

## Celebrating 20 years of dedicated service to the Indian coal, power, steel, cement and their allied industries.

- According to coal ministry's official statement, in the present tranche of coal block auctions, 278 tender documents have been purchased by prospective bidders in respect of 38 coal mines. Deadline of submission of bids was till 2 PM on September 29 and bid opening took place 10 AM on September 30, 2020.

### Gist of auction results of the 1st tranche of commercial coal mining:

42 companies submitted bids for only 22 blocks located in five states and 16 blocks didn't find any bidder and no foreign company evinced any interest in the auction. Roughly one third bidders quoted with end-use of coal produced and remaining bids were for commercial sale of coal. Over 88% of bids were for fully explored blocks and remaining opted for unexplored blocks.

- Coal India has floated a global tender for setting up the country's first coal to methanol plant in West Bengal at an investment of Rs. 6,000 crore. The company is in dialogue with Indian Oil Corp and other government-owned oil companies on long-term tie up on marketing of the methanol. The project is to be set up through a surface coal gasification route which will be based on the Build-Own-Operate (BOO) model and the BOO operator will be selected for 25 years life span of the plant.
- Indian Parliament has passed three Labour Codes namely, Industrial Relations Code, 2020 (ii) Code on Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020 & (iii) Social Security Code, 2020 with the objective to pave way for enactment of historic "Game changer" Labour Laws.
- According to U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, governments worldwide are still putting obstacles in the way of economies making the transition to become carbon-neutral by mid-century, an effort needed to hold global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- According to reliable sources, as a result of the recent decision to do away with requirement for setting up washeries for coal fired thermal power plants, the power generation cost was to come down by 30 to 35 paise. Government has now asked the Central Electricity Authority for field level analysis of the impact of this decision on the anticipated cost of power generation on immediate basis.
- According to a recent report, 65% of the coal-fired power plants in India may not be able to comply with emission norms, as notified by the MoEFCC, even by the extended deadline of 2022.

**CPSI view :** If the coal fired power plants genuinely and sincerely switch over to using washed coal with ash content below 34%, preferably below 30-32%, most of them wouldn't require retrofitting with highly capital-intensive pollution control equipment like FGDs and government will save huge expenditure.

- France has recently resumed the operations of its coal-fired power stations due to problems with wind-powered generation and technical damages at the nuclear electric power company EDF, informs Les Echos. The need for coal was a result of the low availability of EDF's nuclear reactors. Out of its 56 reactors, 24 were shut down due to technical problems, machine failures, delayed maintenance works and fuel saving measures in preparation for the winter season.
- India's National Green Tribunal (NGT) on September 10, asked the Central government to respond on a plea filed by Say Earth, challenging its notification to allow the use of coal with ash content higher than what was previously permitted in thermal power plants. NGT Chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel has directed the response

request to the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), the Ministries of Coal and Power and the Central Pollution Control Board, who were given two months to send a statement through e-mail.

Source : *The Energyworld*

- India has already attained the status of 'One Nation, One Grid, One Frequency' and there are now no constraints in inter-regional transfer of power, said Sanjiv Nandan Sahai, Secretary, Ministry of Power, said at a webinar organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He further stated that a liquidity scheme for the power sector with an outlay of Rs. 1,20,000 crore has been started under the Aatam Nirbhar Bharat scheme to prevent any crisis of confidence in this sector.
- World Energy Investment Report 2020 of IEA, has reported that the investment levels in clean energy remain far short of what would be required to put the world on a more sustainable clean energy pathway. Sustainable development goals (SDGs) that are directly linked are : SDG7- affordable & clean energy, and SDG11-sustainable cities & communities) and that are indirectly linked are : SDG3 - good health & well-being, SDG13 - climate action, SDG14 - life below water, and SDG15 - life in land.
- The transport sector is the fastest-growing contributor to climate change, accounting for 23% of global energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. An analysis of air quality in New Delhi shows that the transport sector accounts for 19%, 39% and 81% share in annual PM10, PM2.5 and NOx (toxic gases causing respiratory ailments) emissions respectively.
- A recent study shows that even CNG vehicles are not entirely clean, as they produce sizeable particulate emissions, especially of ultrafine particles. They also emit ammonia, which is a toxic pollutant if inhaled.
- Rio Tinto has sacked three senior executives, including the global CEO, as penance for destroying a 46,000-year-old archaeological and sacred site in Western Australia's Pilbara. The Puutu Kuntj Kurrama and Pinikura (PKKP) people are the native title holders for Juukan Gorge, where the ancient rock shelters were destroyed in May this year.
- Under the instructions of MOP, CEA has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Chief Engineer (T,P,P & D) to carry out a detailed 'field level analysis of the decision to do away with the requirement of washing of coal for certain thermal power stations'. The 11-member committee, besides four CEAs own subject experts, has representatives of CERC, NTPC and five power companies. The committee has been asked to submit its report within one month.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered the appointment of a joint committee of experts to assess whether Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) caused air and soil pollution in Kothagudem and Khammam.
- Union Minister Pralhad Joshi recently invited Australia to participate in the commercial coal mining and other strategic projects related to mines and minerals. In his meeting with Australian minister for resources Keith Pitt, India's Coal and Mines Minister Joshi deliberated on increasing cooperation in areas of strategic minerals.
- While speaking at a recently held book launch webinar, coal secretary Anil Jain, said that India will need an integrated energy policy with a balanced approach towards all forms of fuel. He further stated that with the advent of new technologies like coal gasification, coal can have a number of alternate uses in the future other than power generation.