

From the Editor's Desk

Dear Friends,

It is time we took at old coal. Yes, the same coal that gave mankind the industrial revolution and was the prime moving force behind the swashbuckling swagger of the European and American economies in the last century.

Suddenly, the same old coal has become the villain of the piece, the favourite whipping boy at whom everybody- from pseudo green intellectuals to Cassandra's of doom – are taking potshots. The lines are also predictable and by now , a bit stale : mankind is slated to pay for its sins as it has pillaged the earth and burnt fossil fuels with wanton disregard to mother nature as a result of which temperatures are rising alarmingly which in turn will have catastrophic effects if we do not reverse the trend immediately.

Global warming .Fossil fuels.CO2 Emissions. Depleting Ozone layer. Carbon Credits. Kyoto protocol. The Bali Roadmap...the attackers are dropping terms and clichés as if it is going out of style.

The industry too, has come up with a very valid counter point.” Had coal not been there, man would have denuded the earth's forest cover in search of energy long back”, they point out. Civilization as we know it today, would not have happened and we would have remained hunter-gatherers. The Great Britain, Germany, Russia, the United States...all would have remained in the quagmire of lost opportunities.China and India – the poster boys of the Global Economic Resurgence too cannot achieve a fraction of what they have set out to- without coal. On this side too the terms that are being bandied by the apologists, are a dime a dozen-Future Gen, green coal, near zero emission, carbon sequestration....

We also have for you a write up on Gujarat NRE Coke, a prime mover in the domain – the first and till now, the only Indian company to own and operate coal mines in Australia. Sunil Mukherjee writes about a new development that may revolutionize our mining efforts while Ranajoy Rakshit reports from the frontline. All the other regular features too, are there.

We have tried to weave the issue around the central theme of coal and coke and tried to address the core issues from different angles. With a view towards making the issue a pleasant read. Let us now your comments. They help us better channelise our efforts.

Happy Reading,

Editor