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## Relevant Websites & Contacts

Under Secretary,  
Right to Information (RTI)  
Cell,  
Ministry of Environment,  
Forests & Climate Change,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,  
Jor Bagh Road,  
New Delhi - 110 003,  
India

Tel: 011-24695334  
Email: [us.rti-mef@nic.in](mailto:us.rti-mef@nic.in)

Web: <http://envfor.nic.in/>

National Green Tribunal

Faridkot House,  
Copernicus Marg,  
New Delhi - 110 001  
India

Tel: 011-23043501

Fax: 011-23077931

Email: [rg.ngt@nic.in](mailto:rg.ngt@nic.in)

Website: <http://www.greentribunal.gov.in/>

## ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT: CASE STUDY OF METTUR THERMAL POWER STATION – I (MTPS- I) - PART 1

Mettur is a coal fired thermal power station, situated in Salem district of Tamil Nadu. It comprises of two stages with capacity of 4x210MW (MTPS-I) and 1x600 MW (MTPS-II). CAG analysed the environment statement of the MTPS to assess the compliance level of the plant to the Environment Protection Act 1986. Environment statement is the annual report submitted by the power plants (or industries) to the respective pollution control board. It contains all the environment related details of the plant or industry. To know more about Environment Statement refer our previous issues of Stoppwatch from [January](#), [February](#) and [March](#) 2017.

**Reports taken for analysis:** Environmental statements of MTPS-I for the year 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15.

### 1. Part – A

Part A contains the general details of the plant is mentioned in this section, such as name, address, and capacity. The total capacity has been mentioned as 1440(4x210MW and 1x600 MW) for the years 2012-13, 2013-14. Environmental clearance had been granted separately to both stages and fly ash utilisation report have been submitted separately from the year 2013-14 onwards.

### Anomaly 1

Since MTPS 1 and MTPS 2 are considered as two separate power plants, it is logical that the environment statement for two different stages of the power stations cannot be submitted in the same report. They require different reports.

### 2. Part – B

Part B contains details on water and raw material consumption. Consumption of water is divided into three categories process, cooling and domestic. The cooling water refers to the water consumed for cooling the cooling tower, domestic refers to water required by the office staff and their residential purposes. Any other water consumption for the TPP comes under process water.

For more information on different categories of water utilisation within TPP please check [January](#) issue of Stoppwatch.

### Anomaly 2

- The process water for the plant includes only demineralised water for the boiler.
- The ash slurry making water has been included in cooling water
- The performance of the plant does not correlate with consumption of water. It is to be noted that higher the water consumption, lower is the millions of units produced. This indicates that there is an efficiency issue with the TPP with regard to water consumption, hence requiring greater scrutiny and investigation.

Year	Specific water consumption KL/MU	Power produced Million units (MU)
2011-12	30.630	6844.8
2012-13	49.494	6200.3
2013-14	25.393	6478.5
2014-15	29	6233

## ACTIVISTS FLAY PROPOSED COASTAL ZONE NOTIFICATION

Environmental activists and fisher folk organizations fear that the already skewed compromise between urban planning and coastal protection would be distorted even further if the recent proposed Marine Coastal Regulation Zone (MCRZ) notification were allowed to sail through.

The National Coastal Protection Campaign (NCPC), an umbrella network of NGOs, fish-worker organisations and environmental activists, has, while condemning the "dilution" of the Coastal Regulation Zone 2011 under the proposed notification, flayed the move as one which "will not enhance coastal governance, but rather open up India's coastline to further commercialization".

Probir Banerjee, convener, NCPC, while rejecting the proposed notification of April 17, pointed out that while the CRZ itself remains to be implemented and enforced as per the letter of the law, the new notification further dilutes the CRZ 2011.

Mr. Banerjee, who also represents the NGO PondyCAN, which as a member of NCPC, helped bring out the Challenged Coast of India report, expressed concern that easing the current regime would exacerbate existing problems of coastal governance and leave fisher communities who share collective claims to common spaces such as beach space, further marginalized.

According to the NCPC, the following changes that have been proposed under the MCRZ Notification, will significantly weaken and dilute the spirit of the CRZ 2011: lifting the ban on land reclamation for commercial and entertainment purposes; allowing tourism in classified ecologically sensitive areas; allowing the development of new coastal roads and allowing land reclamation.

