



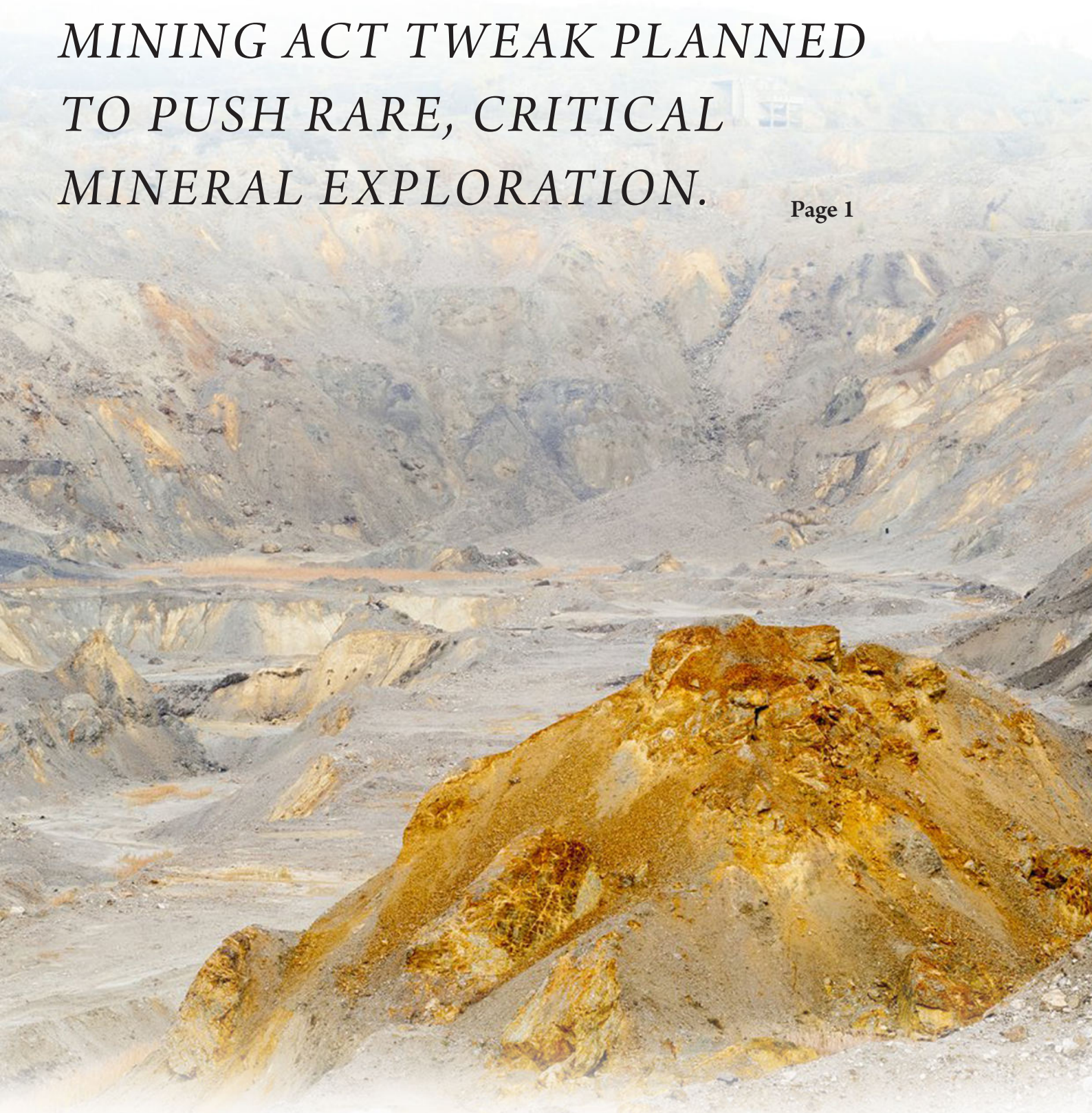
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*MINING ACT TWEAK PLANNED
TO PUSH RARE, CRITICAL
MINERAL EXPLORATION.*

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MINING ACT TWEAK PLANNED TO PUSH RARE, CRITICAL MINERAL EXPLORATION.

