

No patience for power cuts

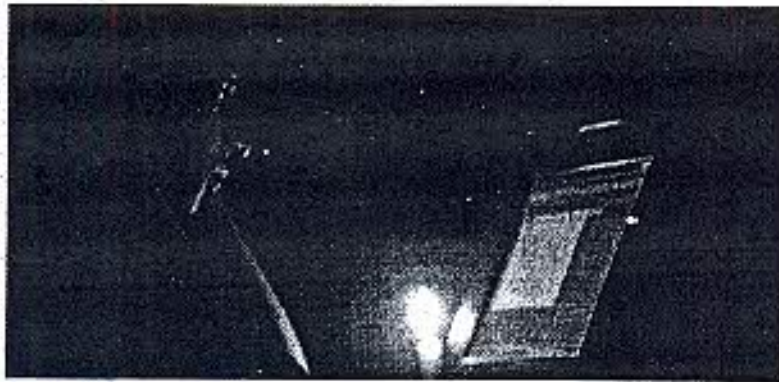
The way we deal with the inevitable crisis has transformed over the years

RANJINI RAD

A gentle rain-kissed breeze wafting in through the windows, and a handful of figures huddled up around a candle that flickered each time someone let out a chuckle, as the wild and wacky magic of shadow play unfolded on the wall up front. These are just some of the images that cross my mind when I think back to the power cut season back in the eighties and nineties, when I grew up right here in Bengaluru. Zoom forward to the present day and the picture that comes up is hardly one to be proud of: a whiny call from the kid who is in her room, seated comfortably in the heart of a paper craft tornado, asking me to bring the torch light immediately failing which she might snip her finger, or questioning in the highest of decibels, the existence of God (or fairness, or both); and moments hence, a haggard me groaning in despair, gasping for air that my life-altering WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter feeds are stalled momentarily.

Was life really more enjoyable when it was simpler? Without a doubt. What did we do when the power went off without any prior notice or explanation, back in the day when we were kids in school? We had a blast with a bunch of friends gathering in one of the houses (anything that kept us from completing our homework or studying a chapter or two for an impending test or exam, and God knows we had zillions of those). We could while time away doing silly things like touching the hot wax dripping from a candle to see who could withstand it the longest. We played word games, hide and seek, or put up raucous shows, much to the annoyance of neighbours, who eventually gave in and joined the party.

Power cuts were also synonymous with one other thing: eating. We would have a feast of sorts with pakoras and coffee, or any of the dozen-odd varieties of Karnataka style snacks, like avalakki, nippattu, churmuri, etc. We'd hunker down and play a round of 'kattale mane' or 'dark house', making up sinis-



POWER STRUGGLES In the dark

We would while away time doing things like touching the hot wax from a candle, play word games, hide and seek, or put up raucous shows

ter stories along the way, scaring each other stiff or cracking each other up.

We'd count the number of steps to the front door each of us took without stumbling, check whose shadow wiggled the most, who could sit through a joke without laughing till the very end, the possibilities were countless.

Today, power cut is synonymous with that dreaded B word that plagues our generation: boredom. As if life didn't offer ample chances to spell this word loud and clear to poor, overworked, underpaid parents, children now have one more opportunity to squeeze us dry during power cuts. For those of us who are fortunate enough to live in societies with power back-up, even the few minutes between the power going off and the generator coming on seem like eternity. My American-born ten-year-old, who has all the makings of a drama queen, asked me just the other evening, without as much as batting an eyelid, "How can we live in the dark like this for TEN minutes?" It took me all of five seconds to shrug my shoulders as I feverishly tried to re-send my Instagram picture for uploading to no avail, and share in her exasperation. My own desi-bred genes that have gotten a big taste of the sweet American life, you see, don't allow for a response that's any less theatrical: how, indeed?

matter Page-3
No Power in Some Areas Today

There will be no power supply from 10 am to 5 pm on Tuesday in the following areas due to maintenance work. The areas that will be affected by the powercut include HBR 3rd block, Yaseen Nagar, Kacharakanahalli, Kariyana Palaya, Jal Vayu Vihar, HRBR Layout, Kammanahalli, Banasawadi, Hennur, Nagawara, Thanisandra, BDS Layout and surrounding areas.

