

- In its *World Energy Outlook 2016*, the IEA sees continuous growth in consumption of coal in the economies of developing Asia where they will turn to coal to support the development of base-load power. IEA report forecasts coal-fired plant output in South Asia to reach 1000 TWh by 2040 compared to less than 300 Twh today. **In the IEA's own analysis, coal demand in India grows by more than double in the period to 2040 and triples in the whole of Southeast Asia.**
- Central Electricity Authority in its Draft National Electricity Plan has predicted that by 2022 many plants may get partial or no schedule of generation at all meaning that many of these thermal power plants may have to be kept idle for lack of demand. According to the CEA, the expected installed capacity from different fuel types at the end of 2021-22 in base case works out to 523 gigawatts, including 50 GW of coal-based capacity currently under construction.
- ET has reported that NTPC and Nalco have decided to float a 50:50 joint venture to set up a 2400 MW (3X 800 MW) coal based power project at Gajmara, Dhenkanal in Odisha.
- Mercom Capital Group has recently estimated that India now has a total installed large-scale solar capacity of 9,018 MW and a solar pipeline of 14,030 MW as of December 2016, with the top 10 states accounting for approximately 90% of all solar installations and pipeline. These are Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. PTI
- Hydro power generator THDCIL has been allotted Amelia coal mine Singrauli district of MP, to meet the requirement of its Khurja STPP (2X660 MW) at Khurja in Uttar Pradesh. The total geological coal reserve is 394 million tonnes and the rated capacity of coal mine is 8.4 mtpy.
- Union coal secretary Sushil Kumar recently said the Indian government is all set to focus its coal production strategy on low ash clean for environment conservation as coal continues to remain the prime source of energy in India. Talking to media persons in Rajrappa area of CCL, Kumar said that the government wanted to increase clean coal production through establishment of coal washeries at various mines. Economic Times.
- Iran is expected to invest EUR 1.1 billion on its first coal mining project at Tabas, located in the South Khorasan province. According to the executive director of the mine, Omid Fallah, the 2.35 mtpa capacity mine will have an integrated coal washery and coke making plant.
- The Chinese State Council has issued a new investment policy to incentivize 'coal to chemicals' industry. New policy aims at decentralization and increase the efficiency of project approval.
- EIA Administrator Adam Sieminski said "while more US electricity is expected to be generated from coal than natural gas this winter, the share of total annual generation from natural gas is forecast to exceed coal during 2016 and 2017."
- NTPC has commenced production from Pakari Barwadih coal mine and aims at producing 0.5 million tonnes by March 2017. Company has been allocated 10 mines to NTPC having total estimated reserve of 7.3 billion tonnes with ultimate mining capacity of 107 million tonnes per annum.
- India's proven coal reserves have increased to 138.8 billion tonnes as of April 1, 2016, according to the latest estimate by the Geological Survey of India (GSI). The current estimate shows an increase of 6.47 billion tonnes over GSI's estimate of 131.61 billion tonnes in 2015.
- During a meeting with Coal Secretary Susheel Kumar, Chief Minister of Jharkhand emphasized upon faster development of newly allocated coal mines in the state. During the meeting the option of producing natural gas, methanol, ammonia, urea and polypropylene in Paharitola, Amarkonda and Brahmani coal mines of Santhal Pargana region was also discussed.
CPSI view : Coal Ministry must support Jharkhand government's coal gasification and coal to chemicals initiative. With the state government taking the lead, such new initiatives have better chances of success.
- NTPC plans to spend Rs 50,000 crore (USD 7 bn) to replace 11,000 MW of ageing, inefficient plants with modern energy-efficient coal based power stations. This is a part of India's efforts to increase energy efficiency and reduce the country's carbon footprint by phasing out all inefficient thermal power plants, older than 25 years, with modern energy efficient super critical ones
- According to a report by Crisil Research, government's plan to double the share of natural gas in India's energy mix to 15 would require investments of 65K crores (USD 10 billion) to augment gas import and pipelines infra.
CPSI view : it is time that the government makes serious efforts to increase coal's share in country's energy mix through a low carbon path by pushing coal cleaning and adoption of high efficiency low emission generating technologies. Coal gasification can substitute import of natural gas for fertilizer industry as well as replace imported petroleum based petro chemical industry's feed stock.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed recently between Ministry of Railways and Coal India Limited (CIL) for procurement of 2000 wagons (33 rakes) in the first outgo. The agreement will result into speedy supply of wagons for coal loading in dedicated circuits. Initially, the rakes will be inducted and run in the 2 main coal loading Zones of Indian Railways i.e. South East Central coal sector and East Coast circuit.
- Recently launched Coal Ministry's portal 'Coal Mitra' will initially allow transfer of domestic coal between state and central PSUs but will soon be extended to include private power plants. The portal is expected to enhance transparency in coal swapping and help reduce operational and logistic costs, bringing tariffs down.