

SEMINAR ON MINING HELD AT GEC

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The Mining Engineering Department of Goa Engineering College, Farmagudi (GEC) in association with the Institution of Engineers, India (IEI)-Goa State Centre and Mining Engineers' Association of India (MEAI), Goa Chapter organised a one day National Seminar on 'Mining and Economic Development: Indian Scenario' (MEDIS-18) at the college premises today. Minister for PWD Shri. Sudin Dhavalikar was the Chief Guest for the inaugural function. Shri. Balkrishna Chodankar-Secretary of IEI, Dr. M.S. Krupashankar, Principal- GEC, Shri. Vivek Kamat- Director-DTE, Dr. Ulhas Sawaiker, HoD- Mining Engineering Department and Prof. E. Hymakar Reddi, Secretary MEAI-Goa were present on the occasion. During the course of the seminar, a technical paper presentation competition on the topic "Mining in Goa: Boon or Bane" was also organised for the students.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri. Dhavalikar said that Mining is Goa's backbone and the ban has heavily affected the state's economy. "The Mining impact has gone beyond mineral extraction and processing as it's linked to many other sectors directly or indirectly and which needs to be addressed effectively," the Minister told. Contribution of mining to sustainable development needs to be considered in terms of economic and technical viability, ecological sustainability and social equity, he opined.

Stating that the administrative remarks play a key role in terms of mining environment, Shri. Dhavalikar added, "In order to strike balance between sustainable development, ecology and environment governance, mining companies and local communities must work together in tandem with the best interest of the state. Stoppage of Mining has spread a wave of frustration among its dependents. However, the Government is exploring all the possible ways to provide relief not only to the dependents but also for the state at large." He appreciated the organisers for arranging the seminar to address the issues related to Mining.

Earlier, the program began by lighting the traditional lamp by the dignitaries. Kum. Athira sung an invocation song. Dr. Krupashankar gave the welcome address. Dignitaries later released a Souvenir containing key note addresses and papers presentations. Dr. Sawaiker and Shri. Kamat spoke on the

occasion while Shri. Chodankar briefed about the Seminar. Smt. Yogita Karkhanis compered the function while Prof. Reddy proposed the vote of thanks.

The seminar was attended by experts from Goa and its neighbouring states and students.

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