These changes will endanger the integrity of coastal ecosystems and reduce the resilience of coastal ecosystems to cushion disastrous effects of natural calamities and climate change

impacts. Opening up classified ecologically sensitive areas will negatively impact the fragile ecology of these areas. Additionally, these proposed changes also would regularize a host of existing violations, without penalizing offenders.

The NCPC has urged the Ministry to set aside the proposed MCRZ notification and instead conduct several public consultations across all maritime states to strengthen, improve and effectively implement the provisions of the CRZ 2011.

"We hope that such an important issue is the result of a democratic and consultative process rather than a top down approach with no thought on the effect of this. Being short sighted on such matters will end up costing our country much more and end up harming rather than being beneficial to its people. We hope good sense prevails," said Sunaina Mandeon of PondyCan.

[The Hindu](#) April 19, 2017

*UN theme for  
International Mother  
Earth day celebrated on  
22nd April 2017 is  
"Environmental &  
Climate Literacy". We  
need to empower  
everyone with the  
knowledge to inspire  
action in defense of  
environmental  
protection.*

## PMO SEEKS REPORT ON KORADI PLANT IRREGULARITIES

The Prime Minister's Office has sought action on the various irregularities at the Koradi Thermal Power Plant. It has also asked for an action taken report in 15 days.

The PMO was acting on a complaint filed by activist Ankita Shah whose grievance was based on TOI's report on April 16 - 'Koradi plant low pollution levels unrealistic. Fudged?' She had registered the complaint on Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS).

The complaint was forwarded to the ministry of environment, forest and climate change which, in turn, sent it to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). In a letter dated

April 17, Paritosh Kumar, Scientist 'E' of CPCB, issued directions to the member secretary of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) to take appropriate action.

Picking up several points from TOI's report, Shah in her complaint had drawn Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attention to the air pollution caused by the power plant, endangering health of thousands of people. Modi had dedicated to the nation three units of Koradi Thermal Power Station (KTPS) on April 14 during his visit to the city.

TOI's investigations had revealed that the three units of KTPS, which have been in use since a year, are functioning against the

MOEFCC norms. Unit numbers 8,9 and 10 have not installed flue gas desulphuriser (FGD), which is a mandatory pollution control equipment. Yet, surprisingly, the stack monitoring figures are much lower than the permissible parameters laid down by the pollution board.

Research by India Meteorological Department (IMD) and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology has revealed high concentration of SO<sub>2</sub> can lead to acid rain. Prolonged exposure to high SO<sub>2</sub> levels can also cause diseases like cancer. Data collected by IMD shows that Nagpur already receives acid rain.

[Times of India](#) April 20, 2017

# THE END OF COAL: EU ENERGY COMPANIES PLEDGE NO NEW PLANTS FROM 2020

Europe's energy utilities have rung a death knell for coal, with a historic pledge that no new coal-fired plants will be built in the EU after 2020.

The surprise announcement was made at a press conference in Brussels on Wednesday, 442 years after the continent's first pit was sunk by Sir George Bruce of Carnock, in Scotland.

National energy companies from every EU nation – except Poland and Greece – have signed up to the initiative, which will overhaul the bloc's energy-generating future.

A press release from Eurelectric, which represents 3,500 utilities with a combined value of over €200bn, reaffirmed a pledge to deliver on the Paris climate agreement, and vowed a moratorium on new investments in coal plants after 2020.

"26 of 28 member states have stated that they will not invest in new coal plants after 2020" said Kristian Ruby, Eurelectric's secretary-general. "History will judge this message we are bringing here today. It is a clear message that speaks for itself, and should be seen in close relation to the Paris agreement and our commitment to provide 100% carbon-neutral electricity by 2050."

"Europe's energy companies are putting their money where their mouths are," he added.

Coal has been central to Europe's development, powering the industrial revolution, trades union history, and even the EU's precursor, the European coal and steel community.

But it also emits more carbon dioxide than any other fossil fuel, plus deadly toxins such as sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter, which are responsible for more than 20,000 deaths each year.

Wendel Trio, the director of Climate Action Network Europe, hailed the new move as "the

beginning of the end for coal". "It is now clear that there is no future for coal in the EU," he said. "The question is: what is the date for its phase out in the EU, and how hard will the coal industry fight to keep plants open, even if they are no longer economically viable?"

The coal industry though was skeptical about the utilities' announcement. Brian Ricketts, the secretary-general of the Euracoal trade group said: "Steam engines were replaced by something better, cheaper and more productive – electric motors and diesel engines. When we see a new energy system – with lots of energy storage – that works at an affordable price, then coal, oil and gas will not be needed. In the meantime, we still rely on conventional sources."

