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सप्रेम नमस्कार !

सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभागातर्फे विद्युत विभाग हा स्वतंत्र न ठेवता बांधकाम विभागात समाविष्ट करावा असा प्रस्ताव तयार करण्यात येत आहे असे कळते. सदरचा प्रस्ताव का तयार करण्यात आला याबद्दल विश्वासार्ह माहिती उपलब्ध नाही तथापी काही अधिकाऱ्यांच्या मनमानीविरुद्ध असे पाऊल उचलण्यात येत असल्याचे कळते. अधिकाऱ्यांची मनमानी हा नवीन मुद्दा नाही किंवा फक्त विद्युत विभागातीलच अधिकारी मनमानी करतात असे नाही तर इतर विभागातील अधिकारीही मनमानी करतात, अशा अधिकाऱ्यांना समज देणे, चार्जशीट देणे, बदली करणे वा निलंबन करणे किंवा इतरही अनेक प्रकारे शिक्षा करता येते. IAS, IPS किंवा मंत्रालयातील सचिव पातळीवरील काही अधिकारी तर फारच अहंकारी असतात व ते काही वेळा असोसिएशन व तत्सम संस्थांच्या पदाधिकाऱ्यांशी बोलायलाही तयार नसतात. असे मनमानी करणारे अधिकारी सर्वत्र असतांना केवळ

एक वा दोन अधिकाऱ्यांच्या मनमानीला लगाम न घालता संपूर्ण विभाग तोही महत्वाचा म्हणजे विद्युत विभाग बंद करणे संयुक्तिक वाटत नाही. सदर अधिकाऱ्यांवर योग्य ती कारवाई करण्यास सरकार असमर्थ आहे असा संदेश यातून जाईल. सरकार काही अधिकाऱ्यांसमोर हतबल आहे असाच याचा अर्थ निघतो, त्यामुळे सरकारने याबाबत संबंधीत अधिकाऱ्यांवर योग्य ती कारवाई करावी व संपूर्ण विद्युत विभाग बंद करू नये असे वाटते.

महाराष्ट्र राज्य विद्युत मंडळाचे विभाजन करून चार कंपन्या निर्माण करण्यात आल्या होत्या तथापी सदर कंपन्यातील अनागोंदी कारभार, भ्रष्टाचार, सर्रास विद्युत विले माफी यामुळे सदर कंपन्या दिवाळखोरीच्या उंबरठ्यावर आहेत व केव्हाही त्यांचे खाजगीकरण होऊ शकते व विद्युत ठेकेदारा समोर विशेषतः विज वितरण कंपन्यांमधील काम करणाऱ्या ठेकेदारांसमोर गंभीर प्रश्न निर्माण होतील याची सर्वांनीच दखल घेणे गरजेचे आहे. या कामी लोकप्रतिनिधी, संबंधीत विभागाचे मंत्री, अधिकारी यांनी शांतपणे विचार करणे आवश्यक आहे. फक्त खाजगीकरण हाच यावरचा तोडगा असू शकत नाही. इतर अनेक पर्यायांचा देखील विचार केला पाहिजे.

काही अपरिहार्य कारणास्तव आपली वार्षिक सभा ११ जानेवारी ऐवजी २१ जानेवारी २०२३ रोजी घेण्यात येणार आहे व यावेळी सुप्रसिद्ध लेखक, मार्गदर्शक श्री. अच्युत गोडबोले हे कॉन्ट्रक्टर बंधूंना तंत्रज्ञानात होणारे बदल व त्याचा व्यवसायावर होणारा परिणाम या विषयावर मार्गदर्शन करणार आहेत. तरी सर्वांनी वेळेवर उपस्थित रहावे.

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*f*rom **The Desk of General Secretary...**



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE & ALL...

Hi,

Let's make a resolve that we will make this year so big so big we will surpass all expectations...

I am also deeply in gratitude towards all of you for giving me opportunity to serve ECAM as General Secretary.

I tried my level best to take ECAM to new heights..

Adding new dimensions to the way we work & serve our fraternity...

We have faced many challenges in last three years. We have to face Covid Pandemic almost for two years. But we came through it. World learn to operate online, that is the biggest take away for all of us. We had issues with MSEDCL, Adani, BEST & PWD.

Our case against combine tender is pending in supreme court. We have successfully resolved issue of Test report with Adani. With BEST our fight is still on for acceptance of test report. MSEDCL has given approval to new cost data, this will help maximum of our members who are working with MSEDCL.

We are also renovated our head office. We are entering in our centenary year in 2024. It will add new energy & zest.

As I will be completing my term in January 2023, I BOW in Gratitude to all of you for supporting me & allowing me to work in the position of General Secretary in this esteemed Association.

Wishing coming Board most & more for taking ECAM to new heights...

Once again **HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE & ALL...**

Milind Naik

General Secretary...



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Despite just having a nice selling brand, the easiest way to increase your brand value is having an organization website, where your company's brand gets to be viewed across the internet, by a wider target audience.

A website will carry key organizational information in different web pages ranging from About the company, Services, Clients you have worked with, to the Contact information on how to reach your company.

Today, mobile internet users account for over 90% on a daily basis. Interestingly enough, mobile internet users averagely spend 2 hours and 25 minutes surfing over different internet sites.

The organization moves ahead with the web development process to its end with much more services aiming to heighten the organization's goals. The benefits of a website can be described as follows.

Cheaper and Flexible : The statistics have proven the internet to be the most profitable advertising platform, extremely different from print advertising.

Importance of a website



On a website, advertising is cheap, your advert is able to last longer as you want, and also you are able to customize the content yourself without anyone doing it for you.

Other advertising forms are essential in enticing people to visit your website, to find out about your organization as the connection is evolving from 2D and beyond.

Market expansion : The World Wide Web has enabled fast seamless communication globally. Once you get a website, your organization will most definitely break through the geographical barriers making it visible all over the world, accessible virtually by a potential client who has the internet.

In the context of revenue streams, the organizational website not only displays the company's portfolio and the services that are offered. But fortunately enough it will increase the organization's revenue. Where an online user wants to get a piece of information regarding a business using your services i.e., catering for a company dealing with events management, electrical appliances to feature in your directory. With increased online traffic in the website, will definitely grant you a price through Google ads. Normally, some organizations' working hours end at 17:00 hrs. but with a website, you are able to reach out to your client who is online past the closing time. The website works 24/7.