ENS

Page no 1 Bangalore
Power cuts due to technical snags return to haunt outskirts

Niranjana Kaggere
 @timesgroup.com
 TWEETS @NKaggere

The power cuts are back even after the state government officially withdrew load-shedding in Bengaluru Metropolitan Area Zone (BMAZ) limits. The power cuts spanning one to two hours largely on the outskirts of Bengaluru have begun to haunt citizens yet again. The tripping of Bellary Thermal Power Station (BTPS) has left the Energy Department officials worried. Trying to match the demand, government has been buying electricity from the Indian Energy Exchange on an everyday basis. This apart, generation at hydel units too has resumed with the inflow of water due to incessant rains in catchment areas. A senior

22/09/15
 Page No. 04
US firm offers solution to City's garbage crisis

BENGALURU: An American firm has come forward to bail the City out of the humongous garbage problem.

The executives of the Rushe Infratek-Orion Enterprises on Monday gave a presentation to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on solid waste management. The firm has proposed that it will not only dispose the garbage but will also generate electricity that will be sold to the State. It is currently managing the municipal waste in Vietnam.

The firm requires 25 acres of land and power grid to supply electricity. It said that there will not be any additional burden on the State exchequer. Instead, it will ensure cleanliness.

The executives of the firm have promised that they can generate at least 800 MW to 1,000 MW electricity from the 4,000 tonnes of waste generated per day in Bengaluru.

Pa
Trial basis

While reacting positively, the chief minister told the delegation that there was already a huge pile-up of waste at a few landfill sites, such as Mandur, Mavallipura and Bingipura, which needs to be cleared up. He asked the executives to start their project at Mandur on a trial basis.

Further steps would be initiated after analysing the pros and cons of the project.

District in-charge Minister Ramalinga Reddy, Home Minister K J George, Energy Minister D K Shivakumar, Chief Secretary Kausik Mukherjee, BBMP Commissioner G Kumar Naik and others were present on the occasion.

DH News Service

Waste to power: Mandur the laboratory for American firm

DC CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU, SEPT. 21

The state government on Monday asked a US-based company to set up its plant to generate power from waste near Mandur on a pilot basis.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told a delegation of officials from Rushe Infratek-Orion Enterprises that the government will buy power from the company at the rate suggested by the

KERC. After the trials, the government will take a decision on providing land and other facilities to the company to set up the plant.

The company sought 25 acres of land and a dedicated power line to transfer electricity to the state grid. They assured the chief minister that there would be no financial liability on the state government.

During a presentation to the chief minister, the company officials said that they

are capable of producing around 800 mw of power. Home Minister K.J. George, Bengaluru in-charge minister Ramalinga Reddy, Energy minister D.K. Shivakumar and Chief Secretary Kanishk Mukherjee were present at the meeting.

OTHER STORES Two units of BTPS shut down

SHIVAKUMAR G.
MALAGI | DC

Ballari: The present power crisis in the state owing to short-fall in power generation is expected to continue for a few more days as two units of Ballari Thermal Power Station (BTPS) at Kuditali near here have been shut down due to a technical snag.

Ms Rathamma, Executive Director, BTPS, said that repair work is under progress at the 1st unit having a capacity to generate 500 MW and it would be synchronized by Tuesday.

She said that the second unit with 500 MW capacity was shut down following a problem in the handling system.

"Due to ash choke problem, two units were shut down. We have already taken up repair work in the ash handling system. The first unit would be synchronized by Tuesday and second unit would be synchronized by Thursday," Ms. Rathamma said.

