K'taka pips TN in green energy

RENEWED RANKING

- Karnataka had a total of about 12.4 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity installed as of March.

- The state has been building its wind energy capacity steadily over the past 10 years.

- Karnataka has also installed more than 4 GW of new photovoltaic solar power generation.

Wind capacity. The remainder of its renewable portfolio includes small hydro, biomass, and power cogeneration.

Currently, the state has 5 GW of solar capacity and 4.7 GW of wind capacity. The remainder of its renewable portfolio includes small hydro, biomass, and power cogeneration.

In June, Karnataka introduced reverse auctions for wind-powered electricity, with an upper cap of 3.45/kWh, following the success of similar auctions in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu in 2017, when tariffs fell by as much as 50% to as low as 3.37/kWh, according to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA). Renewables would account for 23 GW or 60% of capacity (43% of generation) by 2027-28, up from around 12.4 GW or 46% in 2017-18.

Imported fuel costs have risen by almost $300 million at Karnataka's coal-fired power plants in the last two years. Inter-state rail costs of as much as $31/konne pose a significant economic challenge to the state's coal-fired power sector.

“Capacity factors as low as 35% suggest the state's coal-fired generation is unsustainable. Building base load gas-fired power plants in the state is not a financially viable option,” IEEFA stated. “Karnataka is set to move from being a net importer of electricity to having a net balance, and it could become a net exporter, a possibility currently constrained only by insufficient inter-state grid capacity,” it said.

HC Stays Duty on Imported Solar Panels

This follows a petition from Acme Solar Holdings opposing it

Kaavya Chandrasekaran
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The Orissa High Court has stayed the imposition of safeguard duty on imported solar panels until August 30 following a petition from leading solar developer Acme Solar Holdings opposing it.

Last week, the Directorate General of Trade Restrictions (DGTR) recommended that safeguard duty on solar panels and modules imported from China and Malaysia should be imposed for two years—25% for the first year, 20% for the first six months of the second year, and 15% for the remaining six months.

The DGTR noted that this was a fit case for safeguard duty because imports, which had spiked sharply since 2014-15, were causing “serious injury” to domestic solar equipment production.

“(There has been) a significant increase in imports, (following which) domestic industry's share of total sales of solar panels and modules has fallen from 10% of the total in 2014-15 to 4% in 2015-16 to 8% in 2016-17 and 7% in 2017-18 (up to September 2017),” its report recommending the duty said.

Acme declined to comment. “There are serious errors in the DGTR judgment. Its main argument that excessive imports are causing major injury to the domestic industry is not correct,” said a source close to the development.

The DGTR's recommendation had said that the impact of the duty would be passed on to the discoms which bought power from the developers. But the source noted that if developers of already sanctioned solar projects increased their tariffs in response, there was no guarantee that state power regulators and state discoms would agree to paying more.
Karnataka pips T.N. to become top State in renewable energy

The State reached 12.3 GW of total installed capacity as of March 2018

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

With 27% of its power generation coming from renewable energy, Karnataka has emerged the leading State for renewable energy in India this year, pipping Tamil Nadu. According to a new report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), the State reached 12.3 gigawatts (GW) of total installed capacity as of March 2018, having added 5 GW in 2017-18 alone.

"Karnataka had been building its wind energy capacity steadily over 10 years, but it moved ahead of Tamil Nadu due to a rapid scaling up of solar capacity in 2017-18, when it installed more than 4 GW of new photovoltaic generation. Currently, it has 5 GW of solar capacity and 4.7 GW of wind capacity. The remainder of its renewable portfolio (2.6 GW) includes small hydro, biomass, plus heat and power cogeneration," the report said.

The Pavagada industrial solar park - said to be the second largest solar development currently under construction in the world - has been credited with reversing the State's fortunes in renewable energy, along with "positive renewable energy policies" such as open access, the introduction of a hybrid wind-solar development policy and "significant steps to reverse Karnataka's historic reliance on energy imports."

"Threats" to solar energy

However, the report mentions certain "threats" to solar energy in the State, including lack of transmission network infrastructure and policies such as repealing the zero wheeling charge order.

Reacting to the report, P. Ravi Kumar, Principal Secretary, Energy Department said the State had successfully reached a point recently where 80% of the power generated in Karnataka was through renewable energy.