Web experts also have a way of inserting Chat features on the website well automated to interact with potential customers on the internet, the website will as well convert the online user to a legitimate lead.

A website automates your consultation services to be aired virtually depending on your organization's objectives. The internet has made it convenient for potential consumers to place their orders via the website and get their products delivered to them. Consumers are as well in a position to give their positive testimonials online concerning the services offered, thus increasing more leads who are pleased with such testimonials.

A client is always right, he/she is subject to quality customer services as per your agreement. Websites have a way to interact with the users creating incredible user experiences. Such interactions like blog posts, Social Media Feeds, etc. give your visitors the craving to always visit your site. In this context, your organization is able to track their performances for a certain period of time. Experts developing the websites have a way to add Google analytics to your website making it track records of performance. Your organization will definitely make decisions depending on the sales performance whether high or low.

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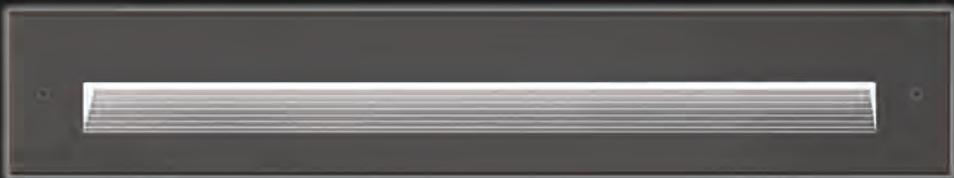
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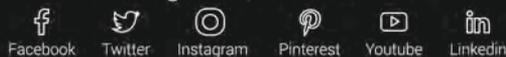
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Renewable energy sector to boom with likely investments of over USD 25 billion in 2023

Not just imports but a shift to renewables is also seen as a way to cut carbon footprint and meet net-zero targets. And so the government in 2022 aggressively pushed for the adoption of electric vehicles, the production of green hydrogen, manufacturing of solar equipment and energy storage in pursuit of its ambitious 500 GW renewable capacity target by 2030.

New Delhi: With an oil price shock threatening to derail economies globally, the focus has shifted to renewable energy with over USD 25 billion or Rs 2 lakh crore investment planned in India for using sunlight, water and air to produce energy.

Oil and gas prices shooting through the roof in 2022 in the aftermath of Russia's war in Ukraine sent governments in import-dependent nations like India scrambling for options.

Not just imports but a shift to renewables is also seen as a way to cut carbon footprint and meet net-zero targets. And so the government in 2022 aggressively pushed for the adoption of electric

vehicles, the production of green hydrogen, manufacturing of solar equipment and energy storage in pursuit of its ambitious 500 GW renewable capacity target by 2030

India would have to add at least 25GW of renewable energy capacity per annum for eight years continuously to achieve the 500 GW target by 2030. At present, India has around 173GW of non-fossil fuel based clean energy capacity which includes about 62GW of solar, 42GW of wind energy, 10GW of biomass power, about five GW of small hydro, 47 GW of large hydro and seven GW of nuclear power capacity. Talking to PTI, Union power and new & renewable energy minister R K Singh stated that the investment in the renewable energy sector could be around USD 25 billion in 2023. Elaborating further he said, "We have to achieve a 500 GW target (of clean energy by 2030). Currently, we have a capacity of 173 GW (including large hydro and nuclear power). Capacity under construction is around 80 GW. It takes it to 250 GW. So we have to do another 200 GW by 2030."



Business consultant Ram Charan joins the Advisory board of Ratan Tata-backed Repos Energy

Rooftop solar installations fall due to supply chain disruptions, other reasons: MNRE Minister

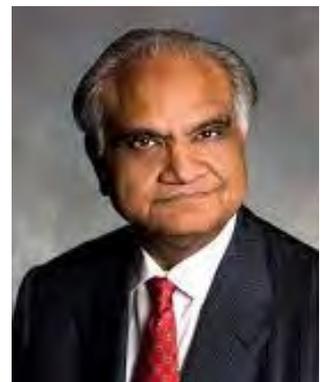
At 1.09 GW, the installation was over 4 per cent lower compared to 1.14 GW in the nine-month period of 2021, according to the data shared by Minister for New and Renewable Energy R K Singh in Lok Sabha.

The rooftop solar capacity installations fell to 1.09 gigawatt during January-September 2022 due to reasons like supply chain disruption in solar modules and delay in tenders by state implementing agencies, Parliament was informed Thursday. At 1.09 GW, the installation was over 4 per cent lower compared to 1.14 GW in the nine-month period of 2021, according to the data shared by Minister for New and Renewable Energy R K Singh in Lok Sabha.

"The reduction in rooftop solar capacity installation during 2022 compared to installations during 2021 as mentioned above is due to various factors including present supply chain disruption in solar modules, delay in tenders by state

implementing agencies under Rooftop Solar Programme Ph-II, delays in approvals and installation of net-meters by DISCOMs, etc," Singh said in a written reply to a question. The minister further said that his ministry has taken several steps to enhance rooftop solar installations in the country, which include following up with states/discoms to expedite approvals and installation of net-meters.

Other steps are simplification of procedure for installation of rooftop solar in the residential sector under Rooftop Solar Programme Ph-II, and launch of the national portal in July 2022 to simplify the procedure for installation, among others.



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Flipkart commits to 100 per cent renewable electricity by 2030

The Flipkart Group plans to achieve this target by adopting Rooftop Solar power, Open Access, and evolving market instruments.

New Delhi: E-commerce marketplace Flipkart announced it has committed to sourcing 100 per cent of its electricity needs from renewable energy sources for its entire operations by 2030. "In line with its Net Zero commitments of reducing the Scope 1 and 2 climate change impacts by 2030, this move from Flipkart builds on strong existing action, with the company already meeting 14 per cent of its electricity requirements from renewable

sources against the baseline consumption of 2021," the company said in a statement.

The Flipkart Group plans to achieve this target by adopting Rooftop Solar power, Open Access, and evolving market instruments. "Being the first Indian e-commerce group to commit to 100% renewable electricity by 2030 and to join RE100, Flipkart looks forward to working in collaboration with this global cohort of influential companies, led by Climate Group," Chief Corporate Affairs Officer Rajneesh Kumar said. He added that for the Flipkart Group, it has been a priority to integrate sustainable practices across operations.



