

The World Coal Association (WCA) has welcomed the International Energy Agency's (IEA) recognition that coal will continue to play a vital role in the global energy mix. In its latest World Energy Outlook (WEO) 2017 report, coal remains the single largest source of electricity generation through to 2040 at 26%. India and Southeast Asia will be the driving force of demand for coal in the decades to come.

- Studies carried out in China have shown that modern coal gasification-based chemical production can be low cost CO₂ separation and purification, in addition to CO₂ sequestration, CO₂ using cutting-edge technology to produce high value-added downstream products olefins, gasoline, methanol, synthesis gas and biodegradable plastics.
- The Indonesian coal market, which is the main source of imported fuel for Indian power plants, too remains ebullient, proving wrong those who predicted an imminent end to the boom in the Southeast Asian country's coal sector. The Indonesian government's benchmark price for thermal coal has risen by more than 25% since June this year on strong Chinese demand for the dry fuel. The benchmark Indonesian thermal coal price in November is 12% higher compared to the same month last year.
- Nearly 60,000 mw of thermal power projects in the IPP (independent power producers) segment are stressed mainly for want of long-term power purchase pacts and unavailability of domestic gas supplies says a report. The report said the weak financials of state-owned DISCOMs constrain their paying capacity, which along with subdued demand from the industrial segment has affected the demand growth. As a result, the overall progress in signing of long-term PPAs through competitive bidding by state-owned DISCOMs remains slow.
- Two coal washeries of Tata Steel and one each of ACB (India), Adani Enterprises and Monnet-Daniels were among the seven best operating coal washeries awarded by the Coal Preparation Society of India. The awards were conferred by Susheel Kumar, Secretary (Coal), Government of India at '5th International Coal Conference' held at New Delhi on November 6th and 7th November this year. Two Chinese coal washeries belonging to CCTEG Beijing Huayu Engineering Co. were amongst those received the awards.
- The consortium formed by Infra firm NCC Ltd and BGR Infra has bagged has been awarded the project relating to mine development and operation of Talaipalli coal block (MDO project) by NTPC. The dry fuel from this block will be put to captive use for NTPC's 4,000 MW Lara Power Project. The value of the project is estimated to be Rs 25,071 crore to be executed over 25 years.
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- Financial Times reported that India will hit peak coal demand for its power sector within a decade, according to new analysis, helping the world hit its Paris climate targets but creating a problem for the country's biggest mining companies. A report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis shows the growth in demand for coal in one of the world's fastest growing economies will level off by 2027 far sooner than previous projections.

CPSI View : *This is a shortsighted estimate. Facts like complete electrification of Indian Railways, 250 million tonnes steel making target, housing for all and last but not the least @ 8 - 9% GDP growth would need 7 - 8% growth in electricity demand etc have been blissfully ignored.*

- Admitting that coal transportation accounts for a considerable part of the air pollution in the areas around the main routes, the Indian government has announced plans to cover every coal truck and railway wagon in the country.
- According to a published source, the Power Ministry is considering regulatory changes to let power companies pass on costs of installing emission-cutting equipment to consumers. However, the power producers

can always go to their respective regulators or electricity regulatory commissions to seek approval for increasing power tariff to recover any such expenditure citing new norms issued by Environment Ministry in December 2015.

CPSI point of view : *Use of washed coal of ash content of ~ 25 - 28% can help the existing power plants to comply with the emission norms. Classic example is that of the Sasan thermal power station in Singrauli coalfield which uses coal of 25% ash content, is fully meeting the new norms without any FGD or any other additional outfit.*

- JSW Steel admits cost pressure due to coking coal prices, reports Economic Times. The company is facing higher input costs due to higher prices in the coking coal, thermal coal, and iron ore benchmarks.

CPSI view : *We have been repeatedly requesting all stakeholders namely Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Steel, Coal India, SAIL and private iron & steel companies to come together and work out a judicious plan of action to set up washeries for processing domestic coal. Presently, nearly 45million tonnes of this scarce resource is being supplied to power plants.*

- Economic Times quoted International Energy Agency's report as saying that India became the third largest country for energy investment in 2016 only behind China and the United States of America. The World Energy Investment report 2017 stated that "Energy investment in India jumped 7% in 2016, cementing its position as the third-largest country behind the United States." The report added that "Investment in India's electricity sector reached a record of nearly \$55bn in 2016."
- Reuters reported that India's coal imports from North America quadrupled to 2.1 million tonnes in October from a year ago, the highest since at least January 2015, Thomson Reuters data showed, and buyers are looking to boost purchases amid a domestic shortage of the fuel. A ban on the use of petroleum coke, a dirtier but better-burning alternative to coal, is spurring expectations India will buy even more coal from the United States in coming months.
- Singareni Collieries Company Limited will open 12 new mines (6 opencast and 6 underground). Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao said in the State Assembly.
- Ministry of Power has directed NTPC Ltd to source up to 10 per cent of its thermal fuel requirements from straw pellets. The move is aimed at luring farmers away from stubble burning and help Delhi has been clouded with a layer of smog hampering visibility and putting inhabitants at the risk of respiratory diseases.

With over 200 participants including 35 overseas delegates participating, 5th International conference on Coal Washing was successfully organised by CPSI in association with ASSOCHAM, India. First meeting of the International Organising Committee (IOC) of XIX International Coal Preparation Congress was held on 6th and 8th November at New Delhi. All IOC members representing 12 countries also participated in the international conference on coal washing. Gist of conclusions and the recommendations arising from the two days deliberations have been submitted to the Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for informed policy formation on coal washing.