Bangalore Mirror 22/9/89 pg. 12

Power cuts due to technical snags return

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

engineer with Karnataka Power Corporation (KPCCL) said, "There were problems with the clearance of fly ash from the furnace and hence generation had to be stopped."

According to a source, the fly ash, which automatically gets cleared, got mixed with stagnant water near the exit point. "The fly ash became solidified after coming in contact with water, blocking the easy movement of fly ash from furnace. Our technicians have been smashing the solid blocks of ash that have prevented the easy movement of fly ash and bottom ash. The work has almost completed now and by Monday night, boilers will be switched on to resume power generation," an engineer explained.

However, tripping of BTPS two units generating about 500 MW has made no impact on the power supply in Bengaluru as officials from Bangalore Electricity Supply

Company (Bescom) have made alternative arrangements. Senior officials clarified that there are no power cuts imposed in BMAZ limits and due to maintenance work of receiving stations in some parts of the city, some areas have turned dark.

"Be it the line clearance or maintenance work at receiving stations, we have been communicating to the public about the power cuts well in advance," clarified yet another senior engineer. Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, Pankaj Kumar Pandey, MD, Bescom said, "Due to good rainfall across the catchment area, the dams too have begun to get good inflow. Due to rains, the power consumption has also come down considerably, which is a good sign."

The state government is buying 200-300 MW every day from the Energy Exchange. Due to fall in price at the exchange, on Sunday and Monday about 400 to 500 MW of power was bought from the exchange.

Indian Express page 13

'POWER' OUTPUT TO LIFT GROWTH: JHA



NTPC chief A K Jha and K S Biswal, Director (Fin) at a press meet in Delhi on Monday | Shekhar Yadav

New Delhi: Allaying apprehensions arising out of company's huge capacity addition target, National Thermal Power Corporation Chairman and Managing Director A K Jha on Monday said that India needs to increase power production to achieve over 8 per cent economic growth. "If we want to increase the economic growth rate of the country to 8 per cent then we have to increase production of power," Jha said.

Minister targets potholes; sets deadline

Major Roads Infrastructure department counts a total of 2,492; district in-charge minister Ramalinga Reddy plans citywide inspection

Atul Chaturvedi
atulchaturvedi2@gmail.com
TWEETS @AtulChaturvedi

Within less than a week after **Stuti Pandey Tripathi** died on the outer ring road near **Marshall** after her husband reportedly tried avoiding a pothole, it required political will to take up a pothole-filling drive in the city. The Bengaluru urban district in-charge minister **R. Ramalinga Reddy** has admitted to the failure of the engineers to take up pothole-filling work and has announced that he himself would tour across the city for nine days, starting September 24.

However, while the **Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)** is not willing to reveal the new data pertaining to potholes in the city, according to the document available with **Bangalore Mirror**, a recent survey by the **Major Roads Infrastructure department** in the city has out the total number of new potholes in the city at 2,492. These are not restricted only to the killer potholes which have been counted by the traffic police.

The engineers have counted the highest number of potholes in **Yelahanka zone (453)**, while the least have been reported (191) from **Dasarahalli zone**.

As many as 931 potholes were reported from arterial roads, while 1,561 potholes were reported from sub-arterial roads - totalling 2,492.

BBMP has a road length of 2,000 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads in city.

Ramalinga Reddy has overruled the directions of **BBMP commissioner G. Kumar Naik** wherein he had warned of stringent action against ward assistant engineers for neglecting pothole-filling work.

