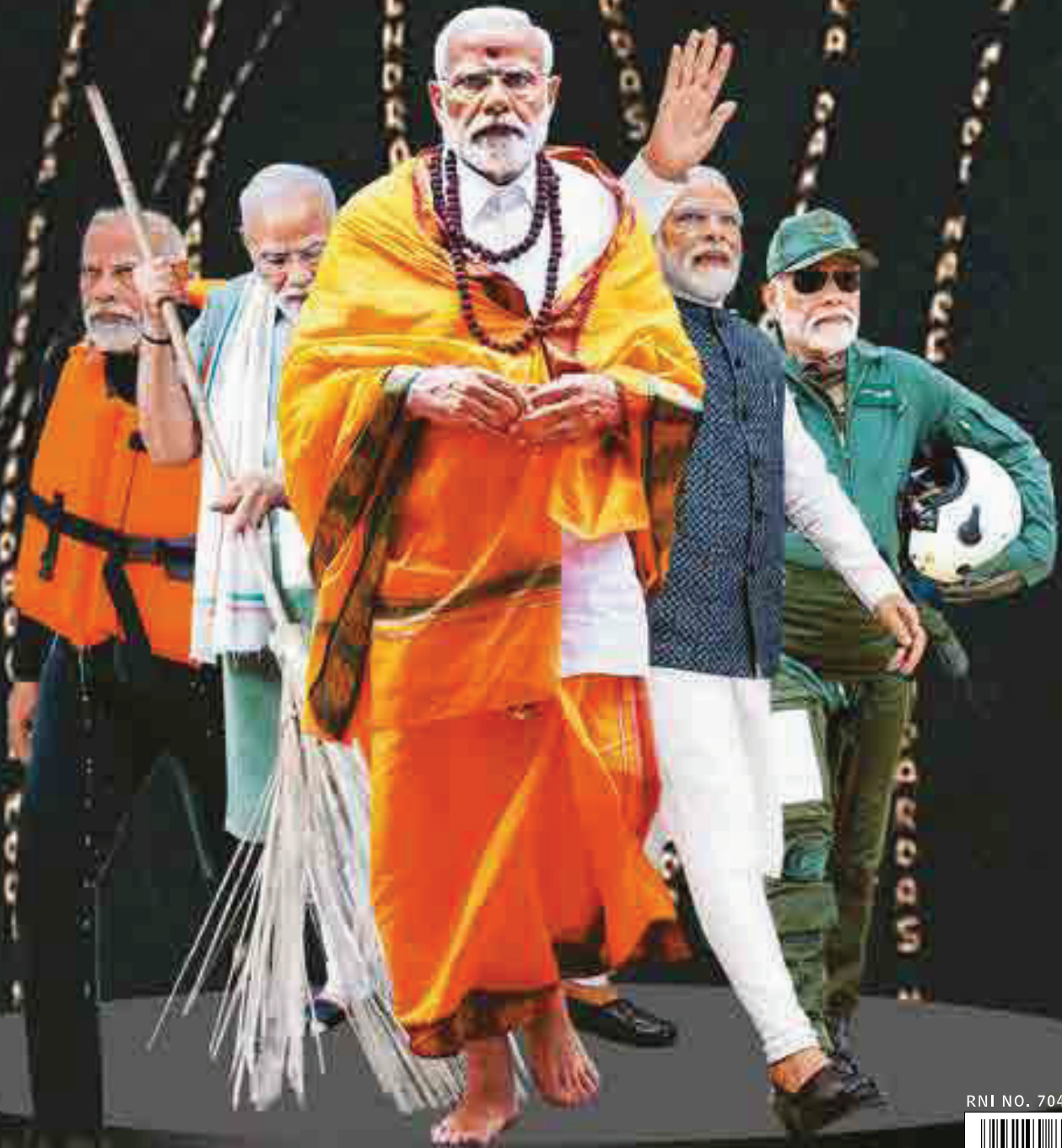


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We Believe in Investing in Sustainable Solutions For Our Communities



Vedanta's Hindustan Zinc (HZL), the world's largest zinc, lead, and silver producer, has achieved a global recognition by securing the first position in the S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment 2023 in the metals and mining sector. With an impressive score of 85, Hindustan Zinc stands out as the top-ranked company among the 238 global peers in the sector. The parent company Vedanta Ltd. secured the third position globally, making HZL & Vedanta the only two Indian companies in global top 10 list in Metal & Mining sector.

At the helm of this ESG transformation is **Priya Agarwal Hebbbar, Chairperson, Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Non-Executive Director, Vedanta Ltd & Anchor of The Animal Care Organization (TACO)**. She spoke to Outlook about Sustainability, what it means at Vedanta, spreading the power of good and more. Excerpts of the interview.

programs have helped reduce our net freshwater consumption by more than 10% since FY20.

