

India to be a significant player in lead and zinc

L. Pugazhenthly
Executive Director - ILZDA



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Dedicated to market development and dissemination of technical information in respect of Lead, Zinc and their applications, India Lead Zinc Development Association, popularly known as ILZDA was setup in 1962. It is a non-profit non-commercial organization registered under Societies Act. ILZDA works in close co-operation with International Zinc Assn, International Lead Association, International Lead Zinc Study Group, International Lead Zinc Research Organization etc. as well as similar Lead/Zinc Development Associations in other countries.

ILZDA Membership is open to companies only; there is no provision for Individual Membership. ILZDA Members consist of lead and zinc producers, alloy makers, galvanizers, die casters, lead battery units, zinc dry cell manufacturers, recyclers, chemicals producers, consultants, equipment suppliers, importers, metal traders etc., Hence ILZDA is an ideal forum for networking among all the stakeholders in the lead and zinc industry. Those interested in the contact details/looking for suppliers may contact ILZDA directly through an email/fax communication.

ILZDA also works very actively in the committees of Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Bureau of Indian Standards, Central Pollution Control Board etc., contributing in their technical discussions.

Currently L. Pugazhenthly is Executive Director of India Lead Zinc Development Association (ILZDA). Mr. Pugazhenthly is also the past President of the Indian Institute of Metals. Mr. Pugazhenthly is the first Asian to receive the prestigious International Lead Medal, at the Asian Battery Conference in Macau, China in September 2009, for his contributions to the lead industry. Mr. Pugazhenthly was also awarded the Hindustan Zinc Ltd Gold Medal in 2002 and Platinum Medal in 2014 by The Indian Institute of Metals during the National Metallurgists Day Celebrations for his significant contributions to the Indian metallurgical industry. He also received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2014 from National Institute of technology, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu.

Well known as “Mr. Pug” he is a Metallurgical Engr from NIT, Trichy with

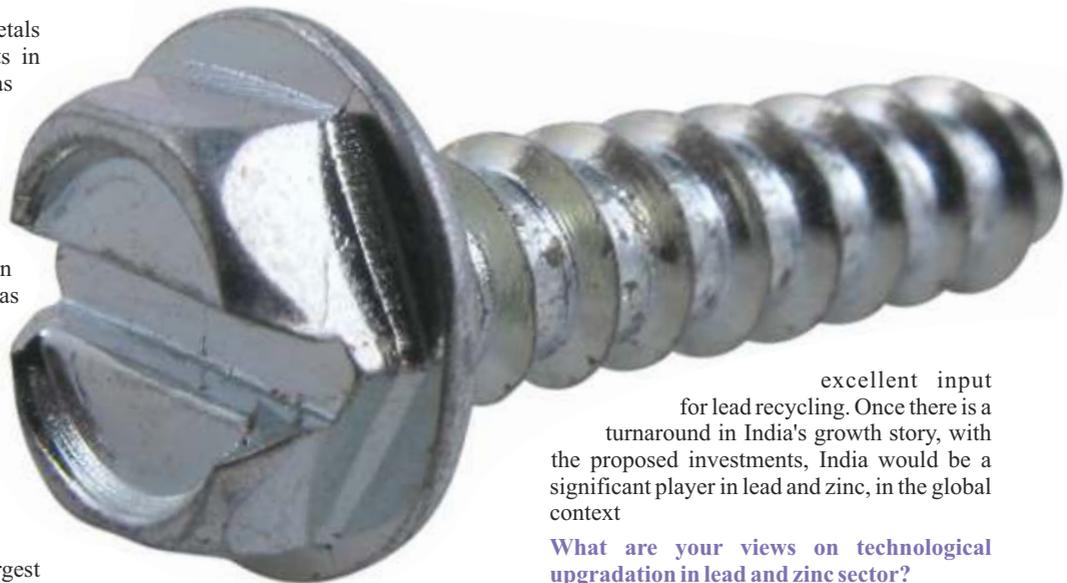
about 40 years experience in the metals industry and has visited industrial plants in Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand as well as EU countries. He was also the Chairman of the Sectional Committee of BIS drafting national standards for the Indian metals industry. Mr. Pug has served as an active member of various committees in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Mines, etc., as well as the various Five Year Plan Subgroups on non-ferrous metals. Worked very closely with Ministry of Environment & Forests in introducing the necessary environmental norms as well as legislations and creating a greater awareness for an organized collection and environment friendly recycling of used lead batteries in India.

“India now has the world's fourth largest integrated Zinc smelter and in a few years, it may also climb up the ladder. At the moment, India is also a major producer of recycled lead from used lead batteries”, says **L. Pugazhenty, Executive Director of India Lead Zinc Development Association** in an exclusive interview to **Metalworld**. Excerpts:

What are the objectives and activities of India Lead Zinc Development Association, ILZDA?

ILZDA, for your information, is a 53 years old, non profit, non commercial body disseminating technical information to the end-users of lead and zinc such as lead battery units, galvanizing companies, diecasters, manufacturers of chemicals, dry cell battery units, recyclers etc., so that the metals are used efficiently, minimizing the formation of inevitable process wastes.

Such a technical backup also helps the above companies in achieving product quality, energy optimization with eco-friendly operations. ILZDA also disseminates technical



excellent input for lead recycling. Once there is a turnaround in India's growth story, with the proposed investments, India would be a significant player in lead and zinc, in the global context

What are your views on technological upgradation in lead and zinc sector?

India is not a new player in either lead & zinc manufacture or its down-stream applications like galvanizing, lead batteries, diecasting etc. Therefore, we do adopt contemporary technologies, though there is ample scope for advanced cleaner and energy efficient technologies that would bring about lesser emissions and overall cost-reduction. Improvement is long and continuous journey, for any industry.

What do you expect from the government on the policy front?

Quite a lot, I must say. Further simplification of industrial policies, procedures & approvals, better coordination with Centre and States, improved relationship between ministries at Centre, easy liquidity, reduction in rate of interest, duties and taxes, a relook at FTAs, release of funds for infrastructural growth, workable PPP models etc., as per my thinking. There could be many more if you ask the industry sources.



information to the users of galvanized steel, lead batteries etc., such as builders, construction companies, infrastructural agencies, automobile units, telecom, power etc. Our objectives are achieved through quarterly technical journals, bimonthly e-newsletters, seminars, workshops etc. Interested companies are welcome to join our fraternity and reap the benefits.

What is the current scenario of the Indian Lead & Zinc industry?

The demand for metals in any country is directly linked to its GDP growth. In India, the last few years witnessed a paralysed stagnant economy, with poor infrastructural investments, declining sales in automobiles etc. Such conditions obviously were not at all conducive for the long term and healthy growth of the lead-zinc industry.

Post-election, there is certainly a positive mood or optimism in the country, with great aspirations and hopes. Investors, both foreign and domestic are keenly awaiting to see how the domestic economic scenario unfolds. Hope the new government goes in a big way very soon for pushing infrastructural investments, as announced through its maiden budget.

How do you see the future prospect of Lead and Zinc industry in the Indian as well as global context?

Currently, both China and India are the dominant key drivers for lead and zinc in the global economy. India now has the world's fourth largest integrated Zinc smelter and in a few years, it may also climb up the ladder. At the moment, India is also a major producer of recycled lead from used lead batteries. Since we use large numbers of batteries widely in automobiles, inverters, telecom, renewable energy, electric vehicles etc., we also generate a huge amount of used lead batteries, an