

Indain Express Govt agencies, utilities cash in on the cash ban

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

The demonetisation move has forced hundreds to queue up at bank branches and ATMs for hours or completely depend on debit and credit cards. For government agencies, this has been the perfect opportunity to collect dues, bills, taxes as several of them are still accepting ₹500 and ₹1,000 currency notes.

The Union Finance Ministry had recently announced that the demonetised notes of ₹500 and ₹1,000 will be accepted till No-

SWAPPING CASH

■ Pay power and water bills at Bescom and BWSSB

■ Pay property tax, betterment charges, advertisement tax at BBMP

■ Buy monthly bus pass at BMTC

■ Credit money to your Metro smart card

November 24. Followed this announcement, many government agencies encouraged residents to pay up their dues, taxes and bills.

M K Gunashekar, chairman of the BBMP Standing Committee on Taxation and Finance, said they have been accepting demonetised notes. "We did it for two days -- November 12 and 14. In just two days, BBMP collected ₹2.5 crore as property tax. We also collected ₹2 crore betterment charges. Now that the Centre has announced some exemption for ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes, we will ac-

cept old notes till November 24," he said.

Gunashekar added that they have also instructed Assistant Revenue Officers to urge the big tax defaulters to pay their dues. "As we are accepting old currency notes, there are chances that we might be able to retrieve a part of the dues. We are making best use of this situation to collect dues," he said.

BMTC too is accepting demonetised notes for monthly bus passes till November 24. Commuters will have to produce ID proof for this facility.

BWSSB has also made a public announcement that it will accept demonetised notes for bill payments. In a press release, BSNL said ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes will be accepted for the present outstanding amount for landline and mobile bills. BMRCL is also accepting old currency notes and this is valid till their next circular.

Advance Payment

A senior advocate, on anonymity, paid his prepaid Bescom bill at a office near Wilson Garden for the next one year. Bescom officials accepted it, but later rejected the payment.

"His monthly bill is around ₹2,600 and he paid ₹25,000 for the next one year with ₹500 and ₹1,000 currency notes," said a Bescom official.

Mahesh, who works with a private firm, said his household electricity bill was ₹570. "When I paid using ₹1,000 note, Bescom staff did not gave back the change. They took the remaining ₹430 as advance payment," he added. A Bescom official many residents have paid bills in advance following the demonetisation move.

The Times of India 19/11/16 Page 5 Farmers, govt reach truce on land price

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The state government and the farmers arrived at a consensus on the price of the land to be acquired for a 400kv power station at Yelahanka, putting to an end a seven-year-old deadlock.

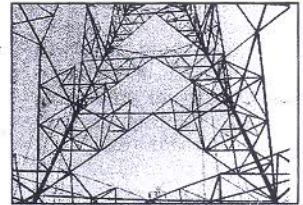
The power line to the Yelahanka power station is being pulled from Hoodi, near Whitefield, which is 9.8km away.

Power minister DK Shivakumar said, "Several cases were pending before the SC. But, the issue has been resolved, and the station will solve the power crisis in Yelahanka."

YELAHANKA POWER STATION

While farmers will be paid 85% of the market value for the land where the electric poles will be erected, for the 46 metres that they will lose on either side of the power line, they will be provided 15% of the market value.

General manager (projects) and CEO of Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCL), Ravindar Kumar said that the line to Yelahanka would complete the ring grid, which supplies power to the city. "It's like Ring Road connectivity.



Farmers will be paid 85% of the market value for the land where the electric poles will be erected. For the 46 metres they will lose on either side of the power line, they will be provided 15% of the market value

With this issue being resolved, the last stretch of the project too has been completed," he said.

Shivakumar said that the government had called for short-term tenders to purchase power up to 900MW. "We have also issued notices to 28 co-generation sugar companies to supply power, and we expect that it will boost our power supply. Considering the severe drought situation, the government is making an all-out effort to provide power to the state, without major disruption," he said.

The Hindu Power shutdown tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER

BENGALURU: There will be no power supply on Saturday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the following areas of 66/KV EPIP MUSS for carrying out maintenance works.

According to a BESCOM release, the areas that will be affected are: Siddapura, Ramagondanahalli, Varthar Kodi, Singaiahapalya, Sadaramangala Industrial Area, and surrounding areas.

