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The next mining frontier: GMMCO on growth, technology and transformation

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How do you view the overall mining scenario prevailing in India?

India's mining sector is entering an important phase of growth and transformation. Rising demand for energy, infrastructure, steel and cement will sustain the importance of coal, iron ore and limestone, while critical minerals are gaining prominence as India strengthens its clean energy and manufacturing ambitions.

At GMMCO, we believe the next phase of growth will be driven by integrated mining solutions that combine application-specific equipment, advanced technology, skilled people and dependable lifecycle support. For mining businesses, this means looking beyond equipment acquisition towards sustained performance across the entire operation. The opportunity is not simply to extract more, but to mine smarter, safer and more efficiently.

What is trending in mining activities, especially in coal, iron ore and limestone mining?

Across these segments, the emphasis is on higher productivity, equipment reliability and operational efficiency, with safety remaining paramount. Where mine conditions and economics support it, operators are moving towards higher-capacity haul trucks, appropriately matched loading equipment and integrated fleet systems.

However, larger equipment alone does not guarantee better output. Fleet matching, haul road design, traffic management, maintenance planning and operator capability are equally important. Large-scale operations in Australia and Indonesia offer useful lessons, but solutions must be adapted to Indian geology, infrastructure and mine economics.

The emphasis is gradually shifting from the productivity of individual machines to the performance of the entire mining system. Digital adoption is another major trend. Connected equipment, condition monitoring, predictive maintenance and fleet analytics are helping customers improve utilisation and reduce unplanned downtime. Consequently, customers increasingly seek partners who can deliver complete operational solutions rather than individual machines.

How is critical minerals mining evolving in the country? What are the major developments?

Critical minerals have become a strategic priority as India seeks greater resource security and reduced import dependence. Government initiatives covering mineral exploration, block auctions and domestic processing are helping build momentum.

However, these projects can involve complex geology, deep-seated deposits and demanding extraction economics. Their development calls for application-specific equipment, carefully selected mining methods and robust project planning. Digital monitoring, equipment health analytics and advanced safety technologies can improve efficiency and reliability, but technology must suit the characteristics of each deposit.

As the sector develops, investment in processing capabilities and supporting infrastructure will also influence project viability. The availability of trained operators and maintenance specialists will be equally important.

What are the major challenges faced by mining players with respect to geology and environmental regulations?

India's diverse geology presents operational challenges ranging from varying material characteristics and overburden conditions to changing haul distances and mine layouts. Equipment and mining methods

therefore need to be selected around specific site conditions rather than a standard configuration.

At the same time, environmental regulations require operators to address emissions, dust, water use and responsible land management without compromising safety or productivity. Fuel-efficient equipment, optimised fleet operations, condition monitoring and, where feasible, lower-emission technologies can support these priorities. Success also depends on practical implementation, regulatory compliance and an approach that balances immediate production requirements with long-term environmental responsibility.

At GMMCO, we focus on understanding each customer's operating environment and designing application-oriented solutions. Our subsidiary, GTS, works with mining customers on their specific challenges. We believe the most effective approach integrates sound mine planning, appropriate technology, workforce training and dependable aftermarket support.

What smart technologies and solutions are playing a major role in current mining activities?

Connected fleets, equipment health monitoring, predictive maintenance and digital fleet management are transforming mining operations. They offer better visibility into machine utilisation, enable timely maintenance and help minimise unplanned downtime. Collision awareness, enhanced visibility systems and remote-operated or semi-autonomous equipment can also improve safety and reduce operator exposure in demanding environments.

A notable milestone is Caterpillar's D11 Semi-Autonomous Tractor System (SATS) deployed at Adani's Parsa East–Kanta Basan (PEKB) mines. Identified as Asia's first deployment of this solution, it illustrates how GMMCO, Caterpillar and the customer can work together to introduce advanced technology in Indian mining. The deployment demonstrates the importance of evaluating application suitability, building operating confidence and supporting customers through technological change.

For GMMCO, technology implementation goes beyond supplying machines. We help customers assess suitability, support deployment and build operating capabilities.



Technology delivers its full value only when the people using and maintaining it understand its purpose, processes and safety benefits.

How do you visualise the mining equipment industry's growth in the coming years? What are your future plans to meet growing customer needs?

We are optimistic about the industry's prospects. Demand for coal, iron ore, limestone and critical minerals, supported by infrastructure and industrial growth, will create opportunities for equipment and services. Yet future growth will depend as much on fleet productivity, reliability and lifecycle performance as on new equipment purchases.

This also changes the relationship between mining companies and equipment providers, placing greater emphasis on accountability and long-term collaboration. Customers are looking for partners who understand their production targets and operating economics. Flexible models such as mining rentals, equipment buybacks, guaranteed production arrangements and pay-for-performance solutions are becoming increasingly relevant, subject to individual commercial requirements.

GMMCO is strengthening its position as an integrated mining solutions partner through application engineering, advanced Caterpillar technologies, digital solutions, workforce training and comprehensive aftermarket support. Our longstanding Caterpillar partnership combines global engineering capabilities with local understanding of Indian mining conditions.

Our ambition is to help customers achieve measurable improvements in productivity, safety and operational efficiency throughout the equipment lifecycle. For us, the future of mining is about enabling smarter operations, greater value and sustainable growth. ■