

- ✓ TOI reported that the Government is considering reclassifying large hydro power plants as renewable projects as adding that it can help India achieve clean power capacity of 225 GW by 2022.
- ✓ Economic Times has reported that after a year of surplus coal, some five power stations have critical coal stock positions, and, two of these have 'super critical' coal stock positions. Some 15 power plants are reported to be having coal stocks of less than 15 days.
- ✓ A new technology will enable thermal power plants to start up in as little as an hour, a fraction of the 24 hours currently needed, allowing for greater integration of renewable energy sources in the national electricity production system, which now runs primarily on coal.
- ✓ The International Solar Alliance (ISA) a joint initiative of PM Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande that was announced at the end of the last climate talks in Paris in November 2015 faces a challenge from the US, which wants it to function as an informal arrangement. The alliance is a coalition of solar resource rich countries "to address their special energy needs and provide a platform to collaborate on addressing the identified gaps through a common, agreed agenda", as the working paper on the ISA put it.
- ✓ Quoting BMI Research, Economic Times has reported that India will continue to remain in coal deficit in coming years, with coal deficit narrowing down to 163 mt in 2020 against 191mt in 2016. However, country will surpass the US as the world's second largest producer and consumer of coal by 2020 increasing its market share from 9.8% in 2016 to 12.7 % in 2020.
- ✓ In compliance with the push by the Coal Ministry, CIL is working on improving the quality of their coal by setting up more washing plants. According to CIL, this will also help the company in becoming more competitive against some of the imported higher CV coals.
- ✓ Due to Indonesian government's efforts to increase country's electricity output, country's domestic coal consumption increased by 15 percent, from 69.8 million tons in 2014 to 80.3 million tons in 2015, making Indonesia the eighth largest coal consumer on the planet.
- ✓ According to a report by Business Standard the Niti Aayog has favoured creating independent regulators for steel and mining sectors in the country in a bid to make both the industries profitable. The premier policy making body has also pitched for a new and dynamic steel policy to bring the over USD 100 billion industry back on track as well as meet the target of 300 million tonnes capacity by 2025.
- ✓ From around USD 90 per ton in July 2016, the international coking coal prices have touched USD 245

per ton mark in October 2016. Due to this sudden increase in coking coal prices, all major steel companies like Tata Steel, SAIL, JSW Steel, Bhushan Steel, and Essar Steel are amongst the most affected by this price rally.

**CPSI View :** CPSI has time and again been raising the issue of gainful utilisation of Low Volatile Medium Coking Coal (LVMC) produced in large volumes (over 50 million tonnes/year) by washing it to bring down the ash content to 15% - 16%. Tests carried out by RDCIS, CMPDI and CIMFR have shown that we can make over 12 million tonnes of additional coking coal available to steel plants by beneficiation of LVMC coal processing. This can easily substitute imported coal to a significant extent.

- ✓ According to a report by TOI, the government's ambitious target of adding 261 gigawatt (GW) fresh capacity by 2022 may come at a price. According to experts, it will result in huge surplus, leading to dwindling capacity utilisation, stressed assets, more unpaid bank debts and a massive sectoral shakeout. India has total installed capacity of 303 GW at present, of which 211 GW is thermal and 42 GW renewable.
- ✓ According to a source inside Coal India, the agreement is currently being discussed with the South African government, in an effort to solve a framework issue. When negotiations are over, the pact will be signed between Coal India and the African Exploration Mining & Finance Corporation, a state-owned South African company.
- ✓ Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has declared that coal will be part of Australia's energy mix for "many, many, many decades to come" as a critical Senate bloc expressed opposition to so-called "green lawfare" changes designed to limit the legal standing of conservation groups in court proceedings.
- ✓ NLC India Ltd (Formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation) has commenced construction of its 1980-MW power plant in Uttar Pradesh. The power plant is a joint venture between Tamil Nadu-based NLC India Ltd and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. Company has allocated Rs 17,237.80 crore towards the construction of the plant, of which 30 per cent would be equity and rest through loans.
- ✓ The World Coal Association (WCA) has urged India to work towards deployment of cleaner coal, at its conference in New Delhi held on Tuesday. The global industry association for coal has said that in order to support a sustainable development of the resource, the world's third largest energy consumer, India, will require financial, technological and other support internationally.