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TSR COMMITTEE REPORT: AN ASSESSMENT OF ITS PILLARS AND FOUNDATION (PART -2)

Third, in terms of enforcement, the proposed Environment Law (Management) Act suggested that Special Environmental Courts at the district level be set up for aggrieved parties to approach, either for pre-clearance or post-clearance related complaints/offences. But, NEMA/SEMA officials were to be given first preference in the Courts, while the members of the public 'must provide credible evidence of bonafides' (Section 9.2). The second level (Section 13.1 to 6), any person, aggrieved by a final decision of MOEF & CC or of the final decision of SEMA, could appeal before an Appellate Board - constituted by the Government.

National Green Tribunal (NGT) was seen as the final authority for appeal and review. However, limitations on its review powers had been suggested and made 'subject to limitations applicable to judicial review of administrative actions by the High Courts and the Supreme Court of India' (Section 16). Even with judicial review, section 15 suggested a bar on jurisdiction for NGT and others - wherein it could not question the government on its decision 'before nor enquired in to by any court or tribunal either suo-moto or at any ones behest on any ground what so ever'.

Assessment: Appeals process sought to mix and weave the separation of powers at every level. Special judicial courts were to be set up but mandated preferential access to administrative officers. An appellate board set up but made administrative in nature, managed by government officials. Finally, NGT powers were straitjacketed, by making its power only for judicial review of administrative actions. These are all tilted in favour of management of environment issues and not conservation of the environment.

Fourth, the report rested its foundations on information management - 'technical database', 'master database', 'central database' etc. The Report rightly recognized that the present state of environmental information is poor. But, the report hoped that this, information management, 'will help give project clearances in a transparent, accountable matter, relying upon scientific principles, and sharply reducing delay'.

Assessment: The core issues were of access and utility of the information database by those affected by the projects. The database would not be widely accessible - the controlling organization would charge a price or a cost 'for data mining and accessibility from the centre' and access would be limited to project consultants. This would have greatly reduced free flow of information to stakeholders and limited their ability to participate effectively in the environmental governance process.

Conclusion: The Report did not consider our present weaknesses in environmental governance - information gathering capabilities as seen from Environmental Information System (ENVIS) - are patchily organised, while the compliance and monitoring regimes are lackadaisical. This crucially limits our ability to accurately evaluate the environment in monetary terms. Only when transparent, accurate, accessible, and accountable mechanisms are well advanced can such pre/post compensatory and market mechanisms work, ultimately limiting judicial interference and some bargaining with the environment take place. Even then, the vulnerability of species or their ability to change and adapt may not be known - thus making the management exercise one in futility. (K. Vishnu Mohan Rao, [The Hindu](#))

NGT DIRECTS BADARPUR, RAJGHAT PLANTS TO CONTROL HIGH PM LEVELS

The National Green Tribunal today directed Badarpur and Rajghat Thermal Power Stations to bring particulate matter (PM) within permissible limits after an inspection report highlighted their high content in the ambient air around these projects.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar asked the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to issue notices to these thermal power plants. The Tribunal's direction came while perusing a report by a team of CPCB, DPCC and a representative from the Environment Ministry which had inspected all major government power and thermal projects in the capital.

According to the report, the stack monitoring analysis

showed that particulate matter (PM) in the Badarpur coal based plant's IIA unit was exceeding the standard of 150 mg/Nm³ in some days of the year while at Rajghat plant all the units exceeded the standard of 150 mg/Nm³ most of the time. Particulate matter is the sum of all solid and liquid particles suspended in air, many of which are hazardous.

The Tribunal was hearing a petition filed by advocate Vardhaman Kaushik who had contended that "the level of particulate matter in Delhi is rising manifold".

During the hearing, Kaushik sought urgent intervention from the Tribunal seeking remedial measures to curb the air pollution.

The green panel had earlier directed the team to take sam-

ples of ambient air quality around all major government power and thermal projects in the capital and suggest remedial measures if the emission was found to be in excess.

The green tribunal had earlier said that steps are required to be taken for ensuring quality of emissions released directly by government projects like Indraprastha, Badarpur and Rajghat, thermal power project and even other major plants run by the government and its instrumentalities within the standards prescribed by law.

It had also sought suggestions as to how the air pollution in Delhi can be checked immediately and the method by which ambient air quality can be restored to clean air standards.

([Economic Times](#), 14 August, 2014)

Adjust heating and cooling controls to reduce overheating or overcooling and use natural ventilation more effectively.

During the summer, keep your thermostat at 78°F / 25°C. During the winter, keep it at or below 68°F / 20°C.

Wear a sweater or long-sleeved shirt if you need extra warmth.

BHEL COMMISSIONS 500 MW THERMAL POWER PLANT AT VINDHYACHAL

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has added one more coal-based power plant to the grid by successfully commissioning the 500 MW Unit-13 of Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station (STPS), Stage-V of NTPC. The project is located in Vindhyachal in Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh.

