



A CAG Initiative

# stopppwatch

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Educating & Informing Stakeholders on Energy, Environment & Thermal Power Plants

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>India News</i>	2
<i>World News</i>	3
<i>Statistics</i>	4
<i>Regulations &amp; Cases</i>	4
<i>Publications</i>	4
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	4

## Relevant Websites & Contacts

Under Secretary,  
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Forests & Climate Change,  
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Tel: 011-24695334  
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Web: <http://envfor.nic.in/>

National Green Tribunal

Faridkot House,  
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New Delhi - 110 001  
India

Tel: 011-23043501

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

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

## MONITORING OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT—III

### E . Solid waste

Non-hazardous waste that can be disposed or recycled and reused comes under the solid waste category. There is no specific rule that can be applied to this category, except Code of Practice (fly ash) for certain wastes. Industries are required to disclose the different types of solid wastes generated and the quantity disposed in previous and present financial year. To know more about the solid wastes from a particular industry, it is important to compare Consent to Operate (CTOs) conditions among similar industries. State Pollution Control Boards such as TNPCB of late prescribing for non-Hazardous wastes, how such wastes are stored, sold to authorized/approved agencies etc.

Sl. No	Details of solid wastes	Total Quantity	
		During the year 2012-2013	During the year 2013-2014
1.a	From process (mill rejects collected)	12,620.19 T	10,506.82 T
b.	Mill rejects recycled and reused within the unit(land filling or road laying work in site etc..)	4,576.15 T	602.013 T
c.	Disposed off	8,044.04 T	9904.807
2.	From pollution control facility ( wet ash and dry ash disposed)	24,56,119.14 T	20,50,876.30 T

### F . Characteristics of waste and disposal method

The characteristics include, chemical composition and physical properties, disposal practices adopted by the industries for the disposal of solid and hazardous wastes and where they are disposed have to be mentioned. There is no rule to regulate characteristics of waste and its disposal methods.

#### Mode of disposal of solid wastes and Hazardous Wastes

##### 1.Solid wastes:

Main pollutants: a) Ash

b) Rejects from mills

i) **Ash Disposal:** Major portion of the ash generated is collected through dry fly ash

Collection system installed in all units and issued to cement, Bricks, Asbestos manufacturing companies and the balance ash is discharged to ash dyke in wet form. From the ash dyke the wet ash is also issued to cement, Bricks, Asbestos manufacturing companies.

ii) **Rejects from mills:** Mill rejects are stored in yard and sold out through auction. Also mill rejects are used for land filling and road laying purposes.

2) **Hazardous Waste:** Used/spent oil are collected in 200/210 liters capacity MS barrels and stored in Central stores in a specified area and sold to Pollution control Board authorized contractors through auction periodically.

### G . Impact of pollution control measures

This section deals with the measures adopted to conserve natural resources and other pollution control measures its impact on the cost of production.

### H . Additional measures/ investment for environmental protection including abatement of pollution

This section requires detailing the measures adopted by the thermal power plant. As such, no rules have been developed by the Ministry. The techniques adopted the purpose and usage of the technology should be mentioned.

### I . Miscellaneous

Other particulars in respect of environmental protection and abatement of pollution.

## GREEN COVER ON 50 ACRES CLEARED FOR NCTPS PLANT

Nearly 50 acres of green belt around the North Chennai Thermal Power Station (NCTPS) have been allegedly cleared to facilitate the construction of the third stage of the power plant. Activists fear that 140 more acres will be wiped out before any action is taken by officials.

The stage I and II of NCTPS were completed about a decade ago, while construction of stage III is underway. A few activists say the third stage is being built by clearing the green belt around the first two stages and fear that the destruction of this greenery may have long term consequences.

“A green belt is mandated around every thermal power plant to absorb the pollution it generates. The trees are the only barrier preventing fly ash and dust from affecting populated areas nearby,” said Nityanand Jayaraman, an environmentalist, adding that removing the green cover is illegal as TANGEDCO has not obtained the mandatory Consent to Establish under the Air and Water Acts for the

ongoing work. Despite the lack of consent, the construction that began last August has not been stopped. An RTI reply also reveals no site inspection was made by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) before the construction began.

NCTPS’ coal-fired thermal power plant is located at the southern tip of Kattupalli - a barrier island with vegetation-covered dunes which prevent intrusion of saline water into the fresh groundwater table.

“These inland aquifers recharge the groundwater that feeds nearly 120 MLD for Chennai Metrowater at Panjeti,” said Pooja Kumar, a researcher at the coastal resource centre.

By clearing the vegetation and flattening the dune, one is inviting saline water to mix with fresh water, she added.

The area is rich in flora and fauna and the forest department discovered a micro-ecosystem using camera traps last year. One can find trees such as Su-

rapazham, Kaarapazham, Cashew and other mangrove and reverain plants and shrubs too. The fauna includes deer, hares, mongoose, wild cats and several water and migratory birds.

