

- Quoting coal ministry's letter, Coal India Ltd has invited applications from IPPs to register on the auction web site of MSTC before August 7, 2017 for coal linkages under the Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India (Shakti).
- Coal India Limited is reported to have graded its mines in three categories; 'high', 'moderate' and 'low risk' and the company plans to shut down high-risk mines that are beyond mitigation.
- Minister of Power and Coal informed the Parliament that the gap between demand and supply of coal cannot be bridged completely as there is insufficient domestic availability of coking coal and power plants designed on imported coal will continue to import for their production.
- In FY 2016-17 India's coal consumption was 838.68 million tonnes (domestic : 647.73 mt; imported 190.95 mt). For 2017-18 total demand has been estimated as 908.40 mt.
- According to Central Electricity Authority countrywide roll out of equipment to lower sulfur dioxide emissions won't be completed until 2023. Furthermore, that's only one of the four types of pollutants plants must cap. Therefore, it has asked for extension of environment ministry's December 2017 deadline.

CPSI view: While agreeing with CEA's stand, CPSI strongly recommends that CEA should convince the power plants about the benefits of using WASHED COAL that will help in significant reduction in all four pollutants namely CO₂, NOX, SOX and Hg. Otherwise even 2023 target could also slip and then it will be too late to handle the situation.

- India's stalled or stranded power projects account for nearly 50 gigawatts of electricity production capacity, or roughly 15 percent of India's total of more than 300 gigawatts. That is a potentially critical output in a fast-growing economy where total power-supply capacity is, on paper, sufficient to meet demand. But blackouts are not unusual during peak hours.
- Coal India is reported to have decided that IPPs that do not participate in the announced auction for coal supply or do not offer any discounts on existing tariffs will not get another chance to secure long term coal supply contracts from Coal India.
- The National Energy Policy draft, released by think-tank Niti Aayog, presupposes that coal-based generation will increase from 195 gigawatts now to 330-441 gigawatts by 2040. By then, the share of coal, oil, and natural gas in electricity generation is expected to fall by just two percentage points to 78 percent. Coal's share is expected to go from 55 percent in 2015-16 to 48-54 percent in 2040.
- NITI Aayog has also commented that the present coal regime in India continues to be a historical relic, while most other sectors of the economy have evolved to adopt free market principles. It is therefore, essential to move away from this opaque coal economy and introduce greater competition in it.
- The government is reported to be considering an Aadhaar-like unique identification for all the power projects in the country to know the right amount of electricity generation and consumption, electricity requirement, demand-supply patterns, and transmission system requirements. The registry will also help new power plants secure regulatory clearances, he said.

- The government is considering constituting a committee, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to oversee implementation of the proposed National Energy Policy which aims to promote energy independence.
- An app has been developed by the power ministry in association with POSOCO and Central Electricity Authority. The app is designed to display information regarding the merit order which includes daily state-wise marginal variable costs of all generators, daily source-wise power purchases of respective states with source-wise fixed and variable costs, energy volumes and purchase prices. While launching the App, union Power and Coal Minister, Mr Goyal said that this initiatives would reflect a government in action fulfilling the promises made to the people of India. It also provides an opportunity to the people and the media to monitor our work and keep questioning what is happening in the power sector."
- According to Choudhary Birender Singh, Minister of Steel, "We had meeting with Coal Ministry to take quick decisions pertaining to thrust areas. Coal India Ltd and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd have agreed to set up 12 new coking coal washeries by 2019-20", Minister added. "For this I have asked that they should give a road-map as to how many would be in operation? These should take three years to be functional."
- Reuters has reported that Japan is planning a wave of new coal-fired power plants as it struggles to revive its nuclear industry which is still mostly shut down in the wake of the Fukushima disaster in 2011. Nuclear power contributed nearly a third of total electricity generated before the catastrophe. Companies are looking to build 41 new coal-fired power plants with total capacity of 18,431 megawatts is expected to come online in the next decade. Japan had a total 90 coal-fired units at the end of March 2016, with total capacity of 41,270 MW.
- New study finds solar households produce 30% to 60% more electronic waste than non-solar households. Last November, Japan's Environment Ministry issued a stark warning that the amount of solar panel waste that Japan produces every year will rise from 10,000 to 800,000 tons by 2040, and the nation has no plan for safely disposing it. Solar panels create 300 times more toxic waste per unit of energy than do nuclear power plants. If solar and nuclear produce the same amount of electricity over the next 25 years that nuclear produced in 2016, and the wastes are stacked on football fields, the nuclear waste would reach the height of the Leaning Tower of Pisa (52 meters), while the solar waste would reach twice the height of Mt. Everest.
- Coal expected to surpass natural gas as a source of power in the United States during 2017, reports Reuters. Last year, natural gas surpassed coal for the first time as the primary fuel for power plants in the United States, following a century-long of coal dominance. The United States' Energy Information Administration (EIA) expects coal to retake its title during 2017, mainly due to an increase in natural gas prices. However, that should be short-lived, since the EIA predicts that natural gas will again become the primary fuel source in 2018.
- Coal India will soon set a coal-based methanol plant in the state of West Bengal. This is an opportunity, think-tank Niti Aayog says, to reduce the dependence of West Asia countries on imported natural gas. India currently relies on imports to cover 60 percent of its natural gas needs.