The Hindu Solar power generation capacity touches 8.7 GW

NEW DELHI: An addition of 1,964.76 MW in the first seven months of the current fiscal has taken the total solar power generation capacity in the country to 8,727.62 MW, the Parliament was informed. "As on October 31, 2016, solar energy projects with an aggregate capacity of over 8727.62 MW have been installed in the country," New and Renewable Energy Minister Piyush Goyal said in written reply to Lok Sabha. He stated that 1,964.76 MW of solar power generation capacity has been added in the country till October-end of this financial year. During last fiscal, 3,018.88 MW of solar power generation capacity was added. He said the World Bank had approved a total amount of \$625 million, including a Clean Technology Fund (CTF) loan of \$120 million and a CTF grant of \$5 million for grid-connected rooftop solar programme. — PTI

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State govt to ink short-term 900MW power purchase deal

ENS @ Bengaluru

ENERGY minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday stated that the power position in the state was satisfactory at present. He said the state will be entering into a short-term power purchase agreement for 900 MW. The demand in the state at present is 9,000 MW.

"Twenty-eight sugar companies that are generating power have come forward to share their output. The government will soon take a decision on the rate to be paid to the companies," he said.

Another long-standing problem was also resolved on Thursday as a consensus was reached about the compensation to be paid to farmers for installation of towers and corridor for a 300 KV station being set up near Yelahanka.

The farmers had approached the court seeking higher compensation. They have now agreed to withdraw the cases to facilitate early completion of work. Once this station begins to function, the erratic power supply in north Bengaluru is expected to stabilise.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Power Generation up 6.5% at 632 BU in Apr-Sept

NEW DELHI: Power generation in the country recorded a growth of 6.5% in April-September period this fiscal at 632.11 billion units (BU) compared to year ago period, the Parliament was informed on Thursday. "Electricity generation during the current year was more as compared to previous year. The power generation including from renewable sources during April to September, 2016 was about 632.11 BU as against 593.68 BU during the same period last year showing a growth of 6.5%," Power Minister Piyush Goyal stated in written reply to Lok Sabha. He said 681.09 BU were available against the power demand of 686.09 BU during the April-October period this fiscal recording a deficit of 0.7%.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

No Power Producer Sought Imported Coal from CIL

NEW DELHI: No power producer has got in touch with state-owned CIL for supply of imported coal for plants in the current fiscal, Parliament was informed on Thursday. "No thermal power plant/coal company has approached CIL for supply of imported coal for 2016-17," Minister of State for Coal, Power, Renewable Energy and Mines, Piyush Goyal said in a reply to the Lok Sabha. In accordance to the Presidential Directive issued to Coal India Ltd (CIL) and under the provision of new fuel supply agreement, option is given to power utility sector consumers to opt for supply of a part of Annual Contracted Quantity (ACQ) from the imported coal through CIL, the minister said. As per the initial estimate, the demand of coal in 2016-17 is estimated to be 884.8 million tonnes (mt) against which supply plan from indigenous sources has been estimated to be 724.7 mt, he said.

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India, China to remain energy guzzlers: IEA

(New Delhi: Rapid industrial growth and urbanisation in India, China and south-east Asia will mean that they will continue to remain energy guzzlers, more than offsetting the decline in energy consumption in fossil fuels in developed countries till mid-2030s, according to the International Energy Agency. The IEA's World Energy Outlook 2016, released on Wednesday, dashed hopes of fossil fuel consumption falling as a result of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, which came into force this month. According to the outlook, global oil consumption will continue to grow till 2040, implying its long-term demand-supply forecasts in last outlook remains unchanged.

By the mid-2030s, the outlook said, developing countries in Asia will consume more oil than the entire developed world. While that may give rise to concerns over rising fossil fuel-related emissions, the outlook holds out hope by way of identifying China and India as energy-guzzling countries that would also see largest expansion of solar photovoltaic (solar power) capacity. AGENCIES

18/11/16
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ESCOMS
COLLECT ₹277
CR IN 5 DAYS

Power supply companies in the state have managed to collect ₹277 crore in the last five days after it was announced that demonetised notes will be accepted for bill payment. Energy Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday said they will continue to accept old notes of ₹500 and ₹1,000 denomination till November 24. "Even the farmers who have opted for regularisation of their irrigation pumpset connections can utilise this opportunity by paying the remaining fees with old notes," he said.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES P N-2

City in Numbers
41,000 KM
AREA THAT
BESCOM
COVERS

Around ₹277 cr have been added to the Escoms treasury after allowing people to pay dues with ₹500 and ₹1000 denomination notes, Energy Minister D.K. Shivakumar



On 18/11/16, Indian Express Pg. 07
Twenty-eight sugar companies that are generating power have come forward to share their output. The government will soon take a decision on the rate to be paid to the companies

D K Shivakumar, Energy Minister