

Q5 3  
31/12/21

Scrapping old thermal power plants for ecological and efficiency reasons should be done carefully. Explain

NITI aay has recently proposed the thermal power plant scrapping policy to retire inefficient and polluting power plants.

Efficiency reasons

Coal powers 72% of India's power needs. Half of the thermal power plants are older than 25 years. The service plants reduces in generation capacity by 40%.

This results in more consumption of coal, particulate matter pollution and increase in coal imports.

Also, retrofitting of these plants are costly affair. It does not adhere

to new pollution standards. Retrofitting  
also increases tariff of the power.  
Discerns can save upto 90000 crores  
annually due to increase in efficiency.

### Ecological reasons

The old plants capacity is 36 GW.

The scrapping must be compensated by  
new plants or from renewables. The  
newer plants can save water and conserve  
with biomass that can reduce the coal  
usage.

### Cautious approach

The grad integration, battery storage  
infrastructure, co-evolution along with states  
is necessary as scrapping must not  
result in power outages