Congratulations - RR Kabel



We are happy to share that Mr. Dinesh Aggarwal joins RR Kabel as the CEO with effect from 16th December 2022. He will be responsible for leading the Domestic business of Wires and Cables and the FMEG vertical. With an industry experience of 18 years, Dinesh is an expert in P&L Leadership, Sales, Marketing, Finance, HR, IT, Legal, Corporate Affairs and Supply Chain roles. Dinesh has been instrumental in leading the transformation and growth agenda in his previous roles. We welcome Dinesh to the RR Kabel family.

Congratulations True Power!



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4 दैनिक जागरण लखनऊ

टू पावर लिमिटेड कंपनी ने इन्वेस्टर समिट में 50 करोड़ के एम ओ यू पर किए हस्ताक्षर

सोहावल अयोध्या जिले के प्रसिद्ध उद्योगपति हरिओम तिवारी की विद्युत उपकरण निर्माता कंपनी टू पावर वायर एंड केबल प्राइवेट लिमिटेड ने कल बाराबंकी में संपन्न हुए उद्यमी एवं निर्माता शिखर सम्मेलन में कंपनी के सीएमडी राजेश तिवारी ने 50 करोड़ की लागत से नया प्रतिष्ठान खोलकर लगभग 100 लोगों को रोजगार देने की घोषणा की स खाद एवं रसद राज्यमंत्री सतीश चंद्र शर्मा की अगुवाई में कल बाराबंकी में देश के नामी-गिरामी उद्योगपतियों के संपन्न हुई बैठक में अयोध्या जनपद के खंडासा ग्राम निवासी सेना के रिटायर्ड कैप्टन व कंपनी के सीएमडी राजेश तिवारी ने उक्त घोषणा की स ज्ञातव्य हो किस जिले के प्रसिद्ध समाजसेवी व उद्योगपति हरिओम तिवारी के पिता हैं राजेश तिवारी स श्री तिवारी ने बताया कि कंपनी की नई इकाई खोलने से जहां एक ओर कंपनी के व्यवसाय में वृद्धि होगी वहीं दूसरी ओर लगभग 100 लोगों को रोजगार भी मिलेगा श्री तिवारी के इस घोषणा से जनपदवासियों में हर्ष का माहौल है



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CMD Mr. Rajesh Tiwari closed a 50 Crore Deal at Investor Summit, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh on 19th Dec 2022. He also committed to employing 100 more people and setting up a new World-Class Plant soon.



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“After 10 years, ELECARAMA should be four to five times bigger.” - Mr JK Agarwal,

Chairman, ELECARAMA 2023

Overall, how do you see a growth in the sheer number of exhibitors in ELECARAMA 2023?

Yes, last time, which is ELECARAMA 2020, we had around 1,300 exhibitors. For the upcoming 15th Edition, ELECARAMA 2023, we are expecting well over 1,500 exhibitors.

How do you gauge the RBSM phenomenon in the upcoming ELECARAMA?

The Reverse Buyer Seller Meet (RBSM) has generally been very successful. Till the last edition (ELECARAMA 2020), Central government support was limited to developing countries, and developed countries such as the USA, European nations, etc were not included.

However, this time we will have buyers from all over the globe. In this RBSM, we are expecting over 700 buyers from across the globe – South East Asia, Africa, Latin America, North America, Europe, etc.

We will now be in a position to cover the whole world!

Can you please share details of your new initiative known as Start Up Challenge?

IEEMA Start-up Challenge is a platform for some of the most promising ones to showcase their innovations at ELECARAMA 2023. While only the top 10-12 will get a chance to showcase at ELECARAMA, we will enable you to have a look at all the participating ones too. Do leverage this opportunity and provide a platform for these start-ups to pilot/scale-up their ideas at your plants and perhaps invest in relevant ones to help them scale

How is IEEMA faring with respect to extending the popularity of ELECARAMA?

We have always done domestic road shows to spread the message of ELECARAMA. However, this time, we not just targeting the larger cities but also smaller cities and towns that have industrial clusters relating to electrical equipment. We are doing road shows in such places even if there are just about 500

industrial units in the cluster.

We want that IEEMA and ELECARAMA should be known to all connected to the electrical equipment and allied industries.

Are there countries that would be participating in ELECARAMA for the first time?

As far as I can recall, US, Canada, Portugal, are some of the countries, which if they set up a country pavilion at ELECARAMA 2023, it would be their first time.

How is ELECARAMA becoming a platform for budding engineers and technology startups?

Like it has always been, this edition of ELECARAMA will also feature an Innovation Hub. This will be supported by Fraunhofer Society, Germany. We are also in talks with the Ministry of Commerce whereby grants could be given to startups to finance up to 95 per cent of the expenses incurred in showcasing their innovations. This tie-up with the ministry is still in progress. We are very close to getting the deal finalized. Once this is done, you can expect a lot of startups to participate in the Innovation Hub of ELECARAMA 2023.

How is ELECARAMA 2023 tackling new and emerging areas like energy storage, renewable energy, etc?

ELECARAMA 2023 will have a co-located event “eTECH nxt” that will be addressing only emerging areas like e-mobility, energy storage systems, etc. This will be a specific sub-event, within ELECARAMA 2023, focusing only on emerging areas. In fact, the brochure of this event was launched at the IEEMA Annual Convention.

What is your broad vision for this mega event?

My personal vision as Chairman, ELECARAMA 2023 is that wherever we are today, after 10 years, ELECARAMA should be four to five times bigger. It should be like the Canton Fair, for electricity, at the global level. If you need anything in electrical or electricity under one roof, ELECARAMA is the place. That is the vision that I have. And as I have been saying, with ELECARAMA, it only gets bigger and better!



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99th Year of ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION OF MAHARASHTRA (ECAM)

The ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION OF MAHARASHTRA, MUMBAI, has carved a niche for itself, in the annals of Electrical Contracting fraternity, by virtue of which, it has rightfully established its claim to be the foremost, perpetually reputed and the only one of its kind of PIONEERING ASSOCIATION in the whole of India. E.C.A.M. now triumphantly marches into its centenary YEAR in January, 2024.

The advent of electricity, at the beginning of last millennium, has revolutionised the lives of mankind. The harnessing of Electrical Power and its widespread utilisation in all the spheres of endeavour and enterprise, has resulted in a phenomenal impact upon both, rural and urban lifestyles, in a manner beyond the wildest dreams of humans, since the dawn of civilisation.

