

1. The United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Emissions Gap Report 2022 envisages the share of zero-carbon power should increase to 65-92% by 2030, and 98-100% by 2050. So, "unabated coal" - coal power not balanced out by efforts to reduce CO2 emissions - needs to fall to zero in 2030.

Source: The Times of India, Dtd: 3rd Nov. 2022

2. As per Union Coal minister Center is keenly examining the environmental implications of coal and oil exploration in Northeast India while also ensuring that the rich mineral resources are properly exploited for the benefit of the region.

Source: www.sentinelassam.com, Dtd: 5th Nov. 2022

3. Amid growing demand to end use of coal, India at the UN climate talks (COP27) made a strong point saying making any one fuel the villain is not right as natural gas and oil also lead to emissions.

Source: The Times of India, Dtd: 13th Nov. 2022

4. Speaking at the G20 meeting Prime Minister said, "India is committed to clean energy and environment." Yet India has also made no secret of the fact that it will need coal for decades to come, even as it increases its reliance on renewables and moves towards net zero in 2070. In continuation to this, at the launch of sixth coal mine auction wherein 141 new sites for coalmines will be sold off, the finance minister said India needs greater investment in coal production to meet the coal production target.

Source: www.theguardian.com, Dtd: 15th Nov. 2022

5. There is no plan to phase out coal as India needs affordable energy for economic growth. India will

continue to ramp up coal production, with output topping 1.5 bn tonne by 2040, says Coal minister.

Source: The Times of India, Dtd: 16th Nov. 2022

6. CIL chairman said "despite relying on coal for 44 per cent of its primary commercial energy needs, India has pledged to reduce its carbon intensity by 45 per cent by 2030 over 2005 levels. The long-term goal is to achieve net-zero carbon emissions target by 2070".

Source: www.businessindia.co, Dtd: 16th Nov. 2022

7. CIL had sold around 30 MMT through the e-auction platform during the first half of the current fiscal and expects around 50 MMT more sales in the second half. In the last fiscal, e-auction volume stood at 108 MMT.

Source: Financial Express, Dtd: 17th Nov. 2022

8. Towards environmental interests CIL is pushing hard to unlock its trapped underground (UG) reserves as a green mining option. In FY22, out of 622.6 MMT of coal mined, nearly 96%, or 597 MMT, was opencast (OC) coal. CIL's goal is to make UG production significantly supplement OC output. India has huge untapped potential for UG mining, with extractable reserves beyond 300 m depth. Around 70% of the country's coal reserves are amenable to UG mining, which delivers several advantages.

Source: www.economicstimes.indiatimes.com, Dtd: 26th Nov. 2022.

9. From April to November of this fiscal year CIL's production has reached 412.6 MMT, registering around 17% year on year growth over the same period in FY22. CIL targets production of around 700 MMT in the current financial year.

Source: www.livemint.com, Dtd: 1st Dec. 2022.

King COAL will be there for many years - whether to "import or not" - this natural resource ("God's Gift" to the nation) has to be mined only when we have proper technologies to utilise the value of each grain. These resources are nonperishable; even if we do not mine today, they will not perish like tomatoes. Let us utilise with great care and leave some to next generation. We need great innovation in steel making and combustion.

Prof. (Dr.) T.C. Rao

Formerly: Director, Regional Research Laboratory (CSIR), Bhopal.
Head, Dept. of Fuel and Mineral Engin; ISM, Dhanbad

Coal washing is imperative to make King COAL amenable for use, keeping environmental concerns in view.

Shri H.L.Sapru

CEO (Washery Business)
Monnet Daniels Coal Washeries Ltd.