

Heavy Minerals Conference 2013

NEWS COVERAGE

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State to formulate new mineral policy

Galla Aruna inaugurates three-day ninth international heavy minerals conference

Special Correspondent

VISAKHAPATNAM: The ninth international heavy minerals conference (HMC-2013) began on Wednesday with Minister for Mines and Geology Galla Aruna declaring that the State government would formulate new mineral policy to facilitate sanction of more mining leases and establishment of mining projects. She was speaking after inaugurating the three-day conference being held here – the first in India – under the aegis of Mining Engineers' Association of India (MEAI).

Some 275 delegates, including 60 from Australia, Canada, Africa, US, China, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and Europe are attending the conference.

The event with the theme 'overcoming new challenges' will discuss the technical, managerial, business opportunities and challenges facing the sector world-wide.

Ms. Aruna said Andhra Pradesh with a coastline of 900 km had 153 million ton heavy mineral beach sands from Ichhapuram in Srikakulam to Nizampatnam in Guntur district. She said the State was rapidly emerging as a prime destination for exploration of minerals by foreign investors and hoped that the valuable contributions

made by the delegates at the HMC-2013 would be motivating factors for developing the mining industry in future.

State's objective

She said the State's objective was to have proper legislation as envisaged in the National Mineral Policy for accelerated development in the mining sector. She said: "We have also asked the industry to ensure mining is done responsibly and in an eco-friendly manner keeping ecological balance in mind and support local community with better livelihood and job creation."

Mines and Geology Principal Secretary Sabyasachi Ghosh and Director of Mines and Geology B.R.V. Susheel Kumar said the State government was keen on encouraging investors in exploration of heavy mineral beach sand with eco-friendly technologies. HMC-2013 chairman T.V. Chowdary called for simplification of procedures for giving leases to exploration of beach minerals. Owing to cumbersome process, only a negligible amount was being explored, he stated.

President of MEAI and HMC-2013 principal convenor Arjeth Bagchhi welcomed the gathering.

Prominent guests included



FOCUS ON NEW CHALLENGES: Minister for Mines and Geology Galla Aruna inaugurating the international heavy minerals conference in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. – PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

Trevor Arran, global president, Tronox Mineral Sands, South Africa, Steve Gilman,

Partner & Consultants, TZ Minerals International, Australia, P.S. Parihar, Director,

Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration & Research, India and R.N. Patra, Chair-

man-cum-Managing Director of Indian Rare Earth Limited.

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New AP Mineral Policy Soon

Express News Service

Visakhapatnam: The Mines and Geology department is formulating a new state mineral policy to facilitate sanction of more

mining leases and establishment of new mining projects in the state, minister Galla Aruna Kumari has said. She also invited prospective organisations who intend to take up explora-

tion of heavy mineral beach sand in the coastline of Andhra Pradesh, stretched over 900 km.

She was addressing the 9th Heavy Mineral Congress (HMC-2013) here Wednesday. The three-day event is the first global conference being held in India and hosting 275 delegates from all major heavy mineral mining countries like Australia, Canada, Africa, US, China, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Europe, and India among many. It is being organised by Mining Engineers Association of India (MEAI) with the theme 'Overcoming New Challenges' to discuss the technical, managerial, business opportunities and challenges facing the sector world-wide

through the different technical sessions.

"We have also asked the industry to ensure that mining is done responsibly and in an eco-friendly manner, keeping ecological balance in mind and local communities are supported with better livelihood and job prospects," said Aruna Kumari.

The Association (MEAI) sought faster clearances on land acquisition, environment clearances, forest clearances and grant of mining leases.

It also sought a legislation to protect mineral bearing lands on the lines of Forest Act, Land Acquisition Act and Air and Water Acts to halt encroachment of such land or utilisation of such lands for non-mining purposes that make the resources sterile.

The Association wanted a policy that will help the Mineral Mining industry to increase the resource to production ratio from an abysmal 0.001 per cent to 0.01 per cent.

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ఖనిజాభివృద్ధికి సానుకూలం

ఆంతర్జాతీయ భార ఖనిజాల సదస్సులో మంత్రి గల్లా అరుణ

ఈనాడు - విశాఖపట్నం

ఖనిజ రంగంలో పెట్టుబడులకు కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వ విధానాలు సానుకూలంగా ఉన్నాయని రాష్ట్ర గనుల శాఖ మంత్రి గల్లా అరుణ కుమారి అన్నారు. ప్రభుత్వ ప్రైవేటు రంగాల్లో ఖనిజాల వెలికితీతకు ఈ విధానం ఎంతో సహకారం అందిస్తుందన్నారు. మైనింగ్ ఇంటర్నల్ ఆసోసియేషన్ ఆఫ్ ఇండియా, ట్రేడాఫ్టా ఇన్స్టిట్యూట్ ఆఫ్ మైనింగ్, మెటల్జీలు సంయుక్తంగా నిర్వహిస్తున్న తొమ్మిదో ఆంతర్జాతీయ భార ఖనిజాల సదస్సు బుధవారం మొట్టమొదటి డే కేంపర్ లో ప్రారంభమైంది. ఈ సదస్సు మూడు రోజుల పాటు ఆరుగుంది. సదస్సులో మంత్రి అరుణ ముఖ్య అతిథిగా పాల్గొని, మాట్లాడారు. అధ్యయనాలు చెయ్యటన్న విషయాల ప్రకారం దేశంలో తూర్పు పశ్చిమ కోస్తా తీర ప్రాంతాల్లో దాదాపు 400 మిలియన్ టన్నుల భార ఖనిజ సంపద ఉన్నట్లు తెలిపారు. రాష్ట్రంలో పాటు కేరళ, తమిళనాడు, ఒడిశా, మహారాష్ట్రలో ఈ భార ఖనిజాలు విస్తరించి ఉన్నట్లు వివరించారు. రాష్ట్రంలో దాదాపు 150 మిలియన్ టన్నులు భార ఖనిజాలున్నట్లు గుర్తించారన్నారు. సముద్ర తీరంలో ఖనన సుంది ఈ భార ఖనిజాలను వేరు చేసే ప్రక్రియను కొన్ని ప్రైవేటు సంస్థలు చేపట్టాయన్నారు. సముద్రపు భాగంలోని ఖనిజాల వెలికితీతకు శానాభివృద్ధి ముహిసరకును ప్రైవేటు సంస్థలకు ఏమీఎంపీసీ అందిస్తోందన్నారు.

