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Meet stresses mining policy & tech cell for NE

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Jorhat, Oct. 31: The need for a uniform policy for coal mining in the Northeast and a technology cell at the North East Institute of Science and Technology here were some of the suggestions made at a two-day national symposium-cum-workshop today.

P.G. Rao, the vice-chancellor, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya, and former NEIST director, in his speech as chief guest, said the lack of a uniform policy or guideline for mining of coal in the region was posing a problem in monitoring and mining this mineral resource.

Professor T.C. Rao, former director, CSIR-Advanced Materials and Processes, Research Institute, Bhopal, in his speech on Challenges for Mineral Industry in NE India, said there was an urgent need to have a centrally located technology cell to undertake mineral industry development activities and co-ordinate with all stakeholders.

He said state and central governments, industry and research and development organisations have to work together to contribute to a solution to the problem and that the institute was ready to welcome such a flagship programme in coal and minerals.

A souvenir was released and the Indian Institute of Mineral Engineers-North East (IIME-NE) chapter was formed at the institute to promote study and practice and to disseminate knowledge amongst stakeholders and agencies for gainful utilisation of coal and mineral resources and sustainable development.

Eminent scientists and professors delivered 13 lectures at the symposium, which was attended by over 100 scientists from all over the country.

A.K. Bhargali, the general manager, Coal India Ltd, Margherita, said using what is considered waste material as a resource is an area for further research.

The seminar was held jointly with the Indian Institute of Mineral Engineers, Northeast chapter and was supported by the Union ministry of communication and IT.

R.C. Boruah, scientist, CSIR-NEIST, briefly narrated the problems and future prospects of beneficiation of coal in the region.

There was also an open discussion with panel of experts including academia, research institutes and industry.

D. Rannalah, director, CSIR-NEIST, and president of the symposium, said the resource potential of the region was unutilised.

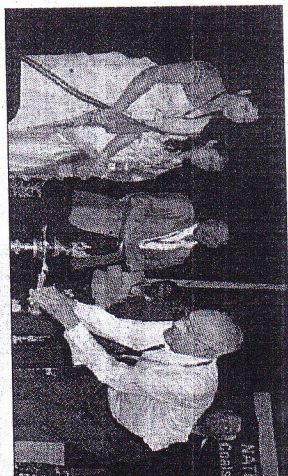
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Professor T.C. Rao, former director, AMPRI, Bhopal, lights the inaugural lamp of the workshop in Jorhat as other dignitaries look on. Telegraph picture