

1. As per Govt. of India, significant growth in the coal sector is due to a rise in production of the fossil fuel during September. The production of coal in September 2023 increased to 67.27 MT against 58.04 MT in the year-ago period. As per the index of eight core industries, the index of coal sector showed a year-on-year growth of 16.1 percent to 148.1 points.  
*Source: www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com, Dtd: 2nd Nov. 2023*
2. CIL has posted around 12 percent year-on-year production growth during the first seven months of this fiscal. CIL produced 394 million tonnes (MT) of coal in the April-October 2023 period compared with 352 MT during the corresponding period a year ago. The output growth was higher than the annual asking growth rate of 11 percent. CIL Chairman said, CIL has come a long way from a production of 79 MT in its year of inception, in 1975, to 703 MT ending FY23 and are on course in the pursuit of the challenging output target of 780 MT in the current financial year.  
*Source: The Hindu Business Line, Dtd: 3rd Nov. 2023*
3. India is doubling down on coal-fired power ahead of the COP-28 climate meet as a sharp uptick in the economy fuels a surge in electricity demand. Power minister said, the country has to start work on 30000 MW (megawatt) new thermal generation capacity on top of 50000 MW already underway to avoid shortage. He also emphasized the importance of power availability for the nation's growth and warned that India will not reduce coal usage despite pressure from COP-28.  
*Source: www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com, Dtd: 6th Nov. 2023*
4. NLCIL is working on a pilot project for production of 1,200 tonnes a day (400,000 lakh tonnes a year) of methanol using 2.5 MT of lignite. NLCIL Chairman said, the feasibility report is ready and has been approved by the board and the ₹4,400-crore project would be implemented on a debt-equity ratio of 80:20. The project is expected to be implemented by an overseas technology supplier, yet to be selected, on a lumpsum turnkey basis. Engineers India Ltd is likely to be awarded the project management contract.  
*Source: www.thehindubusinessline.com, Dtd: 8th Nov. 2023*
5. The Ministry of Coal plans to increase coal production to 1404 MT by 2027 and 1577 MT by 2030. The ministry aims to meet the additional coal requirement for supplying to the 80 GW thermal capacity to be added in the country by 2030. The production plan includes opening new mines, expanding mine capacity, and increasing production from captive or commercial mines. The ministry also stated that coal stocks have started building up and smooth coal supplies have been maintained.  
*Source: www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com, Dtd: 14th Nov. 2023*
6. The Indian government will request Australia to take measure to ensure steady supplies of coking coal as part of efforts to help steel mills reeling from falling supplies and rising prices of the key raw material in steel-making. Australia accounts for over half of India's coking coal imports of around 70 million metric tons a year. Indian steel mills have been trying to turn to other countries such as Russia to take advantage of cheaper prices. Other than Australia and Russia, India also imports coking coal from the US.  
*Source: www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com, Dtd: 15th Nov. 2023*
7. Coal requirement for power generation in the second half of this financial year has increases to 424 MT compared with 404 MT projected earlier amid higher demand. Additionally, 18 MT will be required to maintain desirable closing stock of 40 MT by March-end. Power generation from coal-based plants is now projected at 657 billion units for the second half of 2023-24 against 619 billion units expected earlier. While the gross demand of coal for the period is 442 MT, 24 MT is expected to come through imports. For the movement of total coal to plants, 463 rakes per day are required, which include 20 for the imported ones. Earlier, the requirement was expected to be 405 rakes per day.  
*Source: www.economicstimes.indiatimes.com  
Dtd: 20th Nov. 2023*
8. After 38 years the World Coal Association (WCA) will cease and usher in a new era under the branding: Future Coal - The Global Alliance for Sustainable Coal. Unveiling the new brand logo and identity at a dedicated press conference in Delhi, Future Coal Chief Executive said the change responded to a call from coal and coal allied sectors to modernize, and unite under a common purpose.  
*Source: www.worldcoal.com, Dtd: 21st Nov. 2023*
9. Bengaluru's Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) is setting up India's first plant to convert CO2 into methanol at a power plant in Telangana. The plant, commissioned by the CMPDI with a recommendation from CIL, is expected to be completed in 2024.  
*Source: www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com, Dtd: 28th Nov. 2023*
10. Coal and Mines minister launched the auction of 20 critical minerals worth Rs. 45000 Crore. Of the 20 minerals put on sale, two are lithium blocks, one of which is in Jammu & Kashmir, while the other is in Chhatisgarh. The 20 blocks on sale are across various states, including Jammu & Kashmir, Chhatisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Jharkhand and Bihar. The minister said that the auction process will close on February. Of the 20 blocks, 16 have been put up for grant of composite license (exploration, discovery, and up-to-processing) and four for grant of mining lease. Global majors have also been invited to participate in the auctions. So far, Korean and Japanese mining companies have expressed interest in bidding for India's lithium reserves.  
*Source: www.thehindubusinessline.com, Dtd: 29th Nov. 2023*

The government is set to launch the ninth round of commercial coal mine auctions on December 20 with 26 mines on offer. Among the mines to be offered, seven are fully explored and 19 are partially explored.