MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCONOMIE, DES FINANCES ET DE LA RELANCE
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REVUE DE PRESSE SECTORIELLE
ENERGIE ET DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

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G En bref

Infrastructures

- Le gouvernement prévoit de développer un réseau de transport fluvial et maritime afin d'améliorer la connectivité et développer la mobilité durable.
- Le port de Calcutta accueille pour la première fois un des plus gros navires de fret du monde.

Ferroviaire

- Le conseil des Ministres approuve l'attribution d'une plage de fréquence spécifique aux *Indians Railways* pour améliorer la qualité des communications et de la signalisation sur le réseau ferré.

Développement et transport urbains

- Le gouvernement central approuve la construction de 361 000 logements supplémentaires dans le cadre de la mission Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-U).
- L'agence d'urbanisme de Delhi (*Delhi Development Authority*) publie un projet de schéma directeur d'aménagement à horizon 2041.
- Le ministère de l'eau annonce un financement de 4,5 milliards euros dédié à la gestion des déchets solides et liquides dans 200 000 villages.

Pétrole, gaz et biocarburants

- Le gouvernement indien va mettre aux enchères 32 champs de pétrole et de gaz pour stimuler la production nationale d'hydrocarbures.
- Le Premier ministre Narendra Modi avance l'échéance de l'objectif d'intégration de 20% d'éthanol dans l'essence de cinq ans, à 2025.

Eléctricité et énergies renouvelables

- Le conseil des ministres approuve un accord avec l'Argentine pour l'approvisionnement en minerais stratégiques.
- Le fournisseur d'énergie indien Suzlon Group annonce avoir emporté un marché pour construire un projet éolien de 252 MW dans le Gujarat.
- Le directeur de l'Alliance Indienne sur le Stockage d'Energie (IESA) se félicite des progrès significatifs réalisés ces dernières années sur la production des batteries.
- Les capacités installées de production d'énergie solaire connectées au réseau ont augmenté de 2,1 GW pendant le premier trimestre 2021.
- Le *Secretary* du ministère de l'électricité, M. Alok Kumar, annonce que l'Inde accueillera l'édition 2023 de la rencontre Clean Energy Ministerial.

Mobilités électriques

- Le programme dédié au développement des ventes de véhicules électriques ne décolle pas : seuls 5% des fonds alloués au programme FAME-II ont été utilisés.
- La ville de Kevadia (Gujarat), où se trouve la *Statue of Unity,* va devenir la première zone exclusivement réservée aux véhicules électriques du pays.
- Talwar Auto Garages commande auprès du constructeur américain Triton EV 2 000 semi-remorques destinés à ses clients industriels du sud de l'Inde, pour 300 M$.

Environnement et qualité de l'air

- Une ONG environnementale évalue les économies liées à la fermeture des vieilles centrales à charbon dans le Mahārāshtra à près de 2 milliards d'euros sur cinq ans.
- Des développeurs de renouvelables demandent une révision de la décision de la Cour Suprême ordonnant l'enfouissement des lignes électriques au Gujarat et au Rajasthan au titre de la protection d'une espèce d'oiseau en voie d'extinction.
- Le ministre de l'environnement lance une campagne de sensibilisation sur le plastique à usage unique et réaffirme l'ambition de l'Inde d'interdire son utilisation d'ici 2022.

Revue de presse

1. Infrastructure

Eco-friendly transport! Govt plans more Ro-Pax services across India's vast coastline & inland waterways

Financial Express, 08/06/2021

For India's green future, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is aiming to reduce travel distance, reduce travel time and reduce carbon footprint. According to the ministry, the government is planning a network of Ro-Pax services like Hazira-Ghogha Ro-Pax Ferry Service across the country's vast coastline and inland waterways. The ministry claimed that through Hazira-Ghogha Ro-Pax Ferry Service, around 33,13,000 lakh litres of fuel can be saved annually. Last year, in the month of November, the Ro-Pax terminal at Hazira was inaugurated as well as the Ro-Pax Ferry Service was flagged off between Hazira and Ghogha in the state of Gujarat by PM Narendra Modi.

According to PM Modi, this better connectivity will benefit everyone. He said the RO-PAX Ferry Service between Hazira and Ghogha has made dreams come true for those living in Saurashtra and South of Gujarat, as the journey is shortened from 10 – 12 hours to three – four hours. The Prime Minister also had mentioned that this Ferry Service will save time and will reduce expenses. According to him, nearly 80,000 passenger trains, as well as 30,000 trucks, will be able to take advantage of this new service in a year.

Recently, on the occasion of World Environment Day (on June 5), the PM said that multi-modal connectivity will directly benefit clean transportation. Besides, it is said that the ministry is planning to create a greener and cleaner port ecosystem under its Project Green Ports. Under this, the ministry aims to achieve sustainable economic growth through the promotion of energy-efficient practices as well as adopting renewable energy alternatives. Following are some Green Ports initiatives:

- Effective monitoring plan
- Proactive pollution prevention plan
- Setting up of sewage water treatment plants and garbage disposal plants
- Setting up of renewable energy projects
- Creating Oil Spill Response (OSR) facilities
- Prohibition of garbage disposal in sea

Major Milestone for Kolkata Port! In a first, a cape size vessel, M.V. LAKE D arrived at Sagar anchorage

Financial Express, 09/06/2021

Big milestone for Kolkata Port! For the first time, a cape size vessel 'M.V. LAKE D' arrived at Sagar Anchorage, which is 80 miles away from Kolkata's Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port and 25 miles away from Haldia Dock Complex (HDC). According to a press release shared by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the M.V. LAKE D vessel is one of the largest cape vessels of its kind with 66,000 MT of Steam Coal cargo bound for Nepal, built in the year 2011 and manned by 20 Filipino crew, anchored at Sagar. On 10 May 2021, the M.V. LAKE D vessel sailed from Abbot Point in Australia and enroute it took fuel at Singapore. Thereafter discharging nearly 95,810 MT of cargo at Vishakhapatnam in India, the vessel sailed for Sagar Anchorage.