At Vedanta, we believe in investing in sustainable solutions for our communities which include the people and even the flora & fauna of the regions we operate in. We are committed to creating a future that will redefine the nuances of mining and natural resources globally.

As an organisation driven by purpose, our ESG goals are robust and have been embedded in our business strategy. At Vedanta, our business decisions are driven by three pillars – zero harm, zero waste, zero discharge. Our 9 ESG aims are focused on ensuring growth and sustainability for our communities, our employees, and the environment. We are committed to becoming Net Zero by 2050 or sooner.

Our company's portfolio has many of the elements necessary for a green economy; we produce nine out of the 17 transition metals and utilise sustainable, technology driven solutions in our operations. Hindustan Zinc Limited, one of Vedanta's top performing companies, which I am also the Chairperson of, is a shining example of working in this direction. A twice over, water positive mining company, HZL is on track to become five times water positive by 2025, in sync with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It has also committed US\$1 billion for converting 900 diesel-powered mining vehicles into electric vehicles in the next five years. In addition to this, HZL has deployed India's first ever battery-operated vehicle in underground mining as well as 21 battery-operated forklifts across smelting locations – a truly pioneering feat in the industry, and we're proud that some of the



heavy lifting is done by women miners who are leading the change on sustainable mining.

How are you engaging for SDGs?

All initiatives for us are driven by the vision of Transforming for Good. We have a diverse portfolio, engaged in extensive work across domains such as malnutrition mitigation, healthcare, education, livelihood & skill development, art & culture, and sports.

Our success in identifying and addressing these issues stems from the amalgamating needs of our communities, very often mirroring the priorities of the Government of India. The foundation's mission resonates with SDGs and national objectives laid by the Prime Minister, including women-led development, opportunities for the youth and eradicating child malnutrition. If you look at our women and child welfare project Nand Ghar, it focuses on high-impact delivery in alignment with national schemes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, POSHAN Abhiyaan, Swachh Bharat Mission, and more. By aligning our initiatives with these government policies, we not only enhance credibility but also ensure that our efforts contribute directly to fulfilling critical societal needs.

What does CSR mean at Vedanta and what is the impact you are looking at through your CSR projects?

At Vedanta, we view Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) not merely as a mandate but as the very essence of our

business, rooted in sharing prosperity with the communities we serve. It has evolved into an important aspect of group ESG policy with complete alignment to the group goals.

The Anil Aggarwal Foundation (AAF) plays a pivotal role in driving our CSR initiatives spanning across various sectors. We have an ambitious goal of impacting over 100 million lives, and currently through our 140 projects we are positively impacting over 45 million people annually.

AAF has pledged to spend INR 5000 crores over five years to strengthen the rural communities through a sustainable and inclusive growth model. Our Chairman, my father Mr. Anil Aggarwal, has also joined The Giving Pledge and committed 75% of his wealth to social good.

Efforts for our recently launched movement, 'Agar Bachpan Se Poochha Khana Khaya Toh Desh Ka Kal Banaya' is being intensified to engage every citizen, corporate and government in contributing to the movement of Project Nand Ghar and its overarching aim of combating malnourishment.

Our commitment to animal welfare through The Animal Care Organization is unwavering. Our upgraded OPD clinic at Faridabad shelter will provide best in class animal healthcare, preventive veterinary care, run a spay and neuter programme, and have mobile emergency care units. We are planning the establishment of a mega animal shelter in Rajasthan, with a special emphasis on camels, to address the growing concerns of abandoned camels in the state.

How excited are you about the S&P global sustainability assessment results?

We are very proud of our remarkable performance. Our improved ranking in the prestigious global assessment is a testament to our commitment towards building a sustainable future. We continue to march towards this transformative journey, creating global benchmarks in our industry. Our colleagues, supply partners and investors, who are all a part of the

unique support system, play a vital role in helping us accomplish our target of being Net Zero Carbon by 2050.

What are your thoughts on sustainability?

I am of the firm belief that sustainability is not an option but a necessity, and it should be embedded in every facet of our lives and businesses. At Vedanta, we have always believed in operating responsibly and ethically to create a

more sustainable future and our rise from 6th rank last year to 3rd this year in the Metals & Mining sector in S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) is a reflection of the group's continuous efforts to enhance Environmental, Social, and Governance practices. Vedanta's gender diversity has increased from 11% to 14% in one year and we are well on our way to meeting the target of 20% by 2030. With most of our plants in water-stressed areas, our water management