The government intends to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act of 1957 in order to promote the exploration of deep-seated minerals such as gold, silver, copper, and zinc. “The cabinet is likely to take up the amendment bill soon,” a senior government official predicted...

According to the official, the amendment proposes to include in the law the provision for an exploration licence, which will be granted through an auction for reconnaissance and prospecting operations. According to the official, the licence will also be granted only for deep-seated and critical minerals that will be specified in a new schedule to the Act...

According to the proposed amendment, it will pave the way for mineral concessions to be granted for the full range of exploration operations, from reconnaissance to prospecting. According to the proposed changes, companies will be able to suggest areas for exploration and, eventually, mining in India .

This is a departure from the usual practise of the government defining blocks or mines for auction.

Once suggested for exploration, the area will require state government approval before being awarded for mining operations. The proposed changes are likely to encourage private sector participation in all aspects of mineral exploration, with a particular emphasis on precious and critical minerals. They will grant exploration rights to junior mining companies based on available baseline survey data

These companies begin with reconnaissance and work their way up to the level required to begin mining operations. According to the changes, companies will also be able to transfer mineral concessions in whole or in part during the exploration period or at the conclusion of exploration. This will be the fifth amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act since 2014, with previous changes mandating e-auctions for mineral resources and allowing mining leases that were about to expire to be extended.

Source: India Times

IRON ORE MINING IN GADCHIROLI WHAT IT MEAN FOR BHARAT

INDIA STILL HAS FEW DISTRICTS WHERE WE CAN SEE OUR BHARAT as Development, Infrastructure, Employment, Education, Local Economy still not matching India on each and every front. After 75 years of independence still people suffer insurgency it's a big dark spot on Govt Functioning.

But as AMRITKAL starts Govt has taken this issue seriously and in 2-3 years' time things started changing dramatically. WITH START OF SURJAGARH IRON ORE MINE State and Central Govt clearly sending clear signal about their seriousness. In such difficult conditions start of this mine no one can't even imagine but with strong political will and promoters all out efforts finally mine started. Iron Ore most precious most important for developing Nation like India. Here location of the mine equally important must be noted making it more specific with other regions,

IMPACTS OF THIS MINE CLEARLY VISIBLE AS PROSPERITY KNOCKING DOORS In nearby mining area lots of vibrancy clearly visible where enough money with respect and dignity coming in hand after almost 7-8 decades. Youth very much excited to learn, work and visit out side first time since their birth as conditions were very much negative. All these efforts even beyond imagination without Govt Support. Govt with visionary leaders like Shri Nitin ji Gadkari and Devendra Fadnavis Sir played major role in opening up this most difficult and complicated area for mining.

NOW AFTER SURJAGARH FEW MORE MINES ATTRACTED

INVESTORS This will open up tremendous opportunities for Railways, Large Steel Plants, Large Cement Plants in Gadchiroli district. With all these opportunities Gadchiroli can attract 5 lac direct indirect employments more than its population. May be a case study for Management Students of how Prime Minister work with strong clear visibility for India. With exploitation of all iron ore mines this Gadchiroli district can attract Rs2 lac Cr investments in next 5-7 years bringing prosperity in 200 km radius covering 3 states.

LOOKING AS 25-30 MMTPA mining prospects with downstream industries RAILWAYS MUST CONSIDER AN INDIPENDENT ZONE CUTTING DISTANCE BETWEEN MANY MAJOR METRO CITIES. Imports for Industry and Exports of Rice from this area can grow manifold. Development in Gadchiroli May help 3 states to get free from insurgency like issues forever.

Iron Ore in Gadchiroli district must be seen with its prominent location in Central India with Coal Manganese Limestone Dolomite nearby. Water Land Manpower Connectivity Electricity must be seen as added advantage. With Iron Ore mining in Gadchiroli district Bharat will also develop with India to ensure vibrant economy round the year helping 8 districts in surrounding states.