According to the ministry, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata is having a

constraint of draft in the channel and lock gate operation in the docks. By doing lighterage operation with this vessel which has a very wide beam and can carry higher parcel load in draft of 9.2 metres. The cargo ship will go directly to a floating jetty, thus lock gate operation will be avoided and barges can go fully at any time and discharge at Haldia Floating Terminal. For floating crane and floating jetty, an investment of Rs 170 crore has been done. It has been an endeavour by the port to encourage trade in order to mobilize full load vessel especially cape vessel for bringing cargo for Haldia Dock.

According to the Chairman of SMP, Kolkata, Vinit Kumar, M.V. LAKE D vessel's arrival is significant, not only for being the first cape vessel at Sagar but also for carrying cargo of 66,000 MT, which would have been otherwise carried in two-three separate vessels. Alternatively, this quantity of cargo could have been carried in just one vessel which would have had to discharge half cargo at Vizag Port and carry the remainder to SMP.

Because of this substantial growth of lighterage operation, coupled with the multi-dimentional use-friendly measures such as improved facilities, better service, cost-effective customer-friendly charges as well as effective coordination among other relevant agencies, Kolkata Port Trust will be able to handle more than 65 million tonnes of cargo during the financial year 2021-22, the statement added.

2. Ferroviaire

Cabinet approves allocation of 5MHz spectrum for railways to improve communication and signalling

The Economic Times, 09/06/2021

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved allocation of 5 MHz spectrum in the 700 MHz band to Indian Railways for improving its communication and signalling systems, Union minister Prakash Javadekar said. He said it will help improve safety of passengers on the transport network.

The project with an estimated cost of Rs 25,000 crore will be completed in the next five years.

The railways currently relies on optical fibre for its communication network but with the allocation of fresh spectrum, it will be able to use high-speed radio on a real-time basis.

It will help in augmenting both communication and signalling networks of the railways, the minister said.

"Cabinet approves allotment of 5 MHz spectrum in 700 MHz band to Indian Railways for public safety and security services at stations and in trains; estimated investment is over Rs 25,000 Crore; Project to be completed in next five years," a government spokesperson tweeted.

3. Développement et transports urbains

Centre approves construction of nearly 3.61 lakh houses under PM Awas yojana

Mint, 09/06/2021

The central government said it had approved 708 proposals for the construction of nearly 3.61 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U) on Tuesday.

With this, the total number of sanctioned houses under PMAY(U) stood at 112.4 lakh to date, the government added.

It also said that as many as 82.5 lakh houses have been grounded for construction of which 48.31 lakh have been completed/delivered.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs said that the total investment under the Mission is ₹7.35 lakh crore of which ₹96,067 crore of funds have been released.

During the 54th meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) under PMAY-U, the ministry laid emphasis on six 'Light House Projects (LHPs)', the foundation stones of which were laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January, this year.

"The LHPs are being constructed at Agartala, Chennai, Lucknow, Ranchi, Rajkot, and Indore. "These LHPs should galvanize all concerned departments involved in construction. Use of cutting edge technology should be replicated and scaled up," Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) said during the meeting.

He also inaugurated a newly constructed Demonstration Housing Project in Panchkula, Haryana which will be used as a working woman hostel on a rental basis.

Under the Technology submission of PMAY-U, six Demonstration Housing Projects (DHPs) have been completed and seven are being constructed in different parts of the country, the Housing Affairs ministry informed yesterday.

DHPs are model housing projects built with alternate technology that not only showcase field-level application of the technology but also used as a platform to impart on-site orientation and training to practitioners & students in the housing sector.

Master Plan of Delhi 2041: Greener environment, 24-hour city, vibrant economy! Check the proposal

Financial Express, 10/06/2021

Master Plan of Delhi 2041: The national capital is all set to undergo a massive renovation! A vibrant economy, greener environment, rejuvenation of the city's heritage areas, enhance mobility promoting cleaner fuels are among the key areas encompassed in the draft Master Plan of Delhi 2041. The draft Master Plan of Delhi (MPD) 2041 has been made available on Delhi Development Authority's official website and public suggestions, objections have been invited, according to a senior DDA official quoted in a PTI report. As per the draft plan, the main focus areas are water, environment, critical resources, housing, mobility, built environment and public places, vulnerability, economic potential, heritage assets and monitoring and evaluation.

The draft plan, in the area of environment, envisions to minimize vehicular pollution through key strategies, including migration to greener fuels for public transport, adoption of mix-use transit-oriented development (also known as TOD), and improvement of water quality, which is to be taken for the Yamuna river as well as various lakes, natural drains and baolis. It also highlights Delhi's topographical vulnerability as the national capital falls in seismic zone four and is at high risk of flooding, earthquake and incidents of fire outbreaks. The draft plan also incorporates Delhi's

heritage assets. It said that the city is a cultural capital and has several heritage assets. According to the draft, assets' preservation and their adaptive reuse are to be promoted for preventing degradation as well as loss of historic assets and fabric.

The draft Master Plan of Delhi 2041 also includes fostering night-time economy as part of the '24-hour city' plan, revitalizing Delhi's commercial core including Connaught Place, as well as shifting wholesale activities from the walled city. To attract tourists and locals, it calls for identifying nodes and circuits in Delhi for continuing work, cultural activity as well as entertainment at night. The draft plan proposes that the move will improve economic yield by extending the utilization of work spaces, as well as safety in the city by promoting a vibrant night life.