Electricity has become such an integral and indispensable feature in all facets of life, that even the mere thought of life without electricity is an anathema on the human race. It has also become the most vital infrastructure all over the world, upon which, is built the edifice of universal growth and development. Any increase in the installed generating capacity in the country, has a profound bearing upon the GNP of the country, since, the very commencement of work associated with this increase, sets into motion, a complex chain of events, which both, directly and indirectly contribute to the progress and prosperity of the nation. In fact, the per capita consumption of electricity, has become an index for gauging the economic well-being and development of any society.

The advantages of electrification in the slums in cities, has created such a striking imprint upon its usage, that even the remotest of rural villages are now being electrified, thereby bestowing upon those, whom Rabindranath Tagore had referred to as "the poorest, the lowest and the lost", the

infinite benefits brought about by electricity.

In this laudable task of emancipating the down trodden from darkness and misery with the help of electricity, the fraternity of Licensed Electrical Contractors continue to contribute significantly in administering to the needs of all types of consumers VIZ: domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, public and utility services etc. Hence, the Licensed Electrical Contractor, constitutes a vital live wire link between the consumer and the chain comprising of generation, transmission, distribution and utilisation of electrical energy.

The Association has not only witnessed, but has also participated in the advent of electricity, whereat it was viewed as a luxury and being marketed aggressively, whence it was freely available to the vicissitudes over the years whereby it has become a coveted and somewhat scarce commodity, enjoining upon the Licensed Electrical Contractor to play a leading and pragmatic role in the field of energy conservation through the efficient utilisation of electrical energy.

E.C.A.M. looks forward to providing greater skills to its august members, whereby with the help of the State-of-art technology, its members would continue to provide exemplary services in the field of electrical distribution and utilisation, in a most efficient and cost effective manner, thereby furthering the cause of energy conservation and rendering yeoman service to humanity at large.



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GENESIS AND ORIGIN:

As our Chronicles tell us that Bombay had its first electric light SWITCHED ON from 11th September 1905, THROUGH a thermal electrical power generating station at Wadi Bunder, which was installed and commissioned by the Brush Electrical Engineering Co. Ltd., who were the Agents in India of the British Electric Traction Company, under "The Bombay Electric Licence, 1905:" granted by the then Government of Bombay under the Indian Electricity Act, 1903, on June 13th, 1905. In those early days, the number of electrical consumers were just 107 as against millions now. The number of units then sold were just 26.

On December 15th, 1905, the Bombay Electric Supply & Tramways Co. Ltd., a joint stock company incorporated in England, took over the Assets of the above company, and thus became responsible for Generation, Transmission, Distribution and Supply of electric power in Mumbai. The B.E.S.&T Co. Ltd., as it was then known, was itself an offshoot of the Bombay Tramways Co. Ltd., which was floated in New York, and registered in Bombay in March 1873, and which commenced a Tramway service in 1874, drawn by Horses, to be later Electrified on May 7th, 1907, by the B.E.S & T. Co. Ltd., its successor company.

Bombay however, was not the first to receive, and benefit from the boon of Electricity. The credit goes to Darjeeling, where the first hydro-electric plant was commissioned in India on November 10th, 1897.

Three years later, Mysore followed suit, harnessing waters of the River Cauvery and was then the first in India, having the longest length of Transmission of electrical energy, electrifying the Kolar Gold Mines, some 90 miles away.

Bombay also joined the race in the

development of massive hydro-electric potential of the Western Ghats. Shri Jamshedji Tata, the wizard and pioneer of industrial revolution in our country, had foreseen and visualised its tremendous possibilities and prospects in the later half of the 19th century. It was, however, left to his sons, Sir Ratan Tata and Sir Dorab Tata, to transform this cherished dream into a live and throbbing reality.

It was then in 1906 the illustrious House of Tatas launched into this line. The electricity commenced flowing into the Parel Receiving Station, Bombay, around, 1915 supplementing the power generated by B. E. S. & T. Co. Ltd., at its thermal power house at Kussara Road, where it had shifted in 1911, when it was found that the space available at its first thermal power house at Wadi Bunder was inadequate. The B.E.S. & T. Co. Ltd., not only had its own facilities for generation of power, but also purchased power for supplying electricity in Bombay. For exactly 19 years and 4 months the programme of power generation continued. But, when it was realised that it was cheaper to purchase power from the TATAS, the B.E.S.T. permanently shut down its power generation on 11th January 1925 and completely switched over to receiving and supplying power to Bombay City, from the house of TATAS.

What started as a trickle in 1905, when the first generating station was set up in Bombay, reached a respectable level of 1362 MW all over the country by the day of Independence in 1947. This included about 500 MW of Hydro power. After Independence, the central government started 5-year plans to develop and expand the electrical infrastructure. During the next 5 years the capacity doubled to 2695 MW by 1955 and thereafter the growth has been continuous. By March 1996, for which the accurate figures are available, the installed capacity was 83,288 MW with annual generation of 3,80,084 million units.

The systematic growth over the period can be seen from the following data:

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Year	Capacity in MW	Annual Consumption in M.U.
1947	1362	4073
1955	2695	8592
1960-61	4653	16937
1965-66	9027	32990
1973-74	16694	66689
1978-79	26680	102523
1984-85	42585	156859
1989-90	63636	245438
1994-95	81164	351020
1996-97	84912	394490
1998-99	90000	430000 (Est)
2021-22	407797	13,74,024

Year	Peak Demand In MW	Annual Consumption In M.U.
All India		
1996-97	68373	405830
2001-02	95757	569650
2021-22	2,03,014	13,74,024

All India average; i.e. per capita electricity consumption was around 81 Kwh in 1970-71. Over the period of last 28 years this has increased to about 430 Kwh. The usage of electricity in Maharashtra has increased much more and matched that of the country. The Generation capacity reached over 10,000 MW with annual energy generation of 5,20,780 million Kwh in 1995-96. The per capita consumption of electricity in Maharashtra itself increased from a mere 153 Kwh in 1970-71, to over 500 Kwh during 1994-95. The city of Mumbai, where the electricity was first made available in Maharashtra, has recorded per capita consumption of 1061Kwh units. The corresponding figure for the Greater Mumbai area is somewhat lower.

Even at this stage, the electricity consumption in this region is far below international averages. The State and the Central Governments have planned quantum increase in additional generation capacity during the forthcoming decade. A substantial part of this may be achieved by multinationals, who are setting up plants under the IPP projects.

The peak demand and energy requirements, as projected by CEA, for the next five years are as under:

The generation capacity would naturally have to be about 20% higher. The increase in the living standard would similarly affect the Mumbai area.

