



Editor's Note

On Jul 22, 2024, the Finance Minister, Ms Nirmala Sitharaman presented the union budget for 2024-25. A number of new announcements were made in the energy sector. A new pumped storage policy was announced along with the promise to push for more pumped storage as a way to mitigate intermittency of renewable energy. For similar reasons, the finance minister also announced a push for more small scale nuclear reactors with the announcement of the use of R&D budget for development of Bharat small modular reactor.

There continues to be support for coal mining and coal-based electricity production. A new joint venture has been announced between NTPC and BHEL to establish a commercial plant using Advanced Ultra Super Critical (AUSC) technology. Support for Renewable Energy has increased with a lot of funding for PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Scheme and for domestic manufacturing of solar PV panels. Additionally, there has been an announcement of a Critical Minerals Mission to offset the dependence on import of minerals needed for renewable energy.

This budget has also seen a big jump of 60% for petrochemicals in its total allocation for Central Public Sector Enterprises in the petroleum sector, a 60% jump from the previous year's allocation. The petrochemical industry is one of the most carbon intensive industries and [according to the International Energy Agency](#), emissions from the chemical and petrochemical amounts to around 1.5 GtCO₂, which is 18% of all industrial-sector CO₂ emissions, or 5% of total combustion-related CO₂ emissions. An increase in petrochemical industry output will also mean an increase in single use plastics and hazardous polymers both of which will aggravate the environmental, social and climate problems faced by our country.

A more detailed analysis of the budget on the Energy Sector will be included in the next month's Energy Matters

— Energy Team at CFA



Burn and Earn: Another facet of Plastic Credits and the false solution that it is

Fighting plastic pollution is a herculean task, yet while fighting to save the planet and people from the impacts of the entire plastic life-cycle, we are confronted with yet another fight. Fighting false solutions to plastic pollution! [Read More.](#)



गर्मी से गहराता संकट

नई सरकार और संसद के गठन की आपाधापी में राजधानी दिल्ली समेत देश के अनेक इलाके अपने जल संकट और उबलती गर्मी की ओर अपेक्षित ध्यान नहीं खींच पाए। दिनों-दिन गहराते ये संकट क्या केवल राजनीतिक खींचतान की वजह से ही हैं? या फिर इसके ऐसे कारण भी हैं जिन्हें हल करने के लिए हमारे राजनीतिक नेतृत्व को समझदारी से ठोस कदम उठाना पड़ेंगे? प्रस्तुत है, इसकी पड़ताल करता राजकुमार सिन्हा का यह लेख। [Read More.](#)



Singrauli: Section 144 imposed

In a violation of the democratic rights of citizens, the District Magistrate imposed Section 144 in the Suliyari and Dhiroli areas of Singrauli on June 17th. The administration is now arresting the displaced people with the help of the police under pressure from the Adani company. [Read More.](#)



A letter to the EDs of the IFC regarding the potential harms of investing in the WTE projects in Gujarat

Abellon Clean Energy Limited is a Waste to Energy (WTE) developer based out of Gujarat in India, who is developing 4 WTE plants of cumulative capacity 52.20 MW, with a huge potential to harm the environment. [Read More.](#)