

- ✓ China and the US who have ratified the accord, together account for 38% of global emissions. Sixty countries that have so far ratified the treaty account for 47.76% of total emissions against the minimum 55% of global emissions needed for the agreement to enter into force. India has decided to ratify the deal on 2nd October 2016, and the Agreement comes into force immediately thereafter.
- ✓ The government is working on a plan to end dependence on coal import in next 3-4 months, Union Coal Minister Piyush Goyal said at Mumbai while addressing the gathering at the golden jubilee celebrations of council fair business practices (CFBP).
- ✓ In its pre-budget memorandum to the Hon'ble Finance Minister, CPSI has suggested that since washed coal benefits the environment and helps in reducing CO₂ emissions, the washing of coal needs to be incentivized and the best way would be to reduce the quantum of clean coal cess by 50% if the coal is washed. It has further suggested that a minimum of 10% of the cess collected by the government should be spent in development of coal washing technologies.
- ✓ In the coal beneficiation workshop organised by Ministry of Coal at Kolkata on 20th August 2016, it was suggested that distance (500 km) based directives of MoEF & CC may lead to clustering of power plants within 500 km, thus making these locations critically polluted. Therefore, the cap of 500 km should be abolished and use of washed coal be made mandatory for all power plants including the pithead ones.
- ✓ The reduction in coal imports along with rationalization of coal linkages has resulted in improved economic efficiency for NTPC, which has already achieved a saving of 30 paise per unit, which translates into INR 5,500 million/month.
- ✓ According to public information, Shenhua Ningxia Coal joint venture with Saudi Basic Industries Corporation has signed an Agreement to set up a 700K tons / year of coal-based olefins demonstration projects at an estimated investment of 22.9 billion yuan in Ning Dong Energy and Chemical Area in China. The proposed project will use dry pulverized coal gasification technology to produce low-density polyethylene, ultra high molecular weight polyethylene and other products. Project's annual coal consumption will be 5.35 million tons.
- ✓ Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) will assess and monitor eco-restoration of all Coal India Limited mines in the country. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) to this effect has been signed. Under this arrangement eco-restoration of all 430 mines in the country owned by CIL would be monitored by ICFRE.
- ✓ Worried of missing its 2020 target to drastically cut emissions of carbon dioxide, intended to deliver a decisive blow against lignite or brown coal, the dirtiest fuel around and Germany's main source of electricity, the German government had proposed a steep levy last year on the most heavily polluting generators. However, facing blowback from labour unions and governments in coal country, Berlin backed off, replacing the levy with a subsidy of 1.6 billion euros to gradually mothball eight coal-fired plants and shut them down permanently by 2023.
- ✓ Reuters has reported that statewide blackout plunges Australia into renewable energy debate. An unprecedented power outage across South Australia state has stopped all major production activities including one steel plant struggling to prevent molten steel from hardening and consequent damages. The statewide outage sparked political calls on 29th September for an inquiry into the power sector and questions over the state's reliance on renewable energy. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said it was a "wake-up call" to ensure energy security.
- ✓ The U.S. is expected to reach a major carbon emissions milestone this year: For the first time, carbon dioxide emissions from burning natural gas for electricity in the U.S. are set to surpass those from burning coal—the globe's chief climate polluter. Emissions from burning natural gas are expected to be 10 percent greater than those from coal in 2016, as electric companies rely more on power plants that run on natural gas than those that run on coal, according to U.S. Department of Energy data.
- ✓ According to an article published in "Climate Central", though natural gas burns cleaner than coal, but producing natural gas and piping it to power plants leaks methane into the atmosphere. Methane being more than 35 times as potent as carbon dioxide in driving climate change over the span of a century and global atmospheric concentrations of it has been increasing steadily since 2007. That increase has been tied partly to U.S. natural gas production.
- ✓ According to a report by Economic Times, government's ambitious target of adding 261 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.
- ✓ Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd has secured environmental clearance for their 10MTPA coal washery at Jagannath. This washery will cost INR 350 crore. Company plans to build five coal washeries in the Odisha state and to increase its production to 250 million tons of coal by 2020.
- ✓ According to IEA Clean Coal Centre, UK, India's future energy needs are likely to grow more than any other country in the period to 2040, as the economy increases five-fold and the population is predicted to grow to 1.7 billion, overtaking China. Energy consumption is predicted to more than double by 2040, accounting for 25% of the rise in global energy use, with a consequent growth in the use of coal and oil.
- ✓ To minimise disputes between the buyers and the coal companies, the Central Institute for Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR) has been appointed to engage a reputed independent agency for sampling and analysis of coal dispatches. Further, a committee has been constituted for looking into further modification in the existing guidelines.
- ✓ Heavy rains in the region have led to critical coal situation at Anpara, Singaruli, Rihand and Vidhyachal power plants. Government is reported to be working on contingency plans to reach coal to these stations from other coalfields. Stocks of imported coal lying at the ports are also being rushed to overcome the crisis.