

First of its kind in India Eco-Mine Tourism and Eco-Park

Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) has introduced this novel initiative with the aim of dispelling notions of pollution and environmental degradation related to coal and mining operations in India. WCL conducts tours of two operational coal mines—Saoner underground mine and Gondegaon opencast mine. An Eco-Park has also been created in between these two locations where tourists can enjoy the nature and also learn about the mining environment before entering into the real mines.

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sri Narendra Modi, has mentioned about WCL's Eco-Park at Saoner in his "Mann ki Baat" programme by giving special compliments to the efforts undertaken by Western Coalfields Limited(WCL) in developing this concept of Mine-Tourism.

Eco-Park, a natural reserve site near a mining area, is a first of its kind initiative in the country to spread awareness about the Mining industry. Eco-Park has several science models such as Fountain, Swings, Ocean Pool, etc made using mine scrap material. This is also a first of its kind endeavor to promote ecological balance by using mine water in the Park. It boasts of a pristine landscape preserving most of the natural forest in its original shape with addition of several plants and trees including medicinal plants, bamboo plantations and flower garden.

The Park has Adventure Rides, Open Gym, Ball Pit, Artificial Mine Tunnel, Toy Train and several demonstrable technologies like Vermi Composting, Rain Water Harvesting, Solar Pumps & Drip Irrigation.



ECO-Park Entrance



Farmers Training



Kugel Ball Fountain





Mine Discharge Water for Community Use

Water is natural fallout of any mining process referred as Mine Discharge Water. A part of mine water is utilized for mining activities and rest is facilitated to nearby community after proper treatment for use as potable, domestic water and for irrigation. This endeavor is in line with the Jal Shakti Abhiyan for water conservation campaign initiated by Government of India

Total Mine Water Discharge of WCL is 1378 Lakh cubic meter/year, out of which 565 Lakh cubic meter/year is utilised internally. The remaining 786 Lakh cubic meter/year has been gainfully utilized for community use through various schemes & MOUs with State Government Organizations. 16 Schemes (For Drinking Water & Irrigation) have been implemented till date benefitting 2,16,865 local populace in 41 villages.

An RO Plant of capacity 2.5 lakh liters/day capacity have been installed in Patansaongi village catering to drinking water needs of around 1,00,000 local populace, Additionally, the plant has a bottling facility through which “COAL NEER” brand of packaged drinking water is also being launched. Another RO plant of 2.5 lakhs liters/day capacity is installed in Waghoda village. Together, water from both the RO plants is being distributed to the villagers at their doorstep through Self Help Groups(SHG)

An MOU has been signed with MAHAGENCO for providing excess mine water of quantum 107.6 lakh cubic meter/year to their Thermal Power Plants near Nagpur, so that the water utilized by them from Pench Water Reservoir is spared for Nagpur City

An MOU has been signed with Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation(VIDC) for providing excess mine water of quantum 281.6 Lakh Cum/year to VIDC for Irrigation purposes in Vidarbha region.



Bore Hole Water Discharge



Ground Water Recharge in Well



Mine Water Channel



K2K Water Pressure Filter



RO Plant



Patansaongi RO Plant

Green Technology to produce Sand from Overburden of Coal Mines

The overburden spread over in situ coal seam needs to be removed for extraction of coal. Due to the swell factor in overburden, some part of it can be safely extracted from OB dumps even after re-handling the dump for mine closure.

A Pilot Sand Segregation Plant has been indigenously designed and developed at our Mine Workshop and installed in the premises of Bhanegaon opencast Mine. The machine has a stated output of 250 cubic meters/day. MOU has been signed with Nagpur Improvement Trust (NIT) to supply sand processed from this plant @ Rs 160/cubic meters for its housing projects under prestigious Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY). Till date 46,268 cubic meters of sand has been supplied since 2016-17. The overwhelming response from customers added the insight for exploiting the opportunity and create a new business vertical.

A high capacity plant of 2000 cubic meters/day is under installation at Gondegaon, Nagpur. The expected readiness for its inauguration is Oct, 2019.

An MOU has been signed with Manganese Ore India Limited(MOIL) in March' 2019, for supply of 50,000 cubic meters of sand from & till date 4,412 cubic meters of sand has already been dispatched. An MOU has also been signed with Kamptee Nagar Parishad in June' 2019 for supply of 15,000 cubic meters of sand.

Various government agencies like Vidarbha Irrigation Development Council, Nagpur Municipal Corporation, Maharashtra Housing & Area Development Authority(MHADA) and MAHAGENCO have approached WCL for procurement of sand of estimated quantum 3 Lakh cubic meters

Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) is the only company of Coal India which has effectively planned for diversification and sustainability in non-allied field.



OB Sand / Sand Machine



Sand MOU





Sand Truck