At that time, Electrical wiring jobs, were the jobs done by those early hopefuls, even though they did not have any specialised nor theoretical knowledge and practical training, had that robust commonsense, exemplifying the saying : “EXPERIENCE IS A GREATER TEACHER THAN EDUCATION” or “ PRACTICE IS BETTER THAN PRECEPT”. With remarkable aptitude, ability and adaptability, they picked up ample adequate experience and expertise to launch this career, which ultimately crystallised into a newly rewarding profession of monetary benefits.

Such professions always acted as a veritable magnet to all, with the usual consequence of a virtual scramble for a limited number of jobs and consequent cut-throat competition among those in line, giving rise to unhealthy tendencies that manifest themselves, resulting in a vicious circle of unmitigating and unredeeming mal-practices.

To set this matter right, as it were, the Licensing Board came into existence in 1924. A notification was issued by the then Government of Bombay, the jurisdiction of which extended from Sind to Cutch in the north and to the Deccan in the South, on September 18th, 1924, declaring its intention to register Electrical Contractors and Wiremen. Such a registration, it was hoped, would help to regularise, standardise, and improve the then existing conditions in electrical contracting trade. The Licensing Board's first meeting was held on December 19th, 1924.

This very idea, kindled a small spark at that time, amongst those in the profession, which enthused a

remarkable foresight and vision, amongst some of the prominent practicing Electrical Contractors of the then Bombay city, leading them to close ranks and issue a Public Appeal, through the medium of Press, inviting all those engaged in the electrical wiring and Contracting fraternity, to attend a meeting at Muzafferabad Hall, Grant Road, Bombay, on Saturday, 10th January, 1925.

The convenors of this meeting were the great pathfinders and pioneers of the likes of :

1. Shri N. B. Desai of M/s Imperial Electric Trading Co.,
2. Shri Ishwarlal Bhogilal Damania of M/s Damania Electric & Engineering Works.
3. Shri Natverlal R. Khambhati of M/s Trinity Electric Syndicate.
4. Shri B. Ram Hari of M/s Malik Electric Works.
5. Shri Khemchand Mody of M/s K. E. Mehta & Company.

E.C.A.M. owes its birth to the foresight of these pioneers. As has been recorded by Shri Natverlal R. Khambhati, one of the Convenors of the meeting :

“The meeting was attended by members of the Electrical Contracting Trade, as well as numerous freelance wiremen working on small electric jobs. Those were the days, when anybody who could wield a pair of pliers and use a screw driver, became a wiring contractor, but all those workers in the electrical contracting trade, came together on the issue raised by the Government, and decided to unite and form themselves into a well-knit Organisation, whose aim was to adopt Standards of high business morality and skilled workmanship in persuance of their Activities”.

The proceedings of this Historic Meeting, have been recorded in our Minutes Book, which can briefly be summarised as follows :

Shri K.S.Gazdar occupied the Chair. Shri Natverlal R. Khambhati explained Rules framed by the Government for Licensing of wiring Contractors and wiremen, etc. ,Shri N. B. Desai explained Rules for the ASSOCIATION OF WIRING CONTRACTORS. (This was the nomenclature under which our Association functioned in the initial stages.)

The General Meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Hence the first Founder Members of our Association were as follows :

1. M/s. Imperial Electric & Trading Co...

- Shri N. B. Desai.
2. M/s. Trinity Electric Syndicate.....
Shri Natverlal R. Khambhati
3. M/s. K. L. Mehta & Company
Shri Khemchand Mody.
4. M/s. Malik Electric Works
Shri B. Ram Hari.
5. M/s. Excelsior Electric Company.....
Shri V.M. Thanawalla.
6. M/s. Eruchshaw & Company.....
Shri Eruchshaw.
7. M/s. C. Sunderlal & Company
8. M/s. Sunita & Company.
9. M/s. Eastern Electric Light & Power Co. Ltd.....
.....Shri K. S. Gazdar
10. M/s. Federal Electric Company
11. M/s. Industrial Electric Company.

After the conclusion of this historic general meeting, the business of the formation of the working committee commenced, in right earnest, with the following results :-

1. Shri K. S. Gazdar was proposed to the Chair, since he was tipped to assume charge as the First Founder

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President of the Association. 2. Shri N. B. Desai became the First Founder Vice President. 3. Shri B. Ram Hari became the First Founder Secretary. 4. Shri Khemchand Modi became the First Founder Treasurer.

The following Gentlemen were proposed as members of the Working Committee of the Association :-

1. Shri Natverlal R. Khambhati,
2. Shri Nowroji M. Adajania,
3. Shri R. M. Marshall,
4. Shri S. M. Pavri,
5. Shri A. U. Khilji,
6. Shri A. U. Bilihomji,

7. Shri N. G. Tolat, Apart from four Office Bearers mentioned above 5. M/s Payne & Co., became the Solicitors of the Association ; 6. Bank of India were proposed to act as our Association's Bankers ; 7. Shri K. S. Gazdar was appointed as a Nominee of the Association, to serve on the 8. Board of examiners, set up by the Government for the Year 1925; Shri P. Moiz was proposed as the Auditor of the Association for the Year 1925,

9. The Office of the Association was proposed to be located at 7-11, Petit Building, Elphinstone Circle, Fort, Bombay.

10. Shri Natverlal R. Khambhati became the First Founder Joint Secretary of the Association.

Every Item of the proceedings of the above two meetings were formally, officially and methodically proposed, seconded and carried over unanimously almost with the same pin point precision with which we plan, design and execute our Electrical Contracts. Thus the seeds that were sown in the fertile soil of the Muzaffarabad Hall, Grant Road, Bombay, germinated into a tender sapling at Petit Building, Elphinstone Circle, bloomed at Alice Building and blossomed at Canada Building, both at Hornby road, flowered and fructified at New Stock Exchange Building, Apollo Street, and developed into a strong, sturdy and a luxurious tree, over the next 75 years of its growth.

Initially, our Association operated under the name

of THE ASSOCIATION OF WIRING CONTRACTORS. Subsequently it adopted the nomenclature of "THE ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS. Then it came to be known as THE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION. Now it bears the name of ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION OF MAHARASHTRA".