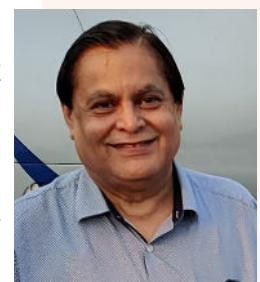
Result of recent Auctions conducted in Maharashtra

Surjagad – 1	Iron	09-05-2023	Natural Resources and Energy	126.35%
Devalmari-Katepalli	Limestone	09-05-2023	Ambuja Cements Limited	7.55%
Surjagad – 2	Iron	10-05-2023	Universal Industrial Equipment	139.75%
Surjagad – 3	Iron	11-05-2023	OmSairam Steel and Alloy Private Limited	115.10%
Surjagad – 4	Iron	12-05-2023	JSW Steel Limited	131.05%
Surjagad – 5	Iron	16-05-2023	OmSairam Steel and Alloy Private Limited (pending)	81.18%
Surjagad – 6	Iron	17-05-2023	Sunflag Iron & Steel Company Limited	118.45%
Kondhala	Limestone	18-05-2023	Shree Cement Limited	27.00%

About Author

Pradeep Maheshwari

Working since last 40 years in mining and minerals processing field associated with leading Steel Cement Mining and Minerals Processing Companies. Completed various assignments related to mining and process, Handling & Logistics Management, Upgradation and Beneficiation of low grades of Ores. Mining and Ore to Metal industry need more attention from all stakeholders as this activity creates maximum fresh capital for Nation.





GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA GETS NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL AS JANARDAN PRASAD TAKES CHARGE

The appointment comes at a time when the government is preparing to auction the lithium block discovered by GSI in February. Janardan Prasad has been appointed as the new Director General of the Geological Survey of India (GSI), an official said. Mr. Prasad, who took charge of the 174-year-old institution on June 1, succeeds Dr. S. Raju, who has held the post since April 2022. Mr. Prasad is an MSc in Geology from Patna University and joined GSI, Gandhinagar, as a geologist in 1988. He was also posted in Shillong, Patna, Faridabad, Ranchi and Hyderabad in various capacities. Before this assignment, he held the post of Additional Director General and Head of Department (ADG & HoD) for the southern region since June 2020 and was also

chairman of the Technical-cum- Cost Committee (TCC), National Mineral Exploration Trust, New Delhi. Mr. Prasad is experienced in metallogeny and mineral exploration studies and has been part of extensive mineral exploration work in Saurashtra and other areas of Gujarat in commodities like limestone, gold, base metal, PGE (platinum group elements) and bauxite. Incidentally, he was part of the Justice M.B. Shah Commission for inquiry into illegal mining of iron and manganese in Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, where the Central and State governments were incurring huge revenue losses. The GSI, an attached office to the Ministry of Mines, is headquartered in the city and has six regional offices, in Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Shillong and Kolkata.

Source: News 18

GOVT. FINALISES AMENDMENTS TO OFFSHORE MINING LAW TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE MINING

The government has finalised amendments to the Offshore Mining law of 2002 under which “not a single rock has been mined from the sea-bed yet”, and will introduce it in Parliament soon, Union Mines Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj said on Tuesday. The proposed changes to the law, for which consultations have been concluded, will facilitate private sector participation in the mining of non-atomic minerals in India’s territorial waters and continental shelf. The Mines Ministry is also working with five States, including Odisha, Gujarat and Rajasthan, to auction 21 mines this year which will come with all requisite clearances embedded in the contract, so that production can begin within months. “Hopefully, we will undertake the first such auction this year,” Mr. Bharadwaj said at a FICCI

event. Stressing that the Offshore Area Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act, 2002 has resulted in no actual mining activity, largely due to litigation, the Secretary said consultations on the proposed changes to the law are now over. “It would be shortly debated by Parliament, hopefully very soon,” he said. While the government will continue exploration efforts after the “lucky” discovery of lithium reserves in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Bharadwaj said industry must focus on more efficient processing technologies for critical minerals. He cited the example of China where the maximum lithium ore is processed in the world even though that country doesn’t have the largest reserves of lithium.

