

- ✓ Ministry of Coal is holding a conference on Coal Quality on the 5th April 2017, involving all the coal companies and technical experts to discuss and work out the strategy to ensure that right quality of coal is supplied to the power plants and help them achieve higher efficiency rates.

CPSI has been strongly pursuing the issue of coal quality with the coal industry and all its stake holders. In recent past, CPSI had held two such workshops, first on the 9th and 10th November 2016 at New Delhi and second on 11th February 2017, in association with Coal India Ltd at their head quarters at Kolkata.

- ✓ According to a recent report by IEA the global economy grew by 3.1 percent, same as past few years trend, global carbon emissions remained flat for the third year in a row, even while the global economy continued to grow. It may still be too early to tell whether emissions are peaking for good now, or whether they will resume increasing in years to come.
- ✓ In a recent interview with PTI, Coal Secretary Mr. Susheel Kumar said that "our dependence on petroleum and natural gas will be reduced or done away with, if the country is able to get gas from coal. Mr Kumar said that if we were able to replace this import by indigenous coal gasification. In the next five years time, about USD 10 billion worth of import can be substituted."

CPSI had expressed the same view in E-bulletin issue # 5 of January 2017.

- ✓ Shenhua Ningxia CTL Construction has started planning its second 4 Mt / a CTL project of Shenhua Ningxia CTL construction. The first 4 Mt / a CTL project was started in December, 2016. Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a special congratulation.
- ✓ As a step towards opening up coal mining for private commercial mining, Ministry of Coal has released a discussion paper for comments of stakeholders. Commercial mines are proposed to be allotted without conditions on the end use of the coal. The Union government has already identified four coal blocks that will be allocated to private miners during 2017-18.
- ✓ Coal as major power source is here to stay, says Rodrigo Duterte, President of Philippines. Despite the hysteria created by self-proclaimed environment advocates, Mr. Duterte sees the Philippines continuously tapping coal sources to generate power.

- ✓ A half-day Round-table on Coal Washing is scheduled to be held on 17th April 2017 at the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. This is a joint effort of MoEF & CC and CPSI.
- ✓ Among the global policy making circles, governments are gradually recognising that carbon capture, storage/ utilisation has a role to play. As coal can't be wished away for decades to come, the power utilities and oil exploration companies located on India's coastal locatriuons have advantage of pooling their resources and invest in the tools to capture and use CO2 to enhance oil recovery.
- ✓ Scott Pruitt, the top environmental official of the US, strongly rejected the established science of climate change, outraging scientists, environmentalists, and even his immediate predecessor at the Environmental Protection Agency. "I think that measuring with precision the impact of human activity on the climate is something very challenging to do and there's tremendous disagreement about the degree of impact and we need to continue the debate and continue the review and the analysis."
- ✓ According to a news report, power companies that win coal contracts with the Coal India Ltd. in the forthcoming auctions will have to ensure that they sign long and medium-term contracts for power supply with discoms within two years. Coal supplies to the power plants will start only after they sign the power supply contracts.
- ✓ Business Standard reported that as many as 222 mineral (non-coal) blocks are in the pipeline for auction in 2017-18. While all these blocks could be potentially auctioned, the actual number of blocks to go under the hammer would depend on their status of exploration and the readiness of the respective state governments.
- ✓ BHEL has commissioned the first 250 MW unit of NTPC's 750 MW coal based power plant at Bongaigaon in Assam. This is the largest coal based station in North East.
- ✓ India has joined the International Energy Agency (IEA) as an Associate Member. This development reflects the country's move to the centre stage of the global energy dialogue.
- ✓ Central Electricity Authority data shows more than 50,000 MW of installed power capacity is under outage and the operating thermal power plants are working at 60% of their capacity.
- ✓ Coal India is working on a regional coal demand approach and readying itself towards supplying coal to consumers at just a day's notice. *TOI news.*