After reviewing a joint meeting with the **BBMP, BDA** and **BWSSB** officials on Monday, **Reddy** said, "I have directed everyone to take it seriously. Directions have been issued to the **BBMP commissioner** to take action against the joint



A pothole at Minerva Circle

POTHOLES SURVEY CONDUCTED BY ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT ON SATURDAY

Zones	No of potholes in Arterial Roads	No of potholes in sub-arterial roads	Total no of potholes
West	108	149	257
South	66	145	211
Mahadevapuram	97	88	185
Bommarahalli	95	263	358
Yelahanka	299	154	453
Rajeshwara Nagar	62	340	402
Dasarahalli	113	78	191
East	71	335	406
Total	931	1,561	2,492

RAMALINGA REDDY'S CITY ITINERARY FOR POTHOLES

AREA	DAY AND DATE
BDA Ring Roads starting from Silk Board junction	September 24, Thursday
South Bengaluru	September 26, Saturday
West	September 28, Monday
East	September 29, Tuesday
Bommarahalli	September 30, Wednesday
Dasarahalli	October 1, Thursday
RR Nagar	October 3, Saturday
Byratarapuram	October 5, Monday
Mahadevapuram	October 6, Tuesday

commissioner of respective zones, chief engineers and executive engineers. In fact, I have also told the commissioner to black list contractors for not taking up pothole-filling work under the default liability period."

POTHOLES ARE COMMON IN RAINY SEASON

Reddy ascertained that the **Stuti** incident occurred because her husband tried to avoid the pothole. He said, "The potholes are common during the rainy season and to

avoid such incidents I will call a joint meeting of all departments - **BWSSB, fire, police, BBMP, BMTC, Metro** and other departments falling under the city limits. I have already directed **BWSSB** officials to take up repairs of water leakage points on a priority basis as many of the locations are dug up by them.

23KM RING ROAD UNDER BAD CONDITION

The district minister also claimed that **BDA** has already been asked to hand over roads and flyovers developed by it to the **BBMP**. The **BDA** officials have informed that around 23 km of the ring road stretch is a bad stretch. They have also informed that they have invited tenders for taking up the said road works, and once it is completed the roads would be handed over to the **BBMP**.

Reddy said, "I have directed **BBMP** officials to invite pothole tenders before the rainy season starts, every year. This apart, out of Rs 1,000 crore sanctioned by the state government, **PWD** department has been asked to invite tenders for Rs 347 crore while another Rs 600 crore would be spent on laying new tar roads under the chief minister's **Nagarothamma** scheme."

1,032 killers on the loose

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

road-cutting work by the **BBMP**, agencies digging up the roads to lay optical fibre cables, and other activities which resulting in dangerous craters that either hold up traffic to cause slow movement of vehicles, or prove potentially fatal to motorists or pedestrians.

Thousands number of such potholes run into thousands.

But following the survey, the local police have been instructed to get in touch with the engineers concerned belonging to various civic bodies such as the **Bangalore Development Authority (BDA)**, **Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)**, and **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** to get the potholes in their vicinity fixed on a priority basis.

These civic authorities will also be strictly warned that if any of the potholes result in fatal or non-fatal accidents, the engineers will be held accountable and responsible for it. A senior traffic police officer said the police will be making a presentation about the number of potholes in Bengaluru at a crime review meeting with home minister **KJ George** on Tuesday.

George had expressed concern over the death of **Stuti Pandey Tripathi** who died after she fell off the two-wheeler her husband was riding after he reportedly braked and lost balance while trying to avoid a massive pothole on **Outer Ring Road** in **Devarabeesarahalli** on Thursday night.

Since the bad condition of Bengaluru's roads has always been the bone of contention between various civic bodies with officials passing the buck from one to another, the traffic police took it upon themselves to conduct the survey and bring it to the notice of all government offi-

dals once and for all.

The **Central Business District** seems to be no stranger to craters - with **Lavelle Road** being blessed with seven, **Rajbhavan Road** with two, and **Infantry Road** (home to the office of the city police commissioner) having two potholes - one of which is right opposite **Hotel Nisarga**.

As for **Church Street**, officials found that the number of potholes were so many that the entire road has been declared a pothole-hidden zone!

