National Energy Policy

What is the issue?

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- Niti Aayog’s latest draft National Energy Policy encourages de-carbonisation, energy efficiency and renewable energy.
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- But it is also filled with contradictions and omissions.
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What is the major contradiction?

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- The policy foresees India’s power demand going up four-fold by 2040.
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- It also estimates coal-fired power capacity to grow to 330-441 GW by 2040.
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- This projected scenario is in **direct conflict with the declared twin goals** of sustainability and security.
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- It also comes at a time when solar and wind tariffs appear to be reaching historic new lows.
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- This dropping tariffs and the advancements of renewable energy proves that renewables are the logical choice to power India’s energy transformation.
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- **Coal Export -** NITI Aayog proposes that our coal industry will emerge as an exporter of coal.
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- It is against our international commitments to tackling climate change.
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- **Tackling Air Pollution -** The draft proposes that the geographic concentration of power plant will be strategically placed to not damage air

quality in human habitations.
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- This is illogical as the placement of polluting power stations is indifferen tot the pollution it will cause to the environment.
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- **Public Health -** It briefly touches upon of consideration of public health of semi-urban and rural regions of India.
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- It doesn’t address problems of city dwellers.
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- **Nuclear Energy -** The draft calls nuclear energy as the **only green energy source to be relied upon** for baseload power requirements.
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- Age of India’s nuclear reactors, high pice paid for nuclear energy, safety issues were not covered.
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Source: Business Line

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