The draft plan has also laid special emphasis on the development of green belt as well as on increasing the interaction of people with the city's "green and blue assets". While the Yamuna river flows from the city's northern part through east and southeast into the state of Uttar Pradesh, by the time it exits, it can barely be called a river with hardly any fresh water flowing in it. A clear boundary of the buffer zone near the Yamuna river has been laid by the draft and how to develop it. As per the plan, green buffer of 300 metre width shall be maintained wherever feasible along the entire edge of the river. Also, for 25-30 metre from the river edge, wild grassing or other suitable ground-cover vegetation shall be planted and beyond this grass belt, trees may be planted, it said.

Other than cleaning the river and reviving dying water bodies, DDA is also looking to create green mobility corridors for utilization as pedestrian walkways, as well as cycle tracks along with stormwater, drains in the city. Also, according to proposals in the draft Master Plan for Delhi 2041, the demand for potable water for domestic utilization needs to be rationalized and progressively reduced to 50 GPCD (gallons per capita daily) from 60 GPCD in order to make Delhi water secure.

Swacch Bharat Mission: Govt allocates Rs 40,700 crore for waste management in 2 lakh villages

The Times of India, 08/06/2021

NEW DELHI: Over Rs 40,700 crore have been allocated to help over two lakh villages achieve solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) under the Swacch Bharat Mission (Grameen), the jal shakti ministry said on Tuesday.

While the Centre will spend around Rs 14,000 crore, states will spend over Rs 8,300 crore and the remaining funds will come from others sources, it said.

Minister of state for jal shakti, Rattan Lal Kataria, had on Monday reviewed the progress of SWB(G).

"The Ministry of Jal Shakti under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) Phase 2 is poised to support over two lakh villages achieve solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) arrangements through an investment of over Rs 40,700 crore in the present FY 2021-22," the ministry said.

The National Scheme Sanctioning Committee (NSSC) of SBM-G under the chairmanship of the ministry secretary approved the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) of states and union territories.

"While the Centre's share would be around Rs 14,000 crore, the states shall spend over Rs 8,300 crore. Funds to the tune of Rs 12,730 crore will be made available through the Fifteenth Finance Commission and over Rs 4,100 through convergence with MGNREGS," the ministry said.

Further, over Rs 1,500 crore will be invested by the states through other sources like business model, CSR and other schemes.

SBM(G) Phase 2 aims to achieve comprehensive cleanliness, also called Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus status, in villages by focusing on ODF sustainability and ensuring SLWM arrangements there.

Implementation of SBM-G Phase 2 in 2021-2022 will see the construction of over 50 lakh Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs), one lakh community toilets, Plastic Waste Management Units in over 2,400 blocks of the country, 'Gobardhan' projects in 386 districts, faecal sludge management arrangements in over 250 districts apart from the targeted support for over two lakh villages in the implementation of SLWM interventions.

Approving the state plans, the ministry secretary highlighted the need to ensure that no one is left behind and that every household has access to a toilet. He emphasised the adoption of the twin-pit toilet technology for the construction of IHHLs as it is relatively safer, low cost and easier to operate and maintain.

The secretary also stressed the need for low-cost technologies for solid and liquid waste management as it would help decentralised operation and maintenance.

4. Pétrole, gaz et biocarburants

Indian government offers 32 areas in latest small oil, gas field auction

Energy World, 10/06/2021

The government will auction unmonetised large oil and gas fields of state-owned ONGC and OIL to boost the country's hydrocarbon production, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Thursday.

Speaking on the launch of the third round of auction of small discovered fields, he said companies cannot indefinitely sit on resources they may have discovered.

These resources actually belong to the nation and they will be monetised by bidding them out to interested entities, he said.

As many as 32 oil and gas blocks with 75 discoveries have been offered in the Discovered Small Field (DSF) round-III. These small and marginal fields were discovered by state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) but they were not economically viable to be developed due to the fiscal regime and their small size.

Under DSF, liberal terms including pricing and marketing freedom are offered, making them viable.

"There will be no DSF next time. Next time, it will be a 'major' round (auction of large fields)," Pradhan said.

He said the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), the oil ministry's technical arm, has the "full mandate" to

identify unmonetised major fields that could be offered for bidding.

"Resources don't belong to a company. They belong to the nation and the government. They cannot lie with a company indefinitely. If somebody cannot monetise them, we will have to bring a new regime," he said.

The statement comes weeks after his ministry said India's largest oil and gas producer ONGC to sell a stake in producing oil fields such as Ratna R-Series in western offshore to private firms and get foreign partners in KG basin gas fields.

had on April 25 reported a seven-point action plan, 'ONGC Way Forward'. It was drawn by the ministry that called for the firm to consider a sale of a stake in maturing fields such as Panna-Mukta and Ratna and R-Series in western offshore and onshore fields like Gandhar in Gujarat to private firms while divesting/privatizing 'non-performing' marginal fields.

It wanted ONGC to bring in global players in gas-rich KG-DWN-98/2 block where output is slated to rise sharply next year, and the recently brought into production Ashokenagar block in West Bengal. Also, identified for the purpose is the Deendayal block in the KG basin which the firm had bought from Gujarat government company GSPC a couple of years back.

"This 'chalti ka naam gaddi' (something that is just barely working) attitude will now work. We have to take bold decisions," Pradhan said. "Idle, unmonetised resources, especially with state-owned companies, need to be monetised."

For a nation that imports 85 per cent of its oil needs, resources lying idle for a long time cannot be permitted, he said.

"Our objective to maximise production. So, we have to look at all options available. We cannot have a situation where fields are lying with some for a long time and are not being developed," he said.

In DSF-III, 11 onshore blocks, 20 offshore and one deepwater area are being offered for bidding. These blocks, spread over about 13,000 square kilometers, hold 75 oil and gas discoveries with a combined resource base of 230 million tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas.

In the previous two rounds between 2016 and 2018, 54 blocks, taken away from ONGC and OIL, were awarded.

According to DGH, 29 field development plans entailing USD 1.76 billion investment have been submitted.