In addition to the cutting down of the trees, asbestos waste and tree stumps have been dumped on the Ennore Creek, which is protected by the CRZ notifications.

“The creek fills up with water during the rainy season and recharges the groundwater in the region. Now, this waste is being dumped here, which will affect the floodplain further,” said Anandan, a village elder.

A petition challenging the environmental clearance given to the project is currently pending in the National Green Tribunal.

Officials from TANGEDCO, Departments of Environment and Forest and TNPCB were unavailable for comments.

[The New Indian Express, DT Next](#) March 29, 2017

*UN theme for  
International Forest day  
celebrated on 21st  
March 2017 is “Forests  
and Energy”, whereas  
the theme for  
International Water day  
celebrated on 22nd  
March 2017 is  
“Wastewater”*

## DEFIANT POWER PLANTS SNUB GREEN RULES, CAG FINDS

Though the government is taking numerous measures to cut down on environmental pollution levels, an audit report by the CAG has indicated that existing power plants in the country are not adhering to the norms meant to safeguard ecological interests.

Though the government is taking numerous measures to cut down on environmental pollution levels, an audit report by the Comptroller and the Auditor General of India (CAG) has indicated that existing power plants in the country are not adhering to the norms meant to safeguard ecological interests. The CAG report, tabled in Parliament last Friday, covered 216 projects that were granted environmental clearances (ECs) by the ministry of environment, forest and climate

change (MoEF&CC) between January 2011 and July 2015. It also checked the post-EC monitoring of 352 projects which had been granted EC between 2008 and 2012.

Of the 24 thermal power plants verified by CAG, eight had various non-compliances related to fly ash storage. Some of these projects belonged to large industry players such as Jindal Power, Adani Power and NTPC. Of the projects examined by CAG, 45% did not use the ash satisfactorily. Thermal plants are supposed to utilise 100% of fly ash from the fourth year of operation. The report also indicated that power plants did not take required measures to control emissions. The industry showed negligence in installing electrostatic

precipitators which are essential for controlling the discharge of particulate matter in the air. NTPC’s 2,600-MW Korba power plant in Chhattisgarh was the largest plant cited by CAG in this category. The report observed some irregularities in coal procurement procedures in some of the thermal power plants it examined. It said that several thermal plants across Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal lacked clarity on their specific coal-procuring points. CAG said that the MoEF&CC must ensure that the PP uses coal from the block/mine as per the EC.

[Financial Express](#) March 15, 2017

# HOW CLIMATE CHANGE BATTLES ARE INCREASINGLY BEING FOUGHT, AND WON, IN COURT

Around the world courts are stepping in when politicians fail to act, with South Africa's government the latest to lose a groundbreaking climate lawsuit with judges ruling against its plans for a new coal-fired power station.

The South African government has lost the country's first climate change lawsuit after the high court ruled against its plans for a coal-fired power station, the latest in a rising tide of international climate litigation.

Environmental NGO EarthLife Africa challenged the government's approval of the proposed Thabametsi coal-fired power station on the grounds that it should have been preceded by an evaluation of its climate change impacts.

The North Gauteng high court agreed and ordered the government to reconsider its approval, taking into account a full climate change impact assessment.

An environmental impact assessment takes into account any new development's damage to the ecosystems and environment and what can be done to mitigate this.

A draft assessment shows that the project slated for the drought-prone Limpopo province will produce significant greenhouse gas emissions, and that the climate impacts threaten the future viability of the plant.

The case comes shortly after a groundbreaking climate case decided last month in Austria. A federal court blocked the expansion of Vienna's International airport because the increase in carbon emissions that a new runway would generate is inconsistent with Austria's commitments to tackle climate change.

The Austrian decision not only echoes controversies around airport expansions in the UK and France; it's also the latest example of courts around the world stepping in to hold governments to account for escalating

global temperatures.

Since a landmark Dutch climate change case resulted in an order that the government significantly reduce its carbon emissions, lawsuits challenging inaction on climate change have been filed in courtrooms in Europe, North America, and the Asia-Pacific region.

Some lawsuits target the inadequacy of policies intended to reduce carbon emissions (as in the US, New Zealand, Belgium and Switzerland) while others challenge individual projects that have potentially catastrophic consequences for the climate (as in Norway, where the government has permitted new drilling for oil in the Arctic).

In Pakistan, where rising temperatures are already threatening lives and livelihoods, a court found in favour of a farmer who argued that his rights to life and dignity were under threat because of the government's inadequate climate change policy.

Climate change litigation is an invaluable strategy at a time when governments have failed to live up to their repeated promises, affirmed most recently in the Paris agreement, to prevent dangerous interference with the climate system.