The yawning, hazardous depression on the right side of **Richmond Road** just before **Shenoi Street** junction tops the list of potholes in **Ashoknagar** traffic police limits. **IT-BT** areas of the city have not been spared from this malady either. Officials found a whopping 184 potholes in all of **Whitefield** - with 68 of them present between **Kumulalahalli Gate** and **Big Bazaar Junction**, and 57 craters on the road from **Prestige Shantiniketan** apartments in **Channarayana**.

Considering potholed-roads across the city generally get worse during the monsoon, they are supposed to be filled up in a scientific manner using wet mix or bitumen mix.

But with alleged non-compliance and apathy shown by the civic agencies, the traffic police often end up filling up these dangerous potholes using mud and construction debris including a mixture of sand and jelly stones - which are only temporary quick-fixes and in fact more detrimental to the health of the road in the long run.

Armed with the preliminary results of the survey, the traffic cops have now firmly resolved to ensure that the roads are set right to a large extent, thereby helping to drastically reduce the number of fatal and non-fatal accidents on the city roads.

...this happen," said **BENAVIS**...

The Hindu 22/09/2015

Waste to energy conversion in the offing?

Staff Reporter

BENGALURU: Could converting waste to energy be the answer to garbage piling in the city?

In a meeting on Monday, Chief

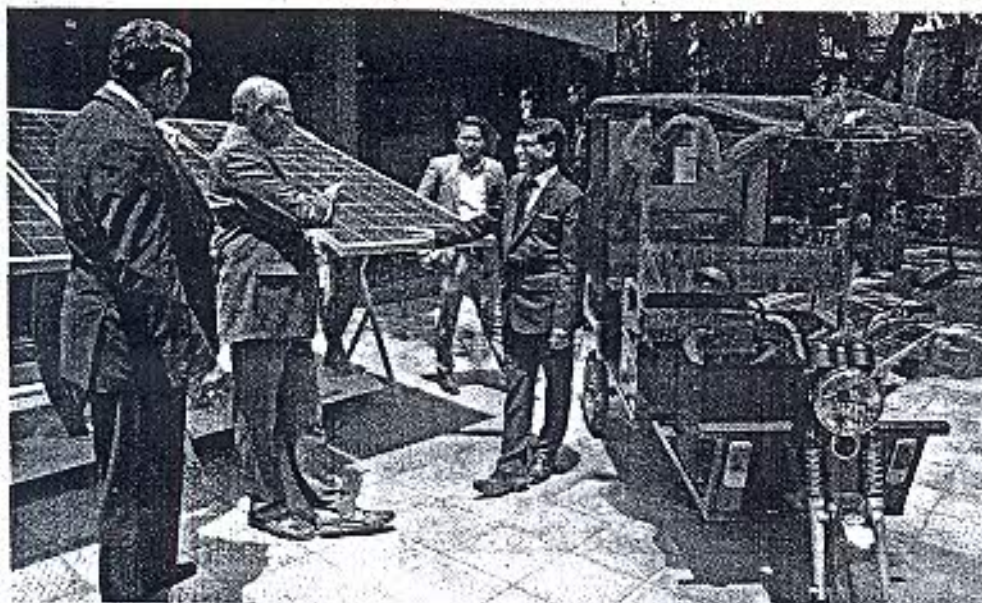
Minister **Siddaramaiah** has directed officials to consider the request by American company **Rushe Infratek-orion Enterprises** to use the city's waste to produce electricity.

The company had asked for 25 acres of land as well as a transmission line to evacuate the power produced.

The Chief Minister asked for the project to be started in man-

dur on a pilot basis - with power being purchased by the **Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission** - and based on the results, the concept can be extended.

A cheaper, greener option: e-rickshaws



President of WindStream Technologies Venkat Kumar Tangirala (left), CEO of WindStream Technologies Dan Bates and Head of People E-Cart Sales Pvt. Ltd. Rishi Raj Rishabh with their products in Bengaluru on Monday.

