

February 2026

## Cover Story



### The Strategic Ascent: How Copper Became the Bedrock of India's Economic Sovereignty

Advocacy, at its most effective, is the art of shifting a narrative from the peripheral to the essential. For the copper industry in India, the challenge has long been one of visibility; navigating a landscape where the metal was largely siloed within the Ministry of Mines, while its critical role in broader economic and energy policy remained under-recognized by other key ministries. That era of "lower visibility" has officially come to an end.

#### **A Landmark Win in the Annual Economic Survey 2025-26**

In a definitive success for ICA India and its members, the Annual Economic Survey 2025-26, published by the Ministry of Finance, has formally positioned copper as a strategic metal essential to India's 21st-century economic security. This milestone is the direct result of targeted engagement with policy thinktanks to reframe copper not just as a commodity, but as a sovereign asset. The shift is measurable: the latest Economic Survey Report mentions copper 24 times, a staggering increase compared to the 10 mentions for aluminum. This data point is more than a statistic; it represents a fundamental change in how the Ministry of Finance perceives the material requirements of a \$30 trillion economy.

## **The "Strategic Chokepoint" Narrative**

Perhaps the most significant terminology shift in the Survey is the classification of copper as a key strategic chokepoint. In the context of global geopolitics and energy security, a chokepoint is a resource that determines the success or failure of an entire system. The government now acknowledges that copper is the "nerve system" of the green transition, reshaping how we view industrial power and self-reliance.

This recognition is supported by the NITI Aayog "Critical Mineral Assessment" (Vol. 10), which projects that cumulative copper demand from net-zero technologies will exceed 66 million tons by 2070. To put this in perspective, our analysis suggests that under a Net Zero Scenario, demand will be 51% higher than current policy trajectories.

## **The Integrated Path to 2047**

The elevation of copper comes at a pivotal moment. NITI Aayog's broader scenario studies for Viksit Bharat 2047, covering Transport (Vol. 3), Industry (Vol. 4), and Power (Vol. 7), all point toward a future defined by deep electrification. Electricity's share in final energy demand is set to triple, rising from 21% today to nearly 60% by 2070.

As India prepares to build 85% of the infrastructure that will exist in 2047, the technical decisions made now are permanent. Choosing copper—a material with superior conductivity and longevity—is no longer just a technical preference; it is a strategic mandate to minimize transmission losses and support higher current loads in a decarbonizing economy.

## **Looking Ahead: Strengthening Domestic Resilience**

The inclusion of copper in the Economic Survey does more than boost visibility; it paves the legislative and fiscal way to strengthen domestic processing and refining capacities. By expanding our internal value chain, India can offset vulnerabilities to volatile global geopolitical dynamics and ensure that "Mission Critical" minerals are available to fuel our industrial expansion.

For ICA India, this success is a springboard. It is clear that while policy sets the direction and capital enables the scale, copper determines the performance of the system.

## ICA India Events



### **Emphasizing About Safe Electrical Installation of EV Chargers**

09 February , 2026 | Kochi

ICA highlighted role of copper in EV charging infrastructure and positioned it as the preferred choice of material in EV charging to 100+ participants from different sectors at the International Energy Festival 2026.



### **Speaking at the India Battery Manufacturing and Supply Chain Summit**

02 February 2026 | Hyderabad

Organized by IESA, Mr. Mayur Karmarkar, MD, ICA India, shared insights on technology shifts, market dynamics, and copper's role in the evolving battery ecosystem, highlighting collaboration and localization opportunities.



### **Highlighting the Role of Circular Metal at International Conference on Sustainable Circularity (ICSC)**

18 February 2026 | Delhi

Organized by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Mr. Karmarkar mentioned about India's high copper recycling rate but low grade of output semis. He emphasized incentivizing the sector, which will lead to technology adoption to process copper scrap into high-quality refined grade copper.



### **Discussion About Copper's Conductive and Recycling Properties at the Fan India Summit**

12 February 2026 | Hyderabad

At the industry CEO round table, the discussion of circular economy ensued and how copper-intensive technologies have gained consumer trust over time.

## ICA India Events



### Workshop Co-hosted by BIS and NFE About Electrical Safety

19 & 20th February 2026 | Kolkata & Guwahati

Mr. Amol Kalsekar spoke to 300+ stakeholders about the factors that kept the building electrical system safe. He emphasized correct cable selection and installation practices to minimize downtime and fire risks.



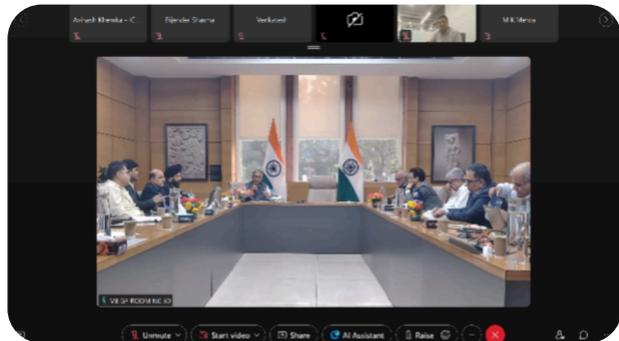
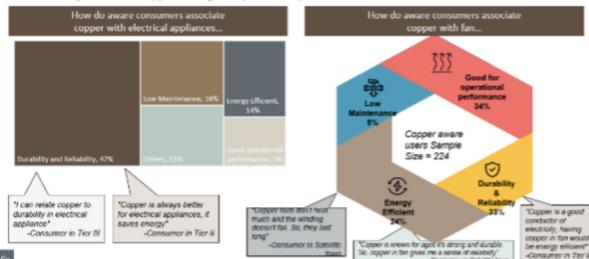
### Educating People About the Adoption of Future-ready and Safe Building Electrical Systems

19 February 2026 | Kolkata

The project management team of one of Eastern India's largest developers were briefed about the usage of copper in driving circularity in construction, reducing carbon footprints and supporting India's netzero ambitions

#### How do consumers associate with copper?

Consumers associate copper as an element that offers 'durability and reliability' to any electrical appliance. In Fans, they associate copper with 'good operational performance'



### Redesigning of Fans Using a Sustainable Metal Core at the OEM Workshop by TERI

29 January, 2026 | Hyderabad

The new mandate of BIS about the energy efficiency norms and the subsequent ask of redesigning fans was discussed. The benefits of having a copper-based design were highlighted.

### Leading Industry Dialogue to Align Domestic Supply of Inner-Grooved Copper Tubes (IGT) with OEMs' Demand in India

16 & 20 February, 2026 | Mumbai

A joint web meeting amongst four domestic IGT manufacturers and Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Manufacturers Association was held. A consensus was achieved that no further extension is required & industry will align future supply with demand through collaborative efforts.

## ICA India Events



### **Outreach to Decision Makers in APEPDCL About Improving Performance of Installed Rural Transformers**

Jan & Feb 2026 | Andhra Pradesh

The outreach program was conducted for the decision makers in APEPDCL on highlighting role of copper in improving performance of installed rural transformers.