

# Vedanta's sustainability initiatives, building Odisha's self-sufficient greener tomorrow

By ANHA CSR NETWORK | June 9, 2020



Vedanta's Odisha operations marked World Environment Day celebrations with a plantation drive and various awareness activities with employees, business partners and communities. Following social distancing norms and other COVID mandates, hundreds of trees were planted inside operations and townships.

Additionally, seedlings were distributed among rural households in many villages of Kalahandi and Jharsuguda. To drive greater awareness among the citizens in township and community, various activities and competitions themed on biodiversity like painting, slogan, quizzes, etc. were conducted by both units.

Speaking about Vedanta's environment and sustainability initiatives, **Rahul Sharma, CEO-Vedanta Ltd., Langipet**, said, "Our operations are governed by the robust Vedanta Sustainability Framework, drawn in line with the best international standards. Alongside this, our business imperatives and social duties are founded on the premise of 'Zero Harm, Zero Waste & Zero Discharge'." Adding to that, **CN Singh, CEO-Vedanta Ltd., Jharsuguda**, said, "Our business and social sustainability objectives are reinforced through our commitment to leverage global expertise, adopt green technology and use resources judiciously to create a lasting positive impact on the environment, our communities, partners and customers."

**Dr. Mijanjan Malik, Exo. Scientist-cum-Regional Officer**, who attended the ceremony at Jharsuguda plant along with other OSPCB (Odisha State Pollution Control Board) officials remarked, "I am thankful to the Vedanta team for sincerely undertaking the plantation drive following all protocols amid the ongoing pandemic."

As the country's largest producer of aluminium, which is an eternally recyclable metal with minimal loss in quality and energy requirements, Vedanta integrates smart innovation, best-in-class technology, environmental safeguards and sustainability-focused operating procedures to create value for the nation. Some of the best initiatives and technology adoptions undertaken by the company's Odisha operations, resulting in a significant environmental performance, are:

- Online and continuous Environment Monitoring Systems with real-time data acquisition for parameters like ambient air quality etc thus ensuring all parameters remain within stipulated norms.
- Robust Environment Incident Management & Notice System in place to direct action and strategy pertaining to causes of potential environment impact
- Continuous Ambient Air Quality monitoring systems in and around the plant premises.
- First in the country to install Hybrid Electrostatic Precipitators (ESP) with bag filters in captive power plants to reduce particulate emission
- First in the state to hybridize ESPs in power plants for enhancing environmental performance
- First in the state to install High Concentration Slurry Disposal (HCSO) systems for fly-ash transfer from silos to ash dyke
- Effluent Treatment Plants (ETP) augmented with Ultra-Filtration and Reverse-Osmosis (UF & RO) systems to ensure 100% treatment of water, which is then recycled for usage in ash-handling, horticulture, etc.
- Sewage Treatment Plants to recycle solid waste and wastewater for further usage in horticulture to keep operations and township lush and verdant
- Natural draft cooling towers, state-of-the-art dry scrubbing systems, fume treatment plants, dry-fog systems, water mist canons, soil blanketing, and many other innovations adopted across the operations for better environment footprint
- Collaboration with the country's premiere technical institutes, global experts and technology consultants to assess and improve the company's sustainability initiatives
- The company is exploring renewable energy sources like solar gives licenses and tenders to build capacity and potentially replace thermal power as the primary source of energy. Currently, both, the Langipet refinery and Jharsuguda smelter are among the best of India's energy efficient manufacturing units.
- Extensive digitalization of processes to minimize paper usage and 1n person monitoring
- Waste-to-wealth initiatives like fostering local brick-making enterprises, using fly-ash roads, reclamation of low-lying areas with fly-ash followed by plantation, etc.
- Intensive audits and monitoring of processes and practices to continually streamline and improve the company's sustainability performance
- Helping farmers in the community adopt drip-irrigator, weeder pump, solar powered water pumps, rainwater harvesting structures like percolation tanks, etc. to boost irrigation potential and reduce dependency on monsoons for cropping
- More than 10 lakh trees planted in and around the plants, in PPP mode to expand green cover in the periphery



Vedanta's sustainability initiatives have earned global accreditation and numerous awards and accolades. Both units have been certified with the ISO 50001 (Energy Management System) and IMS, which includes ISO 9001 (Quality Management System), ISO 14001 (Environmental Management System) and OHSAS 18001. Together, the units have invested upwards of INR 9200 crores on environment safeguards in and around their operations.