

Times of India 3/11

Did anniv pressure lead to NTPC blast?

Firm's 42nd Raising Day Is On Nov 7

Pankaj Shah | TNN

Lucknow: The boiler blast in of NTPC's 500mw unit in Unchahar power project that killed 34 people and left more than 60 critically injured took place days before the country's 'Maharatna' company was to hold its 42nd raising day on November 7.

As a tradition, the celebration would have seen all its 20 power plants across the country, including the Unchahar power project, getting all their units lit up and working to their full ca-



The blast killed 34 people and left more than 60 injured

capacity. The fact has fuelled speculations that the NTPC was under pressure to keep the snag-hit unit number-6 working for the occasion.

All India Power Engineers Federation chairman Shailendra Dubey said some NTPC engineers did inform

the federation about the tremendous pressure to keep the unit in a working state.

As reported by TOI, NTPC engineers had detected the fault in the ash evacuation system more than an hour before the blast and were working to fix it while keeping the unit in a working state. "That has been a normal practice and there was absolutely no requirement to stop the unit altogether," NTPC regional executive director, Ravindra Singh Rathi told TOI.

Power generation experts, however, said that thermal units often see formation of coagulated coal and ash, or clinkers, which need to be broken manually.

The probe committee set up by NTPC is examining the causes of rise in pressure.

Sunday Express 5/11/2017

State dependent on coal mines outside K'taka: KPCL officials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WITH coal supply to the state-owned thermal plants running dangerously low, the state government is scrambling to get coal stocks from various sources.

Sources in the Energy department said the state is spending at least 40 per cent more on coal purchase. This could consequently lead to a rise in power tariff for consumers in the coming months.

Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd managing director G Kumar Naik told Express that the additional cost incurred is likely to be passed on to the consumer. In April this year, the Karnataka Energy Regulatory Commission had approved a 53 paise per unit increase in tariff, which included 5 paise as fuel adjustment cost.

Y G Muralidhara, co-ordinator of Karnataka Electricity Governance Network, says 80 per cent of the cost of power production is borne by consumers. There is provision under the Fuel Adjustment Cost

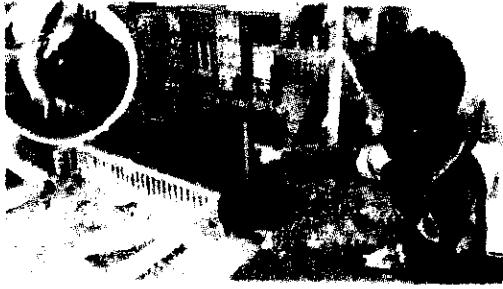
regulations where Escoms can increase tariffs. However, any such hike will be applicable only from the next financial year.

Majority of the coal supply to the state is from the Western Coalfields Ltd in Maharashtra and Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd in Odisha, apart from Singareni Collieries Company Ltd in Telangana.

"We are supposed to get three rakes of coal every two days from Western Coalfields Ltd, but they are supplying less than 50 per cent citing some logistics issues. For the remainder, we have taken up the responsibility of transporting coal from the mines to the nearest railway station which is about 40 km away. This means additional cost for the state, but since we are in distress, there is no other option. We plan to approach other mines for additional coal, which will again involve cost," a senior official said. Sources said apart from existing supplies, Karnataka had coal linkage in Maharashtra. But due to legal hurdles, the issue is before the apex court.

Child suffers 80 pc burns following electric shock, family blames KPTCL

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Death toll in NTPC blast rises to 33



Aadeeb shows the terrace where his brother Muizz Ahmed (inset) got an electric shock | JITHENDRA M

fined to the bed ever since. While his friends go to school, Ahmed is forced to spend all his time indoors.

Ahmed's parents blame the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (KPTCL) for their son's condition.

Ahmed's mother Afrath Sultana tells *Express* what happened on September 16.

"He had school till 12.30pm: I got him home at 1.15pm. His father had come for lunch and I was serving him food. Just like any other day, my son stepped out to play," she recalls. But 15 minutes, Ahmed, who had jumped into his neighbour's terrace to fetch a tennis ball was lying unconscious, severely burnt.

"We rushed out when we heard a loud noise. It was like a transformer blast. Ahmed's father found him lying unconscious on the terrace. We took him to a hospital immediately," says Afrath. She adds that there were some loose wires on the terrace belonging to

KPTCL, which caused the electric shock.

It was an everyday affair for the victim and his brothers to jump off the balcony of their house and land on a terrace just five feet below.

Ahmed's brother Aadeeb said that day Ahmed had spotted a ball and rushed there to fetch it. "There was water on the terrace. It had rained. Just when he went to fetch the ball, he suffered a shock and fell. There were electric wires next to him. His pants were on fire. I went in and alerted dad soon after," adds his brother who stood at the window as Ahmed had jumped out of the balcony.

