



1st Circular

44th International Conference and Exhibition ICSoba 2026



15-20 November 2026
Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

Hosted by:



<https://icsoba.org/>

INVITATION

Dear Colleagues,

The International Committee for the Study of Bauxite, Alumina, and Aluminium (ICSoba) is proud to announce the **44th International Conference and Exhibition**, which will be held from **15 to 20 November 2026** in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka state, **India**.

This event marks the fourth time that ICSoba will take place in India.

This year, the conference returns to an only in-person event. There will be no online broadcast of the conference.

We extend our sincere gratitude to **Hindalco** for their generous support as the **Host Sponsor** of the event.

Featuring insightful keynote sessions and over 160 technical presentations, the ICSoba 2026 conference is designed as a four-day technical event followed by a full day dedicated to technical field trips.

We look forward to seeing you at ICSoba 2026!

KEY DATES / DEADLINES

15 June 2026	●	Full paper submission
13 July 2026	●	Registration starts
1 September 2026	●	Draft program published
28 September 2026	●	Presentation submission
15 November 2026	●	Conference opens
16-19 November 2026	●	Technical Sessions
20 November 2026	●	Field Trips

CONFERENCE TOPICS

ICSoba 2026 will place a strong emphasis on addressing the critical challenges facing the aluminium industry across the entire value chain, from bauxite mining to smelter casting operations.

The conference will focus on the key topics, including:

- Sustainability and decarbonisation
- Energy challenges
- Digitalisation and artificial intelligence applications
- Health, environment, and safety
- Specialty and high purity alumina
- Market scenarios and economic outlook
- Innovation and new technologies.

While keeping with the main fields of bauxite-alumina-aluminium, the conference will focus on maintaining a high scientific and technical innovation nature focused on industrial application of scientific results to pilots and plants.

WHAT IS NEW IN THIS CIRCULAR?

- Program highlights and Keynote speakers
- Venue information
- Registration fees and visa support
- Hotel booking information
- ICSoba 2026 President
- Social events information
- Exhibition and sponsorship information

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

With **9** keynote papers presented in **3 keynote sessions** and over **160 technical papers**, the ICSOBA conference is planned as **4-day technical conference** followed by one full day for technical field trips.

- Sunday 15 November p.m. – registration, welcome reception,
- Monday 16 to Thursday 19 November – Keynote and technical sessions,
- Monday 16 November – Gala Dinner,
- Friday 20 November - Field trips.

IAI Bauxite & Alumina Committee is scheduled to take place in conjunction with the ICSOBA conference so is IAI Women in Aluminium Forum. The ICFURM meeting will take place the following week in China.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Aluminium Industry at the Crossroads: Growth, Sustainability and Innovation

Satish Pai

Hindalco Industries,
Mumbai, India



Navigating Geopolitical Turmoil While Staying the Course on Sustainability

Jonathan Grant

International Aluminium Institute,
London, United Kingdom



Growth and Opportunities of Aluminium Industry – Indian Perspective

Brijendra Pratap Singh

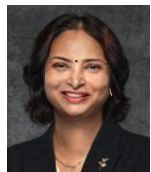
National Aluminium Company,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Operation of UTKAL Refinery – Best Practices and Utilization of Bauxite Residue at Hindalco

Saurabh Khedekar,
Hindalco Industries, Mumbai, India
and



Vaishali Surawar,
Hindalco Industries, Mumbai, India



Recent Technical and Market Developments in the Global Bauxite Mining and Alumina Refining Sector

Alan Clark,
CM Group, Glenelg, South Australia



Aluminium Market Outlook - A New Age of Disruption

Uday Patel,
Wood Mackenzie,
London, United Kingdom



Preventing Unplanned Production Stoppages Due to Safety Hazards and Accidents

Alex Lowery,
Wise Chem,
New Albany, Ohio, USA

Please visit [ICSOBA website](https://www.icsoba.org) for keynote and technical program updates.

TECHNICAL FIELD TRIPS

During the conference, technical field trips will be hosted by **Hindalco**, one of the world's largest integrated aluminium producers. Participants will have the unique opportunity to visit an alumina refinery and an aluminium smelter.

TECHNICAL FIELD TRIPS

The sites are only accessible by plane.

A one day return trip is organised for **the Belagavi Alumina refinery, located in Karnataka.**

A two day return trip with overnight stay locally is organised for **Aditya Aluminium Smelter located in Lapanga, Sambalpur, Odisha.**

Places are limited to **50** participants for each field trip. Seats have been prebooked on INDIGO commercial flights. Reservations will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

See below a short description of the two sites with detailed information at [ICSOBA website](https://www.icsoba.org).



