

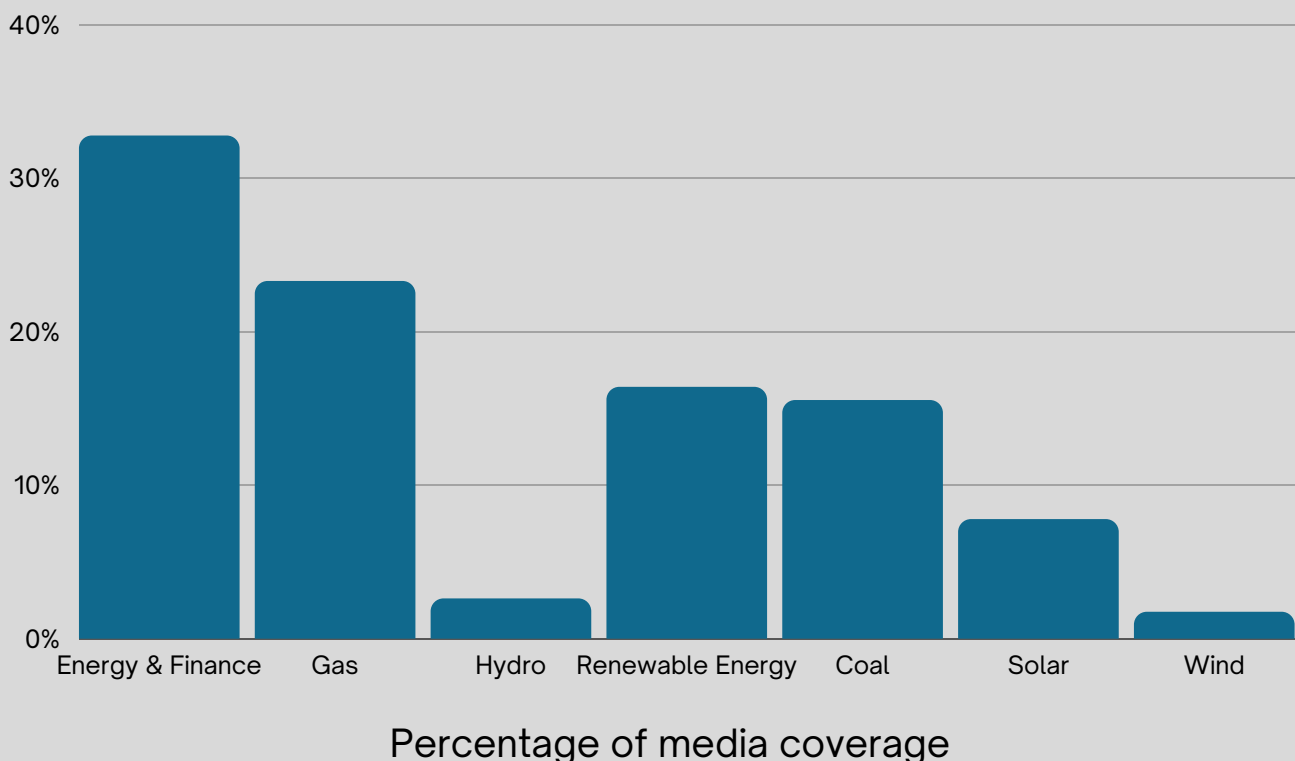
# BI-MONTHLY MEDIA MONITOR

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## PAKISTAN'S ENERGY SECTOR

Poor decisions and policies made in the past have come back to bite the government, as Pakistan reels from one economic and energy crisis to the next. In the months of April and May, the country saw a change in regime and a deepening economic crisis. With the country on the brink of bankruptcy, the energy sector's situation has further deteriorated, leaving it in a sorry state of affairs.

Amid the ongoing crisis, the media has been on its toes, giving extensive coverage to important matters ranging from the shortage of energy production to hours-long load shedding and the energy sector's inefficiencies that the recent economic crisis has unveiled. However, despite the evident failure of Pakistan's reliance on fossil fuels to produce energy, it is unfortunate to see that the media was unsuccessful in efficiently utilizing its power to reinforce the urgent need for the energy sector's transition to renewable energy.