Oil production from the areas awarded in two rounds of DSF is envisaged to reach 1.3 million tonnes by 2024 and gas output to touch 2.9 billion cubic meters.

The proposal made in April was the third attempt by the oil ministry to get ONGC to privatise its oil and gas fields.

In October 2017, the DGH had identified 15 producing fields with a collective reserve of 791.2 million tonnes of crude oil and 333.46 billion cubic meters of gas, for handing over to private firms in the hope that they would improve upon the baseline estimate and its extraction.

A year later, as many as 149 small and marginal fields of ONGC were identified for private and foreign companies on the grounds that the state-owned firm should focus only on bid ones.

The first plan could not go through because of strong opposition from ONGC, sources aware of the matter said.

The second plan went up to the Cabinet, which on February 19, 2019, decided to bid out 64 marginal fields of ONGC. But that tender got a tepid response, they said.

The sources added that ONGC was allowed to retain 49 fields on condition that their performance will be strictly monitored for three years.

ONGC produced 20.2 million tonnes of crude oil in the fiscal year ending March 31 (2020-21), down from 20.6 million tonnes in the previous year and 21.1 million tonnes in 2018-19. It produced 21.87 billion cubic metres of gas in 2020-21, down from 23.74 bcm in the previous year and 24.67 bcm in 2018-19.

Ethanol-petrol-blending deadline advanced to 2025

The Times of India, 06/06/2021

NEW DELHI: PM Modi on Saturday raised his bet on ethanol in India's fight against climate change by advancing the date for 20% blending of petrol by five years to 2025 and launching a pilot project at three Pune petrol pumps for running vehicles fully on the 'swadeshi' fuel.

"The country is fast moving towards clean energy and we will see a great benefit from this (rapid ethanol blending), especially in the agriculture sector," he said addressing a function to mark World Environment Day.

The PM unveiled a roadmap prepared jointly by the oil ministry and government think-tank Niti Ayog for developing an ethanol economy in the country. The roadmap reckons 20% blending of petrol with ethanol will result in an annual saving of $5 billion, or Rs 30,000 crore, in India's oil import bill. India's net petroleum import bill stood at $551 billion in 2020-21.

Ethanol is ethyl alcohol – also referred as 'drinking alcohol' – made from molasses, grains and farm waste. The pandemic has made ethanol a part of our everyday life as one of the alcohol options for hand sanitisers. It is less polluting, and offers equivalent efficiency at a lower cost than petrol by raising the octane level. In 2014, the country had 1.5% ethanol blending, which has now gone up to 8.5%.

5. Electricité et énergies renouvelables

Cabinet approves agreement with Argentina for securing strategic minerals

Mint, 02/06/2021

New Delhi: As part of India's mbitious playbook for electric mobility and green energy storage, the union cabinet on Wednesday approved an agreement to be signed between India and Argentina for mineral resources' cooperation.

This to-be-inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is aimed towards facilitating India's energy security goals and involves setting up joint ventures for strategic minerals and future investments. This assumes significance given that Chinese state-owned firms have secured lithium mine concessions in countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile, which forms the so-called lithium triangle.

Securing lithium supplies, a key raw material for making batteries, follows the Asian majors' quest for buying oil and gas fields overseas, that saw a resource race in geographies such as Africa. In this backdrop, Indian strategic experts believe India and China are locked in a geopolitical race to sew up as much of the world's next generation natural resources such as lithium.

"The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed between the Ministry of Mines, Government of India and the Secretariat of Mining Policy of the Ministry of Productive Development of the Argentine Republic," the government said in a statement.

With unresolved border dispute with China, the stratagem being adopted is to not allow India to fall in a vulnerable position with a likely threat of supply squeeze for minerals such as lithium. This threat has been mapped and red flagged earlier in the case of crude oil, with India being the world's third largest oil importer.

"The objectives of the MoU are to strengthen the activities involved like cooperation for encouraging minerals exploration and development, including extraction, mining and beneficiation of lithium; possibilities of forming joint venture in the field of base metals, critical and strategic minerals for mutual benefit; exchange of technical and scientific information and interchange of ideas and knowledge; training and capacity building; and promotion of investment and development in the area of mining activities, would serve the objective of innovation," the statement added.

India on its part is rolling out its roadmap for transition to electric mobility that involves manufacturing of lithium-ion batteries and has unveiled a ₹18,100 crore production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the same to attract investments of about ₹45,000 crore. However, it does not have enough reserves for manufacturing lithium-ion batteries, with lithium also having other uses such as in mobile phone batteries, solar panels, aerospace and thermonuclear fusion. Almost all electric vehicles in the country run on imported batteries, mostly from China.

State-run Khanij Bidesh India Ltd is scouting for acquiring cobalt and lithium mines in Australia and South America. Also, the joint venture firm of National Aluminium Company Ltd, Hindustan Copper Ltd. and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd is exploring the direct purchase of cobalt and lithium.

In other decisions, the union cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for signing and ratification of a "Cooperation in the field of Mass Media" agreement between the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) grouping members.

"The Agreement shall promote equal and mutually beneficial cooperation among associations in the field of Mass Media. Each Side shall, on the basis of reciprocity, facilitate the activities thereby ensuring equity," the government said in another statement.

The SCO founded in 2001 in the Chinese city of Shanghai by leaders of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan has seen India joust with China and Pakistan, after it became a full member in 2017.

The union cabinet also approved a MoU signed between India's ministry of housing and urban affairs (MoHUA) and Maldives' national planning, housing and infrastructure ministry on cooperation in the field of sustainable urban development in areas such as planning, smart cities, affordable housing and green mobility among others. In addition, the cabinet approved the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between India's MoHUA and Japan's land, infrastructure, transport and tourism on sustainable urban development.

In another decision, the union cabinet approved the Model Tenancy Act for circulation to all states and union Territories for adaptation.