His father, Maqsood Ahmed Sharif, who works as a medical representative, says the family has already spent at least ₹10 lakh on his treatment. He has approached the Karnataka State Child Rights Commission and the panel has issued summons to the managing director of KPTCL.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A 40-year-old man who suffered severe burns in the NTPC boiler blast in Uttar Pradesh died on Saturday morning at the Safdarjung hospital here, a doctor said.

With this, the death toll in Wednesday's accident at the Unchahar plant in Rae Bareilly has climbed to 33, making it the country's worst industrial disaster in the last eight years.

Santosh Kumar Shah, 40, who had 90% burns, was brought in a very critical condition to the hospital on Friday evening, medical superintendent Rajendra Sharma said. Eleven more injured have been admitted to the Burn ICU of the hospital.

Shifted to AIIMS

Six injured were flown in on Friday night and admitted to the AIIMS here. Most of them suffered extreme facial burns.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited the injured admitted to various hospitals in Lucknow and enquired about the treatment being given to them.



RESHMA RAVISHANKER
@ Bengaluru

The child had come in a critical condition with 85 per cent burns. He has undergone several procedures. Next week, he has to undergo skin grafting. It will take two to three months for him to recover.

ENTER a house tucked away in Koramangala's residential area in Jal Bhavan's neighbourhood and a woman rushes to offer hand sanitizer. She fears that her son might catch an infection. A five-year-old child lies in the corner of a room staring at the ceiling.

Two months ago, five-year-old Muizz Ahmed suffered an electric shock and had 80 per cent burns. He has been con-

Dr Priyadarshan, plastic surgeon, Rainbow Hospitals

ELSEWHERE IN INDIA P-15 NTPC blast: 15 more at AIIMS

#NEW DELHI

Fifteen men, who suffered serious burn injuries in the NTPC plant explosion in Uttar Pradesh's Rae Bareilly, have been shifted to AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital here. While six of them were admitted to AIIMS trauma centre, nine were taken to Safdarjung Hospital. "They have been admitted in the burn department of the AIIMS trauma centre. One of them has 60 per cent burns, while others have burn injuries ranging between 25 and 50 per cent," a senior doctor at AIIMS said.

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D.H. 5-11-17

Kaiga bird census from January 21

KARWAR (UTTARA KANNADA DIST): The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) will conduct a bird census in the surroundings of Kaiga Atomic Power Station here, as part of its 8th edition of Kaiga Bird Marathon, from January 21 onwards.

In a bid to study the bio diversity in the surroundings of Kaiga atomic station, bird census is being conducted from the past seven years, said G Mohandas, member of NPCIL's environment programme.

"The bird census was first

held in 2011. In the first edition, 142 species of birds were spotted. In the 7th bird census conducted in 2016, as many as 276 species were spotted in the surroundings of Kaiga station. Hundreds of bird watchers from South Indian states will take part

in the census," this year, he explained.

Those interested to take part in the census can mail their details to kaigabm@gmail.com on or before November 20, stated a press release issued by Mohandas.
DH News Service

D.H. Herald 05-11-17 page-10

NTPC blast: many labourers still missing

LUCKNOW, DHNS: Even four days after the deadly blast at the National Thermal Power Corporation plant in Uttar Pradesh's Raebareli district, which claimed 33 lives, many labourers are still missing.

The kin of the missing labourers continued to run from pillar to post to trace their near and dear ones, according to reports.

On Friday, fathers of two labourers, identified as Ram Babu and Indradeo, who had been missing since the blast on Wednesday afternoon, reached the NTPC plant to ascertain their whereabouts.

They were sent to the district hospital at Raebareli by the officials and from there to the police station at Uncha-

har but they failed to trace their sons. The duo, both of whom hailed from UP's Sonbhadra district, said that the list of the dead and injured did not have the names of their sons. District officials said that they had a list of 30 dead and 49 injured. "We have no information about any missing labourers," said a senior official in Raebareli. Many labourers

and their kin had, a couple of days back, created a ruckus outside the gates of the plant alleging that many of their colleagues were missing since the blast.

They had also alleged that the NTPC officials were not allowing them to enter the plant nor were providing any information about the "missing" workers.

Deewan Herald
x-10, 5-11-17

NLC to set up solar plants on railway land: Goyal

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Railway Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) will set up solar power plants on the railways' vacant land.

The national transporter will tie up with NLC to have them put up solar power generating equipment across the railways at their investment and the railways would be buying that power, the Minister said at an event.

The minister also said the national transporter will seek the NLC help to expand existing platforms, create a roof over the platform extension.

He also said that while helping the Railways energy security, the NLC will also help the Railways in creating more infrastructure for passenger amenities.

State-run NLC India Limited is engaged in mining of lignite and generation of power through lignite-based thermal power plants.