When our Association launched itself on a fruitful course of affording safeguards to electrical contractors and wiremen and for rendering service to the electrical consumers in 1925, the population of Bombay City was near about 15,00,000. In 1950, at the time of our Silver Jubilee, it was approximately 29,00,000. In 1974-75, our Golden Jubilee Year, it was 65,00,000. In 1984-85, on our Diamond Jubilee Year, it was estimated to be about 80,00,000. As of today, it has been estimated around 1,50,00,000. The members of our Association have to serve various types of consumers in this City, which is reputed to be having the highest density of population per square kilometer, in the entire world which is indeed a world record in case of areas like Bhuleshwar.

Soon after the Association came into existence, electrical contractors in various parts of the then Bombay Presidency, felt it was necessary to enroll themselves as our members in their own interest.

The earliest list of our Members that is available, gives an inkling to the status of its membership, which the Association commanded far and wide. The places included: Ahmedabad, Ahmednagar, Amalner, Bhiwandi, Bombay, Broach, Dharwar, Dohad, Dombivli, Godhra, Hubli, Jalgaon, Nundarbar, Poona, Rajkot, Savda, Sholapur, Sinar, Surat, Thane & Viramgam.

Since bifurcation of Bombay into the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat, our Association closed its Centre in

Ahmedabad, after May, 1960: Thereafter, we confined our activities purely to Maharashtra. Apart from Maharashtra, we now also have members from outside the State of Maharashtra..

Shri K. S. Gazdar was also appointed to the Licensing Board by the then Government of Bombay, apart from the Board of Examiners to conduct class I and class II wiremen's Examination. Both of these appointments testified to the high esteem in which our Association was held by the authorities.

Need govt push in domestic solar manufacturing, single act for green hydrogen in 2023 : RE industry

In the new calendar year, the government should enforce ALMM strictly and stop imports from Free Trade Agreement countries immediately, said Hitesh Doshi, chairman and managing director, Waaree Group, a Maharashtra-based solar panel manufacturer

New Delhi: The government should push domestic manufacturing through incentives, support local production of polysilicon and wafer, and bring in a single powerful act for green hydrogen in 2023, according to renewable energy industry executives. "We present a case for a single and more encompassing policy for green hydrogen from the Central government. Rather than create multiple piece meal policies and keep the sector guessing, the authorities would do well to establish a single legislation. A single powerful act holds the power to strengthen

the industry and make India export competitive," said Vish Iyer, global chief commercial officer, Jakson Green. He added that the government should offer higher allocation towards new green energy transition areas in the upcoming Budget. In the new calendar year, the government should enforce ALMM strictly and stop imports from Free Trade Agreement countries immediately, said Hitesh Doshi, chairman and managing director, Waaree Group, a Maharashtra-based solar panel manufacturer. "Huge support is required to have our own polysilicon and wafer. Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme for solar manufacturing is needed as soon as possible with a much higher budget and with a target of 100,000 MW to develop the entire value chain in the country," he added. The government must ensure that the push for domestic manufacturing is managed through incentives rather than

tariff barriers, said Ritu Lal, senior V-P and head - institutional relations, Amplus Solar, a leading distributed energy company in the commercial and industrial (C&I) market. "We must also re-evaluate the need for ALMM in the C&I market," she added. According to Srinivasan Viswanathan, CEO, Vibrant Energy, a Telangana-based solar henry firm in the open access market, the energy industry requires support from the government in terms of basic custom duty imposition and ALMM. "Need for building a strong ancillary market that allows for large-scale deployment of energy storage as it is key for stabilising the grid, remove all open access charges across the country for the sake of green hydrogen, and integrate the domestic carbon market with a



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global carbon market," he added. Amplus' Lal said that in the coming year, the company is looking to offer differentiated clean energy solutions. "We will be looking at storage-integrated projects for both our existing customers as well as our new clients. We are also keen on exploring distributed green hydrogen solutions for our C&I customers," she

said. Whereas, Jakson Green's Iyer plans to continue their company's expansion across India and select international geographies as a solar, energy storage, and renewable natural gas developer. He added that the firm also plans to transform itself into a technology player in the green hydrogen space, through their planned gigafactory for manufacturing of electrolyzers.

SC dismisses Tata Power's plea against Rs 7,000cr transmission contract awarded to Adani

Tata Power had questioned the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission's (MERC) decision to award such a large infrastructure project without following the process of tariff based competitive bidding (TBCB) and by "excluding other developers".

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed Tata Power's appeal against the Maharashtra power regulator's decision to award a ₹7,000-crore transmission contract on a nomination basis to Adani Electricity in March last year. Tata Power had questioned the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission's (MERC) decision to award such a large infrastructure project without following the process of tariff based competitive bidding (TBCB) and by "excluding other developers". The project is for a 1,000-MW high-voltage direct current (HVDC) link between the 400 KV Kudus and 220 KV Aarey EHV stations. A bench, led by chief justice DY Chandrachud, upheld the appellate tribunal's February 18 order that ruled that MERC's decision to choose the RTM (regulate tariff mode) route under Section 62 of the Electricity Act 2003 to award the contract cannot be termed as "incorrect, perverse or inappropriate". On whether a large infrastructure project can be awarded on a nomination basis under Section 62 by departing from competitive bidding provided under Section 63, the court said that the Act provided sufficient flexibility to states to regulate the intra-state transmission systems, wherein the state commissions have the power to determine and regulate tariff. Besides, the

2003 Act or the policy framework, particularly National Tariff Policy 2016 read with the Maharashtra government's resolution (GR) of January 4, 2019, did not make it binding upon MERC to allot the HVDC project only through the TBCB route and the decision was in line with directions of empowered committee, the apex court stated. "MERC and Aptel have arrived at concurrent findings that the 1000MW HVDC Aarey-Kudus project is an 'existing project' for the purpose of the applicability of the GoM's GR 2019," the judgment said. "This court deciding a statutory appeal cannot interfere with the concurrent findings on a question of fact. Nonetheless, even on an independent assessment of the facts, the HVDC project is an existing project." Even if the HVDC project were to be considered a 'new project,' the MERC's decision cannot be challenged as it is an independent body with statutory powers to determine and regulate tariff, added the court. The bench also asked the state regulatory commissions to frame regulations under Section 181 of the Act for the determination of tariffs within three months. Commissions having already framed tariff regulations are supposed to amend them to include provisions on the criteria for choosing the modalities to determine the tariff. The top court said the commissions shall "effectuate a balance that would create a sustainable model of electricity regulation in the states" which must be in consonance with the objective of the Electricity Act, which is to enhance investment of private stakeholders so as to create a sustainable and effective system of tariff determination that is cost efficient so that such benefits percolate to end consumers. Follow and connect with