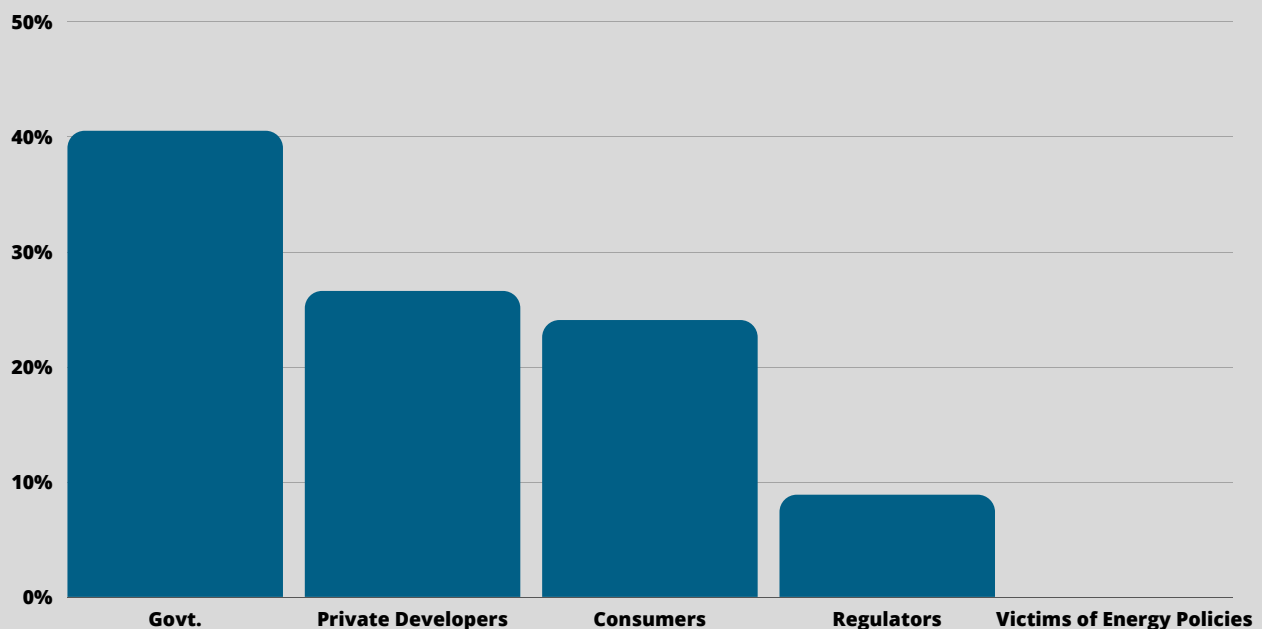


An analysis of the media reports of six leading newspapers and news websites showed that renewables, including solar and wind, received meager media coverage during this duration. The energy crisis worsened in the two months due to a massive shortfall and a surge in power tariffs. Not learning from the previous governments' mistakes, the new regime has continued to rely on imported, expensive and dirty fossil fuels to steer the energy sector out of this crisis. The only positive news related to renewables was the new prime minister withdrawing the general sales tax imposed on solar panels by the previous government.

Energy and finance matters, the government's role in the energy sector and exorbitant rates of LNG remained the central focus of discussion in the media. The government's bid to seal a renewed International Monetary Fund (IMF) deal put further pressure on the energy sector after the global lender ordered the removal of energy subsidies. The media reported extensively on the issue and termed it a negative move. Much to the disappointment of consumers, the country saw multiple massive hikes in both energy rates and fuel prices following the conditions set by the IMF. Moreover, there was little to no positive consumer-oriented news, as most of it revolved around the multiple tariff hikes and the rapid rise of power outages across the country.

With the rupee weakening and the global LNG market witnessing high prices, the media reported that the new government bought LNG at 40% higher prices. Similar to the past, news related to the LNG and coal heavily revolved around only the financial aspects of these fossil fuels, with no discussion of their environmental impacts.

### Percentage of media coverage to actors in energy sector



There were also multiple media reports calling for a shift to coal and reliance on Thar coal for Pakistan's energy 'security' and needs. On the other hand, the media failed to give any coverage to Thar-coal victims and other victims of energy policies. With the media and the government fixated on shortcuts to stabilize the energy sector using dirty fossil fuels; the environment, the people and the economy continue to suffer.

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**FOR THIS ISSUE, WE ANALYZED MEDIA REPORTS PUBLISHED IN DAWN, BUSINESS RECORDER, EXPRESS TRIBUNE, PAKISTAN TODAY, GEO NEWS AND SAMAA DIGITAL.**

**PRODUCED BY CONTENT EDITOR FAHMIDA JAN**