

Coal Miners are the Real Energy Warriors of the Nation: Union Minister of Coal & Mines Shri G. Kishan Reddy

Coal Minister Takes Stock of Mining Operations at Gevra – The World’s Second Largest Coal Mine

Minister Felicitates Coal Miners and Women Workers, joins them for Lunch, Clicks Selfie with them

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Union Minister of Coal and Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, visited the Gevra mine of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) in Chhattisgarh today. Recognized as the world’s second-largest coal mine, Gevra stands as a symbol of India’s growing energy strength. The Minister’s visit underscored the Government’s commitment to frontline workers and its focus on enhancing both productivity and welfare in the coal sector.



The Minister was accorded a Guard of Honour by the CISF contingent upon arrival at Gevra House. At the mine view point, SECL officials gave a detailed presentation highlighting key achievements and ongoing

developments. Shri Reddy felicitated coal miners, including women workers, for their unwavering dedication to ensuring round-the-clock coal production—an indispensable pillar of India’s energy security.



Descending into the heart of the mine, the Minister witnessed large-scale mining operations, including the deployment of mega equipment such as the 42-cubic-meter shovel and 240-ton dumper—among the largest Heavy Earth Moving Machines (HEMMs) used globally. He also reviewed the blast-free surface miner technology in action and visited modern Silos developed under the First Mile Connectivity (FMC) initiative, aimed at sustainable and eco-friendly coal evacuation.



As a mark of appreciation, Shri Reddy interacted with machine operators inside their cabins, boosting their morale and acknowledging their vital contribution to coal production. A memorable moment unfolded as the Minister joined workers at the canteen for lunch and clicked a selfie with them—an act that deeply resonated with the workforce.



During the visit, the Minister also explored SECL's green initiatives. He visited the Miyawaki plantation pilot site, where saplings have been planted using the innovative Japanese afforestation technique. Additionally, he inaugurated the newly built Kalyan Mandap—a multi-purpose facility dedicated to employee events and community functions.



Speaking on the occasion, Shri Reddy emphasized coal's central role in national development, stating that over 70% of India's electricity generation depends on coal. He underscored the need to balance development with sustainability, accelerate responsible mine closure practices, and continuously improve environmental benchmarks. Describing Gevra as the pride of the country, the Minister remarked, "One can afford to wait for food, but electricity cannot be delayed. It is our coal miners who ensure that the nation remains illuminated and energized."



The visit was attended by Chairman, Coal India Limited, Shri P.M. Prasad; Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shri B.P. Pati; and SECL CMD, Shri Harish Duhan, along with senior officials of the Ministry and SECL. Their participation reflected the Ministry’s collaborative approach to strengthening operational efficiency, environmental responsibility, and employee well-being across coal PSUs. Shri Reddy’s interactions and on-ground engagement resonated deeply with the workforce, reaffirming the Centre’s resolve to empower the true energy warriors of the nation—India’s coal miners.

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