Significantly, BHEL has earlier commissioned six units of 500 MW rating each, at Vindhyachal power station. With the commissioning of this unit, BHEL has now commissioned seven sets of 500 MW each aggregating to 3,500 MW, the highest by BHEL in a power project, the company said in a press release.

BHEL's scope of work in the contract envisaged design, engineering, manufacture, supply and erection & commissioning

of steam generator and steam turbine generator along with associated auxiliaries and state of the art controls and instrumentation. The equipment for the project was manufactured at BHEL's Tiruchi, Ranipet, Haridwar, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Bhopal plants, while the company's Power Sector - Western Region undertook erection and commissioning of the equipment.

BHEL-make sets of 500 MW rating class today form the backbone of the Indian power sector with 76 sets having already been commissioned by BHEL in the country, the company said in the release. A large number of similar rating sets ensure better spares inventory management for developers. These sets have been performing much above the national

average as well as international benchmarks. BHEL supplied thermal sets also meet performance standards notified by CEA. As per a recent CEA study on the performance of sub-critical sets in the country, BHEL supplied sets have demonstrated better operating Heat rate resulting in less coal consumption per unit of power produced.

The public sector undertaking has already established its engineering prowess by successfully delivering higher rate units such as 600 MW, 660 MW, 700 MW and 800 MW thermal sets with a high degree of indigenisation. Notably, in the current financial year (2015-16), BHEL has already commissioned power plants with a cumulative capacity of 2,480 MW.

([Hindu](#), 9 August, 2015)

WORLD BANK: CLEAN ENERGY IS THE SOLUTION TO POVERTY, NOT COAL

It is the development conundrum of our era. Extremely poor people cannot lift themselves out of poverty without access to reliable energy. More than a billion people live without power today, denying them opportunities as wide-ranging as running a business, providing light for their children to study, or even cooking meals with ease.

Ending poverty requires confronting climate change, which affects every nation and every person. The populations least able to adapt – those that are the most poor and vulnerable – will be hardest hit, rolling back decades of development work.

How do we achieve the dual goals of expanding energy production for those without power and drastically reducing emissions from sources such as coal that produce carbon dioxide, the primary contributor to climate change? There is no single answer and we cannot ask poor communities to forego access to energy because the developed world has already put so much carbon pollution in the air. An array of policies and programs backed with new technology and new thinking can – if combined with political will and financial support – help poor populations get the energy they need while accelerating a worldwide transition to zero net carbon emissions.

An end to fossil fuel subsidies: The World Bank Group's focus is on five key areas: building low-carbon, climate resilient cities; moving forward on climate-smart agriculture; speeding up energy efficiency and investment in renewable energy, including hydropower; supporting work on ending fossil fuel subsidies; and developing carbon pricing to increase the cost of emissions.

Such an approach depends on decoupling economic growth from carbon emissions. We have to keep economies growing to bring shared prosperity for all, but we also have to bring down

greenhouse gas emissions. We are seeing change: countries are shifting from fossil fuels to renewable forms of energy with massive new investments in well-known types of renewables, like hydropower, geothermal, solar and wind. Between 2010 and 2012, the uptake of modern renewable energies grew by 4% globally. East Asia led the charge, representing 42% of new renewable energy generation. In countries like Bangladesh and Mongolia small scale solar power is dramatically changing the lives of poor people, lighting up their homes with low-cost solar systems. As part of the government's sustainable development strategy, more than 3.5m solar homes systems have been installed in rural Bangladesh, creating 70,000 direct jobs. Morocco is setting an example for the African continent. It has a renewable energy target of 42% of total electrical capacity by 2020, has recently established an agency dedicated to solar energy and is working to develop a "super grid" that integrates solar power, wind power, hydropower and biomass. Renewable energy investment in Morocco grew from \$297m in 2012 to \$1.8bn in 2013, due in part to reduced fossil fuel energy subsidies. From an investment perspective, a global focus on low-carbon or carbon-free energy production also means that continuing to pollute will cost more. We're running out of room for how much carbon we can emit into our atmosphere, so every ton emitted is becoming more expensive. There are now about 40 countries and more than 20 cities, states and provinces using or planning to use a price on carbon to bring down greenhouse gas emissions. Altogether, these initiatives are valued at almost \$50bn. Increasingly, we are hearing the voices of business calling for a price on carbon and investing in clean energy sources. Green bonds are also on the rise. A new report shows the World Bank

(IBRD) has issued 100 green bonds in 18 currencies, raising the equivalent of \$8.4bn. The investments are targeting low carbon and climate resilient growth in countries. Two energy efficiency projects in China, supported by green bonds, are estimated to reduce 12.6m tons of carbon dioxide annually – equivalent to taking 2.7m cars off the road each year. Our private sector arm, IFC, has to date, issued a total of \$3.9bn in green bonds. The Bank and IFC helped pioneer the green bond market, with the global green bond market now worth about \$38bn. And as we head towards December's climate change conference in Paris, we're seeing clear signs that in the halls of government, debate has shifted from the offices of ministers of the environment warning about climate change to the offices of ministers of finance assessing the likely price tag of dealing with and adapting to climate change.

