Date 25.2.26

Publication: Free Press Journal (Mumbai)

CIL hopes phased rollout of NCE

CIL hopes that the National Coal Exchange (NCE) may be implemented in phases, with necessary provisions to safeguard energy security, as the company on Tuesday outlined its vision for the proposed platform, asserting that market reforms in the sector must be carefully balanced with the country's energy security needs. Speaking at the mjunction-organised Indian Coal Markets Conference here, V S Maharaj, Executive Director (ICT) of Coal India, said the industry is moving from traditional e-auctions towards a more sophisticated, market-driven electronic trading platform.

Date 27.2.26

Publication: The Financial Express (Kolkata)

Coal India lines up ₹50,000 cr in coal-to-chemicals push

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, February 26

WITH INVESTMENTS OF nearly ₹50,000 crore taking shape across three large coal gasification projects, Coal India is moving into downstream chemicals and cleaner fuels at scale, marking its biggest diversification beyond conventional coal mining as India looks to cut import dependence on industrial feedstock and natural gas.

Chairman and Managing Director B Sairam told *FE* that the projects are being implemented in line with the government's National Coal Gasification Mission, aimed at converting coal into value-added products while improving energy security. The centrepiece of the push is a coal gasification-based ammonium nitrate plant of 6.6 lakh tonne per annum at Lakhanpur in Odisha.

The project is being developed through Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited, a joint venture between Coal India and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited.

"This is Coal India's first commercial-scale downstream coal gasification initiative and is under progress," Sairam said.

The plant is expected to be commissioned by FY30 and will involve an estimated investment of around ?25,000 crore. Ammonium Nitrate is a key raw material for bulk explosives used in mining and infrastructure projects and also feeds into fertiliser production.

Domestic manufacturing through gasification is expected to reduce imports of industrial chemicals.

Alongside this, Coal India is pursuing two coal-to-synthetic natural gas (SNG) projects.

Date 28.2.26

Publication: Millenium Post (New Delhi)

Coal India ramps up supplies to meet summer demand surge

NEW DELHI: State-owned Coal India Limited (CIL) on Friday said it is geared up to meet a potential surge in summer coal demand, dismissing concerns of domestic fuel shortages as power consumption begins to rise.

The company said a three-tier buffer across the supply chain - pithead stock, coal inventory at thermal power plants and ready-to-extract in-situ reserves - ensures comfortable availability ahead of the peak demand season.

CIL's producing subsidiaries were holding 115 million tonnes (MT) of coal at pitheads as of February 26, 2026, a figure expected to rise further by the close of the fiscal year.

Power plants typically require significantly higher quantities of coal during the summer months as electricity demand surges across the country. Rising temperatures lead to increased use of air conditioners, coolers, refrigerators and irrigation pumps, pushing peak power consumption to annual highs.

> CIL's producing subsidiaries were holding 115 million tonnes (MT) of coal at pitheads as of February 26, 2026

Coal-based thermal power dominates India's electricity generation, accounting for roughly 70 per cent of the country's total installed capacity and supplying nearly 75 per cent of the annual electricity output.

According to CIL, coal stocks at domestic coal-based thermal power plants stood at nearly 55 MT as of February 25, the highest level for this period. In addition, 5.5 MT of coal was available in transit at goods sheds, washeries and ports.

Together, the cumulative on-tap availability across these sources stands at around 175.5 MT, which the company said is sufficient to meet any spike in demand from the power sector and other industries during the summer months.

The in-situ coal exposure at mines accounting for 90 per cent of CIL's annual output was 60.2 MT as of mid-February. This coal has already been uncovered through overburden removal and can be extracted and supplied at short notice. PTI

Date 2.3.26

Publication: The Financial Express (Mumbai)

● **B SAIRAM,** CHAIRMAN & MD, COAL INDIA

'Coal to remain core biz despite clean energy forays'

With India crossing the one billion tonne (BT) coal production threshold last year, power demand projected to hit new peaks this summer, and Coal India (CIL) lining up ₹16,000 crore in capital expenditure for FY26, the country's largest miner is entering a phase of volume expansion, logistics build-out and diversification aimed at securing energy supply well into the next decade. CIL Chairman & MD **B Sairam**, *in an interview with* **Saurav Anand**, *gives details about the company's production roadmap, infrastructure investments, cleaner coal push and entry into critical minerals. Excerpts:*

CIL has been ramping up domestic production even as coal imports remain sizeable. What are your medium-term targets, and when do you see thermal coal imports tapering?

Production targets are assigned by the government based on demand projections. India already breached 1 BT of coal output last financial year, and CIL has drawn a definitive roadmap aspiring for 1 BT, aligning with the demand forecast.

India has scarce coking coal reserves needed for steelmaking, making imports essential. There are also around 17 imported coal-based power plants operating on high-grade thermal coal where imports are required.

Thermal coal forms the baseload of power generation, and imports here can be reduced with higher indigenous production. CIL has fuel supply agreements with thermal plants and is meeting their requirements, along with spot auctions.

Currently, our pitheads have about 115 million tonne (MT) of coal, and domestic coal-based plants are stocked with around 55 MT—the highest ever for this period. That translates to about 24 days of stock. With summer approaching, there will be sufficient coal in the system to meet any surge in power demand.

Coking coal remains a structural vulnerability for India. Is CIL pursuing overseas resources or long-term contracts?

We are exploring opportunities based on techno-commercial viability and logistics feasibility.

CIL has stepped up investments in mechanisation and evacuation infrastructure. What does the capex plan look like?

Our capital expenditure target for FY26 is ₹16,000 crores. About 35%, or ₹5,622 crore of the total, is centred on strengthening evacuation infrastructure—rail corridors, sidings and First Mile Connectivity projects like coal handling plants and silos. Some spending is also on roads and weighbridges.

Plant and machinery, including heavy earth-moving equipment and washeries, accounts for about ₹1,950 crore, while land procurement is targeted at ₹2,382 crore.

Land and machinery drive production growth, but a strong evacuation network is critical for handling higher volumes of despatch in future.

WE ARE PURSUING SOLAR POWER AND AIM TO HAVE 3,000 MW OF SOLAR CAPACITY BY FY28

There has been discussion around unlocking value through subsidiary listings. What is the roadmap?

As directed by the government, we will move to unlock the potential of our subsidiaries. The strong response to BCCL's IPO, which was subscribed 147 times, was encouraging.

Central Mine Planning and Design Institute is lined up for listing, and there is in-principle approval for South Eastern Coalfields and Mahanadi Coalfields.

How is CIL aligning with India's clean energy transition?

Coal production and sales will remain our core business. At the same time, we are adopting a structured approach towards cleaner coal technologies and diversification into new energy.

Coal gasification is a key focus, with products such as ammonium nitrate for explosives and synthetic natural gas for fertiliser plants. We are also pursuing solar power and aim to have 3,000 MW of solar capacity by FY28.

We have research partnerships with IIT Dhanbad, IIT Hyderabad and IIT Madras, including work on carbon capture and utilisation.

(Full interview on www.financialexpress.com)