"We have 5,203 MW of solar power, 4,900 MW of wind energy and 850 MW from mini-hydel projects, besides power from co-generation. We will continue to scale up generation through renewable energy. This year, we will be adding 1,600 MW of solar power. This season, we are getting adequate wind energy. After October, that may go down and we will have to rely on solar power," he said.

With reference to the challenges to the renewable sector pointed out in the report, Mr. Ravi Kumar admitted that there were some constraints in network, but a green energy corridor was being set up.

Lack of transmission network infrastructure and policies such as repealing the zero wheeling charge order are threats to solar energy in Karnataka, according to a report. • FILE PHOTO

Coal unviable

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The State's coal-fired power plants, on the other hand, had very few positives in the IEEFA report, which termed them as "potential stranded assets that impose additional risk on the distribution companies, the banks and the overall Karnataka economy."

"Almost the entirety of its (Karnataka's) thermal capacity is composed of coal-fired generation, with only a small amount of diesel capacity. Karnataka does not have any in-state coal production. It is dependent on coal delivered via railways from mines outside the State and on imported seaborne coal," the report stated, pointing out to "severe rail logistics issues and potential additional transportation-related costs" introduced for the State's thermal generation, as also the possibility of supply shortages due to this reliance.

Pathway for power sector development

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

"Terming Karnataka as a State with abundant renewable energy potential, the IEEFA has presented a model for the State's electricity supply and demand for the decade up to 2027-28. Predicting a doubling of economic activity in the coming decade with steady 7.8% GDP growth that will drive a cumulative 73% increase in electricity demand, the IEEFA recommends scaling up renewables from 46% of State capacity (27% of generation) in 2017-18 to 60% of capacity (43% of generation).

The report also suggests that there is a need to "better incorporate more flexible, peaking capacity" for thermal power, which currently totals 38% of capacity and 49% of generation, though it is expected to remain steady.
E-City apt residents are a ‘harassed’ lot

Residents have filed police complaint after self-proclaimed head of apt association allegedly cut water, power supply to them

Residents of Ittina Neela apartments in Electronics City Phase 2 allege that the ‘self-proclaimed head of the apartment association’ has been harassing them and even cut their water and electricity supply for the past two days. Around 300 residents have now taken the issue to the police and filed a complaint.

Residents said Dayananda Reddy, who used to own the land before it was taken over by Ittina Apartments, had put himself in charge of maintenance of the apartment without any legal registration. They alleged he threatens them to make them carry out his ‘orders’.

About 300 residents have told police though they have paid the maintenance fee, their water and power supply has been cut. They have filed the complaint with Hebbal Police Station.

CS Sridhar, a resident of the apartment, told Bangalore Mirror, “All the residents pay the maintenance fee on time. Every year the maintenance fee amount is hiked too. We have an apartment association called Ittina Neela Owners Association, but Dayanand does not let us run our association.”

He alleged Dayanand’s office employees are asking the residents to pay Rs 25 lakh without specifying a reason. Sridhar said the residents have been put through major inconveniences over the two days. “We called for water tankers, but they were not allowed inside the gate. With the help of the police, we managed to get a little water, but that was not sufficient,” he said.

CV Rao, another resident of Ittina Apartment alleged that despite paying Rs.
Bengaluru: Residents of Ittina Neela apartment complex in Electronics City have been living a nightmare for two days — differences with the management have led to disruption in power and water supply.

Shutting off power supply to the common areas has affected pumping of water to the flats, forcing commuters and children to stay back home. Residents claim that the complex, which used to get 60 tankers of water per day is now seeing a severe shortage, with water flowing out of taps for only two hours over two days.

Hundreds of residents staged a demonstration outside Hebbagodi police station on Tuesday demanding uninterrupted power and water supply till the end of the month and recognition of their residents’ association from August 1. A non-cognizable report has been filed at the station.

Residents alleged that former member of the legislative council, Dayanand Reddy, who owns the land on which the complex stands, has been collecting maintenance charges from occupants of the 1,180 flats for 12 years in the name of an unofficial trust, not allowing residents to form their own association. A resident said while the maintenance amount had been increasing by Rs 500 every year, there was no accountability of the funds.