భార ఖనిజాల వెలికితీత వల్ల సముద్ర తీరంలో డివాచరణ సమతుల్యత దెబ్బ తీరబోదని స్పష్టం చేశారు. ఖనిజ రంగంలోని భాగస్వాములకు నిరంతరం కేంద్రం సాయం అందిస్తుందన్నారు. మరిన్ని ఖనిజ తవ్వకాల రీజాలు ఇచ్చే విధంగా కొత్త గనుల విధానంలో ప్రతిపాదించారన్నారు.

మన్యం బాక్సైట్ రీజల రద్దు!

కార్యక్రమం అనంతరం దిలేకరులతో మంత్రి మాట్లాడారు. విశాఖ మన్యంలోని బాక్సైట్ రీజల రద్దు అంశం పరిశీలనలో ఉన్నట్లు తెలిపారు. గనుల శాఖ ముఖ్య కార్యదర్శి సమస్యాలి ఘోష్ మాట్లాడుతూ భార ఖనిజాల వెలికితీత పరిశ్రమకు బదిలీయైతూలో ఎన్నో అవకాశాలు ఉన్నాయన్నారు. గనుల శాఖ సంధాలను దీ.ఆర్.వి.సుశీల్ కుమార్ మాట్లాడుతూ రాష్ట్రంలో ఉన్న భార ఖనిజాల్లో 0.008% మాత్రమే వినియోగించుకోగలుగుతున్నామన్నారు. ప్రపంచ వ్యాప్తంగా ఏదీ కొట్టి ఉన్నట్లు భార ఖనిజాలను వెలికితీస్తుంటే, దేశంలో అది 8 శాతం ఉన్నట్లు అనుచరులెదరు ఈ సదస్సు సలహా సంఘం వైద్యనీ డి.వి.చౌదరి తెప్పారు. దాదాపు 8,000 కిలో మీటర్ల తీరప్రాంతం ఉన్న దేశంలో భారఖనిజ సంపద వెలికితీతకు ఎంతో ఆస్కారం ఉందన్నారు. ఈ కార్యక్రమంలో మైనింగ్ ఇంటర్నల్ ఆసోసియేషన్ ఆఫ్ ఇండియా అధ్యక్షుడు అధీశ్ బాగ్రి మూర్తి తదితరులు పాల్గొన్నారు.



బుధవారం విశాఖపట్నంలో జరిగిన సదస్సులో మాట్లాడుతున్న మంత్రి గల్లా అరుణ. చిత్రంలో ఇతర అధికారులు

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కొత్త ఖనిజ విధానంతో మరిన్ని ప్రాజెక్టులు

రాష్ట్ర గనులశాఖ మంత్రి గల్లా అరుణకుమారి

చెంకోకపాలెం, న్యూస్ బ్లీస్: కొత్త ఖనిజ విధానం కారణంగా రాష్ట్రంలో మరిన్ని కొత్త ఖనిజ ప్రాజెక్టులు వస్తాయని రాష్ట్ర గనులశాఖ మంత్రి గల్లా అరుణకుమారి పేర్కొన్నారు. నగరంలోని నోవాటెల్ హోటల్లో ది మైనింగ్ ఇంజనీర్స్ అసోసియేషన్ ఆఫ్ ఇండియా ఆధ్వర్యంలో ఏర్పాటు చేసిన 9వ అంతర్జాతీయ భారీ ఖనిజాల సదస్సుని ఆమె బుధవారం జ్యోటి తెలిగింది ప్రారంభించారు. అనంతరం జరిగిన సమావేశంలో ఆమె మాట్లాడుతూ, రాష్ట్రంలో ఖనిజ పరిశ్రమ అభివృద్ధికి కేంద్ర, రాష్ట్ర ప్రభుత్వాలు పలు చర్యలు తీసుకుంటున్నాయని పేర్కొన్నారు. ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ ఖనిజాభివృద్ధి సంస్థ (ఎపిఎంఓసీ), కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వం సంయుక్తంగా పలు ప్రాజెక్టులను తీవ్రతున్నాయని తెలిపారు. రాష్ట్రంలో కొత్త పాలసీ కారణంగా చిదేశ్ పెట్టుబడులకు కూడా వుప్పులంగా అవకాశాలున్నాయన్నారు. పర్యావరణానికి హాని కలుగకుండా సముద్రపు ఇసుక తవ్వకాలకు గల అవకాశాలు పరిశీలిస్తున్నామన్నారు. అనంతరం దక్షిణాఫ్రికాకు చెందిన బ్రోనాక్స్ మినరల్ కార్పొరేషన్ గ్లోబల్ ప్రెసిడెంట్ త్రివార్ ఆరెన్, ఆస్ట్రేలియాలోని బీజిట్ మినరల్స్ ఇంటర్నేషనల్ షార్లెన్, కన్య ల్లింట్స్ ప్రతీనిద్రి స్టీవ్ గిల్బర్ట్, అటమిక్ మినరల్స్ డైరెక్టర్ వర్ ఎక్స్ ప్లోరేషన్, రీసెర్చ్ డైరెక్టర్ పిఎస్ చరిదర్, ఇండియన్ కేర్ ఎర్ట్ లిమిటెడ్ సీఎండ్ అర్ఎస్ పాత్రలను మంత్రి అరుణకుమారి మనంగా సన్మానించారు. ఈ సదస్సులో భాగంగా గురువారం, శుక్రవారం ఉదయం 9 గంటలనుంచి సాయంత్రం 5 గంటల వరకు టెక్నికల్ సెషన్, ఎగ్జిబిషన్ జరుగుతాయని నిర్వాహకులు తెలిపారు. ఈ సదస్సులో రాష్ట్ర గనులశాఖ ముఖ్యకార్యదర్శి సత్యసాధి హుషన్, డైరెక్టర్ ఆర్వి సునీవీకుమార్, సదస్సు కార్యనిర్వాహక కమిటీ చైర్మన్



ది మైనింగ్ ఇంజనీర్స్ అసోసియేషన్ ఆధ్వర్యంలో విశాఖలో నిర్వహించిన సదస్సులో మాట్లాడుతున్న మంత్రి గల్లా అరుణకుమారి

సీహెచ్ఐకే మూర్తి తదితరులు పాల్గొన్నారు. నేను సమైక్యవాదినే... తాను సమైక్యవాదినేనని మంత్రి గల్లా అరుణకుమారి స్పష్టం చేశారు. బుధవారం విశాఖ విమానాశ్రయంలో ఆమె చిలేకరులతో మాట్లాడుతూ నాటి స్వాతంత్ర్య ఉద్యమం తరువాత పెద్ద ఎత్తున ప్రజల్లో నుంచి వచ్చింది సమైక్యత ఉద్యమమన్నారు. సీమాంధ్రుల మనోభావాలు సోనియా అర్ధం చేసుకుంటారని మంత్రి ఆశాభావం వ్యక్తం చేశారు. కేంద్రంలో ఇంకా చర్యలు కొనసాగుతున్నాయని, తెలంగాణ అంశం చివరి దశకు వచ్చిందని తాను అనుకోవడంలేదన్నారు.

