

GOVT INTENDS TO UNDERTAKE SUSTAINABLE MINING : CM

Panaji, June 17, 2025

The Government intends to have sustainable Mining ensuring the safety of environment, safeguarding the interest of the farmer, local people and therefore Government takes all stakeholders into confidence to consider all these aspects while restarting the mining operation in Goa stated Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant while addressing the inaugural function organized by the Department of Mines at Porvorim today.

The Department of Mines organized a one day workshop on Mineral Exploration in Goa: Challenges, Opportunities and the Way forward to sensitize stakeholders of the mining sector.

Chief Minister said we have to work out a strategy to tackle resistance from people, farmers and environmentalists. While undertaking mining operations in the State, Chief Minister emphasized that it is equally important for community alignment involving local institutions, creating skill development and employment opportunities and ensuring that the mineral wealth of Goa contributes to local aspirations.

Chief Minister further cautioned the stakeholder that Goa's biodiversity demands low-impact, technology-led exploration. Challenges around land access, data integration, and clearances must be met with transparency and digitization. And most importantly, the local community must be considered in every initiative he reiterated.

Director (Technical) MECL Shri Pankaj Pandey while addressing the gathering said Goa though compact in size, has the geological makings to contribute meaningfully to transition. He also said Goa's belts of Bicholim, Sanguem, and Quepem have historically delivered high-grade iron ore. Add to this the presence of manganese, bauxite, dolomite, clays, silica sands and the potential in lateritic and ultramafic zones for strategic minerals. Even the offshore zones offer promise. In order to have sustainable mining a pathway must be marked by caution, precision, and community confidence, he added.

Shri Pandey also said that MECL is ready to support the State of Goa in its future exploration- related endeavors not only through scientific investigations, but also by contributing across the entire mineral value chain, including block preparation, auction support, and advisory for sustainable resource development.

Deputy Director General, Ministry of Mines Government of India Shri R. Vijay Kumar in his address said that Goa, with its complex geology, coastal access, and legacy mining ecosystem is well-positioned to contribute to India's mineral security. Today's deliberations offer a unique platform to evaluate this potential, address operational and policy challenges, and identify the way forward in line with environmental and social responsibilities. Today's gathering he said reflects a strong commitment from both the Central and State Governments to advance India's mineral sector.

Shri Vijay Kumar exhorted that GSI stands ready to extend any form of scientific and technical assistance to the Government of Goa in assessing, delineating, and unlocking the mineral potential of the State and to support mineral reconnaissance, resource evaluation, block preparation, and capacity building in a manner aligned with both development and sustainability goals he reiterated.

Chief Secretary & Principal Secretary Mines Dr. V. Candavelou, IAS also spoke on the occasion.

The Experts who were present as Resource Persons deliberated on various aspects of mining during the workshop. They included Sr. Geologist, GSI Shri Madhusudhan D. G., deliberated on Geological Overview and Mineral Prospects of Goa; Senior Manager (Geology), MECL Dr. Kuppusamy E, on Exploration Work by MECL in Goa; Vice President, SBI CAPS Shri Pratin Sharma, on Valuation and Market Readiness of auctionable blocks; Sr. Geologist, Shri. Seababrata Das, on Capacity Building and Funding Support under NMET; Director, SU, K & G, GSI Ms Nidhi Misra, on Use of NGDR in Block Identification, 6) Senior Mining Geologist, IBM

Shri. Krishnendu Chatterje deliberated on Beneficiation and Secondary Resource Utilization and Expert Member, GSEAC and DG, GCCI Shri. Sanjay Amonkar deliberated on Environmental Clearance and Sustainable Mining.

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