Adriyala – a feather in the cap of SCCL

Longwall mining has somewhat a successful operating history in India, both under Coal India Limited and that of the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. Planning for high capacity longwalls gave birth the dream concept of Adriyala longwall project in Ramatundam coal belt in Godavari coalfields into a reality which is the first major mechanised longwall mining in India. Commissioned in 2014, Adriyala longwall project is the examplar of appropriate technology for achieving bulk production.

With four workable seams in the mine with minimum geological disturbances having a total extractrable reserves of 78.597 Mt which attained high significance. The unique feature of the Adriyala is that it is accessible with four 'punch entries' and one return air shaft of 7.5m dia with 484m depth from surface. The success story of the project is best described in the technical presenations in this special issue. The *Journal of Mines, Metals & Fuels* is privileged to publish this special issue, papers for which are authoritatively written on the occasion of the International Mining Machinery Exhbition and Conference (IMME 2018) at Kolkata, and seeks to provide some salient features of the project. Hopefully, the issue will not only chart the direction in planning for future underground vis-à-vis longwall workings in India but also provide some essential inputs for planning and design of safe longwall panel layouts, assessing support requirements, etc.

Underground mining needs to have strategic focus in the context with challenges of growing demand, constraints of availability of lands, environmental issues and increasing deeper deposits for bulk production. Hats off to the project authority for adapting all these aspects appropriately, Adriyala longwall project is truly a feather in the cap of the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.

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