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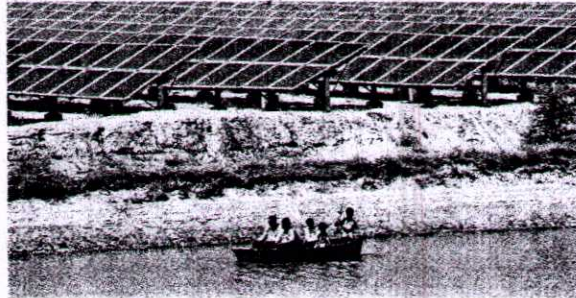
India to annually auction 40 GW renewables till 2028

Solar would account for 30 GW of the target, says Secretary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India will auction 40 GW of renewable energy projects comprising 30 GW solar and 10 GW wind every year for the next 10 years till 2028, indicating huge potential for domestic manufacturers and developers, a senior official said on Saturday.

"We have 30 GW solar energy bidding plan for 2018-19 and 2019-20. This 30 GW auction per annum would continue till 2028. Similarly, we have to auction 10 GW of wind energy for next 10 years till 2028 to meet the power demand of 862 GW by 2030," New and Renewable Energy Secretary Anand Kumar told reporters at the Global Wind Day celebration by the Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association.



Clean route to power: India would have about 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030. •AP

He added, "We have to do 350 GW in solar [to meet demand by 2030], of which 100 GW is planned till 2022. So we have to bid out at least 30 GW each year from 2020 onwards to achieve additional 250 GW."

'140 GW of wind energy'
The government's power projection indicates that India will have to bid out 140

GW of wind energy to meet demand by 2030, he said, adding the country would complete bidding of 60 GW of wind energy by 2020.

"Therefore, we have to do 10 GW every year till 2028 to meet the overall power demand of 862 GW by 2030. India has already achieved 70 GW of renewable energy capacity including 22 GW of solar and 34 GW of wind."

27/7/18

Panel seeks better treatment for electric vehicles

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Aimed at spurring electric mobility growth in the country, a high-level panel has suggested giving preferential treatment to electric vehicles in parking areas, collecting less toll and allowing exclusive entry in congested areas.

The panel headed by Y S Malik, secretary to the Union road transport and highways ministry, in his report recommended that preferential treatment to electric vehicles (EV) will encourage public purchase of such vehicles.

The committee also sug-

gested that charging infrastructure be made mandatory while building norms and set up charging units in parking areas for easy charging.

Public transport system

The government formed the panel to make suggestions on steps to be taken to promote electric vehicles through non-fiscal incentivisation and promote electric vehicles in public transport system.

The committee also recommended that the government explore low-interest loans for buying electric vehicles for

public transport system and taxi services.

The report has pitched for tightening of fuel efficiency and emission norms to make automobile manufacturers shift from producing conventional internal combustion engines to electric vehicles.

To push for setting up of more charging stations, the committee suggested the government to treat expenditure made by manufacturing companies in setting up charging stations for electric vehicles as an activity within the purview of corporate social responsi-

bility (CSR). Since the growth in electric vehicles mainly depends on the availability of charging stations across the country, the recommendations would help address the issue, said an official in the ministry.

At present, the total CSR spending is around Rs 10,000 crore per year and it would go up to Rs 3 lakh crore by 2030. If a part of this money is used for setting up charging stations, it would be of great relief and address the major concern over providing a suitable infrastructure for green vehicles.

A missed chance to bring green energy



On June 25, the very day British MPs approved the construction of a third runway at Heathrow airport, the government scrapped plans to support a £1.3-billion tidal power lagoon in Wales, effectively putting an end to a project that could have powered over 1,50,000 homes for around 120 years.

The project, which included plans to build a network of six lagoons, had steadily gained the necessary go-aheads, with an independent review by a former Minister concluding that it should be given the greenlight as a 'pathfinder project', one that could help Britain become a "global leader" in marine technologies. Tidal Lagoon Power, the company behind the project, had previously highlighted its eagerness to invest in more such projects, including in India. It was hoped that beyond the positive environmental consequences for the region, the project would catalyse investment in more renewable energy efforts. Britain is estimated to have half the tidal energy resources of Europe, according to a recent parliamentary briefing paper, up to 20% of Britain's current electricity needs can be met through this route.