Source: The Hindu



JSW STEEL ANNOUNCES SELECTION AS 'PREFERRED BIDDER' OF MINING LEASE FOR IRON ORE IN GOA

The two blocks are VI- Cudnem-Cormolem Mineral Block, and IX-Surla-Sonshi Mineral Block in North Goa, with projected iron ore resources of 9.77 MMT and 65.73 MMT.

JSW Steel has been declared as a 'preferred bidder' of mining lease for iron ore mineral in two blocks, located in Goa. "The company has been declared as a 'preferred bidder' vide communication dated June 9, 2023, received from the Directorate of Mines and Geology, Goa," the company said in a regulatory filing. The auctions were conducted by the state government, it further added.

The two blocks are VI- Cudnem-Cormolem Mineral Block, and IX-Surla-Sonshi Mineral Block in North Goa, with projected iron ore resources of 9.77 MMT and 65.73 MMT. The highest final price offered by JSW Steel was 96.65 per cent of the value of mineral dispatched for the Block VI- Cudnem-Cormolem Mineral Block and 109.80 per cent of the value of the mineral dispatched for the Block IX-Surla-Sonshi Mineral Block.

The company further stated that it will take all requisite steps as per the tender document to obtain Letter of Intent, all statutory clearances to execute the Lease Deed with Mine Development and Production Agreement (MDPA) and start the mining operations.

JSW Steel's performance

In a regulatory filing today, JSW Steel said that it reported consolidated crude steel production for the month of May, 2023 at 21.78 Lakh tonnes, a growth of 7 per cent YoY. The Company achieved combined production of 22.30 Lakh tonnes, grew by 8 per cent YoY.

Earlier in May, JSW Steel had posted fiscal fourth quarter profit at Rs 3,741 crore, up 11.9 per cent in comparison to Rs 3,343 crore in the same quarter last year. It had posted revenue from operations at Rs 46,962 crore as against Rs 46,895 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. The company had recorded average India capacity utilization of 96 per cent in the fourth quarter, with crude steel production recorded at 6.58mt in Q4, steel sales of 6.53mt in the quarter and captive iron ore self-sufficiency stood at 41 per cent for standalone operations for FY23. In terms of India operations, JSW Steel posted record total, domestic and auto grade sales with consolidated sales up 8 per cent on-year supported by ramp up at "Dolvi Phase-II and BPSL expansion, as well as recovery in exports post removal of export duties in Nov'22."

Source: Mint

INDIA TO CLOSE 30 COAL MINES OVER NEXT THREE TO FOUR YEARS.. SAYS CM SANGMA

India's coal secretary, Amrit Lal Meena, has said that around 30 coal mines will close over the next three to four years. The closures will pave way for forests or water bodies, and will also lead to a substantial reduction in the amount of imported coal...

Meena said that the closures would have a positive impact on the environment, but would also have a negative impact on society and the community. He said that the livelihoods of around 5 million people who are directly or indirectly involved in the coal industry would be affected.

The coal secretary said that the government is working to ensure that the impact on the community is minimized. He said that the de-coaled land would be used for environment-friendly purposes, such as filling it with fly ash, creating forest cover, and developing agricultural land.

Meena also said that the government is committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2026. He said that this will be achieved by increasing the use of renewable energy, such as solar power.

The coal secretary said that India is still heavily reliant on coal for power generation, but that this is expected to change in the future. He said that the government is working to increase the use of renewable energy, and that by 2040, only 31% of India's power will come from coal.

The closures of the coal mines are part of a wider effort by India to reduce its reliance on coal and move towards a cleaner energy future.