—PHOTO: V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

Company boosts three-wheeler as last-mile connectivity vehicle

B.S. Satish Kumar

BENGALURU: Now an e-rickshaw, which the manufacturer claims covers one kilometre at a cost of just 10 paise, is being projected as a vehicle for last-mile connectivity.

The Nagpur-based firm's battery-operated vehicle can seat four passengers, a driver and can carry 40 kg of luggage. In all, it can carry a load of 340 kg.

It can travel 100 kilometres on a full charge of five hours, according to its manufacturers.

Each charge requires about two units of electricity and costs nearly Rs 10.

According to Rishi Raj Rishabh, head of People E Cart

The Hindu 22-09-2015. Hybrid option

Special Correspondent

BENGALURU: People of Karnataka will now have access to one more hybrid renewable energy technology with a U.S.-based firm on Monday launching the "solar mill" that combines wind with solar for optimal power generation.

The uniqueness of this US-patented technology of Wind Stream Technologies is that it uses the concept of a modular and scalable design, which is compact in size.

According to Venkat Kumar Tangirala, President of

Sales Pvt Ltd, which is marketing the e-rickshaw in India, there is a special facility to charge to 90 per cent of its capacity in 30 minutes, which is enough for the vehicle to cover 80 km.

As the maximum speed of the e-rickshaw is only 25 to 30 km/hr, the company is pro-

the firm's operations in India, South and East Asia, the solar mill technology needs just one-and-a-half acres for setting up a plant with a capacity of one megawatt as against the requirement of four acres for a conventional solar plant.

A 2.5-Kilowatt hybrid unit can ideally take care of the entire requirement of a city-based house (without air-conditioning) by generating 250 units of power a month, he says while pointing out that the unit requires just 70 square feet of space and costs Rs. 2.75 lakh.

moting it as a last-mile connectivity vehicle rather than one for the highway.

"We are promoting this as a vehicle for use within residential areas and plan to take it to all the 30 district centres in Karnataka apart from Bengaluru," he said.

It is priced at Rs. 1.35 lakh.

The Times of India 22-09-15

Sitting on proposal, govt loses ₹54cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Sitting on a proposal for more than a year has apparently cost the Karnataka government Rs 54 crore. The proposal was to shift three high tension lines from a project site in Tumakuru where Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is to set up a Light Utility Helicopters unit.

In June 2014, the estimated cost of shifting the high tension lines was around Rs 6 crore but the government rejected the idea, assuming that HAL will bear the cost. But HAL refused to blink and instead considered shifting the project to Goa. Stumped, the government gave in and on Monday the cabinet okayed the proposal to shift the lines — at a cost of Rs 60.43 crore. But how did the cost suspiciously escalate by 10-fold in a year? The government has no answers.

In defence, law and parliamentary affairs minister T B Jayachandra only had this to say: "The estimation done last year was a rough one and the correct assessment was done only recently." However, sources in the energy department said gov-

ernment apathy led to the cost escalation. "Had they heeded to HAL's request, it would have been done in Rs 6 crore," sources said.

However, the government did admit that the change of heart happened under duress. "We decided to bear the entire escalated cost of shifting three 220KV high tension lines as we got to know that HAL may shift the project to Goa," said Jayachandra. The government has already handed over the documents of 610 acres to HAL to set up its unit at Bidarehalla Kaval in Gubbi taluk, Tumakuru.

In June 2014, after a HAL delegation met energy minister D K Shivakumar requesting the government to shift the power lines, the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation (KPTC) had estimated the cost at Rs 5.69 crore. But the cabinet rejected it as it wanted HAL to bear the cost. It woke up only after HAL threatened to move out. Jayachandra admitted, "We didn't want to lose them. Turnover of Rs 2,000 crore is expected per year. Over 3,000 jobs would be created and 50 helicopters will be manufactured per year."