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ఆర్థికాభివృద్ధికి గనులే కీలకం

■ రీజ, ప్రాజెక్టుల మంజూరుకు విధానం మారుస్తాం ■ రాష్ట్ర మంత్రి గల్లా అరుణకుమారి



సదస్సులో ప్రసంగిస్తున్న గనుల శాఖా మంత్రి గల్లా అరుణకుమారి

పరిశ్రమల ఏర్పాటుకు దోహదపడతాయన్నారు. సిమెంట్, స్టీల్, సిరామిక్, కాస్టింగ్, జ్యువెలరీ, పాఠ్యా, ఆటోమొటైల్స్, విద్యుదుత్పత్తి తదితర పరిశ్రమల వృద్ధికి గనులే కీలకంగా మారాయన్నారు. దేశంలోని తూర్పు, పశ్చిమ తీరాల్లోని కేరళ, తమిళనాడు, ఒడిశా, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్, మహారాష్ట్రలో సుమారుగా 400 మిలియన్ టన్నుల ఖనిజాలు ఉన్నాయన్నారు. రాష్ట్రంలో 800 కి.మీ. పొడవైన తీరప్రాంతంలో 153 మిలియన్ టన్నుల ఖనిజాలు ఉన్నాయన్నారు. జర్నాపురం మొదలుకొని తడ వరకు 116 మిలియన్ టన్నుల ఇంకొకటి, 7 మిలియన్ టన్నుల రుథ్లేల్ ఉన్నాయన్నారు. బీచ్ కాండ్ లో వున్న ఖనిజాలను వెలికి తీసే సంస్థలను కేంద్ర, రాష్ట్ర ప్రభుత్వాలు ప్రోత్సహిస్తున్నాయన్నారు. ఏపీఎంపీసీ ఇందులో ప్రధాన పాత్ర పోషిస్తోందన్నారు. ఆయా సంస్థలకు ఆవసరమైన ముడిసరకును సరఫరా చేస్తుందన్నారు. ఉత్తరాంధ్రలో బీచ్ కాండ్ తవ్వకాల వల్ల వెర్నావరణానికి ఎటువంటి ఇబ్బంది లేదన్నారు. పక్షులు, ఇతర జీవరాశులకు ఇబ్బంది లేకుండానే తవ్వకాలు జరుగుతున్నాయని, ఎవరికైనా అనుమానాలు ఉంటే వచ్చి నివృత్తి చేసుకోవచ్చునన్నారు. ఈ రంగంలో విదేశీ పెట్టుబడులను ఆకర్షించేందుకు రాష్ట్రం ఆస్తి ప్రయత్నాలు చేస్తోందన్నారు. ఈ సదస్సుకు విదేశీ ప్రతినిధులతో పాటు, దేశంలోని వివిధ ప్రాంతాల నుంచి వ్యాపారవేత్తలు హాజరయ్యారు.

విశాఖపట్నం, నవంబర్ 27 (ఆంధ్రజ్యోతి) రాష్ట్రంలో కొత్తగా మరొక గనులను లీజుకు ఇచ్చేందుకు, ఫ్లినింగ్ ప్రాజెక్టులు మంజూరు చేసేందుకు గనుల విధానం మారుస్తున్నామని రాష్ట్ర గనుల శాఖా మంత్రి గల్లా అరుణకుమారి పేర్కొన్నారు. విశాఖపట్నంలో ఋదవారం రాత్రి జరిగిన అంతర్జాతీయ ఖనిజ సదస్సుకు ఆమె ముఖ్యఅతిథిగా హాజరై ప్రసంగించారు. ఆర్థిక అభివృద్ధికి గనులు కీలకమని ప్రభుత్వాలు ఎప్పుడో గుర్తించాయన్నారు. ఈ విషయంలో ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ కీలక పాత్ర పోషిస్తోందన్నారు. బీచ్ కాండ్, బాక్సైట్, ఇరన్ ఓర్, కోల్, ధ్రువాచిల్, యురేనియం, గ్యాస్, టైమ్ స్టోన్, డైమండ్స్ తదతరాలు అనేక

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త్వరలో కొత్త మైనింగ్ పాలసీ

రాష్ట్ర గనుల శాఖ మంత్రి గల్లా అరుణకుమారి వెల్లడి

ఆంధ్రభూమి బ్యూరో
 విశాఖపట్నం, నవంబర్ 27: రాష్ట్ర ప్రభుత్వం త్వరలో కొత్త మైనింగ్ విధానాన్ని ప్రవేశపెట్టునుందిని రాష్ట్ర గనుల శాఖ మంత్రి గల్లా అరుణకుమారి తెలిపారు. నేషనల్ మైనింగ్ పాలసీ అనుగుణంగానే పబ్లిక్, ప్రైవేటు సెక్టార్లకు కావల్సిన ముడి ఐనిజాలు అందించేందుకు చర్యలు తీసుకుంటున్నామన్నారు. తొమ్మిదవ హెబీ మినరల్స్ కాన్ఫరెన్స్ బుధవారం విశాఖ నగరంలో జరిగింది. ఈ సమావేశానికి ముఖ్య అతిథిగా హాజరైన మంత్రి అరుణకుమారి మాట్లాడుతూ ఈ కొత్త విధానం ద్వారా మరిన్ని గనుల తవ్వకాలకు అనుమతి ఇవ్వడానికి ఆవకాశం ఏర్పడుతుందిని చెప్పారు. మన రాష్ట్రం వివిధ రకాల గనులకు శ్రేణిగా ఉంది. అందుకే విదేశీ సంస్థలు ఈ రంగంలో పెట్టుబడి పెట్టడానికి ముందుకు వచ్చున్నాయని తెలియచేశారు. రాష్ట్రంలోని తీర ప్రాంతంలో బీచ్ సాండ్ తవ్వకాలు చేపట్టడానికి అనుమతులు మంజూరు చేస్తున్నప్పటికీ, ఇదే సమయంలో పర్యావరణ పరిరక్షణలోపాటు, వలస పక్షులు, రెడ్డి లాల్ గేట్లను కాపాడేందుకు చర్యలు తీసుకుంటున్నామన్నారు. బీచ్ సాండ్ పరిశ్రమలను మరింతగా అభివృద్ధి చేయాలన్న ఉద్దేశంతో సాండ్ తవ్వకాల వాణ్యతను ఎవేఎంఓసీకి అప్పగించామని ఆమె చెప్పారు. రాష్ట్రంలోని 800 కిలో మీటర్ల తీర ప్రాంతంలో ఇన్ఫ్రాస్ట్రక్చర్ నుంచి