Source: Construction World

GOVT AIMS TO CURB HIGH-CAPACITY MINING EQUIPMENT IMPORTS, BOOST DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

The coal ministry has convened a multi-disciplinary high-level committee, featuring representation from various governmental branches and key industry players like BEML, Caterpillar, and Tata Hitachi

The government is taking steps to boost domestic manufacturing to slash reliance on imported high-capacity mining equipment, according to the Ministry of Coal.

In line with the objectives of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, promoting "Make in India", the ministry has convened a multi-disciplinary high-level committee, featuring representation from various governmental branches and key industry players like BEML, Caterpillar, and Tata Hitachi. Tasked with encouraging domestic production of heavy earth moving machinery (HEMM) and other underground mining gear, the committee is spearheaded by Coal India Limited's (CIL) director (technical).

CIL, currently importing machinery worth approximately Rs.3,500 crore and

incurring Rs.1,000 crore in customs duties, stands to benefit from reduced import reliance. The company has outlined a plan to phase out imports over a half-decade, nurturing domestic manufacturers' capabilities. Alongside, CIL is working on standardizing mining equipment to facilitate the deployment of locally produced machinery in coal production, transportation, and monitoring. Promotion of domestic manufacturing not only bolsters India's industrial sector but also aligns with the tenets of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and the 'Make in India' initiative, the Ministry stated. Increased production of HEMM is expected to drive economic growth while enhancing the reliability of equipment by reducing the breakdown period associated with imported machinery.

The ministry also endorsed the exploration of international collaborations and joint ventures with esteemed equipment manufacturers and the utilization of dormant government infrastructure facilities under the 'Make in India' initiatives.

Source: Mint



INDIA LOOKS BEYOND AUSTRALIA, AFRICA TO SOURCE CRITICAL MINERALS

India is going beyond Africa and Australia to set up a steady supply chain of minerals, including the 17-metal rare earth elements. It is now eyeing the large mineral resources in South American countries including Argentina, Bolivia and Chile. Many of the mineral rich countries such as Bolivia remain untapped and offer “huge opportunities”. Besides, Russia is also sitting on a rich pile of rare earth mineral reserves.

The Khanij Bidesh India Ltd, a joint venture of National Aluminium Company Ltd.(NALCO), Hindustan Copper Ltd.(HCL) and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd. (MECL), set up in 2019 on the lines of ONGC Videsh Limited, has started looking at untapped markets in Latin America.

Starting from identification and acquisition, KABIL is expected to carry out exploration and development activities as well.

At present China leads the world's production in rare earth minerals.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) revealed that Latin America has not yet attracted sufficient investment in line with its potential. A mere 7 per cent of the global exploration budget for nickel and rare earth elements is allocated to the region, it said.

The IEA also pointed out that mining, which has historically accounted for between 13 per cent and 19 per cent of Latin America's incoming foreign direct investment (FDI) offers “great development potential,” though it is also fraught with “high risk of environmental degradation and adverse impacts on local communities”.

Meanwhile, with sanctions underway, Russia, a rather slow-starter in rare earth

mining, is also now aggressively developing its supply chain for these critical elements. New Delhi may look at deepening trade opportunity in minerals with Russia. “India and Russia can look at this area for boosting trade partnership,” an industry body member said.

For India, which is aiming to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070, mineral security has come to the fore. “Mineral security in today's world is as critical as energy and food,” he said. Several experts have even opined that wars in the future will not be limited to energy and food but will extend to minerals.

According to a Takhshashila research “India must not only secure its national interests in the rare earth sector but also take advantage of the current geopolitical and trade situation to become a major player globally”. However, this will require liberalising the mining of rare earth, increasing extraction, production and processing capacities, and building a high-value supply chain including in the renewables and electronics sector, it added.

Several minerals and rare earth components are key for acquiring clean energy. That apart, these components, which are otherwise not very rare even as their mining is a tedious and risky exercise, are the basic raw materials required for electric vehicles, defence equipment, smartphones, batteries, television sets and computers among others.

India has the fifth largest rare earth mineral reserves but its output is low. While it is exploring ways to mine rare earth minerals within the country to achieve mineral security, it is also looking at markets outside its borders.