Time of India 22/09/15

Tatas plan to produce new-age solar modules

Chethan Kumar
@timesgroup.com

Zurich (Switzerland)/Bengaluru: In two years, the Tata Group plans to begin production in India of an innovative new solar module that's so flexible that it can be used on literally any kind of roof.

The product is called flexible thin film CIGS (copper-indium-gallium-selenide) solar module, and has been developed by a Zurich-based startup, Flisom, in which the Tatas recently invested more than \$10 million. Flisom was founded in 2005 by Indian American academic and researcher Prof Ayodhya N Tiwari. In 2013, the Tata Group invested over \$40 million in Flisom for a production facility in Switzerland.

Speaking to TOI, Flisom chief operating officer (COO) Sudheer Kumar, a Tata representative in the company, said the first production facility was established in Switzerland because it was advantageous to have the facility next to the lab that developed the technology.

POWER PACK

Flisom of Switzerland has developed a solar module that's so flexible that it can be used on literally any kind of roof

Flisom was founded in 2005 as a spin-off of the Laboratory of Solid State Physics of the Swiss Federal



Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich).

Prof Ayodhya N Tiwari, an Indian American, is the chairman and co-founder

Tiwari led the research for this technology

"It helps when the people working in the production facility are already acquainted with the scientists and the technology," he said.

He said once standard production methods were in place, a production unit could come up in India. This could happen by 2017, he said. The Tatas already are one of the largest solar players in India, through the company Tata Power Solar.

Flisom believes the potential for the technology in India is immense. "This is by far the most flexible module to tap solar energy and it will be very effective in India given that it can be placed on all kinds of roofs (even on tradi-

tional tile roofs that many parts of rural India have)," Kumar said.

The technology also moves away from glass, making the modules lighter and less attractive to dust (dust on modules can reduce their efficiency). Flisom's technology combines low-cost, high throughput manufacturing with advanced module design that allows deposition of the CIGS semiconductor compound on flexible foil.

Flisom has even developed a novel proprietary manufacturing system to make these modules. Kumar said the system would revolutionize the way solar modules are manufactured.

Save fuel to pay for green energy

PARIS, AFP: Making the global switch from climate-altering fossil fuels to renewables by 2050 would require an extra \$1 trillion (880 billion euros) per year, but the bill will be covered by lower energy costs, a Greenpeace report said on Monday.

On top of some 600 billion euros per year already earmarked by governments and businesses for investment in renewables, the extra funding would be needed to build enough green energy generators to replace coal-, oil- and gas-fired power stations, it said.

The investment would be more than offset by annual savings of nearly \$1.1 trillion in fuel costs, said the report entitled "Energy (R)evolution", compiled by experts from Green-



peace and the German Aerospace Centre.

Wind turbines, for example, run on a "free" energy source - the wind, while a power station has to be constantly refuelled with expensive coal or gas.

"Because renewables don't require fuel, the savings... (until

2050) are \$1.07 trillion per year, so more than meet the costs of the required investment," said a Greenpeace statement.

The world's nations are seeking to curb rampant emissions of climate-altering greenhouse gas emissions in a bid to slow

global warming, but the cost of the transformation is often held up as a major obstacle, especially for poor and developing countries.

"The solar and wind industries have come of age, and are cost-competitive with coal," said the report's lead author Sven Teske of Greenpeace, and warned the fossil fuel industry was "moving rapidly into irrelevance".

"Every dollar invested in new fossil fuel projects is high risk capital which might end up as stranded investment."

The report highlighted that as many as 9.7 million people could have jobs in the solar power industry by 2030 - more than 10 times as many as today and equivalent to the current number of jobs in the coal sector.

Wind industry jobs could in-

crease tenfold to nearly eight million.

The researchers based their forecasts on UN estimations for economic development and population growth, and assumed the world's energy system would be completely "decarbonised" over the next 35 years.

