



## India's First Pilot Project for Underground Coal Gasification | Jharkhand | 27 Jun 2024

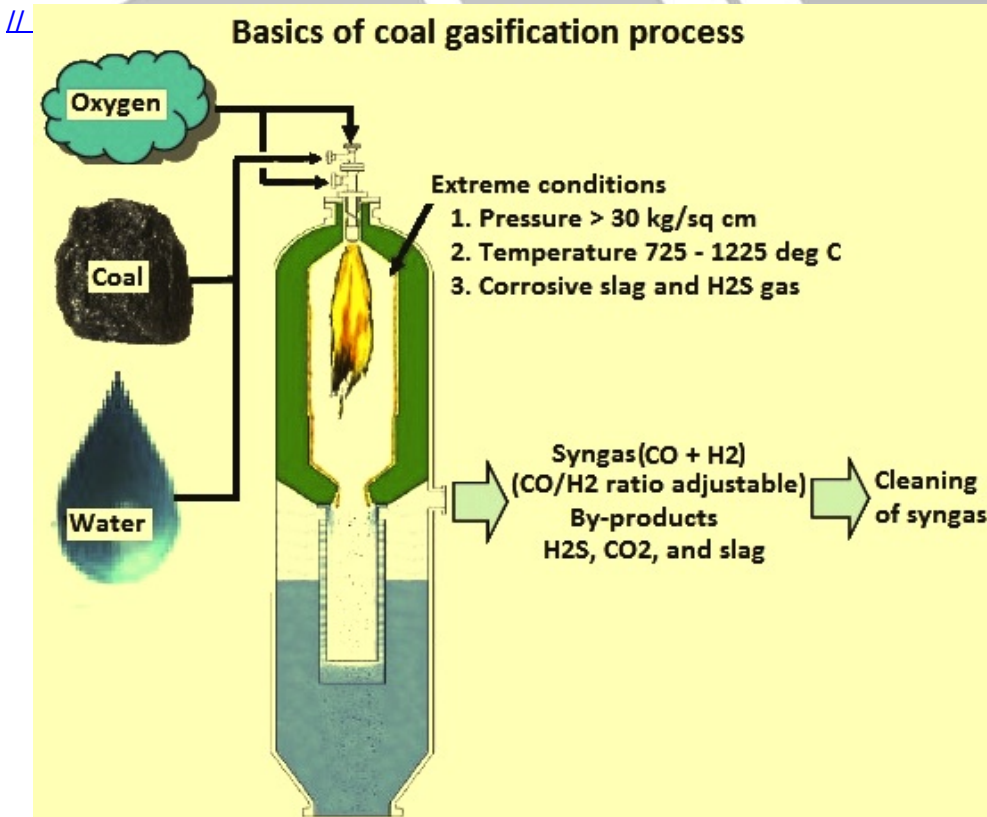
### Why in News?

The Ministry of Coal, [Eastern Coalfields Limited \(ECL\)](#) is conducting a pilot project for [Underground Coal Gasification \(UCG\)](#) at the **Kasta coal block in Jamtara District, Jharkhand**.

### Key Points

- It aims to revolutionise the coal industry by using **in-situ coal gasification** to **convert it into valuable gases such as methane, hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide**.
  - These gases can be utilised to produce **synthetic natural gas, chemical feedstocks for fuels, fertilizers, explosives, and other industrial applications**.
- The Ministry of Coal is fully committed to promoting coal gasification projects, recognizing their potential to transform coal into various **high-value chemical products**.
  - The **first phase** involves creating a **Technical Feasibility Report** through borehole drilling and core testing. The **next phase** will **focus on coal gasification** at a pilot scale.
- The successful execution of this pilot project is expected to **create transformative opportunities for India's energy sector**, highlighting the sustainable and efficient use of the country's coal resources.

### Coal Gasification



- **Process:** Coal gasification is a process in which coal is **partially oxidised with air, oxygen, steam or carbon dioxide to form a fuel gas.**
  - This gas is then used instead of piped natural gas, methane and others for deriving energy.
  - In-situ gasification of coal – or **Underground Coal Gasification (UCG)** – is the technique of converting coal into gas while it is still in the seam and then extracting it through wells.
- **Production of Syngas:** It produces Syngas which is **a mixture consisting primarily of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and water vapour (H<sub>2</sub>O).**
  - **Syngas** can be used to produce a wide range of **fertilizers, fuels, solvent and synthetic materials.**

---

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/statepcs/18-07-2024/jharkhand/print>

