India's long-standing tryst with coal

Story focuses on the former, to take the reader to the root of the discussion, to the intersections between India's economic and political history and its quest to find, manage and use coal. This is a fascinating read in a country with the most coal, but also the most questions about how to use it.

Mr. Bhattacharjee begins with an effort to bring the reader up to speed on the history of coal and its role in the economy, providing more than enough material for an engaging and rewarding narrative about the past. But the sector is also like a tug of war between coal in India, which has been moving in a compressed opening narrative but the book's real value lies in the details. A lengthy early chapter details how energy in general, and coal in particular, is a reality of life in India, a country where a significant proportion of the population depends on coal for their livelihoods. The author also provides insights from interviews with former bureaucrats and coal India Limited officials, describing the challenges they faced in trying to get in on anticipated electricity boom in the early 2000s, and repeated failed efforts to bring in the private sector in more meaningful ways, notably through an auction system. Subsequent chapters deal with the drastic coal shortages of the early 2010s, the high-level interventions in representation key coal mining areas, the tussles between the coal industry, and Jaliram Ramesh's ministry of environment and forests efforts to impose a moratorium on coal mining, and the expect- ed collapse of coal prices in 2014. In all of this the book is comprehensive and rich in detail, which is a testament to the author's thorough research. The book is a valuable resource for understanding the complex interplay between coal and India's future. The author has managed to bring the reader into the heart of the issue, in a way that is both informative and engaging. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in the future of coal in India.

For example, while the book is exhaust- ingly detailed and comprehensive, it leaves much to be desired in terms of providing a clear, concise summary of the key points. It is also difficult to follow at times, as the author jumps from one topic to another without much context. The book is best suited for those with a strong interest in the subject matter.

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