They also considered rising energy demand in fast-growing Africa and Asia, offset by lower demand in rich nations resulting in a peak of global demand by about 2020.

And the study assumed that renewable energy costs come down as the technology and availability improves.

In the short term, electricity could become slightly more expensive - by about \$0.02 per kilowatt hour, said the authors.

But "as prices rise for conventional fuels, these costs will

become economically favourable across all world regions by 2030, and by 2050 the fuel cost savings will be 1.7 US cents/kWh," said the report.

Last week, environmental advocates including wildlife documentary filmmaker David Attenborough and climate economist Nicholas Stern, called for investment in research and development to make renewable energy cheaper than coal within 10 years.

And a recent study in the journal Science Advances warned that if mankind burns all the fossil fuel left on earth, releasing some 10,000 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, virtually all of Antarctica's ice would melt, sea levels would rise by tens of metres to flood entire cities, and temperatures would skyrocket to unbearable levels.

New Zealand eyes more bilateral trade with India

Hrithik Kiran Bagade

BENGALURU, DHNS: New Zealand is contemplating strengthening trade relations between India and itself in the coming years, in several sectors including IT and renewable energy.

Bilateral trade in goods and services between the two countries has increased by 20 per cent in the last two years to NZ\$1.9 billion (\$1.2 billion).

"India is our tenth largest export destination with two-way trade in goods and services totalling \$1.2 billion in the year to June 2015. The majority of our trade is commodity-based. The country is also our sixth largest market for service exports, and there are growing opportunities for innovative technology suppliers," New Zealand Min-



Amy Adams, DH PHOTO

ister of Justice, Courts, Broadcasting and Communications Amy Adams told *Deccan Herald* on Monday.

One of the major areas in which New Zealand is looking at collaboration is IT and allied services.

The country is home to several Indian IT bellwethers, including TCS, Infosys and Tech

Mahindra, while over half-a-dozen large Kiwi IT companies (part of around 150 firms), have a presence in India. The country's IT trade with India is to the tune of NZ\$842 million.

"The IT sector is New Zealand's third largest exporter, contributing 10 per cent of our GDP of NZ\$220 billion, and is growing at nine per cent year-on-year," Adams said.

"We are not a mass IT product producer, but provide innovative solutions. Also, we are not trying to compete with Indian companies, but rather want to add value to their offerings or use their scale," she added.

The minister, who is leading a trade mission to India from September 21-25, will also be leading a delegation of cleantech and renewable energy

companies at the Ninth Renewable Energy India Expo in Greater Noida.

New Zealand plans to raise its renewable energy generating capabilities from 80-90 per cent by 2025, and could provide India's fast growing renewable energy sector a boost by offering innovative assistance and advanced technologies.

"New Zealand has achieved expertise in solar, wind, hydro and geo-thermal energy generation. With India, we want to see business partnerships in several areas, which will foster two-way learning and opportunities," Adams said.

The two countries commenced talks for an FTA in 2010, which is likely to be concluded in the near future. It would open up opportunities for trade on various fronts.

22/9/15
NTPC to start work at Jharkhand mine

Yuthika Bhargava

NEW DELHI: State-owned NTPC on Monday said it is aiming to start production from Pakri-Barwadih coal block in Jharkhand this year, while production from three more coal blocks may commence over the next two years.

In March, NTPC was re-allotted five coal blocks, including Chatti-Bariatu, Chatti-Bariatu (South) and Kerandari in Jharkhand; Dulanga in Odisha and Talaipalli in Chhattisgarh. The allotments were cancelled by the Supreme Court in 2014.

"Pakri-Barwadih is in advanced stage and we have a target to begin production from the mine this year. We are hopeful that in next two years we will start production in another three mines," NTPC Chairman and Managing Director, A.K. Jha said at a press meet.

The PSU had earlier said it would soon appoint a mine



A. K. Jha

developer and operator for its Pakri-Barwadih coal block and Kerandari coal block.

