

# Vedanta pledges 95% holdings in Hindustan Zinc

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**MINING MAJOR VEDANTA**, a subsidiary of London-headquartered Vedanta Resources, has pledged almost 95% of its holdings in Hindustan Zinc (HZL), including a pledge three days ago.

The company pledged 139.4 million shares or 3.31% on Monday, following 183.8 million shares or 4.34% in April. This takes the total number of pledged shares to 2.73 billion, or 95.24% of HZL's total shares held by Vedanta, stock exchange data showed.

This is an increase from 87.59% shares pledged to raise funds. As of March 31, as many as 2.40 billion shares or 87.59% of Vedanta holding in HZL were pledged, with promoters holding 2.74 billion or 64.92% of the total 4.3 billion shares of HZL.

The move comes at a time when its parent Vedanta Resources is shoring up funds to trim debt.

In March, Vedanta had approved its fifth interim dividend of ₹20.50 per share or a total of ₹7,621 crore for FY23. With this, the total outgo by way of dividends for FY23 was about ₹37,733 crore.

Vedanta holds a 64.92% stake in HZL, which was privatised more than two decades ago, while the Indian government holds 29.54%.

On April 20, Vedanta pledged 2.44% in HZL to raise ₹1,500 crore. The pledge by the Anil Agarwal-helmed company, totalling 103.24



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million shares, was as a security for a term loan the company had raised. With this itself, Vedanta had pledged 91.35% of its stake in HZL.

Prior to this, on December 5, 2022, Vedanta had pledged 1% to SBICap Trustee Company.

On April 13, Vedanta's board had approved raising up to ₹2,100 crore through issuance of Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) through private placements. The NCDs were to be raised in one or more tranches.

On Tuesday, Vedanta approved its first interim dividend of ₹18.50 per share for FY24, with the total outgo amounting to ₹6,877 crore and set May 30 as the record date.

Prior to this, on April 6, the Mumbai-headquartered company had announced an interim dividend of ₹20.50, increasing its FY23 dividend payout to ₹101.50 a share.