

Climate change, its impact on coal sector discussed threadbare

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Dhanbad: Experts discussed climate change and its impact on the coal sector during a two-day international workshop which began on Friday at the Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR) centre.

The event titled Implementing 2° Celsius and below 2° Celsius compatible climate change mitigation scenarios: Implications for India's coal sector is being organised jointly by The Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) of France, Indian Institute of Management of Ahmedabad and CIMFR.

The event's goal is to discuss implications of possible coal transitions both internationally and India, the barriers, path dependencies, socio-economic and socio-political conditions under which it could be possible and to draw insights from international experiences and policy debates.

Main dignitaries' of the event who



File photo of a coal mine

addressed the inaugural session were Prof DC Panigrahi, director of Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Pradeep Kumar Singh, director of CIMFR, Prof Amit Garg IIM Ahmedabad, Oliver Sartor IDDRE of Paris and Ajay Kumar Singh of CIMFR. About 280 stakeholders, policy makers and scientists attended the inaugural session while over 100 delegates registered for the event.

Pradeep Kumar Singh said, "The Pa-

ris Climate Change Agreement of 2015 set a goal of keeping climate change impacts well below 2° Celsius of warming and aiming to achieve 1.5° Celsius. Coal currently accounts for 28% of global primary energy consumption and approximately 46% of the global CO₂ emissions. The coal sector will, thus, be required to contribute to the broader climate goal by making a transition of its own."

Speakers at the workshop concluded that coal provides energy security to India, jobs to about a million people, royalty to coal states as almost half of their annual revenues and traffic to Indian Railways and truckers.

"However, it also creates multiple challenges through land degradation, water consumed in mining and for thermal power generation, bottom ash and fly ash generation in millions of tonnes each year, air pollution through coal combustion and also in coal transportation and of course greenhouse gas emissions. There is a need to anticipate and prepare for the coal transitions," Pradeep Kumar Singh added.

Report by the Times of India