D.A. 5.11.17 ①

SC blasts K'taka for holding up promotions

Ashish Tripathi

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court ticked off the Karnataka government for holding up promotions of officers citing a review petition pending before it.

The fate of hundreds of state officers hangs in the balance after the apex court on February 9 quashed a state law providing for reservation in promotions for SC/ST employees.

A bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta described the state government's stand as "unethical".

The state government had issued a circular on March 22 directing all departments not to give effect to any promotion in view of the verdict of the apex court.

Aggrieved by the circular, a group of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike officers had approached the Karnata-

Top court ruling

- **Against govt:** stand unethical
- **Cannot hold up** promotions citing pending petition
- **Against HC:** take fresh look at plea of officers awaiting promotion
- **On Feb 9:** quashed state law providing for reservation in promotion for SC/ST employees

ka High Court, which rejected their plea.

Setting aside the high court's judgement of May 5, the Supreme Court on Friday (November 3) directed it to have a fresh look at the plea of the officers. State government employees led by Renukamba R and others had contended

that their promotions were stalled following the apex court's February 9 judgement. The high court had relied upon the state government's plea that its review petition against the February judgement was pending before the apex court.

Challenging the high court's order, petitioners' counsel Balaji Srinivasan contended that the employees who belonged to general category were on the verge of retirement.

The employees, holding different posts such as First Division Assistants (FDA), Second Division Assistants (SDA), and Health Inspectors, also challenged validity of the government circular to put all promotions on hold.

Hearing a batch of petitions for contempt proceedings against top state officers, a separate bench had earlier on September 8 given the state government time to revise the

seniority list by November 30, 2017, and take further consequential action by January 15, 2018.

The court had also clarified that if any government department finalised the seniority list before such time, it can take subsequent steps ahead of the extended deadline.

The apex court had on February 9 directed revision of the seniority list of employees within three months. It also declared as unconstitutional the provisions of the 'Karnataka Determination of Seniority of the Government Servants Promoted on the Basis of Reservation (To the Posts in the Civil Services of the State) Act, 2002'. It had said the consequential promotions granted to serving employees, based on seniority, would be treated as ad hoc and was liable for review.

DH News Service

Sunday Express 5/11/2017

Thermal plants on life support, power crisis looms

Coal supply dries up while cost of procurement drains exchequer; onset of summer to test state govt's power management in poll year

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Bengaluru

COAL supply to the state-owned thermal plants is running dangerously low, with the state government scrambling to get coal stocks from various sources.

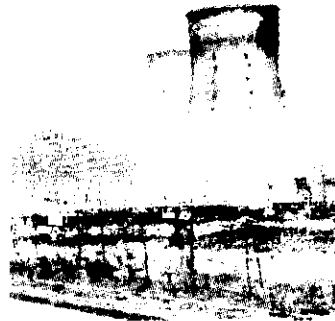
If the situation doesn't tide over, Karnataka is likely to look at a grim power situation just ahead of elections, which may not augur well for the ruling Congress government.

Of the three units of the Ballari Thermal Power Station, which has a total capacity of 1,700 MW of power, two have been shut down. The 1,720 MW Raichur Thermal Power Station and the 1,600 MW

Yermarus Thermal Power are only partially functioning due to coal shortage.

Energy minister DK Shivakumar had indicated last week that due to good rain, state will be able to manage the load for November but would be tough from December. With onset of summer, there is extra reliance on thermal power and hydel power is used less as water is required for the summer months.

Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) generates 220-240 million units of power a day from thermal, hydro-electric, solar and wind projects. Of this, about 30 per cent is generated from the thermal power stations. Senior of-



KPCL generates 220-240 million units of power a day from thermal, hydro-electric, solar and wind projects

ficials say the state needs an average of 52,000 tonnes of coal a day, but is getting only about 20,000-25,000 tonnes, which is less than half of its requirement.

Since Karnataka does not have its captive coal mines, it is dependent on mines outside the state. Over the last 30 months, the government has already spent ₹1,500 crore on coal purchase and to meet the current requirement, it will have to fork out much more.

But senior KPCL officials were not forthcoming on the additional cost that will be incurred for coal purchase to tide over the present crisis.

STATE DEPENDENT ON COAL MINES OUTSIDE K'TAKA: P3

POWER POINTS

Peak load on Nov 2: 8252 MW

GENERATION FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

Major hydel sources: **22.16 mu***

Minor hydel sources: **9.04 mu**

Thermal generation: **38 mu**

Central generating stations: **70.48 mu**

Non-conventional sources and others: **41.93 mu**

Total: **181.61 mu**

ACTUAL CONSUMPTION BY ESCOMS

Bescom: **87.12 mu**

Hescom: **35.5 mu**

Gescom: **21.71 mu**

Mescom: **15.89 mu**

CESC: **21.39 mu**

Total: **181.61 mu**

million units*