"It will help overhaul the legal framework with respect to rental housing across the country, which would help spur its overall growth," the government said in a separate statement.

The Model Tenancy Act aims at resolving conflicts between property owners and tenants.

"The Model Tenancy Act aims at creating a vibrant, sustainable and inclusive rental housing market in the country. It will enable creation of adequate rental housing stock for all the income groups thereby addressing the issue of homelessness. Model Tenancy Act will enable institutionalisation of rental housing by gradually shifting it towards the formal market," the statement added.

Suzlon bags order to set up 252-MW wind power project in Gujarat

Energy World, 01/06/2021

New Delhi: Suzlon Group, a clean energy solutions provider, on Tuesday said it had secured an order for developing a 252-megawatt (MW) wind power project from CLP India.

The project is located in Sidhpur, Gujarat and expected to be commissioned in 2022, the company said in a press release.

Suzlon will be involved in the supply, foundation, erection, and commissioning of the project and will also provide comprehensive operation and maintenance services after commissioning.

"We are excited about growth opportunities in India, and our shareholders CLP Group and CDPQ share a vision to invest in a low carbon, clean energy portfolio in the country," said Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, managing director, CLP India.

CLP's wind energy project in Sidhpur, Gujarat is their largest renewable project at a single site, he added.

Ashwani Kumar, CEO, Suzlon Group said that this was the first big order that we have announced post our debt restructuring closure in line with our plans to restart business operations and lead the Indian wind energy market from the front.

According to the release, a project of this size can provide electricity to about 1.83 lakhs households and curb about 8.28 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year.

Significant EV progress in 2-3 years: Battery makers

Energy World, 31/05/2021

Pune: Significant progress has been made in battery technology and infrastructure for

electric vehicles (EVs) in the past few years, Rahul Walawalkar, founder and executive director of the India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA), said.

In an interaction with TOI, Walawalkar said more needs to be done in terms of financing and raw materials.

IESA has worked with the Union government and other stakeholders, such as NITI Aayog, for the R18,100 crore product-linked incentive scheme announced by the Centre last week. The scheme aims to create 50GWh of energy storage in advanced chemistry cell (ACC) batteries over the next five years. The policy includes both mobile and stationary batteries — for EVs and electrical grid supply.

"That process started in 2016, when giga factories to manufacture batteries and EVs were just about to be built. This incentive scheme will accelerate the process to create more energy storage, both mobile and stationary. We are a key stakeholder," Walawalkar said.

He added that electric vehicles were slowly gaining traction in India, and despite the comparatively higher unit costs, overall savings were many times that of vehicles running on fossil fuels, especially for fleet owners. "The transition to electric vehicles can save a lot of money for fleet owners. The only issue with buying electric vehicles in India is adequate financing. More people in India will buy electric vehicles if manufacturers produce aspirational vehicles with good features, like Tesla did in the United States," he said.

Walawalkar added that several PSUs and private companies have set up a considerable number of charging stations in India, while issues such as power ratings, and fast and slow charging are being looked at by the Bureau of Indian Standards and other organizations. He added that raw materials were also not a concern for Indian manufacturers, but processing may be.

"Even if India does not have much commercial-grade lithium, many countries in Asia and Latin America do, and they are more than willing to supply Indian companies. Processing of raw materials, however, is an issue. India can also utilize its recycling infrastructure and meet its lithium requirements by recycling," he added.

India added 2,105 MW grid-connected solar capacity in Q1 2021: Bridge to India

Energy World, 28/05/2021

New Delhi: India added 2,105 megawatt (MW) of grid-connected solar power generation capacity in the first quarter (Q1) of 2021, as the first wave of COVID-19 subsided and construction pace picked up gradually. This took the total installed capacity to 44,241 MW by 31 March 2021, according to a recent report.

It added that utility-scale solar installations increased by more than 33 per cent quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) in Q1 2021.

According to the report by renewable energy consultancy Bridge to India, the new capacity addition was split between utility-scale solar and rooftop solar, at 1,735 MW and 370 MW, respectively.

"We expect construction progress to slow down considerably in Q2 2021 due to lockdown across states following the second wave of COVID-19. We have revised our

projection for Q2 2021 from 2,350 MW to 1,350 MW," added the consultancy.

Construction activity is expected to pick up pace in Q3 2021, with capacity addition expected at 2,470 MW.

It added that the total commissioned utility-scale, rooftop solar and off-grid solar capacity stood at 35,939 MW, 7,162 MW and 1,140 MW respectively. The total project pipeline stood at 52,392 MW as on 31 March 2021.

Tender issuance was up 40 per cent in Q1 2021 in comparison to the previous quarter. 24 utility-scale solar tenders, including three floating solar tenders, with a total of 10,801 MW capacity were issued in the quarter.

Auction activity shot up to 8,560 MW in Q1 2021, up 163 per cent q-o-q, however, reluctance of discoms to sign power purchase agreements continue to be a major concern.

India to host Clean Energy Ministerial in 2023

Energy World, 04/06/2021

Power Secretary Alok Kumar said India will host the Clean Energy Ministerial in 2023. "India to host Clean Energy Ministerial in 2023," Kumar said in an audio-visual message tweeted by the power ministry.

The 12th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) is being organised by Chile in virtual mode from May 31-June 6, 2021, the power ministry said in a statement.

India and the UK has launched a new workstream to promote industrial energy efficiency under Clean Energy Ministerial's (CEM) Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI), it said.

This year, India, along with the Government of the United Kingdom, launched a new workstream to promote industrial energy efficiency under the CEM's IDDI coordinated by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The IDDI initiative has been supported by Germany and Canada, with more countries expected to join soon. The objective is to infuse green technologies and stimulate demand for low-carbon industrial material.

As per the statement, Kumar has highlighted that India is committed to cutting emissions intensity per unit of GDP by 33-35 per cent by 2030.