నిజాంపట్నం వరకూ సుమారు 158 మీటరుస్ టవర్లల సాండ్ నిల్వలు ఉన్నట్లు గుర్తించామని వివరించారు. శ్రేణ ప్రభుత్వ రంగ పరిశ్రమ అయిన ఇండియన్ రేర్ ఎర్త్ లిమిటెడ్ మన రాష్ట్రంలో బీచ్ సాండ్ షాంట్లను ఏర్పాటు చేయడానికి సంబంధిత వ్యక్తిం చేసిందని పేర్కొన్నారు. గనులు, భూగర్భశాఖ డైరెక్టర్ టిఆర్ కెవి సుశీలకుమారి మాట్లాడుతూ మన రాష్ట్రంలో 1996లో బీచ్ సాండ్ టీక్ విధానం ఆరంభమైందని, అయితే బీచ్ సాండ్ తవ్వకాలకు శ్రేణ ప్రభుత్వం నుంచి అనేక అనుమతులు కావల్సి వస్తోందన్నారు. వీటిని సంపాదించడం చాలా కష్టతరమవుతోందన్న ఆయన సదరు కంపెనీ పబ్లిక్ టాయరింగ్ నిర్వహించాలని, దాన్ని సవ్యంగా జరపడం లేదని అన్నారు. ప్రజాభిప్రాయ సేకరణలో తేవంం సాంకేతిక అంశాలను మాత్రమే చర్చించాలని, అప్పుడే అనుమతులు లభిస్తాయని చెప్పారు. గనుల శాఖ కార్యదర్శి సువ్యసాని హెడ్ మాట్లాడుతూ దేశ ఆర్థిక వ్యవస్థలో గనుల శాఖ తీరక పాత్ర పోషిస్తోందన్నారు. గనుల తవ్వకాల వల్ల పర్యావరణానికి ముప్పు వస్తుందన్న వాదన ఉందని, అయితే దీనివల్ల అనేక కొత్త అంశాలు వెలుగు చూసే ఆవకాశం కూడా ఉందని అభిప్రాయపడ్డారు. అరుణైన ఐనిజాలను కూడా వెతికి తీయడానికి అస్సారం లభిస్తుందని ఆయన చెప్పారు. హెబీ మినరల్స్ కాన్ఫరెన్స్ అధ్యక్షుర కమిటీ డైరెక్ట్ టీవి చొదలి మాట్లాడుతూ



దేశంలోని మైనింగ్ కంపెనీలు ఇతర కంపెనీలకు ఆదర్శంగా నిలుస్తున్నాయన్నారు. ఇంకా ఈ సమావేశంలో మైనింగ్, ఇంజనీర్స్ అసోసియేషన్ ఇండియా అధ్యక్షుడు అశోక్ షాహ్, ఆర్గనైజింగ్ కమిటీ డైరెక్టర్ నిహావిణి మూర్తి తదితరులు పాల్గొన్నారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా పలువురు పారిశ్రామికవేత్తలకు మంత్రి గల్లా అరుణకుమారి జ్ఞాపకంను అందచేశారు.

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Edition : Visakhapatnam

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'Vast scope for titanium mineral exploration in India'

Special Correspondent

VISAKHAPATNAM: India has the requisite resources, technology and personnel to become the number one in the titanium mineral sector, but right policy decisions have to be taken and implemented for this, say experts.

Speakers at the technical sessions on the second day of the International Heavy Minerals Conference - 2013, being organised here by the Mining Engineers' Association of India, felt that there were some constraints to the country attaining position of eminence in the sector.

Steve Gilman of TZ Minerals International said India was currently in the fifth posi-

tion globally in the sector and it could surpass other countries with the resources, technologies and personnel available in the country. However, there were issues like the fact that mineral-rich sands were available only in heavily-populated areas. The availability of fresh water was also a critical factor and the energy costs in India were very high, he said. "If these issues could be addressed, I think India has the potential to become the global leader. I think India is on the right track to achieve the objective," he said.

Referring to the experiences in other countries, he said the private sector should play the crucial role in India, but

the government would have to lay down the right policies and implement them. Vertical integration would be required in the industry, he added.

Ram Choudhury of Mineral Technologies spoke about the mineral sands processing technologies and the need for constant innovation. He said high grade ores were available in India, but the mineral composition was complex, and therefore complex processing plants would be needed in India and Sri Lanka. But the industry was upgrading the technologies all the time to meet the challenges.

Prameeth Ramsaywok of Exxaro Resources Ltd, and Uwe Konig of Mining XRD spoke.

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In Sand, Andhra Finds Fortune

TREASURE HUNT AP sees huge potential in its estimated 153-mt reserves of heavy minerals in beach sand along the 900-km coastline



RAKHI MAZUMDAR
VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh is emerging as a key destination for exploration of heavy minerals that are mined from beach sands. The state is keen to attract investment in exploration of beach sands for mining five heavy minerals — ilme-

nite, rutile, zircon, garnet and sillimanite. Processed from beach sands, these are referred to as strategic minerals because they find critical, high-value applications in everyday life from pigments in paints to ceramics, pharma, aerospace and defence.

With a 900-km coastline and an estimated reserve of 153 million tonnes (mt) of heavy minerals, development of these deposits is vital for the economy of Andhra Pradesh, Galla Aruna Kumari, the state's minister for mines and geology, said. Principal Secretary for Mines and Geology Sabyasachi Ghosh said the government was keen on encouraging investors in exploration of beach sand with eco-friendly technology. He was speaking at the 9th International Heavy Minerals Conference (HMC) in Visakhapatnam. This was the first such conference to be held in India and it succeeded in throwing light on a less known mining sector which is regulated by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and, in which, until about a

decade back, private investment was not allowed.

In the present scenario, India is largely dependent on imports since production of heavy minerals is way below the country's reserves. It has 360 tonnes of ilmenite, or 18% of global reserves. Apart from state-owned Indian Rare Earths Ltd and Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd (KMML), private players in the field include VV Minerals and Trimex Sands. For instance, for ilmenite, an ore of titanium, prices start at \$200 per tonne but with value addition, it could go up to \$20,000 per tonne. The main use of ilmenite is in the making of pigments that add brightness to all paints. Rutile finds use in pigments, zircon in ceramic tiles and garnet is used as an industrial abrasive.

