

India Produces a huge quantity of Zinc, both for Domestic Market as well as Export

- L. Pugazhenty
Executive Director,
ILZDA

Excerpts

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

ILZDA is a non-profit, non-commercial society, operating in India since 1962 & disseminating technical information on the various end uses of zinc & lead such as galvanizing, zinc coatings, die casting, lead batteries, zinc & lead chemicals, recycling etc., (Unlike other associations, ILZDA is not a trade body). ILZDA also works for market development of lead & zinc in the above sectors. Our objectives are achieved through seminars, conferences, plant visits, periodic publications, e-newsletters etc., ILZDA publishes three quarterly technical journals "GALVANIZING" "BATTERIES" & "DIE CASTING" as well as a bi-monthly e-newsletter "LEAD ZINC UPDATE" circulated among our members. Seminars & conferences are usually held at Delhi as well as other metro cities in India. ILZDA takes an active part in the committees/ discussions at the various union ministries for policy planning as well as the Sectional Committees in the Bureau of Indian Standards. Last but not least, ILZDA works in close cooperation with International Lead Assn, International Lead Zinc Study Group, International

Indian Lead Zinc Development Association, popularly known as ILZDA is a non - commercial organization registered under Societies Act, dedicated to market development and dissemination of technical information in respect of Lead, Zinc and their applications.

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

L. Pugazhenty, is the Executive Director of ILZDA and former President of The Indian Institute of Metals {IIM}, well known as "Pug". He is a metallurgical Engg 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.

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.

He 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. Speaking to Sushma Upadhyay of **Metalworld**, L. Pugazhenty about the lead and zinc status in India.

Zinc Assn, other national associations, as well as international events like the Asian Battery Conference, International Secondary Lead Conference, Intergalva, ILZSG annual meets etc.,

What is the current scenario of the Indian Lead and Zinc Industry?

Indeed good! India produces a huge quantity of zinc, both for domestic market as well as export market. Hindustan Zinc Ltd is one of the world’s largest integrated lead zinc producers and they have ambitious plans to ramp up the capacity to 1.2 million tonnes; HZL produces zinc, lead as well as silver. About 75% of zinc consumed here goes into the hot dip galvanizing sector.

As far as lead is concerned, India is a very large producer of secondary lead/ recycled lead, produced from domestic used lead batteries, imported scrap lead batteries, remelted lead ingots etc., India produces about 150,000 tonnes of primary lead (by HZL) and the recycled / secondary lead is 5 to 6 times this quantity, as per the industry estimates. Roughly 80% lead used in India goes for manufacture of lead acid batteries that are used in automobiles UPS, inverters, telecom, railways etc., and the emerging applications are renewable energy and electric vehicles.

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

Globally, some shortages are predicted for lead and zinc during 2018, due to the strict enforcement of environmental laws as well as closure of mines, smelters etc., in China. However,



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In India, due to the various developmental schemes like Smart Cities Mission, Power for All, Digital India, Make in India etc., as well as infrastructure investments there will be increased usage of steel and hence the natural choice of zinc for corrosion protection of steel products & structures.

Similarly the current thrust on renewable energy & electric vehicles like e-rickshaws, electric scooters etc., there will be an increased demand for lead, besides the natural growth in demand from automobile sector, railways, telecom etc.,

What are your views on technological up-gradation in lead and zinc sector?

As far as technology is

concerned, both in production of lead & zinc as well as in downstream usage sectors, India is currently having comparable technologies. Our finished products are not only consumed in India but also exported to many developed and developing economies. Perhaps our MSME units could opt for some investments for process upgradation, contemporary technologies etc., because today’s customers are enlightened not only on quality but also on performance, besides their willingness to pay more for better products.

In recycling of lead, we ought to have clean, eco-friendly recyclers only. Backyard recycling should disappear from our dictionary. This calls for strict implementation & monitoring of environmental regulations, norms etc.,

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

As far as the government is concerned, it will be a great encouragement, if they can speed up the delayed infrastructural projects, release the promised funds for the various development schemes. India urgently needs an “infra push”

More importantly, when India Inc is not in their best days, Govt of India should go slow in the various FTAs, as a support to the domestic industry.

Skill development is another area where more visible action is required, as it will lead to employment, wealth creation, around development etc.,