“Challenges such as imports, lack of clarity in policies, and delays in disbursement of subsidies remain for the solar sector”

- Gyanesh Chaudhary, MD, Vikram Solar

The government should also enforce and implement the approved list of module manufacturers (ALMM) and introduce a payment security mechanism to cover the risk of default by state utilities and discoms, Gyanesh Chaudhary, vice-chairman and managing director of Kolkata-based module manufacturer, Vikram Solar, told ETEnergyWorld in an exclusive interview. Edited excerpts:

India has accelerated the transition to clean energy with solar adoption. As India's green energy sector moves forward in incredible strides, the reforms undertaken in this sector have paved the path towards a clean energy future. India's total installed capacity from renewable sources has doubled in the past five years. Investment in India's renewable energy sector grew more than 125 per cent year-on-year to touch a record \$14.5 billion in FY22

In 2021, India added a record capacity of 10 GW in



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solar, showing 200 per cent growth from 2020 while in 2022, India has already crossed 11 GW capacity installation in the first nine months of the year. Currently, India stands with over 60 GW of installed solar capacity. The Production-Linked Incentive scheme's tranche-II support allocation, ALMM, and basic customs duty on solar cells and modules offered renewed focus on the Aatmanirbhar Bharat scheme. While the announcement of a net-zero emission target by 2070 and enhancing renewable energy target to 500 GW by 2030 at COP26 gave the industry a great leg up. Challenges like solar import, lack of clarity in policies, unavailability of flexible financing, delays in disbursement of subsidies remain. What are you looking forward to in 2023? With over 60 GW of installed capacity, solar energy will continue to play a dominant role in India's energy mix. The new announcements like net-zero emission target by 2070 and enhancing renewable energy target to 500 GW by 2030 will open up new opportunities and bring in more investment. The schemes and initiatives like PLI, BCD, ALMM, and focus on green hydrogen which will require 26-30 GW of solar capacity to produce one million tonnes per year of green hydrogen. Thus, solar is going to be the centrepiece of future energy

Besides policy impetuses such as mandate on states to buy 25 per cent of energy from RE, the government considering the removal of electronic reverse auction for renewable energy projects, amongst other augur well for the growth of the renewable energy sector. It will enable resolution of internal challenges and propel higher solar adoption. The policy interventions should continue to focus on eliminating the challenges such as continued solar import, expensive raw material, hike in shipping costs adding to module and overall project cost, India rupee falling against US dollar leading to exchange rate variations between bidding and finalization of projects, lack of flexible financing solutions, and a lack of tax exemptions and subsidy availability for R&D. To sum it up, we can say that although the challenges are there, the growth story presents a compelling argument for domestic manufacturers like us to focus on innovation and capacity expansion. What are your key demands from the government in 2023? The outlook for the solar manufacturing sector both in the Indian and global markets on the back of the government's policy push, climate action commitments and carbon-neutrality goals coupled with China+1 strategy to diversify supply lines offers immense opportunity for indigenous solar PV module manufacturing. India is expected to play a larger role

in the global supply chain. To encourage domestic solar manufacturers to build scale with quality and reduce our import dependence, the government should consider allowing clearance from Special Economic Zones (SEZ) units to Domestic Tariff Areas (DTA) on a duty forgone basis. Additionally, allowing conversion of SEZ units into DTA and permitting them to continue operating from the same infrastructure with enabling policies.

Masterclass Business Transformation Strategy Masterclass by Dr. Ram Charan & Dr. Marshall Goldsmith 15 February 2023 @ 02:30 PM 3-Day residential hands-on workshop by two legendary global management gurus Register Now Limited seats workshop News International Economy & Policy Reports & Data Podcasts Webinars Infographics Ener Renewable vikram solar solar renewable energy interviews gyanesh chaudhary clean energyg The Press Note 3 (PN3) was introduced by government to curb predatory takeovers of Indian companies by foreign entities in the specifically amidst the pandemic, to ensure that assets in sensitive sectors do not end up in foreign hands, jeopardising national security. There is a need to review PN3 to boost legitimate investments, particularly from sources like pooled or green funds which invest in the RE sector. It is important that investments through such funds are exempted from the purview of PN3. The Government may consider a review of FDI under PN3 for the renewable energy sector. Apart from this, the US government has introduced the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to encourage and incentivise domestic manufacturing of clean technologies. According to the IRA act, sale of solar modules to related parties is prohibited, that is, manufacturers cannot avail the IRA incentive if they use the modules for selfconsumption i.e as a developer too. The Indian government must consider including similar aspects under the PLI scheme. Capital subsidy of 50 per cent for setting up R&D and quality testing infrastructure within the manufacturing unit and a super deduction of 200 per cent for R&D expenses for solar technology development should also be done. The government should also enforce and implement ALMM, bring in flexible financing solutions to finance projects, include Price Variation Clause in solar tenders, and introduce a payment security mechanism to cover the risk of default by state utilities and discoms. The government should also reduce solar project tender cancellation and speed up the project awarding process, avoid PPA renegotiation, invest in energy storage, promote more decentralised renewable energy, and unburden discoms and enforce green energy purchase through them



India's renewable energy subsidies more than doubled in FY22: Report The subsidies for renewable energy reached Rs 11,529 crore in FY22, up from Rs 5,774 crore in FY21

India's subsidies for renewable energy more than doubled in the financial year 2021-22 (FY22), the first increase since FY17, driven by a 155 per cent jump in the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV), according to a study released on Tuesday. The subsidies for renewable energy reached Rs 11,529 crore in FY22, up from Rs 5,774 crore in FY21, said the report titled 'Mapping India's Energy Policy



2022: Tracking Government Support for Energy' published by the International Institute for

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Sustainable Development. For EVs, the subsidies in the same period jumped 160 per cent from Rs 906 crore to a record-high Rs 2,358 crore.

It added that subsidies to renewables peaked in FY17 at 41 per cent above FY22 levels of Rs 16,312 crore but fell in response to policy uncertainty. The report, in FY 22, identified 28 Central government policies subsidising renewable energy, totalling Rs 11,529 crore. This included a one-time capital infusion to the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency and the Solar Energy Corporation of India amounting to Rs 2,500 crore to increase their operations in the renewable sector. "Aligning government's support with its climate targets will require shifting support from fossil fuels to clean

energy, including developing a clear investment plan and interim targets to reach its long-term goal of net-zero by 2070," said Swasti Raizada, policy advisor at IISD. The report said that in FY22, India still allocated four times more support to fossil support was nine times greater. While subsidies for coal, fossil gas, and oil totalled Rs 60,316 crore in FY22, having fallen by 76 per cent since FY14 in real terms. "Most notably, oil and gas subsidies fell by 28 per cent to Rs 44,383 crore in FY22 — but this does not include foregone revenue from cuts in excise and VAT on diesel and petrol," it said.