Belagavi Alumina refinery, located in Karnataka (Western India), which started operations in 1969

and comprises the only Specialty Alumina refinery of this scale in India with annual production of 340 kt and an advanced alumina research centre.



Aditya Aluminium Smelter. Commissioned in 2014, Aditya Aluminium is a smelter-power plant complex located in

Lapanga, Sambalpur, Odisha. It manufactures the highest quality of aluminium (P0202) in the Indian subcontinent and operates at 374 kt of aluminium per year.

ICSOBA 2026 PRESIDENT



Satish Pai joined Hindalco Industries in 2013 and has been Managing Director since 2016. In his role as MD, he also oversees the operations of Hindalco subsidiary Novelis Inc., the world's largest aluminium rolling and recycling company. Prior to joining Aditya Birla Group, Satish worked for 28 years with Schlumberger. Based out of Paris, he was responsible for Schlumberger operations globally.

He has charted a transformational path for the company from its traditional metals manufacturing role to being a provider of high value engineered solutions in aluminium, copper and specialty alumina.

Mr Pai has served in key industry forum roles and currently serves as Director on the boards of Aditya Birla Management Corporation Pvt. Ltd., and BP p.l.c.

ABOUT THE HOST SPONSOR



An industry leader in aluminium and copper, Hindalco Industries Limited is the metals flagship company of the Aditya Birla Group. Through its subsidiary Novelis, Hindalco is the global leader in flat rolled products and the world's largest recycler of aluminium.

With operations across 10 countries and 48 manufacturing locations, Hindalco is a fully integrated player from mining to finished products.

In India, Hindalco operates 5 captive power plants for a total of 3.2 GW, produces 1.35 Mt/y of primary aluminium in 4 smelters and 3.0 Mt/y of alumina in 4 refineries. In 2024, Hindalco announced expanding its upstream operations with expansions at the Aditya and Mahan aluminium smelters and a new alumina refinery.

In the Specialty Alumina space, Hindalco ranks among the global top three, offering a differentiated portfolio of high-margin, high-growth products. Together, these businesses span the entire value chain, delivering a suite of sustainable, high-performance solutions across industries.

Hindalco has been ranked the world's most sustainable aluminium company in the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) for six consecutive years – from 2020 to 2025.

See more at <https://www.Hindalco.com/>

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

As you know, organizing a conference of this magnitude would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors.

We are honoured to have **Hindalco** as the Host Sponsor for this year's conference. Together, ICSOBA and Hindalco warmly invite bauxite, alumina, and aluminium producers, as well as industry partners from India and around the world, to participate in **ICSOBA 2026 in Bengaluru** and become conference sponsors.

ICSOBA, known as "The Technology Conference of the Aluminium Industry, for the Aluminium Industry," offers a unique opportunity for your company to enhance its visibility among primary aluminium decision-makers and key technologists.

Please consult the [Sponsors Fees and Benefits](#) document, which details the various sponsorship options, including on-site benefits and enhanced visibility through the Whova application, used by both on-site and online participants.

If you are interested in supporting ICSOBA's activities and showcasing your company at ICSOBA 2026, feel free to contact **Claude Vanvoren** at claudio.vanvoren@icsoba.org for more information.

CONTACT US

For more information, please contact us at info@icsoba.org

EXHIBITION

The latest technologies, equipment, and solutions for the aluminium industry will be showcased during the ICSOBA 2026 Conference.

The exhibition will be held at **The Leela Bhartiya City, Bengaluru Hotel**, in the lobbies adjacent to the conference rooms, from **16 to 19 November** (4 days), running concurrently with the conference.

35 exhibitor booths will be available, each offering 6 m² of space equipped with tables and chairs. Each booth will include a power supply and Wi-Fi access in accordance with the official floor plan.

Due to the limited number of exhibition spaces, reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

The cost for each booth is **USD 3 500 including GST**. Please note that all exhibitors must register separately for the conference to access conference sessions and related activities. A storage room/space may be made available at the venue for exhibitors wishing to ship materials in advance.

Exhibitors who also choose to become sponsors will receive exclusive benefits and discounts, as outlined in the sponsorship packages in the [Sponsors Fees and Benefits](#) document.

Moreover, exhibitors will benefit from enhanced visibility through the Conference App and website.

For more information about the exhibition, please contact **Dr. Bijoy Satpathy** at bijoy.satpathy@icsoba.org.

VENUE OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference venue is [The Leela Bhartiya City, Bengaluru Hotel](#), located at

[Thanisandra Main Road, Hegde Nagar, Bengaluru – 560064, India](#)

M: +91 6364944968 T: +91 (80) 4545 1234; F: +91 (80) 4545 1212.



The hotel is 19 km from Bangalore International Airport surrounded by beautiful parks, just minutes from the city's main attractions. It has state-of-the-art conference facilities, high-speed Wi-Fi, and professional audiovisual equipment to ensure a seamless conference experience.

