

22nd Mines Environment & Mineral Conservation Week Concludes with Renewed Focus on Raising Awareness and Recognizing Efforts in Promoting Sustainable Mining Practices

Davangere, Karnataka: Promoting responsible and sustainable mining practices, environmental protection, and mineral conservation, the 22nd Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation Concluding Day event was held at Apoorva Resorts, Davangere. The event was organized by the MEMC Association and hosted by Vedanta Sesa Goa – Iron Ore Karnataka, under the aegis of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), under the Ministry of Mines, Government of India.

Around 1200 people attended the event from different mines across Karnataka, and the event was an essential initiative in India's mining sector, organized to raise awareness and recognize efforts in the mine environment and mineral conservation. **Shri Pankaj Kulshrestha**, Chief Controller of Mines (MES), Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur graced the event as the Chief Guest of the event, and **Shri. V. Jayakrishna Babu**, Controller of Mines (SZ), Indian Bureau of Mines, Bengaluru was the Guest of Honour. The Patron - **Dr. Suresh Prasad**, Regional Controller of Mines, Indian Bureau of Mines, Bengaluru, Chairman - **Shri. M. Krishna Reddy**, COO, Mining, Vedanta Limited - Sesa Goa and other dignitaries were present at the event.

Shri Pankaj Kulshrestha, Chief Controller of Mines (MES), Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur addressed the audience: “Embracing the spirit of sustainable mining is not merely a duty, but a solemn commitment to safeguard our planet's resources. As we celebrate the 22nd 'Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation' journey, let us forge ahead with a unified resolve to harmonize our mining practices with environmental stewardship. Together, we can pave the way for a future where the riches of our land coexist seamlessly with the imperative of conservation.”

Navin Jaju, CEO, Sesa Goa Iron Ore said, “I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Bengaluru, for allowing us to host the Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation (MEMC) Concluding Day programme 2023-24. MEMC week is a platform where all mines collaborate, share best practices, and learn from each other on the key aspects of mineral conservation, environment protection, and responsible mining. At Vedanta, sustainable development is at the core of our business philosophy of “*Transforming for Good*”. Through collaborative efforts and community engagement, we aim to set benchmarks for sustainable practices in the mining sector.”

The key highlights of the event included inspirational keynote addresses by the dignitaries, shedding light on the crucial role the mining industry plays in achieving a harmonious balance between economic development and environmental preservation. Companies such as VOLVO, SRK & Skylar Drones and others showcased cutting-edge technologies and innovations aimed at promoting environmentally friendly mining practices.

Krishna Reddy, COO - Mining, Vedanta Sesa Goa said, “The Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation (MEMC) event exemplifies our dedication to fostering a sustainable and responsible approach to mining. At Vedanta, we believe in the coexistence of robust mineral resource extraction and environmental conservation. The MEMC Week serves as a platform for us to engage with our communities, empower our workforce, and showcase our commitment to the highest standards of environmental stewardship.”

The event included an awards ceremony, recognizing outstanding contributions to environmental conservation and sustainable mining practices. Awards were presented to individuals, organizations, and initiatives that have demonstrated exemplary commitment to these principles. As the curtains closed on the event, participants departed with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to implementing sustainable and environmentally conscious practices in the mining sector.