The mining of heavy minerals, which is possible mainly in states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Odisha, besides Andhra, has been mired in delays in processing mining leases. HMC-2013 Chairman TV Chowdary called for simplification of procedures for giving leases to exploration of beach minerals. Due to delays in processing, only a small amount is being explored, he said.

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Edition : Kolkata

Date : 06-12-13

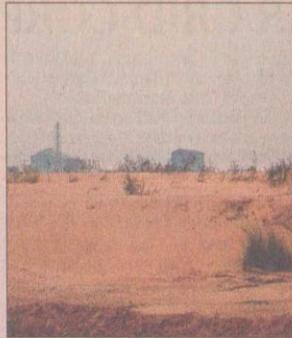
Miners, Geologists Meet To Discuss Mining 'Heavy' Minerals Scope

RAKHI MAZUMDAR
KOLKATA

A group of miners and geologists came together recently to discuss the huge potential for mining "heavy" minerals. These little-known minerals—ilmenite, rutile, zircon, garnet and sillimanite—are found in beach sands along the Indian coast and used in our everyday lives from paints to plastics to ceramics and even aerospace.

Private miners such as Trimex Sands and VV Minerals have made inroads in a nascent sector which remained out of bounds for private players till about a decade back. Public sector Indian Rare Earth Ltd (IREL) and Kerala Metals and Minerals Ltd (KMML) were the main players in this segment till 1998.

In particular, geologists at the 9th International Heavy Mineral Conference in Visakhapatnam highlighted the huge opportunity that exists in India for processing ilmenite (an ore of titanium) to produce titanium dioxide or pigments. It is



a high value product that adds brightness to colours and is widely used across consumer industries.

India's reserves of ilmenite, the most widely available heavy mineral, form 35% of world resources and has a very good potential to meet the world's immediate need for titanium dioxide, RN Patra, chairman and managing director of IREL said. While mining is possible only along the coast in Andhra Pradesh (AP), Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Odisha, these are also among the least exploited re-

sources.

Fifteen years after the sector was opened up, combined capacity of private players exceeds that of state-owned ones. At present, domestic production of ilmenite is around 10-11 ltpa. Barely three years in business and TSPL is hoping to earn ₹ 550 crore in revenue in FY14. Ilmenite accounts for 60% or 1.8ltpa at its 3 ltpa heavy minerals plant at Srikakulam, where it has a lease on a 7.2 sq. km area. "We are investing ₹ 150 crore at Srikakulam to raise capacity to 4.5 ltpa at Trimex. We also have plans to invest another ₹ 800 crore on a 3 ltpa plant at Bhavanapadu where we have a mining lease on 40 sq. km. However, we are awaiting requisite clearances to take up the project," Ch. V GK Murthy, CEO of Trimex Sands said.

However, India lacks adequate ilmenite processing capacity. "While the technology is closely held by a few global majors, high cost of power and fuel also act as impediments. Hence, most of the raw ilmenite is exported," V Subramaniam, managing director of VV

Minerals (VVM) one of the largest ilmenite and garnet exporters said. VVM, Travancore Titanium Products (TTPL) and KMML both owned by Kerala government together produce only 50,000 tpa of pigments. But demand for pigments is estimated at 2 ltpa and is growing at 5-6%. The gap of 1.5 ltpa is met through imports of which China is estimated to account for nearly one ltpa. Compared to \$200/tonne for raw ilmenite, prices go up to \$2,000/tonne for titanium slag and nearly \$20,000/tonne for the metal.

Little wonder, producers are thus sniffing out a huge opportunity in this. "We are looking at a new 50,000 tpa pigment facility. We are in talks with a few foreign majors for both technology and equity tie up," Subramaniam said.

Trimex Sands is in the final stages of negotiations with technology providers for setting up the largest pigment plant (60,000 mtpa), Ti-Slag (145,000 mtpa) and Ti-Metal (10,000 mtpa) at an investment of ₹ 4000 crore.

Publication : World News

Link :

http://article.wn.com/view/2013/11/28/Andhra_Pradesh_to_formulate_new_mineral_policy/#/related_news

10:38 AM

Kolkata, UTC+05:30

Andhra Pradesh to formulate new mineral policy

[Mineral - &Serenading](#)

Mineral - &Serenading Album: End Serenading...

published: **23 Sep 2009**

[The Hindu](#) 2013-11-28: The ninth international heavy minerals conference (HMC-2013) began on Wednesday with [Minister](#) for [Mines](#) and [Geology Galla](#) Aruna declaring that the [State government](#) would formulate new mineral policy to facilitate sanction of more mining leases and establishment of mining projects. She was speaking after inaugurating the three-day conference being held here – the first in [India](#) – under... [more »](#)

Publication : The Hindu Business Line

Link : <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/states/industry-wants-rules-for-beach-sand-mining-eased/article5400987.ece>

Industry wants rules for beach sand mining eased

OUR BUREAU

VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV 28:

Industry leaders want rules for beach sand mining relaxed. They have also called for speedy clearances.

According to them, beach sand mining does not have adverse ecological consequences and, therefore, the industry should be allowed to extract valuable minerals such as ilmenite from such sand for use in different sectors.

The plea was made by them here on Wednesday evening at the inaugural of the ninth International Heavy Minerals Conference. The three-day conference, being held for the first time in India, was inaugurated by AP Mines Minister G. Aruna Kumari and it was attended by 60 delegates from abroad and 250 from within the country. It is being organised by the Mining Engineers' Association of India.

The minister said that “AP with a coastline of 900 km possesses 153 million tonnes of heavy mineral beach sands from Iechapuram in Srikakulam district to Nizampatnam in Guntur district, with ilmenite accounting for 116 million tonnes. The associate minerals such as garnet and sillimanite are estimated at 53 million tonnes.” Indian Rare Earths Ltd was the first to establish a processing plant for heavy minerals from beach sands. Trimex and other industries later entered the field, she said.

Aruna Kumari said the mines department in the State was formulating a new mineral policy for removing hassles and to make it easier for the entrepreneurs. “However, we expect them to be conscious of environment and there should be no danger to olive ridley turtles in the north-coastal districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam,” she said.

T.V Chowdhary, chairman of the advisory committee, earlier spoke on behalf of the industry. He said it was becoming very difficult to obtain mining leases for extraction of minerals from beach sand and even after obtaining the lease the entrepreneurs had to wait nearly for a decade to start operations. “Even a turtle can stall the project,” he lamented. He also pleaded with the Government to allow monazite processing.

