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Shri. M.James
 Former Chairman, MEAI TN

Who Should Attend

- Mining Engineers & Professionals
- Government Officials & Policymakers
- Academicians & Researchers
- Industry Experts & Consultants
- Students (Mining, Geology, Civil, Environment)

Important Dates

Last Date for Submission of Abstract : **5th May 2026**
 Last Date for Submission of Full Paper : **15th May 2026**
 Email for Submission : **meaitnchapter2025@gmail.com**
 Accepted Abstracts/full papers shall be published in respective proceedings.
 Selected papers shall be presented in seminar.

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Contact Us

Mr.R.Sanjeevi - 9488997810
 Chairman, MEAI TN

Mr.Rachappa M Saradagi - 9488997102
 Member MEAI National Council

Mr.Deepak.J - 9488997957
 Joint Secretary, MEAI TN

Mr. Jaya Bharata Reddy N - 9942994775
 Secretary MEAI TN

Mr. G.Magesh - 9786967367
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KNOWLEDGE
SHARING



COLLABORATION



INNOVATION



SUSTAINABILITY



MEAI NATIONAL SEMINAR

Opening New Mines: Challenges and Solutions

Date : 23rd May 2026, Saturday
Venue : Learning & Development Centre, Neyveli (TN)

Organised by
MINING ENGINEERS' ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

in Association with



NLC INDIA LIMITED

'Navratna' - Government of India Enterprise

Hosted by

MINING ENGINEERS' ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
TN Chapter

About Us

The Mining Engineers' Association of India (MEAI) is the premier professional body representing the interests of professionals in the minerals and mining industry across India. Established in 1957, it serves as a platform for knowledge exchange, professional advocacy, and the advancement of mining science and technology.

Headquartered in Hyderabad, MEAI has grown to include over 6,600 members nationwide. Its membership is diverse, encompassing not only mining engineers but also Geologists and Geo-scientists, Metallurgists, Environmental and Allied Engineers, Educators, Researchers, and Students.

The association operates through a network of 28 regional chapters located in major mining hubs such as Dhanbad, Nagpur, Bangalore, Rajasthan (Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur), Bhubaneswar and Tamilnadu. These chapters serve as the local hubs for professional development, organizing seminars and facilitating interaction between the mining industry, government, and academia.

The Mining Engineers' Association of India brings together all professionals of Mining fraternity to improve the Skills, share knowledge, Latest amendments of Legislation and Technological developments in the Mining Industry for the benefit of the Professionals & Industry by conducting Seminars, Workshops, Training Sessions and Knowledge sharing events.

The Mining Engineers' Association of India (MEAI) is currently led by a distinguished team of industry veterans and academic experts. National President Shri D. B. Sundara Ramam is a prominent figure in the Indian mining industry. Shri Ramam currently serves as the Vice President (Raw Materials) at Tata Steel. Under his leadership, the association has emphasized focusing on India's self-reliance in critical minerals and the adoption of AI in mining operations.

MEAI TN Chapter

The Tamil Nadu Chapter of the Mining Engineers' Association of India (MEAI) was established in 1982. Since its inception, the chapter has grown into one of the most active regional units that supports the state's significant mineral industry, which includes major resources like lignite, limestone, magnesite, and garnet.

MEAI TN is delighted to host a National seminar titled 'Opening New Mines: Challenges and Solutions,' scheduled for 23rd May 2026 at Neyveli, Tamilnadu in association with NLC India Limited (a Navratna – Govt. of India Enterprise).

NLC India Limited

NLC India Limited, a premier Navratna Public Sector Enterprise in the energy and mining sector, has graciously come forward to host and organise this National Mining Seminar in association with Mining Engineers' Association of India. This collaborative initiative reflects a shared commitment to advancing mining practices, fostering knowledge exchange and addressing the emerging challenges and opportunities in the mining industry at a national level.

About Neyveli

Neyveli : The Lignite Hub of India is a meticulously planned industrial township located in the Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu. Renowned globally for its vast mineral wealth, it serves as the backbone of power generation in South India.