HOTEL BOOKING INSTRUCTIONS

A preferential room rate has been negotiated exclusively for ICSOBA 2026 participants at The Leela Bhartiya City, Bengaluru Hotel.

A **personal booking link** with your preferential rate will be provided with the confirmation of your registration. Please note that only a **limited number of rooms** have been reserved at this rate.

We strongly encourage you to register early to secure your accommodation and reservations will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

ABOUT BENGALURU

Bengaluru, previously **Bangalore**, is the capital of the Indian southern state of Karnataka and India's leading high-tech hub, recognised as the "Silicon Valley of India." With a population of over 8.4 million, it is a bustling, cosmopolitan metropolis.

Known for its pleasant climate, its green parks like Cubbon Park, and its vibrant startup and educational ecosystem, the city combines modern innovation with historic landmarks such as Vidhana Soudha. It is often called the "Garden City" due to its wide streets, public parks, and large green spaces.



REGISTRATION FEES PAYMENT and REFUND

To register, please use ConfTool which is customized for ICSOBA 2026 <https://www.conftool.net/icsoba2026/>.

Payment policy:

- ICSOBA is expecting all participants to pay the conference fee when they register through the provided online payment option within ConfTool.
- If the registration fee is not paid at the corresponding period (Early Bird, Regular, Late, Last Minute) end date, registration for the conference will be automatically cancelled, unless a special agreement with the organizers is made.
- Participants will receive a reminder of this open payment one week before the corresponding deadline.

Refund policy:

ICSOBA understands there could be circumstances when a participant who has paid his/her conference fee must cancel his/her conference participation. To be consistent with ICSOBA's encouragement to early registration, an enhanced refund policy has been defined:

- A cancellation/change received by ICSOBA (info@icsoba.org) before **15 October 2026** will lead to a full refund of the total amount paid (conference fee and optional items registration), minus a 50\$ processing fee.
- A full cancellation received by ICSOBA (info@icsoba.org) between **15 October 2026** and **31 October 2026** will lead to a 25% refund of the conference fee paid. **Optional items (social events, field trips) are non-refundable.**
- A cancellation/change received by ICSOBA after 31 October 2026 will not be refunded.

This cancellation policy applies for registration paid through the Stripe system embedded in the conference management system (ConfTool). For payment made outside this system (for example company group booking), agreement with ICSOBA management must be sought before any cancellation/change.

CONFERENCE FEE STRUCTURE (USD including 18% Indian GST)

Category		up to 30/8 Early Bird	31/8 - 04/10 Regular	05/10 - 01/11 Late	02/11 - 15/11 Last Minute
Conference	Speaker (register before 28/9)	1250	1250	n/a	n/a
	Corporate speaker	1125	1125	n/a	n/a
	Participant	1250	1450	1800	2200
	Corporate participant	1125	1300	1650	2000
	Student, Retired	450	450	600	800
	Academics	750	750	950	1150
	Exhibitor participant	1125	1300	1650	2000
	Exhibitor, exhibition only	750	750	950	1150

Tue 17/11 social event	All categories	50	50	50	50
Wed 18/11 social event	All categories	50	50	50	50

Refinery visit return trip	All categories	300	300	300	400
Smelter visit return trip	All categories	250	250	250	350

REFUND POLICY

Up to 15 October				15/10 – 31/10
Full refund less 50 USD administrative fee				25% refund
Registration automatic cancellation*	30/08	04/10	14/10	31/10

*One week before these dates, all registered participants who have not paid their registration fee (on ConfTool) will receive an email informing them that, to keep their rate, their payment must be received by return. On these dates, and unless a specific agreement is reached with ICSOBA management, their registration will be automatically cancelled, and they will have to re-register at the rate of the day.

VISA SUPPORT and INVITATION

Please check if a visa is needed for your trip to India. There is the possibility of an ETA E-Conference visa to enter India for the conference. In case you need this ETA visa, please select this option when registering in ConfTool.

IN-PERSON CONFERENCE FORMAT

Only on-site participation is possible this year, giving the participants the full experience of the traditional ICSOBA conference, including:

- Access to papers and presentations prior to the conference opening.
- Participation in keynote and technical sessions, exhibitions, field trips, and social events.
- The exclusive opportunity to present papers in person. While keeping with the main fields of bauxite-alumina-aluminium, the conference will focus on the industry key challenges of today, maintaining a high scientific and technical innovation nature focused on industrial application of scientific results to pilots and plants.

CONFERENCE LANGUAGES

Presentations will be shown and delivered in English. All papers and presentations will be published and made available for download in PDF format on the ICSOBA website. Additionally, the **papers will be indexed** on platforms such as **Google Scholar** and **ResearchGate**, complete with **DOI** references.

