

The most significant uses of coal are in electricity generation, steel production, cement manufacturing and as a liquid fuel.

- Economic Times reported that the draft tariff policy circulated recently by the government seeks to exempt power plants of all central public sector units from mandatory tariff-based competitive bidding, a move that took the industry by surprise. While the industry has hailed most other amendments proposed in the tariff policy, representative of Association of Power Producers said that "it is inexplicable as to why the power ministry does not want to expose central generation companies to competition and efficient price discovery."
- Central Coalfields Limited has launched a testing procedure to monitor alcohol addiction among its employees. Every worker is being made to go through a breath analyser test to ensure the men working in the mines are not drunk. – TOI
- PTI reported that the Coal India Limited wants power plants situated within 20 kms from coal mines to take their entire coal requirement only by road from this fiscal. This, according to CIL will increase the availability of rakes for movement of coal to power plants located far from the mines.
- BP's Energy Outlook continues to support a number of other independent forecasts that suggest that despite the well-documented growth of renewables, fossil fuels, including coal, will remain dominant sources of energy in the global energy mix. Coal still accounts for a significant share of the global energy mix at 27%. The latest figures prove how important coal continues to be in powering growth in developing and emerging economies. It's therefore essential that we recognise this and support countries to use emission reduction technologies like carbon capture use and storage, which allow them to meet climate obligations while at the same time meeting economic imperatives. – World Coal Institute.
- Environmental group Greenpeace said that India's construction sector and coal-fired power plants are major contributors to rising levels of particulate matter in the air. The World Health Organisation says India is home to the world's 14 most polluted cities. The PM10 index, which measures the concentration of particulate matter of 10 microns diameter or less in the air, hit 999 in the capital New Delhi during June this year, the highest measure on monitoring devices. This coarse particulate matter is mostly dust, which attaches to toxic material from other emissions. – Reuters

CPSI view: Studies carried out by many credible agencies have established beyond any doubt that city pollution is mainly resulting from vehicular emissions, road dust, burning of dry leaves etc and poor waste management practices. Recent dust pollution incidences in NCR and positive outcome of 'odd and even' policy introduced in Delhi during winter months, prove that coal based plants alone are not the cause of these problems.

- Indonesian Investments reported that this year's coal production in Indonesia is likely to top last year's figure of 461 million tonnes. In fact, coal production in 2018 may also exceed the production quota that was set by the Indonesian government as the nation's coal miners are eager to boost coal production amid stronger coal prices.
- Did you know that there are 24 countries that have identified a role for

low emission coal in their climate pledges as a way of working towards their Paris Agreement targets?

- US Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy has sought Request for Information (RFI) for input on the development of small-scale, modular coal-based power plants of the future. The objective of this is to support DOE's mission to lead research and technology development that promotes the advancement of coal-fired power plants that provide stable power generation with operational flexibility, high efficiency and low emissions.
- Over the past months, both public and private power generators have struggled to secure coal supplies and have turned to imports. In turn, this increases generation costs for power plants and burns through precious foreign currency. A surge in coal imports has had a clear impact on power tariffs. In the Indian Energy Exchange, power prices reached INR 4.7 per unit, compared to INR 2.77 per unit in the same period last year.

CPSI view: Captive coal block allottees need active and sincere hand-holding, government support and procedural debottlenecking that can enable them to commence coal production at the earliest. There have been avoidable delays on all fronts that have come in the way of coal production in such mines.

- Shortage of coal in the country is a result of sudden surge in demand of power plants. Furthermore this has resulted in 32 plants (36, 852 MW) out of total 114 facing coal shortage. Operational plants are performing at higher PLF and consuming more coal according to CEA.
- Steel Minister Ch. Birender Singh inaugurated JSPL's coal gasification facility which is based on the new method developed by the company enabling steel making using domestic non coking coal through gasification route. Steel Minister was present at the inauguration of the new facility, which includes a blast furnace, a basic oxygen furnace, a DRI plant, and the world's largest coal gasification plant for steel-making. We remain dependent on imports (for coking coal) but Naveen Jindal has come out with a plan which can make us reduce this dependence," said Singh. India imports around 80 percent of its coking coal requirements, worth around INR 20,000 crore.
- According to private power utilities, the Centre's preferential allocation of coal / coal blocks to the public sector power plants has contributed to the large number of stressed assets in the industry. A third of the stressed power assets, amounting to 22,500 megawatts in terms of generation capacity, have become unviable due to the lack of regular domestic coal supply, says the private sector.
- Australia's Mining Monthly has predicted increased demand of coking coal from China. This will obviously sustain higher prices in the international market.

CPSI view: Indian iron and steel industry must take a note of this development and make sincere efforts to seek more coking coal from domestic suppliers. This can fructify only if coking washeries are established at a faster pace. However, it is equally important to produce more coking coal and supply to washeries. It is rather unfortunate that two recently commissioned coking coal washeries in BCCL are not getting enough raw coal to process.

XIX International Coal Preparation Congress (ICPC) is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on 13-15 November 2019. Please block your diary. For further details, please contact: rksachdev01@gmail.com; president@cpsi.org.in