



A CAG Initiative

stoppwatch

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

February 2021

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the latest edition of *St(o)ppwatch*! 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. We hope you will enjoy reading this issue of *St(o)ppwatch*.

Editorial



The power of PR: How induced climate denial is becoming big business

Climate change denialism has become the new age fad. Who is responsible for denying climate science and spreading disinformation? Is there a vested interest behind this strategy? This is an attempt to demystify the falsely propagated junk science in layman terms.

[Read More](#)

NGT directs NTPC to pay Rs 58 lakh for damaging environment in Uttarakhand

'Invoking the 'Polluter Pays' principle, Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board penalised NTPC for deficiencies in maintaining muck dumping sites at the Tapovan Vishnugad hydropower project at Chamoli.

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The tragic ironies of the Uttarakhand disaster

Retired IAS officer Avay Shukla lays bare the glaring issues faced by Himalayan states as large-scale projects are given the go-ahead in the name of development, with one such project culminating in the recent Chamoli disaster.

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Environment Impact Assessment and the Chamoli disaster

Weak explanations given on projects impact on the environment and wildlife, admission of local geographical hazard risks, and/or opposition by locals - all as part of the EIA process. We need a stronger and more rigid EIA process in place to avoid events like these in the future

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'Green steel': the race to clean up one of the world's dirtiest industries

The industrial civilisation is dependent on steel for its existence, and the alloy comes into existence by spewing copious amounts carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This has got to change to combat global warming. Here's an account of the race for 'Green Steel'.

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MAKING PEACE WITH NATURE

Transforming nature puts human well-being at risk

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (1970–2020):

- ▶ The economy has grown nearly fivefold and trade tenfold
- ▶ Human population has doubled to 7.8 billion
- ▶ Still, 1.3 billion people are poor and 700 million hungry

DISPOSALS OF WASTE MATTER:

- ▶ Greenhouse gas emissions have doubled
- ▶ Chemical production, waste and pollution have increased

USE OF SPACE AND RESOURCES:

- ▶ Resource use has tripled
- ▶ Humans impact 3/4 of ice-free land and 2/3 of oceans

Transforming humankind's relationship with nature is the key to a sustainable future

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (from 2020):

- ▶ Sustainable economic and financial systems
- ▶ Healthy, nutritious food and clean water and energy
- ▶ Healthy lives and well-being for all in safe cities and settlements

DISPOSALS OF WASTE MATTER:

- ▶ Net-zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050
- ▶ Management of chemicals, waste and pollution

USE OF SPACE AND RESOURCES:

- ▶ Recycling of resources
- ▶ Protection and sustainable use of land and oceans



Earth's capacities to

- ▶ support life
- ▶ provide resources
- ▶ absorb waste matter

ARE DEGRADED AND SURPASSED

RISK to:

Livelihoods, equity, health, economic development, peace, food, water, sanitation, safe cities and settlements

Earth's capacities to

- ▶ support life
- ▶ provide resources
- ▶ absorb waste matter

ARE RESTORED AND ADAPTED

SUPPORT for:

Poverty elimination, equity, health, economic development, peace, food, water, sanitation, safe cities and settlements

The 'Making Peace with Nature' report is the first such report from any UN agency where three of the biggest problems - climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, all interlinked and accelerating each other, are discussed at length. The report also proposes radical shifts to make peace with nature.

Info-graph courtesy of United Nations Environment Programme (2021). Making Peace with Nature: A scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity and pollution emergencies. Nairobi.

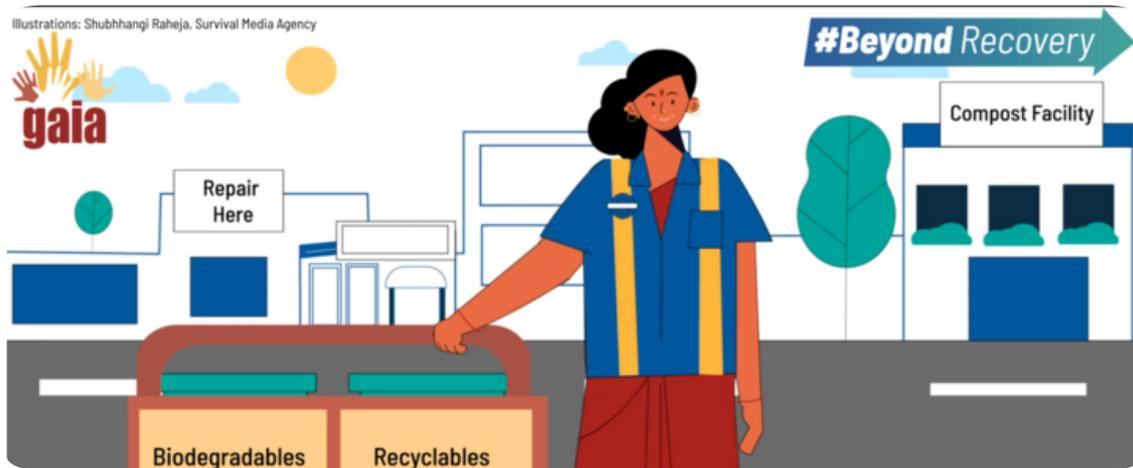
[Read the report here](#)

Actions you can take!

Call to Action: Go #BeyondRecovery to a Zero Waste Future

You can be an active part of change by signing GAIA's campaign to 'Go #BeyondRecovery to a Zero Waste future', demanding that policy makers create zero waste city systems, where we break free from plastic, divest from incineration and place our communities and waste-pickers first.

Read More and Sign



Did You Know?

The Earth's mean surface temperature has increased by more than 1°C compared to the pre-industrial period. At this current rate, we are on track to breaching a 1.5°C increase before 2040 and a 3°C increase in global temperature by the year 2100.

*Power plant in
your
neighbourhood?*

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

For other tools and tips, 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.

If this mail was forwarded to you and you liked it, we would love to have you as our subscriber, please use this [form](#) to sign up for St(o)ppwatch.

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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St(o)ppwatch is an initiative of Thermal Watch team at Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG).*

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