

1. The Power regulator (CERC) has approved the shift to monthly rates for imported coal, replacing the six-monthly system through an official order which says that the parties to existing PPAs, where the generating company and the procurer agree to use the monthly escalation rates, adopt their own mutually agreed methodology for the transition from six-monthly to monthly escalation rates.

*Source: www.cercind.gov.in, Dtd: 2nd Jan. 2025*

2. The environment ministry of India has extended the deadline for thermal power plants (TPPs) to install Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) equipment by three more years, with plants near the NCR or cities with over a million-population given until December 2027. Previous deadlines were missed due to delays and limited vendor capacity.

*Source: www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com, Dtd: 7th Jan. 2025*

3. India's coal imports rose by 2% to 182.02 million tonnes (MT) between April and November this year. Monthly imports for November dropped to 19.57 MT due to sufficient domestic supply, leading to reduced demand. Coking coal imports also decreased slightly as the government pushes for increase domestic production.

*Source: www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com, Dtd: 12th Jan. 2025*

4. Coal India has set its sights on Argentina as a destination in its strategic diversification into critical minerals, with a focus on lithium brine assets. Lithium brine is a concentrated salt solution that contains dissolved lithium and other minerals. Recognising the economic significance and strategic value of, minerals like lithium (Li), Nickel (Ni), cobalt (Co) and others, CIL has initiated steps to explore opportunities in key resource-rich nations such as Argentina, Australia and Chile.

*Source: The Economics Times, Dtd: 13th Jan. 2025*

5. BCCL is initiating the processes for disinvestment in the upcoming financial year. As per plans, 25% of the BCCL's equity stakes will be disinvested

through the initial public offering (IPO) route. Currently, the CIL owns 100% stake at BCCL. Plans are afoot to get listed for the IPO by August this year. In the annual report of 2023-24 FY, BCCL posted a net sale of Rs. 13216.17 crore. Its profits in the same fiscal year were Rs. 1564.46 crore, considerably higher than Rs. 664.78 crore which it earned in 2022-23 FY.

*Source: www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com, Dtd: 15th Jan. 2025*

6. CIL is looking to produce around 806 to 810 MT of coal in the current financial year, against a production target of 838 MT. Four companies such as MCL, WCL, ECL and BCCL are in advance of their production targets. However, SECL which has bigger mines is on watch for its production in the remaining days of the current financial year.

*Source: The Hindu Business Line, Dtd: 18th Jan. 2025*

7. In a move to secure the post-retirement benefits of more than half a million pensioners of public-sector coal mines, the centre is planning to raise the cess levied on coal production – the cess funds the pension corpus – from Rs 10 tonne to Rs 25 per tonne.

*Source: www.business-standard.com, Dtd: 26th Jan. 2025*

8. SCCL is transitioning from coal to renewable energy, targeting over 6000 MW from renewable sources in three years. The SCCL is forming two new companies for rare earth mineral exploration and renewable energy projects. SCCL is also expanding into pumped storage, wind energy, CO2 to methanol conversion, and coal gasification. Additionally, they plan to explore lithium in South America and continue solar and thermal power projects. For rare earth exploration, SCCL – a 51:49 joint venture between Telengana govt and the Centre – is trying to venture into Bolivia, Argentina and Chile, known as the lithium triangle.

*Source: www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com, Dtd: 27th Jan. 2025*