

New technologies, new equipment – newer challenges

The mining industry, the world over is witnessing rapid technological advancements, from design, analysis, exploration and geological modelling to equipment, operations and maintenance and logistics and transportation. New technology with the application of information technologies is being adopted even on hand held units like iPhones and Android devices, cameras, motion sensors and positioning etc. Mining sector can help achieve sustainable development goals as the mining industry has the potential to positively contribute to all sectors in the industry vis-à-vis to national development. The mining industry is a diverse conglomerate, the scope and nature of typical mining activities highlight sustainable development goals where mining has significant impact. Here optimum utilization of mining equipment plays a pivotal role for improving production, productivity and safety in mines and the selection of appropriate technology and their applications.

The *Journal of Mines, Metals & Fuels* is privileged to publish the papers presented at the 2nd National Conference on ‘Mining equipment: new technologies, challenges and application (MENTCA 2015)’ hosted by the Department of Mining Machinery Engineering of Indian School of Mines, between 9-10 October 2015 at Dhanbad. Originally, 80 odd papers were presented at the conference some of which were published papers and out of this 35 original papers have been selected for publication in this special issue. The papers are basically organized into 14 themes ranging from state-of-the-art of mining and construction equipment to mining equipment to electrical equipment. Currently, the mining industry faces complexity in issues pertaining to technological developments, sustainability and environmental compatibility. Only continuous research and innovative focus can lead to achieve newer heights. Hopefully, this special issue, as a handbook, will give scientists and researchers, academicians and students much food for thought.

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