We know the cost of inaction is much greater. We already face the certainty of rising oceans, shifting weather patterns and resulting human migrations, all with a toll of trillions of dollars and potentially hundreds of thousands of lives. Increasing extreme weather events – drought, storms and wildfires – are already exacting a heavy cost. Pollution takes a toll on people's health as well as straining public purses.

Developed and fast-developing governments need to make their economies and energy systems more efficient and wean themselves off the practices of the past. At the same time, we need to extend access to energy to the world's poorer populations and do so as cleanly as possible. For the developing world, this moment represents an opportunity. The challenge is to build economies that are competitive without carbon. Let's keep our eyes on the prize. ([Guardian](#), 10 August, 2015)

Turn down your refrigerator temperature. Refrigerators account for about 20% of household electricity use.

Use a thermometer to set your refrigerator temperature to 37°F / 2.7°C and your freezer as close to 3°F / -16°C or close as possible.

Make sure that the energy saver switch is turned on.

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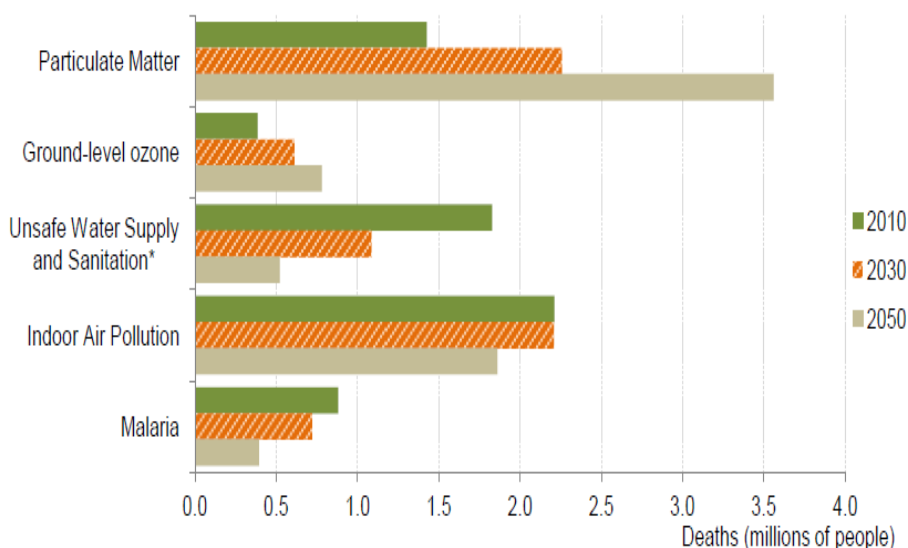
<http://thermalwatch.org.in/>



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.

OECD ENVIRONMENTAL OUTLOOK TO 2050

Figure 4. Global premature deaths from selected environmental risks: Baseline, 2010 to 2050



* Note: Child mortality only

Source: OECD Environmental Outlook Baseline; output from IMAGE suite of models.

REGULATIONS AND CASES

- National Green Tribunal, Pushp Jain Vs. Union of India & Ors. Original Application No. 172/2014 Click [here](#)
- National Green Tribunal, Ratandeep Rangari Vs. State of Maharashtra & Ors [APPLICATION NO.19/2014 (WZ)]. Click [here](#)

PUBLICATIONS

- Central Pollution Control Board, Draft Document on Revised Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) Version – 2015. click [here](#)
- European Power Plant Suppliers Association (EPPSA), THERMAL POWER IN 2030 Added Value For EU Energy Policy, EPPSA STUDY, 2015. click [here](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

- National Power Training Institute, 6-Months Certificate Course on Electricity Regulation & Commercial aspects through Distance learning Mode. click [here](#)
- World Geographic Documentaries, Power Plants - Documentary Films, 2015. click [here](#)

உங்களுக்கு தெரியுமா...?



சுற்றுச்சூழல் தாக்க மதிப்பீட்டு முறை
பற்றிய ஒரு படக் கதை

Do you know...?



A Cartoon Booklet on the Environmental Impact
Assessment Process

"Do you know?"!!

A Cartoon Booklet on the Environmental Impact Assessment Process

CAG is pleased to launch the
Cartoon book **"Do you know?"!!**

The book aims to demystify
and educate communities and
general public on the adminis-
trative and environmental
regulations and laws on the
Environmental Impact Assess-
ment (EIA) Process, with spe-
cific reference to Thermal
Power Plants (TPPs).

The people can learn while
they read the comics with their
family!

This book is available in Eng-
lish and Tamil. It is available
for download on CAG's
Slideshare page.

Link for [English](#) cartoon book-
let

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