This year again we use ConfTool for papers edition <https://www.conftool.net/icsoba2026/>.

TRAVAUX

We do not print a conference proceedings book any longer. The Travaux volumes and individual papers of 2026 conference will be published at [ICSOBA website](https://www.conftool.net/icsoba2026/).

PAPERS REVIEW

At this stage, the Organizing Committee is carrying out the technical review of the papers with the aim of keeping with the high ICSOBA standards and inviting submission of presentations. Please use the [2026 Presentation template](#) when making your presentation.

ICSOBA 2026 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Paper review is made by ICSOBA Technical Committee under the leadership of the Program Director Dagoberto Severo and Subject Organizers. They are supported by a team of more than 60 reviewers representing the global aluminium industry.

The subject organizers are:

Keynotes	Stephan Broek, Michel Reverdy
Bauxite	Anthony Canfell, Andrey Panov
Alumina	Sébastien Fortin, Andrey Panov
Bauxite Residue	Thymis Balomenos
Electrodes	Francesco Baccalà
Aluminium Electrolysis	Vinko Potocnik, Claude Ritter, Vanderlei Gusberti
Casthouse Operation	Serge Risser

Program Editor is Serge Despinasse.

JOINT ORGANISING COMMITTEE

ICSOBA has set up a Joint Organisation Committee with Hindalco to ensure smooth coordination.

ICSOBA:	HINDALCO:
Mr. Bernard Allais	Dr. Vilas Tathavadkar
Mr. Matthieu Arlettaz	Mr. Saurabh Khedekar
Dr. Claude Vanvoren	Mr. Kananand Sokkuraj

SOCIAL EVENTS

ICSOBA has planned two social events on locations close to the conference venue and where local culture will be featured during the event. Both social evenings will have musical entertainment and cocktail dinner.

Tuesday
17/11

Byg Brewski Brewing Company
[Hennur Bagalur Main Rd, Bengaluru](#)

Enjoy the Asia's largest premium brewpub, combining both International and Local cuisines. Its large open outdoor, adorned with lush greenery, water body combining nature's five elements namely earth, water, fire, metal, making this an opulent experience.



Wednesday
18/11

Rico Wine Park & Vineyards
[Yelahanka, Singanayakanahalli](#)

Nestled along Yelahanka Doddaballapur Road, Rico Wine Park & Vineyards stands as India's premier wine producer. Welcoming visitors of all ages, our vineyards and winery promise a delightful experience. Immerse yourself in the art of winemaking, followed by a curated wine tasting session with a panoramic view of the lush vineyards.

FOR STUDENTS

ICSOBA is once again encouraging student participation in the conference through the **ICSOBA Student Award**. Students are invited to submit their [Application Forms](#). The ICSOBA Award Committee will evaluate the submissions and notify the winners of the award, which typically ranges from **500 to 1000 USD**.

IFCUMR MEETING

The International Forum on Comprehensive Utilization of Bauxite Residue is a partner event of ICSOBA. It is an international conference jointly organised by the China Nonferrous Metals Industry Association (CNIA) and the International Aluminium Institute (IAI) and sponsored by the Aluminum Corporation of China (CHINALCO) and Rio Tinto Group (RT). The 2026 Forum will be held from November 22 to 24, 2026 in Yantai, Shandong, China.

Invited participants will have the opportunity to engage in in-depth dialogue with leading Chinese and international experts, share China's practical experience in bauxite residue management, draw on cutting-edge international technological advances, and jointly promote cross-border collaborative innovation in the comprehensive utilization of bauxite residue.

For initial enquiries, please contact Carl Firman, Bauxite & Alumina Sustainability Program Manager for the International Aluminium Institute on firmen@international-aluminium.org.

<https://www.ifcurm.com/>

ABOUT THE ORGANISER



The International Committee for Study of Bauxite, Alumina and Aluminium (ICSOBA) is an independent non-profit association that unites industry individual and corporate members representing major bauxite, alumina and aluminium producing companies, technology suppliers, researchers and consultants from around the world.

The main objective of ICSOBA is to promote the exchange of ideas and results of the work from different fields of research and current practice from bauxite mine to primary aluminium.

Since 1963, for 62 years, ICSOBA annual technology conference is organized in different parts of the world and proceedings are published as TRAVAUX volumes.

The vision of ICSOBA to become the “Technology Conference of the Aluminium Industry, for the Aluminium Industry” has received support of over 60 major companies who are participating in the yearly ICSOBA Corporate Member Council to voice their view and influence ICSOBA strategy.

As a company active in the aluminium industry, you are most welcome to join the Council <https://icsoba.org/corporate/>

ICSOBA 2026 CORPORATE MEMBERS