Trevor Arran, the global president of Tronox Minerals Sands, South Africa, and R.N Patra, CMD of Indian Rare Earths Ltd, were honoured on the occasion.

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(This article was published on November 28, 2013)

Keywords: [beach sand mining](#), [AP sand mining](#), [Andhra Pradesh](#),

Publication : Business Standard

Link : http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/ap-to-come-out-with-new-mining-policy-11311300007_1.html

AP to come out with new mining policy

The [Andhra Pradesh mining](#) department was formulating a new policy to facilitate sanction of more mining leases and establishment of new projects, said Galla Aruna Kumari, mines and geology minister.

She was here to inaugurate the 9th International Heavy Minerals conference-2013 recently. She said the AP Mineral Development Corporation was actively pursuing with the mines department for exploring heavy mineral beach sands for supply of raw materials to those who propose to set up beneficiation plants in the area.

AP with a coastline of 900 km has about 153 million tonne heavy mineral beach sands.

Publication : The Hindu Business Line

Link : <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/global-meet-on-heavy-minerals-begins-tomorrow-in-vizag/article5393426.ece>

Global meet on heavy minerals begins tomorrow in Vizag

CH R. S. SARMA

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VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV 26:

The Mining Engineers' Association of India, a national body of 5,000 mining engineers, is organising the ninth international Heavy Minerals Conference, HMC-2013, here with the theme of overcoming challenges in the sector.

It is the first time that HMC-2013 is being organised in the country and it will host 275 delegates from all major heavy mineral mining countries like Australia, Canada, Africa, the USA, China, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Europe, and India to discuss the technical, managerial and business challenges and opportunities in the sector, according to a press release.

The 3-day conference beginning on Wednesday will be inaugurated at 6 p.m. by State Minister for Mines & Geology, G. Aruna Kumari.

Arjeth Bagchhi, MEAI President, says in the note that “mining is like oxygen to infrastructure, housing and manufacturing sectors. Even service sector cannot do without it. The industry is still in the nascent stage in India and needs encouragement. Sustainable and eco-friendly mining for heavy minerals will be our objective.”

The country has huge deposits of ilmenite along the coast from Ratnagiri in Maharashtra to Puri in Odisha and the country, which till 1940 contributed 80 per cent of global requirement, is now contributing a mere 10 per cent only.

With the private sector, including foreign investments, being allowed from 1998 to mine heavy mineral deposits in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu & Kerala, the industry has so far been able to make only limited progress.

The association seeks faster clearances on land acquisition, environment clearances, forest clearances, and grant of mining leases. It also seeks legislation to protect mineral bearing lands.

sarma.rs@thehindu.co.in

(This article was published on November 26, 2013)

Keywords: [Mining Engineers Association of India](#), [mining engineers](#), [heavy minerals](#), [international heavy minerals conference](#), [HMC-2013](#), [heavy mineral mining countries](#),

Publication : Deccan Herald

Link : <http://www.deccanherald.com/content/372138/simplify-norms-mining-beach-sand.html>

Simplify norms for mining beach sand minerals: MEAI

Visakhapatnam, Dec 1, 2013, (PTI)



Government should ease rules and procedures for giving leases for exploration of beach sand minerals that are found in abundance on the country's large coastline, an engineers' association has said.

Beach sand minerals are primarily of 6 types -- Ilmenite, Rutile, Zircon, Garnet, Monazite and Sillimanite. Of these, private sector is not allowed to mine Monazite, which is the primary source of radio-active thorium, a strategic metal and integral part of India's three-stage nuclear power programme.

According to the Mining Engineers' Association of India, which hosted ninth edition of the International Heavy Minerals (IHM) Conference here, Indian resources of Ilmenite constitute 35 per cent and Monazite 71 per cent of world resources.

"It takes about 8-9 years to secure the lease for mining in beach sand deposits and separation of heavy minerals. The industry has to go through maze of regulations, including clearances from Department of Atomic Energy and no objection certificate for mining in the Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) from various authorities," MEAI President Arjeth Bagchhi said.

Time bound clearances for mining of the 5 heavy minerals can do wonders for the country as the industry plays a critical role in day-to-day activities, he said.

For example, Ilmenite used in making titanium metal and titanium di-oxide pigments, which is critical raw material source for making things like paints, paper and plastic.

Similarly, Rutile is used in Aerospace and defence sectors, while Garnet is used waterjet cutting and sand blasting. Sillimanite and Zircon are used for refractory and ceramics products. The minerals are found mainly in 5 states --Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra.

"Lessening the tiers and quickening the clearances would help us in increasing production of heavy minerals and thereby bringing valuable foreign exchange to the country," he said, while noting that most of the heavy minerals get exported due to lack of value-addition facilities.

MEAI's former President T V Chowdary said that some misconception has emerged in recent times due to some reports on illegal sand mining, which has clubbed heavy minerals mining with sand mining.

Unlike sands available along the river, beach sands can not be used for construction purposes and mining of heavy minerals is very much environment friendly, he said.

"After separation of the minerals, the free sand, which constitutes more than 80 per cent of the total mined sands, is pumped back (to the mined areas) for back filling. They are then put under a green canopy via scientific social afforestation techniques," he said.

According to official data, India has over 500 million tonne (MT) of Ilmenite reserves and resources, while its production is only about 8 lakh tonne annually. For zircon, annual domestic production is 35,000 tonne, while the resource base is over 32 MT. There are only 6-7 companies in the sector in India, including IREL, a PSU.

Publication : Mining Weekly

Link : <http://www.miningweekly.com/article/mining-engineers-seeks-relaxation-of-beach-sand-mining-rules-2013-12-02>

Mining engineers seek relaxation of beach sand mining rules

By: **Ajoy K Das**

2nd December 2013

TEXT SIZE



KOLKATA (miningweekly.com) - The Mining Engineers Association of India (MEAI) has appealed to the government to relax rules for beach sand mineral mining to allow for increased exploration for six minerals found along the country's coastline.

According to the association, it takes eight to nine years to get a lease to mine beach sands as well as a host of clearances from multiple agencies such as the Department of Atomic Energy, the Coastal Regulatory Zone - for an environment clearance - and the provincial governments.

The MEAI said that a time-bound granting of mining leases could fast-track India to global leader status in the mining of at least five beach sand minerals.

Beach sand minerals comprised ilmenite, rutile, zircon, garnet, monazite and sillimanite and of these the Indian government does not permit private sector participation in the mining of monazite, the primary source of thorium, which was considered strategic by the government.