Cross-party support

The project had garnered considerable cross-party support - over a 100 MPs from across the parties had written to the government urging its adoption. The Welsh government, offering strong financial support, had earlier said that the project gave an opportunity to bring "economic revolution [to] the region".

However, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Minister Greg Clark insisted that while the government was committed to low carbon power, this could not be achieved at "any price". "However novel and appealing the proposal that has been made... the costs that would be incurred by consumers and taxpayers would be so much higher than alternative sources of low-carbon power that it would be irresponsible to enter into a contract with the provider," he said. He sought to position it against the costs of a nuclear power project, recently given the go-ahead. The tidal project would cost three times the amount.

The U.K. government's rejection of a £1.3-billion tidal power lagoon in Wales has sounded the death knell for a project that could have powered about 1,50,000 homes for nearly 120 years

Nevertheless, the project's rejection has compounded concerns about the Conservative government's pledge - made under the previous Prime Minister David Cameron - to be the "greenest government ever".

"Today is a day of government-induced environmental disaster," said the Green Party's Caroline Lucas. "This is a short sighted move... bold action is needed to tackle climate change - and this means investing in innovative new technologies, such as tidal lagoons," said Haf Elgar of Friends of the Earth, an environmental group.

Others contrasted it with the proposed expansion of Heathrow airport - a project which has raised concerns due to the impact it would have on Britain's air and noise pollution levels. "One very good way of offsetting the impact on climate change of expanding airport capacity would be to expand renewable energy production," said Labour's Bill Esterson during a parliamentary debate on June 25. Still others questioned the length of time it had taken to get to this point. The rejection came nearly one and a half years after a government-commissioned review recommended that the project be given the go-ahead.

For others, it pointed to a missed opportunity to champion an industrial strategy - the project meant good business for the nearby Tata Steel plant at Port Talbot, given the estimated 1,00,000 tonnes of steel that it would have required.

Harnessing the power of the 'mother river'



Inside the Three Gorges complex, a stream of tourists heads for elevations to get the best view of the world's biggest hydroelectric dam. Most of them have bussed their way through Yichang, a city nearly 43 km away. The complex produces a jaw-dropping 22,500 MW of clean electricity - the key to powering factories, homes, farms and cities downstream.

The sprawling structure has been strategically located on the upstream of the Yangtze River - China's "mother river". For several decades, the construction of the dam had been the dream of Chinese leaders, who understood that a barrage built on the confluence of the Yangtze and the three famous gorges - Xiling, Wu and Qutang - would be a game-changer. Not only would such an ambitious undertaking help provide surplus power to industrialise central and southern China, it would also arrest catastrophic flooding downstream. For centuries, the Yangtze was the cause of heartbreaking deluges - water levels would swell around May and taper around late autumn.

It was well-comprehended that the construction of a massive barrier would deepen navigation channels. This would allow big trading ships to sail between Chongqing - a

The Three Gorges Dam, the world's biggest hydroelectric facility, has regulated the flow of the Yangtze river, apart from enabling more efficient sea trade between the cities adjoining it

charming city along the river's upper reaches - and coastal Shanghai, China's glittering gateway to the world. Sun Yat-sen, the leader of Republican China, had envisioned the construction of a large dam across the Yangtze. The thread was picked up by his successor Chiang Kai-shek.

A common dream

The seductive promise was not lost on Mao Zedong, the founder of the People's Republic of China. But there were three major distractions that blocked the early fruition of the project. Mao's ill-fated campaigns - the Great Leap Forward and the Hundred Flowers Campaign, followed by the Cultural Revolution - prevented the project from becoming a reality. Mao did write a poem titled 'Swimming', underlying the importance of harnessing the Yangtze, following the catastrophic floods of 1954, but it was his successor, Deng Xiaoping, who revived the project in the 80s. Construction began in 1994, and the Three Gorges Dam was ready within the next two decades.

From the perch within the complex, where visitors throng, it is possible to see perceptible difference in water levels on either side of the dam. "The reservoir is 660 km long. During the rainy season the water level can go up to 175 m," explained Maggie Wang, an official with the China Three Gorges Corporation (CTGC), which runs the project.

