



A CAG Initiative

stoppwatch

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

April 2020

Welcome to the St(o)ppwatch newsletter! This is our monthly dispatch of updates and insights on issues surrounding coal-based power plants, air pollution, climate change, and the environment in general.

Send your comments on EIA Draft Notification 2020

As India battles the **COVID-19 outbreak**, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has released the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Notification (EIA) 2020.

From excluding new industries that should have environmental clearance to reducing the number of public consultations, the draft EIA 2020 notification goes **against** the need of the hour to **strengthen environmental laws**. For such an important notification that has far-reaching impacts on India's environment and forest protection, the ministry opened it up for **public comments** right in the midst of this **pandemic**.

This move is not only **ill-timed** but also **wrong! Send this email** (before May 22) demanding that the notification be **scrapped immediately**. We're counting on you.

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Editorial



Climate Crisis is Breaking the Back of South Asian Countries

This article presents the emerging vulnerabilities in South Asian countries due to rising waves of climate crisis all over the world, and what are the actions required to limit the destructive impacts of changing climate in a strategic manner.

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Two die after dyke of Reliance power plant's fly ash pond breaches in Madhya Pradesh

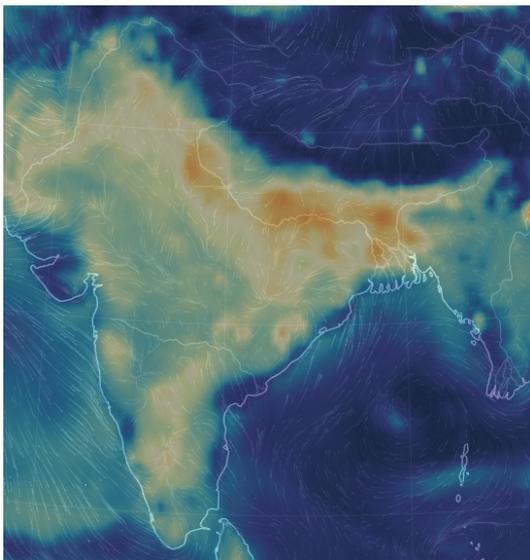
An act of negligence by Reliance's Sasan Ultra Mega Power Project (UMPP) in Singrauli Power had led to breach of their fly ash dyke, a third such incidence in a region populated with power plants.

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Britain breaks record for coal-free power generation

On April 28, Britain went without coal based power generation for a record 18 days since the Industrial Revolution, showing the world that life without coal is achievable.

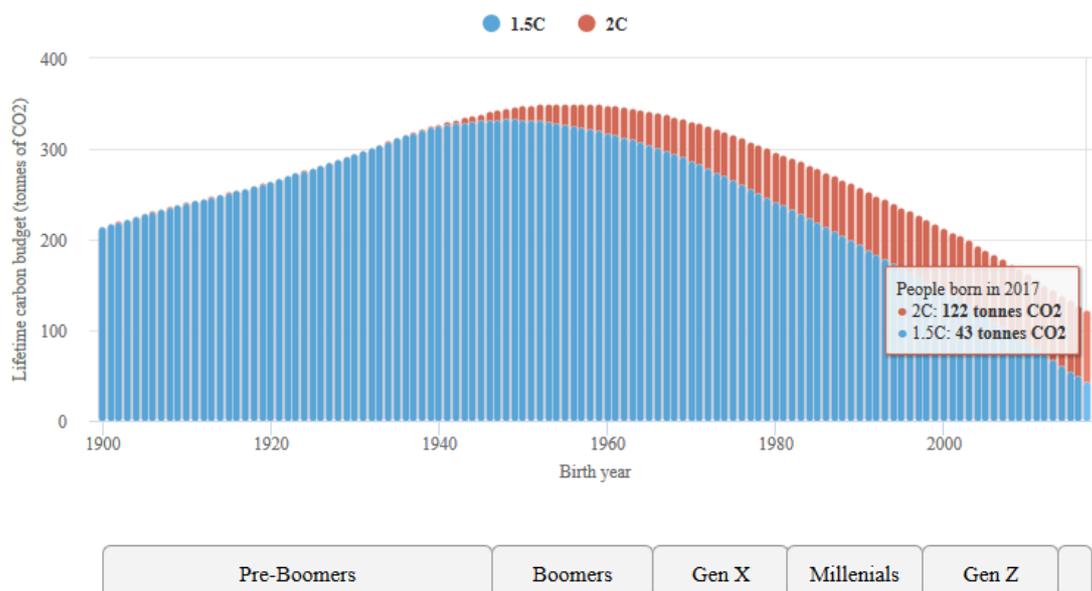
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Effect of restricted emissions during COVID-19 on air quality in India

As described in this paper, lockdown and restrictions in industrial and human activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic has led to decrease in the levels of PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, CO, and NO₂ in India. This suggests strict execution of air quality control plans could lead to improved air quality in India.

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New analysis by Carbon Brief shows that young children (those born in or after 2017) must emit eight times less CO₂ than their grandparents to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C (blue bars) or 2°C (red bars). The bars in the graph represent lifetime carbon budget for each generation starting 1900 to 2017.

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Power plant in your neighbourhood?

Use our monitoring [tool](#) to see if the plant is adhering to prescribed standards.

For other tools and tips to strengthen your campaigns, see [here](#).

About CAG:

Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) is a non-profit, non-political, professional organization working towards citizen's rights in consumer and environmental issues and promoting good governance including transparency, accountability, and participatory decision-making.

About Thermal Watch:

An initiative to assist local communities around existing and proposed coal-fired power plants on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, by developing and disseminating information toolkits that they can use. In addition to that, we create awareness about the existing compliance processes to push for better compliance by power plants to prescribed environmental standards.

If you would like anyone to receive our newsletter, ask them to write to us, and we will be happy to add them to our mailing list.

We would love to hear from you! If you have any feedback, please drop us a line at tpp@cag.org.in.

- Team Thermal Watch

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Our address is:

New No. 246 (Old No. 277B), TTK Road, (JJ Road), Alwarpet, Chennai 600 018
Ph: 044 - 2499 4458 / 2466 0387