According to the MEAI, Indian ilmenite resources constitute 35% of the global resource, while over 70% of the global resource of monazite was in India, which indicated untapped potential.

It also rued the fact that, in recent months, beach sand mining had been confused with the illegal mining of sand in coastal regions and river beds, which had resulted in a blanket ban on all kinds of beach sand mining, which was proving detrimental to the growth of mineral mining along the coast.

Although the Indian government had framed a beach sand mining policy in 1998, not much progress had been made under the policy and the industry had not reached its full potential, the association said.

Local activists had been protesting in recent months against illegal mining of beaches in the Tuticorin, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts in the southern Indian province of Tamil Nadu. According to a complaint lodged with the administration, 230 000 t of beach sand had been mined illegally in just one village and activists had written to the provincial and federal governments alleging that \$14-billion worth of beach sand had been exported illegally through false declaration of thorium content in the monazite.

Thorium has to be separated from monazite through processing and government regulations only permitted export of monazite with a thorium content of less than 25%.

The National Green Tribunal has imposed a ban on beach sand mining along the entire coastline but the Supreme Court had taken a stand against the 100% ban on such mining.

MEAI said that the controversies over illegal mining, and the absence of effective monitoring and policy were negatives impacting on the legitimate growth of and exploration for heavy minerals in the country.

Edited by: **Esmarie Swanepoel**

Publication : The Hindu

Link : <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/andhra-pradesh-to-formulate-new-mineral-policy/article5400896.ece>

Andhra Pradesh to formulate new mineral policy

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SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



Minister for Mines and Geology Galla Aruna inaugurating the international heavy minerals conference in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. Photo: K.R. Deepak

Galla Aruna inaugurates three-day ninth international heavy minerals conference

The ninth international heavy minerals conference (HMC-2013) began on Wednesday with Minister for Mines and Geology Galla Aruna declaring that the State government would formulate new mineral policy to facilitate sanction of more mining leases and establishment of mining projects. She was speaking after inaugurating the three-day conference being held here – the first in India – under the aegis of Mining Engineers' Association of India (MEAI).

Some 275 delegates, including 60 from Australia, Canada, Africa, US, China, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and Europe are attending the conference.

The event with the theme ‘overcoming new challenges’ will discuss the technical, managerial, business opportunities and challenges facing the sector world-wide.

Ms. Aruna said Andhra Pradesh with a coastline of 900 km had 153 million ton heavy mineral beach sands from Ichhapuram in Srikakulam to Nizampatnam in Guntur district. She said the State was rapidly emerging as a prime destination for exploration of minerals by foreign investors and hoped that the valuable contributions made by the delegates at the HMC-2013 would be motivating factors for developing the mining industry in future.

State’s objective

She said the State’s objective was to have proper legislation as envisaged in the National Mineral Policy for accelerated development in the mining sector. She said: “We have also asked the industry to ensure mining is done responsibly and in an eco-friendly manner keeping ecological balance in mind and support local community with better livelihood and job creation.”

Mines and Geology Principal Secretary Sabyasachi Ghosh and Director of Mines and Geology B.R.V. Susheel Kumar said the State government was keen on encouraging investors in exploration of heavy mineral beach sand with eco-friendly technologies. HMC-2013 chairman T.V. Chowdary called for simplification of procedures for giving leases to exploration of beach minerals. Owing to cumbersome process, only a negligible amount was being explored, he stated.

President of MEAI and HMC-2013 principal convener Arjeth Bagchhi welcomed the gathering.

Prominent guests included Trevor Arran, global president, Tronox Mineral Sands, South Africa, Steve Gilman, Partner & Consultants, TZ Minerals International, Australia, P.S. Parihar, Director, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration & Research, India and R.N. Patra, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Indian Rare Earth Limited.

Keywords: [mineral policy](#), [heavy minerals conference](#), [HMC-2013](#), [Mining Engineers’ Association of India](#)

Publication : Samachar

Link : <http://www.samachar.com/andhra-pradesh-to-formulate-new-mineral-policy-nl2oLNdcadi.html>

Samachar.com
A Sify.com Channel

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Publication : Smartinvestor

Link : http://smartinvestor.business-standard.com/market/Marketnews-213850-Marketnewsdet-AP_to_come_out_with_new_mining_policy.htm#.UqfyudIW3p8

Smart Investor

AP to come out with new mining policy

BS Reporter/Visakhapatnam 30 Nov 13 | 12:53 AM

The Andhra Pradesh mining department was formulating a new policy to facilitate sanction of more mining leases and establishment of new projects, said Galla Aruna Kumari, mines and geology minister.

She was here to inaugurate the 9th International Heavy Minerals conference-2013 recently. She said the AP Mineral Development Corporation was actively pursuing with the mines department for exploring heavy mineral beach sands for supply of raw materials to those who propose to set up beneficiation plants in the area.

AP with a coastline of 900 km has about 153 million tonne heavy mineral beach sands.

Publication : News Co

Link : <http://newsco.me/content/go/story?news=458106>

Andhra Pradesh to formulate new mineral policy

Nov, 28 2013 at 02:33 PM



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Ila Aruna inaugurates three-day ninth international heavy minerals conference The ninth international heavy minerals conference (HMC-2013) began on Wednesday with Minister for Mines and Geology Galla Aruna declaring that th...

Story Highlights

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Research, India and R.N. Patra, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Indian Rare Earth Limited.

Publication : The Hindu

Link : <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/3day-mineral-meet-in-vizag/article5396267.ece>

3-day mineral meet in Vizag

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STAFF REPORTER

Mining Engineer's Association of India observed that proper extraction of heavy minerals would pave way India to become super-power in processing and exporting of heavy minerals which were abundant all along the coastal areas.

It felt that there was huge scope for industrialisation and economic activity with the optimum utilisation of natural resources.

MEAI in association with South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and Trimex Sands Private Limited is organising three-day Heavy Mineral Conference-2013 in Novotel convention hall of Visakhapatnam from Wednesday.

MEAI president and Director of TSPL Arijit Bagchi said that the event would be historic since it would discuss the challenges in heavy mineral exploration, government policies and industrial needs. According to him, India is known for ancient heritage in mining and processing of several minerals and benefited the society.

A German chemist Schimberg discovered the heavy mineral deposits in India in 1909 itself.

A spokesperson of the Trimex Sands Private Limited told media in Srikakulam that the mineral exploration would make backward areas like Srikakulam to become rich with spur of economic activity.

He said that such international conferences will help technocrats to understand the latest developments in the sector.