Current pledges to reduce emissions are projected to lead to warming of 3.2C above pre-industrial levels – way above the agreed target of “well below 2C” and likely to lead to radical changes in the environment.

Aside from highlighting the obligations of governments to protect their citizens from foreseeable harm, these cases have the considerable advantage of putting the facts of climate change on the public record.

These facts, endorsed by governments through the adoption of scientific reports at the UN, include that climate change is real; that it is caused by human activity; that it will dramatically affect every region in the world;

and that it is more cost-effective to act now than later. While it might be expedient for politicians to obfuscate these facts, it is another matter altogether to produce evidence to substantiate their position in court.

The political and social ripple effects of climate change cases are also enormous. While the Dutch government is appealing against the court's ruling in the Netherlands, the case has already had a huge impact on national policy making and public debate.

Emboldened by the ruling, opposition MPs have drafted a new, more ambitious climate change act and a majority of parliamentarians have voted to phase out coal-fired power as quickly as possible.

It has also catalyzed an unprecedented level of social mobilization around climate change as an issue.

These cases are powerful vehicles for the progressive action on climate that is urgently needed.

Far from being an undue interference with policy making processes, courts are reaching decisions in accordance with existing law and science.

For as long as governments fail to take the steps necessary to avert dangerous change, courts can be expected to act as vital checks on political inaction.

[The Guardian](#), [Times](#), March 8, 2017

Related articles:

[Dutch climate change case](#),  
[Austria groundbreaking climate case](#).

*Clean Environment Cess  
is a kind of carbon  
tax and is levied in India  
as a duty on Coal,  
Lignite and Peat in order  
to finance and promote  
clean environment  
initiatives, funding  
research in the area of  
clean environment or for  
any such related purposes.*

Citizen consumer and civic  
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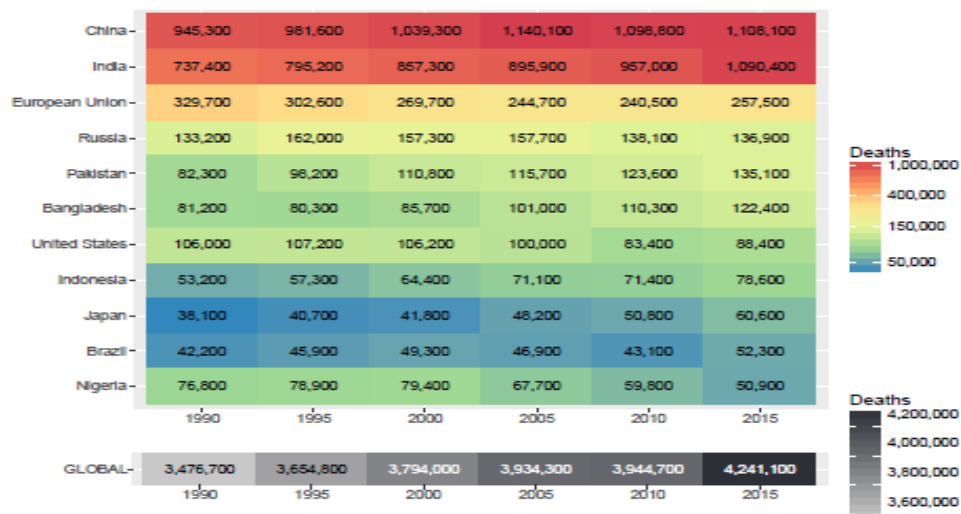
<http://thermalwatch.org.in/>



*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.*

## DEATHS DUE TO PARTICULATE MATTER, STATE OF GLOBAL AIR 2017

**Figure 7. Trends in numbers of deaths attributable to PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure in the most populous countries for all ages and sexes.**



## REGULATIONS AND CASES

- M.C. Mehta Vs Union of India &Ors [2016], Ban on sale and registration of BS-III compliant vehicles, Writ Petition (Civil) No.13029/1985, 29th March 2017, [Click here](#)
- Chaitanya Sravanthi Vs. APPCB, Causing high air pollution in the city causing serious health hazards, Application No.68 of 2015 (SZ), 8th March 2017, [Click here](#)

## PUBLICATIONS

- Fankhauser, S. and Jotzo, F. (2017) Economic growth and development with low-carbon energy. Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy Working Paper No. 301 and Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment Working Paper No. 267 [Online], March 2017. [Click here](#)
- Stewart, R. (2017) Wild Water: The State of the World's Water 2017 [Online], WaterAid (Accessed 07 Jan. 2017) [Click here](#)

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Response to the Lok Sabha Question on 'Norms for power plants' by MoEF&CC — [Click here](#)
- Air Quality Control and Monitoring Summit - Exploring New Horizons and Sustainable Technologies for Controlling Air Pollution, The Imperial Janpath Lane, Connaught Place, New Delhi, 5 & 6 May 2017. [Click here](#)