystem.

Hindustan Zinc produced 851 kt of refined zinc and 627 tonnes of saleable silver in FY2025-26. Its portfolio includes specialised automotive zinc alloys and EcoZen, its low-carbon zinc offering.

Beyond metals production, Vedanta is also working on next-generation battery technologies through partnerships with IIT Madras and JNCASR. The group is developing sustainable zinc-based battery solutions as part of its efforts to participate in India's evolving EV and energy storage ecosystem.

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See more on: [Vedanta investment in EV metals](#), [India EV metals ecosystem](#), [critical minerals for electric vehicles](#), [aluminium copper nickel production](#), [electric vehicle battery production](#), [ev and future mobility](#)

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