Publication : Vizag News

Link : <http://www.vizagnews.com/International-Heavy-Minerals-Conference-2013.htm>

International Heavy Minerals Conference-2013 underway

Experts felt that India has the requisite resources, technology and personnel to become the number one in the titanium mineral sector

Visakhapatnam City, November 28, 2013

Speakers at the technical sessions on the second day of the International Heavy Minerals Conference 2013 being organized here in Visakhapatnam, experts felt that India has the requisite resources, technology and personnel to become the number one in the titanium mineral sector.

Steve Gilman of TZ Minerals Internationals said that India was currently in the fifth position globally in the sector and it could surpass other countries with the resources, technologies and personnel available in the country. The issues like the fact that mineral rich sands were available only in the heavily populated areas. The availability of fresh water was also a critical factor and the energy costs in India were very high, he said. He said that if these resources could be addressed, India has the potential to become the global leader.

Ram Choudhry of Mineral Technologies spoke about the mineral sands processing technologies and the need for constant innovation. He said high grade ores were available in India but the mineral composition was complex and therefore complex processing plants would be needed in India and Sri Lanka, he said. Prameeth Ramsaywok of Exxaro Resources Limited and Uwe Konig of Mining XRD spoke in the meeting.

Publication : WordPress

Link : <http://dayincity.wordpress.com/2013/11/27/3-day-mineral-meet-in-vizag/>

3-DAY MINERAL MEET IN VIZAG

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Publication : Career Shaper

Link : <http://thecareershaper.com/current-affair/international-heavy-minerals-conference-2013-held-at-visakhapatnam-ap/>

International Heavy Minerals Conference 2013 held at Visakhapatnam, AP

Nov.29,2013

Posted on TheCareerShaper.Com

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The 9th International Heavy Minerals Conference (HMC 2013) was held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh from 27 to 29 November 2013.

The biennial International conference is ninth in a series of conferences that focus on the heavy minerals industry. This International conference was held for the first time in India by the Mining Engineers Association of India (MEAI) in collaboration with and support from the Government of India, other professional organisations and industry.

The Conference theme is: **Overcoming New Challenges.**

The aim of HMC 2013 was to discuss the technical, managerial, business opportunities and challenges facing the sector worldwide. Delegates attended the conference including from Australia, Canada, Africa, US, China, Vietnam, Srilanka and Europe.

The earlier editions of the conference were held in diverse places as Cape Town (SA), Jacksonville (US) Fremantle & Perth(Australia) etc. The first conference held in Kwazulu Natal (SA) and the previous conference held in Perth.

Heavy Minerals

The Minerals with a density greater than 2.9 g/cm³ are called as heavy minerals. Examples of heavy minerals include garnet, zircon, tourmaline, topaz, magnetite, hematite, apatite, kyanite, glauconite, etc

Publication : Pioneer

Link : <http://www.dailypioneer.com/business/meai-announces-ixth-international-conference-on-heavy-mineral-mining.html>

BUSINESS

MEAI ANNOUNCES IXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEAVY MINERAL MINING

Friday, 22 November 2013 | PNS | New Delhi

Mining Engineers' Association of India on Thursday announced the IXth international Heavy Minerals Conference -2013 with the theme "Overcoming New Challenges" to be held at Vizag.

This HMC-2013 is the first in the country and will host over 275 delegates from all major Heavy Mineral Mining countries like Australia, Canada, Africa, US, china, Vietnam, Sri lanka, Europe, India etc discussing the technical, Managerial & Business challenges & opportunities facing the sector world wide.

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Publication : The Hindu

Link : <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/prevent-use-of-mineral-rich-sands-for-other-uses/article5407754.ece>

Prevent use of mineral-rich sands for other uses'

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SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Beach sand mining for extraction of heavy minerals is an economically profitable as well as eco-friendly activity and the Indian government should take steps to prevent use of mineral-rich sands for other activities and encourage the industry, president of the Mining Engineers' Association of India Arjeth Bagchi has said.

At the end of the three-day International Heavy Minerals Conference in Visakhapatnam on Friday, he said it was the conclusion of the speakers at the conference, and he expressed happiness that it had gone very well.

"Fortunately, the cyclone threat receded and the deliberations are very fruitful. We will finalise the recommendations to the Government of India after studying the views of all the Indian and foreign delegates," he said.

He said the Government of India had formulated the beach sand mining policy guidelines in 1998.

"But we feel not enough progress has been made due to various factors. The proposals have not fructified and, therefore, the government should now take proactive steps to promote the industry."

'No harm to turtles'

Areas such as Srikakulam could be developed only if the government allowed such activity, Mr Bagchi said. "The industry is responsible and takes all the precautions to conserve the ecology and it should not be stifled," he added.

On the concluding day, Sujata, a representative of Trimex Sands, spoke about the steps being taken to protect the nesting places of Olive Ridley turtles along the beach in Srikakulam district near the project area.

"It is a sporadic nesting zone for the turtles between November and March, according to researchers from Andhra University.

Even then, we are taking all steps to leave the turtles undisturbed during the period. We have constituted an eco-promotion cell involving local people to conserve them,” she explained. She spoke at length about the corporate social responsibility initiatives of the company in the area, including providing dialysis services to patients with kidney ailments.

Mohandas of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board spoke about the radiological issues related to beach sand mining.

He said only monazite, a mineral extracted from the sands, contained in very small quantities thorium and uranium, but even then its processing was not being allowed to prevent any exposure to radiation.

He spoke about the methods being used to dispose it, the stringent guidelines laid down for the purpose, and the enforcement mechanism.

Keywords: [Beach sand mining](#), [heavy mineral extraction](#), [Mining Engineers’ Association](#)

Publication : Current Affairs

Link : <http://currentaffairs1314.blogspot.in/2013/11/international-heavy-minerals-conference.html>

INTERNATIONAL HEAVY MINERALS CONFERENCE 2013 HELD AT VISAKHAPATNAM, AP



The 9th International Heavy Minerals Conference (HMC 2013) was held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh from 27 to 29 November 2013.

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The aim of HMC 2013 was to discuss the technical, managerial, business opportunities and challenges facing the sector worldwide. Delegates attended the conference including from Australia, Canada, Africa, US, China, Vietnam, Srilanka and Europe.

The earlier editions of the conference were held in diverse places as Cape Town (SA), Jacksonville (US) Fermantle & Perth(Australia) etc. The first conference held in Kwazulu Natal (SA) and the previous conference held in Perth.

The Minerals with a density greater than 2.9 g/cm³ are called as heavy minerals. Examples of heavy minerals include garnet, zircon, tourmaline, topaz, magnetite, hematite, apatite, kyanite, glauconite, etc.