“The maintenance fee is being charged at a rate of Rs 3.5 per every square foot per month. This works out to nearly Rs 3,550 for a 2-BHK house. But the complex has no lifts and no power backup. If any repair or painting has to be done, we shell out the amount separately. On Sunday, very few residents attended the annual meeting, after which Reddy’s men came to us and said they would hand over the management to the residents’ association if we coughed up Rs 27 lakh in power and water supply charges. When we refused, they cut the wire to the main line,” he claimed, adding that cops had visited the complex on Monday after which water was pumped for some time.

SR Reddy, 75, who has been staying here since 2006 along with his wife, said even the name of the complex had been changed. “The board outside says Neela apartments and the association has been called Neela Apartment Owners Association. We pay maintenance religiously but don’t have access to any facilities,” he rued.

**Guards roughed up**

Reddy and 15-20 of his henchmen allegedly visited the apartment complex around 7.30pm. Residents said the complex security guards were roughed up and the lock of the maintenance room was broken open by Reddy’s supporters, who also hurled abuses at the residents.

Hebbagodi police said chaos prevailed when residents and guards demanded the former MLC’s supporters make arrangements for drinking water supply.

**Move is politically motivated: Reddy**

“Shutting off power supply is a politically motivated move,” said Dayanand Reddy, adding that the complex had been supplied water till the 14th and would be supplied till the 22nd during the inspection.

**Railways to run on solar power**

NEW DELHI: For the first time, coaches on the Indian Railways would be powered by solar energy, with the national transporter retrofitting its passenger trains with flexible solar panels. This will operate fans, light and mobile charging slots on the coaches, a railway official said. Developed by the Indian Railway Organisation for Alternate Fuels (IROAF), such solar panels were earlier fitted in DEMU trains last year. Such fitment of solar panels has started to operate in Sitapur-Delhi Riwari Passenger train.
BBMP Retakes the Onus of Repairing Roads Cut by Cos

Municipal body says restoration by private, govt agencies was shoddy

Bengaluru: Unhappy over the shoddy road restoration done by government and private agencies, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has now decided to repair the roads on its own.

A decision to this effect was taken at a recently held coordination committee meeting of various Bengaluru-related departments chaired by the chief secretary. The BBMP, which has often fought for taking up restoration on its own instead of passing the responsibility to private and government agencies that dig the roads, has this time remained firm on its decision. The agencies will have to pay a specified restoration fee to BBMP while seeking permission to cut the road for laying cables and pipelines.

Agencies such as the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bescom and GAIL and telecom service providers have been digging roads and restoring them after completing their work. Blame for any delay in restoration or shoddy work falls squarely on the BBMP, its officials said.

"Though other government and private agencies lack technology and resources to restore the roads, the agencies were keen to save the fee on the work as it saved them from paying the restoration fee to BBMP," an engineer told ET. BBMP officials said restoration in most cases is not according to specifications. "To cut the cost, they end up doing a shoddy job. But ultimately the BBMP is held responsible." The BBMP has even planned to launch a separate fund for restoration. "Since the BBMP is the custodian of Bengaluru's roads, it makes absolute sense for us to do restoration. We have observed that the enthusiasm that these agencies show while taking up the work is lost by the time they finish the repair," BBMP Commissioner N Manjunath Prasad said.

BWSSB Engineer-in-Chief Kemparaju welcomed the decision and said that his agency too prefers to deposit money with the BBMP than restore the roads by itself. "The BBMP has better technology and skill for road restoration," he said. However, the challenge before the BBMP is that it has a reputation for laying poor quality roads, and to do a quality job. "So far, the civic body could blame other agencies for bad restoration. That cannot happen in future," a BBMP engineer admitted.
BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN : U40101KA2002SGC030438

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

BESCOM invites tender through e-procurement for the Enquiry No.: BESCOM/BCP-1080/2018-19 for Supply of Numbered Polycarbonate seals to BESCOM. Quantity in Nos.: 4,10,000. Bid Documents available from: 25.07.2018 to 23.08.2018, 16:00 Hrs. Last date for submission of Bids: 23.08.2018 at 16:00 Hrs. Opening of Bid Documents: 24.08.2018 at 16:15 Hrs.
The Tenders can be obtained directly by the tendering website: http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Any clarifications about e-payment contact e-procurement help desk: 080-25501216 / 25501227, or e-mail to hphelpdesk.bir@rtsservices.com for any issue.

Sd/-
General Manager (Elec).

For electricity related complaints call: 1917
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP
Procurement, BESCOM