

Bi-monthly Media Monitor

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PAKISTAN'S ENERGY SECTOR

In the last months, Pakistan got hit by one of the deadliest floods in its history at a time when the country has been going through severe economic and energy crises. With millions of people displaced due to the floods, media reports linked climate change and global warming to these floods.

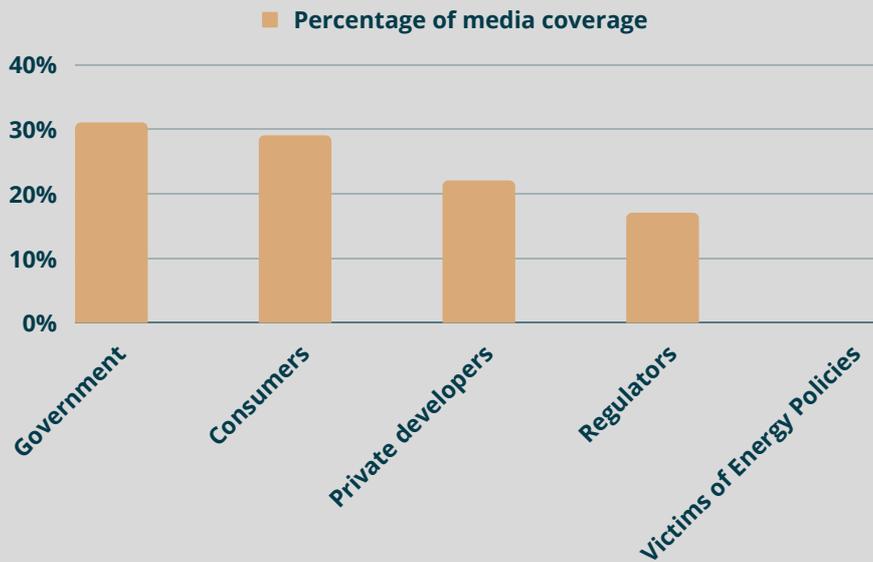
As one-third of the country got inundated with water, the authorities grappled with keeping floodwaters out of key power and grid stations. Post the devastating floods, the debate in the media on dams and hydropower has intensified, with questions arising on whether dams can play a role in limiting the impacts of such disasters.

There is also a growing discourse in the media around the inclusion of renewable sources of energy for power production in Pakistan. There were media reports with statements from government officials, including the prime minister, on adding renewables to Pakistan's energy mix. The government has announced that no new power project based on imported fuel will be set up in the future. According to media reports, the prime minister has also issued directives to the power division to frame a policy to attract private sector investment in the renewable energy sector. However, there have been no new updates in the media regarding the progress of the formation of any such policy.

TOP STORIES

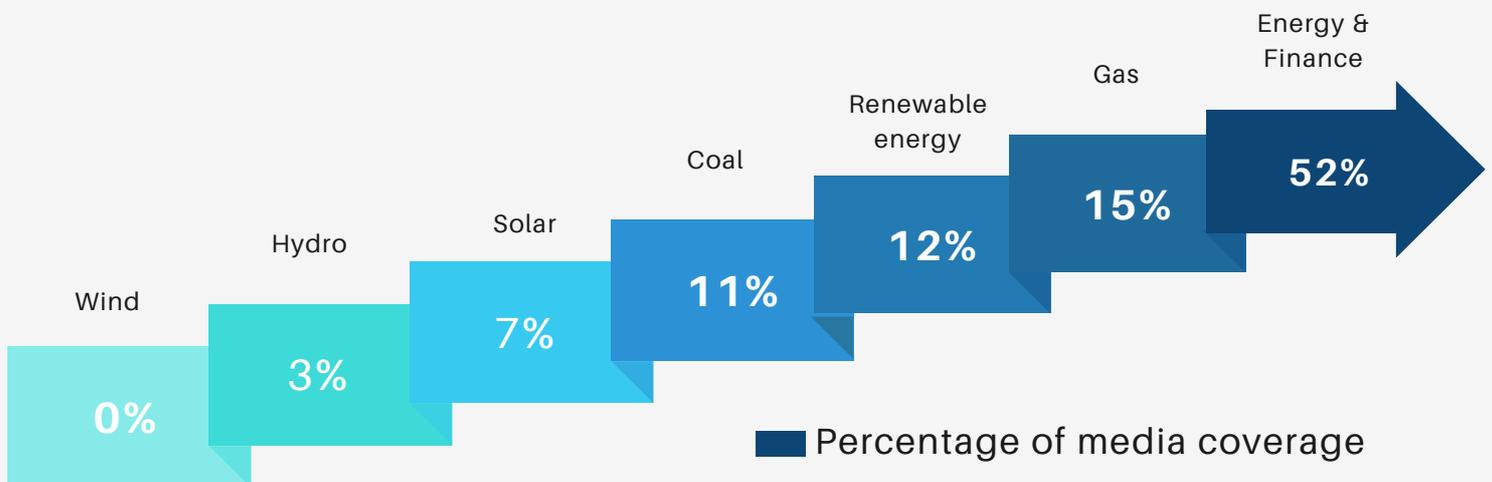
- 1. Sindh CM launches 330MW coal-fired power project** ([Read here](#))
- 2. Govt rules out use of imported fuel in future power plants** ([Read here](#))
- 3. Fuel adjustment relief for power consumers** ([Read here](#))
- 4. Forthcoming energy crisis in Pakistan** ([Read here](#))
- 5. Cheaper, changing and crucial: the rise of solar power** ([Read here](#))
- 6. Renewable energy: PM seeks policy on private investment** ([Read here](#))
- 7. RLNG issue: expect another winter of gas shortages** ([Read here](#))
- 8. Thar Energy Limited's 330MW Plant to commence operations from Oct 1** ([Read here](#))

Actors in Energy Sector



On the other hand, despite giving ambitious statements on the inclusion of renewables in Pakistan's energy production, the government continues to lean towards the 'indigenous' coal. The government inaugurated a 330 MW coal-fired power plant in Islamkot, Sindh. The federal energy minister also announced that the Shanghai Electric Coal Power Plant in Tharparkar Block-1 is also expected to begin commercial operations soon.

Compared to the previous months, there has been a rise in media coverage of both coal and renewables. But there is a steep decline in media coverage given to victims of energy policies. With the government-related updates, the gas crisis and the energy and finance issues taking up most of the media space, there is no coverage being given to communities that are facing the brunt of the poor energy policies.



Like the preceding months, the power tariffs continue to skyrocket. The minuscule relief that a small segment of the consumers received recently was in the form of fuel price adjustments in electricity bills. The fuel price adjustment waiver applies to households that consume up to 200 units of electricity only. National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) took up most of the media coverage chunk among all the other regulators. Most of the news related to NEPRA related to the multiple power tariff hikes that it approved. Another major news revealed that the NEPRA has decided to curtail the perks of rooftop solar customers by more than half as part of its plan on redesigning the Net Metering Regulations 2015.

FOR THIS ISSUE, WE ANALYZED OVER 200 MEDIA REPORTS PUBLISHED IN SIX DAILY NEWSPAPERS AND NEWS WEBSITES OF PAKISTAN NAMEDLY DAWN, BUSINESS RECORDER, EXPRESS TRIBUNE, PAKISTAN TODAY, GEO NEWS AND SAMAA DIGITAL.

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