Renewable industry sources also welcomed the news, albeit with the caveat that it would allow continued new investments in the industry for another three years.

"The debate about coal is over," one industry insider told the Guardian. "This is the only way that we can go forward with decarbonisation. But it would be good to see a phase out of existing coal plants."

The energy utilities' initiative faced initial resistance in Germany which is relying on coal to bridge a move away from nuclear energy to renewables under the "energiewende" transition.

In the end though, only Poland which depends on coal for around 90% of its electricity and Greece, which still plans new coal plants, bucked what is becoming a global trend.

New coal plant constructions fell by almost two thirds across the world in 2016, with the EU and US leading the way in retiring in existing coal capacity.

The move is also in line with a pathway for meeting the 2C

target laid out by climate scientists last month, as a way of limiting future stranded asset risks.

Europe will have to phase out all of its coal plants by 2030 or else "vastly overshoot" its Paris climate pledges, climate experts say.

António Mexia, the CEO of Portuguese energy giant EDP and president of the Eurelectric trade association, said: "The power sector is determined to lead the energy transition and back our commitment to the low-carbon economy with concrete action."

"With power supply becoming increasingly clean, electric technologies are an obvious choice for replacing fossil fuel based systems, for instance in the transport sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

"The challenge for policy makers in the next two years will be to target the political instruments, ensure that they are complementary and advance decarbonisation and electrification at the same time," said Ruby.

Ruby called for a ratcheting up of the cap on CO2 emissions under the EU's emissions trading system, to speed the transition to a low carbon economy.

The European Environment Agency this week also announced that the share of renewable in the EU's energy mix has increased from 15% in 2013 to 16% in 2014, and up to 16.7% in 2015, and that renewable energy accounted for 77% of all new electricity-generating capacity added in 2015, the eighth year in a row it has accounted for the majority of new additions.

[The Guardian, Cleantechnica](#)  
April 0 5, 2017

*Bharat stage emission standards (BSES) are emission standards instituted by the GOI to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engines and Spark-ignition engines equipment, including motor vehicles. The implementation are set by the CPCB under the MoEF & CC.*

Citizen consumer and civic  
Action Group (CAG)

New No. 246, Old No. 277-B,  
TTK Road (J.J. Road),  
Alwarpet,  
Chennai 600 018

Phone: 91-44-24460387  
Telefax: 91-44-24914358  
Email: tpp@cag.org.in

[www.cag.org.in](http://www.cag.org.in)

<http://thermalwatch.org.in/>



*Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) is a non-profit, non-political and professional organization that works towards protecting citizens' rights in consumer and environmental issues and promoting good governance processes including transparency, accountability and participatory decision making.*

## KEY SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR CHINA, INDIA AND THE US, ALLIANZ ENERGY AND CLIMATE MONITOR

	CHINA	INDIA	US
Share of global population (2015)	19%	18%	4.4%
Annual power consumption per person (2012)	3,800 kWh	770 kWh	13,000 kWh
Electrification rate (2012)	100%	79%	100%
Share of global energy related CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (2014)	28%	6%	16%

Sources: IEA 2016a; World Bank 2016

## REGULATIONS AND CASES

- Energy Watchdog Vs Central Electricity Regulatory Commission & Ors[2017], Adani Enterprises seeking a hike in power tariffs, Civil Appeal Nos.5399-5400 of 2016, 11th April 2017, [Click here](#)
- Tapes Bhardwaj Vs UPSCB; CPCB; Mathura Cantonment Board[2017], Dumping of garbage on the river bed of River Yamuna by Mathura Cantonment Board, Original application No. 596 OF 2016, 13th April 2017, [Click here](#)

## PUBLICATIONS

- Bell, Lee. (2017), Mercury Monitoring in women of child-bearing age in the Asia and the Pacific region [online], [Accessed 16 May 2017]. [Click here](#)
- Allianz Energy and Climate Monitor (2017), Deep Dive- What do current policy developments in India, China and the US mean for investing in renewable? [Online], [Accessed 16 May 2017]. [Click here](#)

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Video on "The Role of Water in Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change" by IISD. [Click here](#)
- Final Comprehensive Action Plan for air pollution control with the objective to meet ambient air quality standards in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and National Capital Region, including states of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. [Click here](#)