

1. Coal availability is comfortable for the country's coal fired thermal power plants, with stocks of 33.8 million metric tonnes (MT) of fuel as of April-end, up 62% year-on-year. In a stock exchange filling, CIL said coal supplies to the coal-fired plants rose to 50.6 MT in April, 2023, compared to 49.3 MT of last year's April. Coal inventory at CIL's pitheads stood at 64.6 MT as of April, 2023 end which is 13% higher than the same period last year. CIL Production in April 2023 surged 7.7% to 57.6 MT. This marks an increase of 4.1 MT compared to the 53.5 MT recorded in April, 2022.
Source: Financial Express & The New Indian Express, Dtd: 3rd May, 2023
2. India's coal imports increased by 30% to 162.46 MT in the FY 2022-23 against 124.99 MT in the year-ago period. The import of coking coal rose 5.44% to 54.46 MT over 51.65 MT in FY 22. In March alone, the non-coking coal import stood at 13.88 MT against 12.61 MT in the same month last year. Coking coal imports were 3.96 MT in March, 2023 against 4.76 MT imported in March, 2022.
Source: www.thehindu.com, Dtd: 8th May, 2023
3. The Steel minister, Govt. of India, told that India is moving in the direction of importing coking coal from Russia and planning to double imports. India's coking coal demand is likely to jump 8 per cent to 10 per cent in FY 24 due to rising steel demand from the housing and infrastructure sectors. Coking coal imports from Australia has dropped from previous year's 70 per cent to 54 per cent in FY 23 due to higher imports from the United States and Russia.
Source: www.carboncopy.info, Dtd: 8th May, 2023
4. To meet the target of 1 billion tonne (BT) coal production by FY 26, CIL has worked out 52-mine plan. Jharkhand leads the pack with 15 mining projects, of which three are new; the rest are expansion of existing coal mines in the state. It is followed by Chhattisgarh with eight new coal mine projects. Maharashtra and West Bengal will get seven new coal mining projects each.
Source: Business Standard, Dtd: 9th May, 2023
5. In April-May, 2022, thermal coal prices in the domestic and international markets were trading in the range of Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 15,000 per tonne (including taxes). However, it has dipped now by more than half in the range of Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 6,000 per tonne (including taxes). The prices are ex-mine. General Secretary of Central India Coal Dealers' Association attributed the price drop to the poor demand for the commodity.
Source: www.thehitavada.com, Dtd: 12th May, 2023
6. As per CEA report on Optimal Generation Mix 2030 Version 2.0, last year 73 per cent of India's power came from coal which is expected to go down to 55 per cent by 2030. Renewable sources (such as small hydro, pumped hydro, solar, wind and biomass) will rise to 31 per cent in 2030 from 12 per cent right now. The power sector contributes about 40 per cent of India's total greenhouse gas emissions. With growing energy demand as is expected of a developing country, power sector emissions are projected to rise by 11 per cent, which will comprise 8 per cent of global power sector emissions in 2030.
Source: www.downtoearth.org.in, Dtd: 17th May, 2023
7. CIL has reached an agreement with its 2.38 lakh strong non-executive workers over the revision of wages. Under the agreement reached, a 19 per cent minimum guaranteed benefit from July 1, 2021, on emoluments (basic, VDA, SDA & attendance bonus) and a 25 per cent increase in allowances have been granted. The Joint Bipartite Committee for the Coal Industry (JBCCI)-XI consisting of representatives of CIL management, SCCL, five central trade unions i.e. BMS, HMS, AITUC, CITU and Indian National Mine Workers' Federation (INMF) on May 20, 2023, recommended and inked National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA)-XI for the period of five years w.e.f. 01.07.2021.
Source: www.economicstimes.indiatimes.com, Dtd: 22nd May, 2023
8. Researchers propose using coal as a potential solution to the storage challenges of hydrogen gas, similar to how batteries store energy for future use. A study highlights the potential of coal as a geological hydrogen battery, addressing a major obstacle in establishing a sustainable clean energy supply chain. Scientists suggest that coal could serve as a suitable medium for geological hydrogen storage. By injecting and storing hydrogen in geologic formations, large quantities can be stored to meet fluctuating energy demands.
Source: www.theweek.in, Dtd: 27th May, 2023
9. International Energy Agency (IEA) said investment in global coal production and supply in 2023 is expected to increase by about 10% from the \$135 billion spent in 2022. The agency also said that nearly 90% of this investment will likely be in the Asia-Pacific region, notably in China and India where both countries have looked to expand production and develop new coal mines.
Source: www.thefinancialtribune.com, Dtd: 28th May, 2023
10. JSW Steel has domestic and international coking coal assets on its radar as it looks to beef up raw material security. JSW Steel was recently declared a preferred bidder for two coking coal blocks in Jharkhand which would give one million tonnes of finished coking coal or roughly five per cent of the current requirement of JSW Steel. The firm is also said to have evinced interest in coal mines owned by Australia's BHP group, which are undergoing a sale process.
Source: www.business-standard.com, Dtd: 28th May, 2023
11. CIL has raised prices of non-coking coal of grade G2 to G10 by 8% over the existing notified prices with effect from May 31, five years after the last hike. These high-grade coals are used mainly by the cement, fertiliser, and sponge iron sectors and the development will increase their input costs. It is unlikely to affect the thermal power sector that mainly uses coal of G11-13 grade to generate electricity. The price revision will help Coal India earn incremental revenue of approximately ₹2,703 crore in FY24.
Source: www.economicstimes.indiatimes.com, Dtd: 31st May, 2023
12. As per Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), globally significant financial institutions (FIs) are committing to divesting away from coal at a quicker rate as climate change becomes a priority globally. It took almost six years for the first 100 institutions to adopt coal exclusion policies, but since then the number has doubled in just over three years.
Source: www.ieefa.org, Dtd: 4th May, 2023