

Coal can supply affordable electricity for accelerating social development in India. Use washed coal for better environment.

- Anil Kumar Jha Coal India CMD told reporters that there was no shortage of coal in India. There are 45 million tonnes of stockpiles. However, there was logistics problem in transporting coal to different power plants across the country. He further said that where there is coal, there is no rail network. So, until and unless coal is transported to the power plant, having coal has no meaning. *Source: Millennium Post*
- Coal India plans to introduce a new pricing system based on the actually gross calorific value of the coal supplied from July 2018. Under the new system, buyers will be charged based on the gross calorific value of the coal they acquire instead of paying for one of several grades defined by ranges of calorific value.

CPSI view: The proposed system of billing requires sampling and analysis of 100 percent supplies. This is easy said than done. The best solution to all quality issues is to supply washed coal of a given declared GCV.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the first phase of 2,400 Megawatt capacity of NTPC's Patratu Super Thermal Power Project in Ramgarh district, Jharkhand. According to the first phase of 1,200 MW of the project will be set up at an estimated cost of around INR 18,000 crore. The Patratu project is a Joint Venture with 74 per cent stake of the Jharkhand government and Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd's 26 per cent stake. PVUNL is a subsidiary of NTPC.
- While Europe is phasing it out after the Paris climate agreement, and so too is China, the world's top consumer, financing coal is getting tougher too. According to Reuters, even if banks don't want to finance, the era of steam coal is not over yet. Asia's demand for electricity is outpacing coal demand which will keep prices lofty for longer than many had forecast! Appetite for the fuel in large existing markets - India, Korea and Japan - is holding up too.
- Japan has fired up at least eight new coal power plants in the past 2 years and has plans for an additional 36 over the next decade.
- According to Dr. Jessica Allen a chemical engineering researcher at University of Newcastle, truly clean coal technology is not a myth, it does exist, but you probably haven't heard of the technology that allows it to be a reality. Dr Jessica Allen is developing commercial energy technologies for today and for the future, as part of her research within UON's Priority Research Centre for Frontier Energy Technologies and Utilisation in Australia.
- Nalco expects savings of up to 25 percent of the costs as soon as coal production starts at Utkal D and E, (with a combined deposit of 200 million tonnes) its captive coal blocks. According to T K Chand, CMD, most of the statutory clearances for the block are in place and it will be a game changer for the company.
- In a bid to streamline environment clearance process, the Centre has exempted public consultation to those projects located within the industrial parks which were notified prior to September 2006 and had obtained green nod. In a recent directive, the Environment Ministry said the exemption has also been given to those projects that have obtained Terms of references (To Rs) prior to environment clearances to such industrial estates/park. However, the exemption will not be applicable among others to coal washeries. *PTI Report*

CPSI view: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change should have covered coal washeries as well, in the exempt list. The very objective of washing coal is to reduce the ash content, improve its heat value and enable efficient combustion with reduced emissions and thereby protecting the environment.

- UNI reported that in order to make more coal available for the small, medium and other sectors, the Maharashtra Government has appointed Maharashtra State Mining Corporation as the state nominated agency for coal distribution to MSMEs of the state. *Report*
- Coal India is reported to have asked for a roadmap from the Railways which will help the company possess its own network of railway corridors and rakes which it feels will help in reducing its dependency on railways for transporting coal. Shortage of railway rakes has been an ongoing concern for the entire coal consuming sector.
- Economic Times reported that Coal India is set to increase supplies by at least 15 million tonnes annually in the next few weeks, with three new rail projects linked to high-capacity mines almost complete. The additional supply will be enough to fuel almost 4,000 MW of power plants through the year. New rail links will benefit mines belonging to Coal India subsidiaries Central Coalfields, Mahanadi Coalfields and South Eastern Coalfields.
- Thailand is back on setting up coal fired power stations. The Energy Ministry made the announcement this after setting up a committee of several analysts from the environmental, community impact, economic profit and project viability fields to study the issue. As the first step in this direction, two coal-fired power plants in two southern provinces have been taken after a four-year delay.
- Poland has shown immense interest to provide technical knowhow to the West Bengal government in extraction of clean coal. A state delegation had visited Poland recently to explore the possibilities of cooperation in the power sector and held a meeting with Krzysztof Tchórzewski who is the Energy Minister of Poland.
- Ministry of Coal instructed Coal India to extend out of turn coal allotment to state and central PSU generation companies ahead of private producers. This comes shortly after another directive that gave power plants priority on coal rakes over captive power plants and industrial players. Demand for electricity is expected to reach record levels this summer leading operators to predict a coal shortage. *ET Report*

CPSI views: Where has the level playing field approach gone? This will further accentuate the financially stressed private power plants. Equitable and fair play demands equal treatment to PSU and private power units. They together contribute to the overall electricity supply in the country.

- World Coal Association (WCA) is holding a series of roundtables that will bring together participants with different perspectives, covering a number of geographic regions and addressing the entire lifecycle of coal, from mining through to its use. WCA, in consultation with stakeholders and informed by their feedback and recommendations, will be working to explore the impacts, implications and expectations around coal and the SDGs.
- Economic Times reported that the government has accelerated exploration and drilling of coal in the northeastern states of the country particularly in states of Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland.
- Financial Express reported that West Bengal Chief Minister claimed to have got the Centre's clearance for the sole operatorship of India's largest coal block Deocha-Pachami in the state. Chief Minister claimed that she had got the clearance from the Union Minister after holding discussions related to certain complications Bengal was facing regarding the coal block. The block was originally offered jointly to West Bengal, Bihar, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and SJVNL. None, however, showed any interest in developing the block in the last three years or so, prompting Chief Minister WB to seek sole operatorship.