Talabira II & III Open Cast Coal Mine

Prelims: *Current events of national importance | Energy Infrastructure*

Why in News?

The Talabira II & III Open Cast Coal Mine in Odisha, allocated to NLC India Ltd., recorded its highest-ever annual coal production of 19.14 million Tonnes (MT) in the financial year 2025–26.

Key Highlights

- **Record Production -** Produced 19.14 MT of coal and achieved a record annual dispatch of **17.69 MT** in FY 2025–26.
    - **Sector Allocation -** 10.72 MT supplied to the power sector and 6.97 MT to non-regulated sectors.
- **Peak Output Metrics-** Achieved a single-day production record of 1,26,138 tonnes (on March 21, 2026) and a monthly high of 3.39 MT in March 2026.
- **Power Sector Integration -** Feeds key thermal power stations across India, including
    - NTPC Darlipali,
    - NTPC Gadarwara,
    - NTPC Khargone, and
    - NTPC Kudgi across states like ***Odisha, Chhattisgarh, MP, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.***
- **Cumulative Output-** Reached a cumulative production of **72.23 MT** and cumulative dispatch of **70.89 MT** as of August 2026.

Tech-Driven & Sustainable Mining Practices

- **Digital Logistics Management System (DLMS) -** Uses
    - RFID-based vehicle tracking,
    - AI-enabled cameras, and
    - Automated gates,
    - Cutting entry-gate processing times from 1.42 minutes to **0.54 minutes** per vehicle.
- **Advanced Extraction -** Uses surface miners equipped with dust-suppression systems, 3D laser scanning with GNSS, drone surveying, and continuous ambient air quality monitoring.
- **Safety -** Maintained a **zero fatal accident record** since inception and secured a **5-Star Rating** under the Ministry of Coal's evaluation for 5 consecutive years (FY 2020–21 to FY 2024–25).

About NLC India Limited & Coal Block Framework

- **NLC India Limited (NLCIL) -** A Navratna Public Sector Enterprise under the administrative control of the ***Ministry of Coal,*** engaged in lignite/coal mining and power generation.
- **Established under -** ***Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015.***
- **Aim** - To manage the allocation and monitoring of coal blocks through transparent auctioning and nomination processes to ensure national energy security.

Reference

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