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“The first step to India’s energy transition in the power sector must be to improve the efficiency of generation in the thermal fleet. The current focus on lowering variable costs, with all the distortions that currently exist, needs to be reviewed and stress should be laid on minimising environmental fallouts.”



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“Enhancing the efficiency of the Indian coal fleet by optimising the resource utilisation will help the power sector in achieving the triple bottom line—by avoiding pollution-related morbidity and mortality (people), reduced emissions (planet), and improved discom finances (profit).”



There is a need to improve data transparency, as we assess the performance of our thermal fleet and prioritise action to decarbonise electricity generation.

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Acronyms

APTEL	Appellate Tribunal for Electricity
AT&C	aggregate technical and commercial
CEA	Central Electricity Authority
CERC	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
CPCB	Central Pollution Control Board
ER	eastern region
FGD	flue gas desulphuriser
FY	financial year
GDP	gross domestic product
GHG	greenhouse gas
GW	giga watt
INR	Indian rupee
ISGS	Inter-state generating stations
kcal	kilo calorie
KPI	key performance indicators
kWh	kilo-watt hour
Mcal	mega calorie
MERIT	Merit Order Despatch of Electricity for Rejuvenation of Income and Transparency
MoD	merit order dispatch
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change
MoP	Ministry of Power
MT	million tonnes
MU	million units
MW	mega watt
NEP	<i>National Electricity Plan</i>
NER	north-eastern region
NIT	notice inviting tender
NO _x	nitrogen oxides
NPA	non-performing asset
NR	northern region
PFC	Power Finance Corporation
PLF	plant load factor
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter
POSOCO	Power System Operation Corporation
PPA	power purchase agreement
PRAAPTI	Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency In Invoicing of generators
PTI	Press Trust of India
RE	renewable energy
SERC	State Electricity Regulatory Commission
SEVA	Coal India Limited Koyla Grahak Seva
SHR	station heat rate
SO _x	sulphur oxides
SR	southern region
USD	US Dollar
WR	western region



Variable costs of electricity generation from coal-based plants are distorted by fuel costs, fuel supply contracts and lop-sided fuel availability.