The commitment hinges on the effective deployment of low carbon technologies in energy-intensive sectors like iron and steel, cement and petrochemicals.

He elaborated that government policies have resulted in substantial savings in energy on the demand side.

6. Mobilités électriques

Scheme to boost electric vehicle sales fails to take off

Mint, 11/06/2021

India's ambitious scheme to promote electric mobility has hit the skids, with only 5%, or ₹492 crore, of the ₹10,000 crore allocated under its second phase spent till March, two people aware of the development said.

The marquee Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (Fame) scheme is administered by the department of heavy industries (DHI).

The budgetary allocation of ₹10,000 crore is for three years to 31 March 2022.

Reducing vehicular emissions and dependence on fossil fuels is a crucial part of the government's strategy to tackle climate change. India is running the world's largest clean energy programme and is aiming for a leadership role in tackling climate change.

"The Fame-2 programme hasn't gained the desired traction," said one of the two people cited above, seeking anonymity.

"Although Fame-2 started with a very good plan and targets, it could not take off owing to limited business models," said Reji Kumar Pillai, president of India Smart Grid Forum, a public-private partnership of the government.

Electric vehicles (EVs) are costlier than traditional vehicles with internal combustion engines (ICE). The outbreak of covid last year also impacted various schemes and programmes in India.

The money under Fame-2 was to be spent to subsidize 500,000 electric three-wheelers, 1 million electric two-wheelers, 55,000 electric passenger vehicles and 7,090 electric buses. Till March this year, only 2.4%, or 12,129, of targeted electric three-wheelers and 4.3%, or 43,184, of targeted electric two-wheelers had received subsidies under Fame-2. Also, of the 7,090 electric buses to be subsidized under the scheme, 6,265 were sanctioned to the states. Of these, supply orders have been issued for 3,118 buses by state transport utilities (till 31 May).

"In the case of electric buses, only gross cost contract (GCC) model was allowed, and most electric bus manufacturers are not interested in running bus services in cities. This created a monopolistic situation in which a few interested agencies jacked up per-km rates, making it unviable for transport undertakings," Pillai added.

The Fame scheme's first phase began on 1 April 2015 and was extended till 31 March 2019. After the budget allocation, the scheme's second phase budget estimates for FY20 and FY21 was ₹1,192 crore, which was then revised to ₹818 crore. The total expenditure for both the phases of the Fame programme has been ₹818 crore till March this year.

In response to a Mint query, a spokesperson for the ministry of heavy industries and public enterprises said, "The 2nd phase of Fame scheme commenced from 1 April 2019 with an outlay of ₹10,000 crore for a period of three years. Out of total budgetary support, about 86% of the fund has been allocated for demand incentive so as to create demand for EVs in the country."

The second phase is to support the electrification of public and shared transportation and help create charging infrastructure.

"This phase aims at generating demand by way of supporting 7,090 e-buses, 500,000 e-three-wheelers, 55,000 e-four-wheeler passenger cars (including strong hybrid) and 1 million e-two-wheelers. However, depending upon offtake of different category of EVs, these numbers may vary as the provision has been made for inter as well as intra-segment-wise fungibility," the spokesperson added.

The Centre also unveiled steps such as reduction of GST on EVs and allowing the sale of electricity as 'service' for EV charging.

"DHI is proactive in assisting OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) in increasing

their sales and availing benefits from the scheme," the spokesperson said, and added, "As on 28 May, 73,641 electric vehicles (e-2W:57,208, e-3W:14,895 and e-4W:1,538) for demand incentive of about ₹215 crore have been supported."

The government's aim is to turn the country into a global hub of EV manufacturing.

"The department has also sanctioned 2,877 charging stations in 68 cities across 25 states/UTs," the spokesperson said, adding, "letters of award for 1,772 charging stations have been issued as on 31 May."

The programme has the potential to result in huge energy bill savings for India for the world's third-largest oil importer, which spent $101.4 billion on crude oil imports in 2019-20 and $111.9 billion in 2018-19.

"With the launch of the Go Electric programme by the ministry of power in February 2021, we expect a big push towards electric mobility soon," Pillai added.

Gujarat: 'Country's first' e-vehicles-only area to be developed in Kevadia

Energy World, 07/06/2021

The Statue of Unity Area Development and Tourism Governance Authority (SOUADTGA) on Sunday said it will develop the "country's first electric vehicles-only area" in Gujarat's Kevadia.

In its statement, the authority said that the area surrounding the 182-metre tall Statue of Unity in Kevadia in Gujarat's tribal-dominated Narmada district will be converted into an electric-vehicles-only area in a phased manner.

The announcement comes a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Kevadia, which houses the world's tallest Statue of Unity, will become the country's first electric vehicle city.

Speaking at the release of ethanol blending road map 2020-25 on the occasion of World Environment Day on Saturday, Modi had said that necessary infrastructure is being made available to run only battery-based buses, two-wheeler, four- wheeler in Kevadia in future.

Kevadia-headquartered SOUADTGA is empowered to execute development plans and manage tourism in the area around the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

"In the area under the authority, only electric vehicles will be allowed to ply, with the buses made available for tourists also running on battery power instead of diesel," it said.

A local resident of the area will be provided assistance to purchase a three-wheeled e-vehicle, it said.

Apart from the assistance provided by Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA) - as announced by the state government - the SOUADTGA will also provide assistance in the form of subsidy to purchase such vehicles, it said.

The authority added that its officers and employees will also get the benefit of the scheme.

"The beneficiary officers/employees will have to pay the amount other than subsidy, and facilities will be provided to deduct the amount of loan from their salaries in easy instalments. Beneficiaries will have to

guarantee that they will not operate petrol-diesel vehicles in the area," it said.

The company operating the e-rickshaw will have to run at least 50 rickshaws in the area under the authority initially. Preference in driver selection for e-rickshaws will be given to women residents of the area as well as the existing autorickshaw drivers, it said.