Home to NLC India Limited (formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation), the city manages massive open-cast mines and thermal power stations that feed the national grid. Despite its industrial nature, Neyveli is celebrated for its extensive afforestation efforts, boasting a lush green cover and eco-friendly urban planning. Centrally located, it is well-connected to major hubs like Chennai, Pondicherry, and Trichy, making it a convenient destination for academic and professional gatherings. As a center for mining engineering and power research, it represents the perfect synergy between natural resource extraction and technological advancement

Local Attractions Near Neyveli

Chidambaram Thillai Nataraja Temple : Roughly 30 km from Neyveli, this historic temple is one of the five holiest Shiva temples, representing the element of "Akasha" (Ether).

Gangai Konda Cholapuram : Located approximately 54 km from Neyveli (about a 1-hour drive), this site is a testament to the architectural brilliance of the Chola Empire. The town served as the capital of the Cholas for over 250 years. Brihadeeshwara Temple located here is a UNESCO World Heritage Site built by King Rajendra Chola I to commemorate his victory over northern kingdoms.

Vadalar (Vallalar Temple) : Situated just 10 km away, this is a major pilgrimage site dedicated to the saint Ramalinga Swamikal (Vallalar), known for the "Sathya Gnana Sabhai" where an eternal lamp burns.

Sri Nataraja Temple (Neyveli Township) : Located within the township, this temple is famous for housing one of the world's largest metal idols of Lord Nataraja, weighing over 2,400 kg.

Veludayanpattu Murugan Temple : An ancient temple (over 800 years old) where Lord Murugan is uniquely depicted holding a bow and arrow rather than his traditional spear (Vel).

Pichavaram Mangrove Forest : Approximately 50 km away (near Chidambaram), Pichavaram offers the world's second-largest mangrove forest. Visitors can enjoy serene boat rides through a labyrinthine network of backwaters and trees.

Silver Beach (Cuddalore) : Located about 45 km away, this is one of the longest beaches on the Coromandel Coast, ideal for sunrise walks and coastal relaxation.

NLC Afforestation & Parks : Within the township, the Afforestation and the Golden Jubilee Park offer lush greenery, artificial lakes, and bird-watching opportunities, showcasing Neyveli's commitment to ecology.



The SEMINAR

The MEAI Tamil Nadu Chapter is set to organize a significant National Seminar focused on the theme "**Opening New Mines: Challenges and Solutions.**" This event aims to address the critical hurdles in India's journey toward expanding its mineral production and ensuring resource security.

Core Objectives

- Identify key structural and operational challenges in opening new mines.
- Discuss practical solutions and policy-level reforms.
- Share global best practices and local success stories.
- Promote sustainable, responsible, and "Green" mining.
- Foster high-level collaboration among all stakeholders.

Key Focus of the Seminar

India's increasing demand for energy, minerals, and infrastructure requires timely development of new mining projects. However, opening new mines involves multiple challenges such as land acquisition, environmental clearances, regulatory approvals, financing, and stakeholder management.

The seminar focuses on four critical dimensions of modern mine development :

Regulatory & Statutory Challenges : Navigating the evolving framework of mineral auctions, forest and environmental clearances, and land acquisition hurdles.

Technological Integration : Exploring "Mining 4.0" solutions, such as digital twins and AI-driven exploration, to reduce the gestation period of new mines.

Sustainability & ESG : Developing strategies for "Green Mining" to ensure that new projects meet global Environmental, Social, and Governance standards from day one.

Socio-Economic Impact : Addressing the challenges of Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) and fostering community trust through effective CSR and District Mineral Foundation (DMF) utilization.

Technical Session Themes

Policy & Approvals: Streamlining EC/FC clearances and digital "Single-Window" systems.

Exploration & Resource Evaluation : Advanced geophysics, remote sensing, and resource-to-reserve conversion.

Land & Social Challenges : Solving land acquisition bottlenecks and securing the "Social License to Operate."

Environmental Sustainability : Fast-tracking Impact Assessments (EIA) and eco-friendly mine planning.

Design & Execution : Integrated mine planning, risk management, and MDO/EPC contracting strategies.

The Digital Mine : Utilizing AI, IoT, drones, and GIS for real-time monitoring.

Infrastructure & Logistics : Connectivity (rail/road/port) and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP).

Safety & Compliance: Integrating DGMS standards and emergency preparedness.

Case Studies: Learning from both fast-tracked successes and delayed projects.

This seminar aims to bring together experts from industry, academia, and government to discuss practical solutions, share experiences, and explore innovative approaches for efficient and sustainable mine development.



Venue :
Learning & Development Centre
NLC India Limited,
Block -20, Neyveli.
Tamil Nadu