Source: stratnewsglobal.com



PLAN FOR ONE OF WORLD'S BIGGEST COAL MINES CHALLENGED IN INDIA

Coal India Ltd. is holding talks with residents opposed to a mine expansion that would create one of the world's largest operations producing the fuel.

Coal India Ltd. is holding talks with residents opposed to a mine expansion that would create one of the world's largest operations producing the fuel.

Protests against plans for the Gevra site in the eastern province of Chhattisgarh threaten to complicate the company's ability to win approvals to expand annual capacity to 70 million tons. Output at that volume would see the site become the single biggest global source of the fossil fuel, according to Coal India. India's Coal Pits Fuel the Heat Waves That Threaten Millions

Rising power demand has pushed India to prioritize energy security and boost output of coal, which continues to account for about 70% of electricity generation.

Residents of the area close to Gevra have raised concerns over air pollution, the impact on ground water levels and compensation for acquired land, said Deepak Sahu, joint secretary for Korba district — where the mine is located — at Chhattisgarh Kisan Sabha, a farmers' union in the state.

Coal India and its subsidiaries have faced challenges in ramping up other operations, including in Chhattisgarh, and a public hearing was held this week at the Gevra site.

"The company has taken considerable measures to address the issue of pollution associated with the mining process," and studies have shown there's no impact on ground water levels in the Korba district, a spokesman at South Eastern Coalfields Ltd., the unit that operates Gevra, said by phone.

The Coal India unit gave 700 jobs in lieu of land last year, the most in a decade, and has increased financial compensation for land, he said.

Source: Economic Times



NEVER BE TOO BUSY TO SOCIALIZE: OVERCOME TIME POVERTY'

A relatively new and growing trend that negatively affects our well-being and relationships is – time poverty.

The moment one feels that there are too many things to do in a day, and not enough time to do them is what researchers call time poverty.

A recent survey done in the United States, 80 percent of working Americans reported that they never had enough time. Interestingly, studies reveal that technology has given us more free time than we had 50 years ago, and yet we feel busier than ever.

Time poverty is the new pandemic. The standard reply to “how are you”? Is often, I’m so busy. Most of us find it so difficult to carve out time to see friends, pursue a hobby, play outdoor games, or take a vacation. Now being busy has also unfortunately become a status symbol making us delusional about how important we are.

Time poverty is directly connected with higher levels of depression, anxiety and stress. What we lack, we’re less likely to give it to others, leading to social disconnection, which is vital for our health and happiness.

There are few steps that can make us more time affluent as well as socially connected.

Step 1# purchasing time

Just like we spend money on buying commodities, we can spend money to free up time, a practise called buying time. You might pay to outsource a chore at home or workplace, pay a little more to stay nearer to workplace

and thus buying the extra time for something socially engaging, or hanging out with kids.

Research shows that people who are willing to trade money for time are happier and more satisfied with their relationships. And the interesting part is buying time is a practice that benefits at all income levels.

Step 2# offer your time

As the age old saying goes what you give to others comes back to you in abundance. People who gave away their time in helping others felt like they had more of it.

Helping others –by volunteering in the community, providing social support to the needy, performing random act of kindness to a stranger –also increases the sense of social connection leading to fulfilment and happiness.

Step3 # limit your commitments

You may be having your plate full most of the time, thus leaving you with a feeling that creator should have given more than 24 hours in a day. Try to cut down on things, which may be just to keep up with the Jonases. Slow down a little, you don’t always have to keep up with the frenzied pace of the modern world. We’ve been conditioned by a culture that’s obsessed with being busy, but more and more people are craving a slower pace of life, putting in efforts for a quality work life balance, because in the end, the choices we make with our time greatly affect our happiness and the quality of our social lives.

ABOUT AUTHOR

Dr. Majo Joseph

Dr. Majo Joseph is an Ayurveda Consultant, & General Practitioner. He is also a Psychology And Counselling, Wellness Trainer.

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editor@geonesis.in