The company operating the e-rickshaw will have to develop a smart mobile app for this, which will mention various tourist destinations in the area, their distances, and fixed fares, it said.

Women drivers will be given free driving training at the Skill Development Center at Kevadia free of cost.

An E-vehicle maintenance workshop and charging station will also be set up here," it said.

"It may be mentioned here that there are no polluting industries at Kevadia, and there are two hydroelectric power plants, which generate abundant environment-friendly electricity. Reserving the area only for electric vehicles will reduce air and noise pollution and add a feather to the charm of this unique tourist destination," it said.

US-based Triton EV to deliver 2,000 electric semi-trucks to India

Express Drivers, 21/05/2021

Triton Electric Vehicle, LLC, a US-based company has said that it has got an order from a South Indian company for its EVs. Himanshu Patel, CEO and founder at Triton Electric Vehicles, LLC shared this news on social media. He said that Talwar Auto Garages PVT Ltd, one of the largest automotive distributors in South India, has signed a purchase order for 2,000 Triton EV semi-trucks. The trucks are worth USD 300 million (Rs 21,76,96,50,000). The first deliveries are scheduled almost after a year. Himanshu says that Talwar will supply these trucks to their commercial industrial clients in the southern states of India – Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, and Hyderabad. Triton EV happens to be the subsidiary of Triton Solar. “Triton Solar and Triton-EV are committed to engineering a revolutionary new global energy structure and are working closely with partner nations to accomplish this goal.”, says the company motto.

The aforementioned trucks will be made in the US and exported to India. Triton EV was recently in the news when the brand had opened its bookings for the Model H in the country. While the launch as well as price were to be announced on May 10, 2021, understandably due to the present pandemic, it has been postponed. The Model H is an eight-seater electric SUV and boasts 200kWh batteries that propel it from 0-100kmph in around three seconds. At the same time, one can fully charge the SUV in just two hours, using a fast charger. There is also a massive warranty of 10 years on the car. The Model H looks as big and butch as any other American SUV and boasts a massive 1,100km+ range.

The company says that the Model H is capable of producing more than 1,500hp and is built for the long haul. Pre-bookings had started for the Indian market but as discussed before, they have now been stopped.

7. Environnement et qualité de l’air

Retiring old coal plants can help Maharashtra save Rs 16,000 cr in five years: Report

Energy World, 11/06/2021

Maharashtra can save up to Rs 16,000 crore in the next five years by shutting down old coal-fired power plants, along with other measures, an environmental advocacy group said on Thursday. The savings can go up to Rs 75,000 crore over a decade if the state follows a set of recommendations, the report by Climate Risk Horizons said pushing for more reliance on renewable sources of power and calling them cheaper as well.

The report said that over 4,000 megawatts (MW) of coal plant capacity owned by the Maharashtra State Power Generation Company can be retired by 2022.

It added that older coal plants are less efficient and more polluting, and will need to meet the 2015 air and water emission norms notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change by 2024 at the latest.

Instead of retrofitting, retiring Bhusawal Unit 3, Chandrapur Units 3-7, Khaparkheda Units 1-4, Koradi Unit 6 and 7, Nashik Units 3-5 will save about Rs 2,000 crore in avoided costs, its lead analyst Ashish Fernandes said.

He added that replacing the scheduled generation from these old units with cheaper renewable electricity will save another Rs 1,600 crore annually.

"The power surplus situation in the state and country, as well as the advent of cheaper renewable energy, allows the state government a significant room to retire these end-of-life assets and generate savings which will benefit the discom and consumers," he added.

The report by the group added that Maharashtra's coal fleet has been running below-55 per cent plant load factor (PLF) for the last four financial years, even before the pandemic-induced slump in economic activity in 2020-21.

PLF is the ratio of average power generated by the plant to the maximum power that could have been generated in a given time.

The task of retiring old plants is easier because the unconventional energy policy is aiming to add over 17,000 MW of power in the state, even as Maharashtra is expected to have a power surplus of 15 per cent till 2025 as per the local regulator's calculations, he added.

The savings generated can be used to improve efficiencies in the electricity system, further reducing subsidy payouts from the government to Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co (MSEDCL), freeing up resources for other priorities in the health and infrastructure sector, the report suggested.

The re-allocation of coal resources after the retirement of the old units will bring down the coal transport bill to Rs 627 crore annually from the current Rs 927 crore.

Apart from shuttering of the old units, it also pitched for discontinuing the Rs 3,158 crore project to build a new unit at Bhusawal. There is "no economic rationale" for the unit, and if completed, MSEDCL will be forced to pay high fixed cost charges despite low demand for power, it added.

A 10-year transition to a renewable energy dominated electricity system can save the state thousands of crores through reduced power purchase costs, it said adding that this alone can lead to savings of up to Rs 62,000 crore over a five year period.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has hit both MSEDCL and state government finances. As the government explores ways to cut costs and improve financial health, retiring old coal plants should be part of the mix," he said.

Green Energy firms plan to move Supreme Court to seek revision of endangered bird order

Energy World, 09/06/2021

Renewable energy companies are set to seek a revision of the Supreme Court order from April earlier this year for the undergrounding of power lines in Gujarat and Rajasthan to protect the habitat of the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard, said people aware of the matter.

Power developers such as Adani Green, Tata Power Renewables, ReNew Power, Hero Future Energies and Avaada hope this will address their concerns and restrict the initial order to a smaller area than initially ordered by the apex court to help conserve the endangered bird.

These companies are readying to file their "request for modification or clarification" of the previous Supreme Court order separately under the aegis of four industry associations: the National Solar Energy Federation of India, Solar Power Developers Association, Wind Independent Power Producers Association and Indian Wind Power Association. These associations represent almost all the companies currently operating in the renewable sector in India at present.

All four industry groups will file their petitions by June 29, which is when the apex court returns from its summer break, said people in the know.