She pointed out that the large capacity of the reservoir is central to flood control. "In dry season, we bring down the water level in the reservoir to 145 m by releasing water that is required by the farming community downstream." Consequently, she said, the reservoir can accommodate the larger flows during the rainy season. "More than 15 million people living in the farmland are protected when we hold the flood in the reservoir," she said. The dam has also enabled more efficient shipborne trade along the Yangtze. "Because of the dam, the travel time of the ships sailing between Chongqing and Yichang has been reduced by six hours. The costs have been reduced by one-third," she observed.

The Three Gorges Dam has had its downside as well - like the displacement and environmental damage caused by it. However, on balance, the positives of the project, including massive job creation and saving lives in flood-prone areas, arguably outweigh the negatives.

Intermittent power supply today

STAFF REPORTER
BENGLAURU

There will be intermittent power supply on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the following areas fed by 66/11-kV Puttenahalli, Rajanukunte, Soladevanahalli, KHB Arturu, Sahakarnagara, Abbigere, Hebbal, IISC., L.R. Bande MUSS owing to installation of 220-kV CTT tower in the existing corridor of 120-kV Hoody-Peenya D/C line at on going 220-kV Manyatha station.

According to a Bescom press release, the areas to be affected are: 66/11-kV Soladevanahalli MUSS: Hessaraghatta, Guddadahalli, Kalenahalli, Linganhalli, Harohallipalya, Shivakote, Kurubarahalli, Doddabylakere, Chikkabylakere, Mavallipura, Indo-Danish Farm, Dasanahalli, Chikkanahalli, and surrounding areas.

66/11-kV Rajanukunte MUSS: Periyarnagar, Ashokanagar, Dubai Layout, Muslim Colony, Muneshwaranagar, P&T Colony, Sampangi Ramaiah Block, Narasimha Block, Venkateshpuram, Honnenahalli, Singanayakanahalli, Rajanukunte, Nagadasanahalli, Sadenahalli, Suradenapura, Sriramahahalli, Nela-kunte, Haniyur, Chellahalli, Itagalpura, Arakere, Byrapura, Budamanahalli, Dibbur, Kakolu, Sonnena-halli, and surrounding areas.

66/11-kV Hebbal MUSS: Cholanayakanahalli, Gundareddy Layout, Amarijyothi Layout, Anandnagar, UAS campus, Dinnur Main Road, R.T. Nagar and surrounding areas, Sanjaynagar, Bhoopasandra, Ashwathnagar, Ganganagar Extension, Vasanthappa Block, Chamundinagar, Lottegollahalli, Kempapura, L.R. Bande and surrounding areas.

Gujarat to buy solar power from farmers

GANDHINAGAR, DHNS: In its bid to see that farmers in the state turn entrepreneurial, the Gujarat government has announced project SKY - Suryashakti Kisan Yojana - wherein the farmers would be encouraged to generate electricity and sell it to power distribution companies, instead of just being consumers of electricity.

Expected to cost Rs 870-crore in the first phase beginning July 2, the state government would provide financial assistance to 12,400 of the 15 lakh farmers in the state to generate 175 MW of power.

"The farmers currently consume power purchased from power companies. Now, we will help them set up solar systems in their fields. After installing solar systems, they can consume power as per their requirement and sell their additional power back to the power discoms," Saubh Patel, energy minister, Gujarat, said.

As part of the project, the state and the Centre would

provide 60% of the cost of installing a solar generating unit in the fields, while farmers would have to shell out only 5% of the cost. The remaining 35% would be in form of a 4%-4.5% loan by the state government. "They would be able to recover their costs within 8 months to 18 months, depending on their power needs and generation," Patel said.

The state would also enter into a 25-year contract with the farmers for purchase of electricity from them.

"Initially, till they repay their loan, discom would buy power at Rs 7 per unit and once they repay their loan and get ownership of the solar system, the state would buy power at Rs 3.5 per unit of electricity," the energy minister said.

Of the total consumption of electricity in the state, industry and domestic sector consumes 74% or 66,159 Million Units, while agriculture sector consumes 26% or 22,704 MU of electricity every year.

1/7/2018
Sunday Express

Youth electrocuted in Kalaburagi

Kalaburagi: A youth, who went to remove a wet banner that was put up to welcome Social Welfare Minister Priyank Kharge in Kalaburagi, was electrocuted on Saturday, police sources said. The victim is Rafique Sab (28) of Harkanchi.