Based on a report by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), parts of western Rajasthan and northern Gujarat were split into 'priority' and 'potential' areas as part of the Great Indian Bustard's migratory path.

Developers said neither the WII nor any other nature conservation party involved requested the inclusion of potential area to be conserved. The bench, headed by then Chief Justice of India SA Bobde, included even the larger swathe of potential area – estimated to be 78,523 square kilometres – where all new as well as existing power lines were to be installed underground, thereby impacting projects worth about Rs 22,000 crore.

In comparison, the priority area involves 13,136 sq km, where only 3.9 GW of projects are operational or are in pipeline. While the cost for laying underground wires for this area is still being estimated, developers believe this will cost a fraction of the Rs 22,000 crore they would have had to spend otherwise.

The other reference will be to international case studies, which have seen similar instances of wildlife and renewable energy projects intersecting. The United States faced issues with migratory owls and bats while Norway had cranes, grey herons and eagles entangling with power lines and windmills. The UK (swans) and Portugal (storks) were confronted with similar issues.

Developers are likely to stress on the examples from South Africa and Spain, both of which have seen species of the Bustard family dying due to similar causes.

In all these cases, no undergrounding of transmission lines was required, according to the people cited earlier. Installing bird diverters, different coloured markers and ultraviolet-coloured wind blades saved nearly 90% of the wildlife, according to the studies collated by the green companies, they said.

Rajasthan and Gujarat, which house many solar power projects, including the world's largest at Bhadla in Rajasthan's Jodhpur district, account for about a quarter of the total solar power production in India. The regions that house the projects are also habitats of the Great Indian Bustard, a tall and heavy bird with a wingspan of more than two metres. Only about 150 of these birds exist, according to wildlife experts, and some 15% die every year due to electrocution.

The companies were initially planning on appealing on the basis of feasibility, as ET had reported in its May 11 edition. However, lawyers advised them against it, as the original Supreme Court bench asked them to raise an objection only if it was "impossible, not difficult".

"The case would be thrown out in minutes if we spoke about the feasibility aspect, as it was already addressed by the (then) CJI," said a representative from one of the industry bodies, requesting not to be identified.

Since the order, developers have been looking at organisations or environmentalists who can speak on their behalf, but did not find anyone willing to do so. International Finance Corporation, a World Bank entity, and UK-based sustainability consultancy Environmental Resources Management were also in talks with solar companies but pulled out after the two parties' timelines did not match, with the international companies saying they needed more time to conclude their studies.

Other environmentalists are also being approached by the associations, but they have largely been reluctant to speak on the stand in front of a Supreme Court bench.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is also understood to have conducted a review meeting last week to assess the steps taken by other countries when faced with such situations.

Its stakeholders such as state and central governments will bear some costs of the undergrounding, as they have "a duty cast to preserve the endangered species", as per the court order. They may pay for the transmission lines between the substations and end consumers, but developers will still bear the brunt – between the solar plant and substation, which makes up nearly 80% of the entire system.

India taking all steps to ensure it becomes free of single-use plastic by 2022: Javadekar

The Times of India, 08/06/2021

NEW DELHI: India is taking all steps to ensure that the country becomes free of single-use plastic by 2022 as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar said on Tuesday while launching 'Plastic Hackathon 2021' campaign.

Kick-starting the two-month-long awareness campaign on single-use plastics (SUPs), Javadekar, in an audio message, said the environment ministry has taken several steps towards eliminating single-use plastic from the country.

"Prime Minister Modi pledged to make the country free of single use plastic. We took several steps in that direction. The import of plastic waste has been banned. The states have been directed to ensure no use of SUP. Several states have already stopped using SUP," he said.

"We have notified plastic waste management rules under which plastic below 40 microns thickness cannot be used. We have also directed states to take action against companies producing plastic carry bags under 40-micron thickness," the minister added.

Announcing the campaign, he said it will help finding suitable alternatives to SUP and identify new ways of plastic waste management.

"We are organising a Plastic Hackathon 2021. It will deliberate on plastic waste management, its collection and what new products can be made out of it. Suitable alternative to SUP will also be discussed in this hackathon. Essay competitions will be organised for school kids. Till the time online classes are going on for schools and colleges, such activities will be enjoyed by students and they can participate with full enthusiasm," Javadekar said.

Before the minister's message, a virtual event was organised by FICCI where Environment Secretary R P Gupta said the campaign is an effort to raise the capacity of various stakeholders with respect to plastic pollution.

"It will be a two-month long campaign with a series of events on reducing plastic waste generation, recognising the need of effective plastic waste management, increasing the awareness of suitable alternatives, sustainable consumption and production and extended producer responsibility (EPR)," Gupta said.

The campaign is being organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), a German organisation working jointly with partners in India for sustainable economic, ecological, and social development.

Gupta said intensive efforts have been put in by the ministry to raise awareness and sensitise citizens on the environmental impact of SUP.
"The government is providing support to states for developing adequate waste management infrastructure for solid and plastic waste management through flagship Swachh Bharat Mission scheme," he said.

Considering the adverse impacts of littered plastic waste on both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, the prime minister gave a clarion call in 2019 to phase out single-use plastics by 2022.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, for handling plastic waste in an environmentally sound manner.

Further, the ministry has issued a draft notification on March 11, 2021 for amending the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, with respect to prohibiting identified SUP

items following a phase-out schedule in 2022.

Littered plastic waste on land is recognised as a major source of marine plastic litter. Plastic waste management on land will significantly contribute to the reduction in the generation of marine plastic litter, ministry sources said.

FICCI Secretary General Dilip Chenoy said the campaign is being launched on the auspicious occasion of World Oceans Day and that FICCI will put its best efforts in making it a success.

The United Nations has designated June 8 as World Oceans Day.

The UNEP and GIZ India are the knowledge partners and FICCI is the industry partner for the campaign.

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