Overall, India provided at least Rs 5 lakh crore to support the energy sector in FY22, including over Rs 2.2 lakh crore in the form of subsidies, the report added.

MNRE says India has achieved 172 GW of power capacity from nonfossil fuel sources

This includes 119.09 GW RE, 46.85 GW Large Hydro and 6.78 GW Nuclear Power capacity. This has a share of 42.26 per cent of installed capacity in the country as on 31.10.2022.

New Delhi: The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is working towards achieving 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030 and 172.72 GW of capacity from non-fossil fuel sources has been installed in the country as on 31 October 2022, according to an official statement. "This includes 119.09 GW RE, 46.85 GW Large Hydro and 6.78 GW Nuclear Power capacity. This has a share of 42.26 per cent of total installed generation capacity in the country i.e. 408.71 GW as on 31.10.2022," the ministry said in a statement. A total of 14.21 GW of Renewable Energy capacity was added during the period from January to October 2022 as compared to a capacity of 11.9 GW added during the period January to October 2021.

Also, in order to facilitate large scale grid-connected solar power projects, a scheme for "Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar

Power Projects" is under implementation with a target capacity of 40 GW capacity by March 2024. "As on 31-10-2022, 56 Solar Parks have been sanctioned with a cumulative capacity of 39.28 GW in 14 states. Solar power projects of an aggregate capacity of over 10 GW have already been commissioned in 17 parks," the ministry said. A total capacity addition of 1761.28 MW has been achieved during the period of January to October 2022. Also, a strategy paper including business models for offshore wind energy has been issued. This provides roadmap for achieving 30 GW of offshore wind energy target by 2030. "A concept note for VGF scheme of Rs 14,283 crore for the initial 3 GW of offshore wind energy projects has been sent to Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, for 'in-principle' approval. A trajectory to bid out offshore wind energy blocks for 37 GW capacity till 2029-30 has been issued," according to the statement.

The ministry also said the Draft Offshore Wind Energy Lease Rules, 2022 have been finalized and sent for legal vetting and the Draft contractual documents for offshore wind energy projects have been finalized and being circulated for stakeholders consultation.



Mumbai's CSMIA airport sets up EV fast charging stations

Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) has installed six robust DC fast electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at Terminal 1 and 2.

The fast charging stations are available for service and open as public charging stations for passengers as well as guests visiting CSMIA. CSMIA has commissioned the EV charging stations at P1 – multi-level car parking (MLCP) at Terminal 1, P5 – MLCP at Terminal 2, and Airside of CSMIA. For privately owned EVs, commuters using the facility of EV charging station at CSMIA's MLCP, would be billed only for charging sessions. EV users will be given a deduction against the parking fees.



Indore Municipal Corporation to raise Rs 2.50 billion by issuing green bonds for 60 MW solar power project

Indore Municipal Corporation plans to list green bonds in a public issue to raise Rs 2.50 billion to fund the establishment of a 60 MW solar power plant.

The power generated by the solar plant will be used for water extraction from Narmada river in Jalud village, neighbouring Khargone district, and supply it to Indore.



Congratulations to the UPL team!

UPL India Unit 2 was conferred with the 1st prize in the 'National Energy Conservation Award' bestowed by the Honourable

President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, on December 14, 2022, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The awards were organised by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (under the Ministry of Power, Government of India).



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<div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: blue;">Neptune-Bals</div> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Neptune Bals (Made in Germany) CE marked PVC Industrial plugs, sockets & Interlocks</p> 	<div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: blue; font-size: 2em;">KEI</div> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">Wires and Cables</p> <p style="color: blue;">The power behind the power</p> 

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OSH INDIA/ISEE ELEVATOR ESCALATOR EXHIBITION - PROLITE PRODUCTS ATTRACT CURIOSITY AND INTEREST

There are many types of signs like floor plans, area maps, location information of utilities, building directories, street signs, and general directional signs. In massive and complicated areas like multiplexes, shopping malls, stadiums, airports, bus stations, subways etc. finding the toilet, the ticket window, the cafeteria or the medicine store can be a very frustrating and tiring exercise. Senior citizens and people with disabilities need hand holding guidance to move around in these places and while wayfinding signs are a boon for everyone, they can prove invaluable for them.

Prolite Autoglo Ltd. understood this and created a comprehensive portfolio in wayfinding including simple signs, photoluminescent signs as well as lighting solutions for easy movement in such locations. Conforming to various standards and having the versatility to suit all situations and locations Prolite's wayfinding range covers all kinds of needs. 'Made to order' is another name for Prolite whereby client-specific requirements are also fulfilled by the company. Exclusive and focused lighting and signage creations are USP's of the company and over the years, the increasing numbers of committed customers of Prolite stand testimony of this.

Disaster Management and safety related bodies and professionals are often frustrated by the lack of awareness amongst common people about the most basic protocols and rules governing the subject. That is why exhibitions like OSH India are needed and the robust response that the exhibition

attracted was heartening. Prolite's stall at OSH India was buzzing with activity and this in itself, was an endorsement of the company's performance in recent times.

ISEE, an exhibition showcasing Lift & Elevators held at the same venue, NESCO on 1st, 2nd & 3rd December also saw great response at Prolite's stall there. The company displayed its products directly related to safety concerning Lifts, Elevators and Escalators and more than 300 footfalls gladdened the hearts of the attendants at the stall. Especially because the products were supplementary to the main subject of the show.

Prolite had on display lift and elevator signages, portable tower lights for maintenance and emergency lights. For escalators specifically, Prolite displayed signages and emergency lights for the ceiling. Besides all that, the company also had on display one of the sleekest Emergency lights meant for the lift cabin. Prolite devised a product range to make the staircase a safer option and a better one too. Staircase Nosing is an all-purpose stair safety product which provides a finely corrugated and serrated surface to avoid skidding and a photoluminescent band to light up the steps in pitch darkness. This nosing can cover the periphery of the step end-to-end and give it a metal cover so that it cannot break either at the edges or anywhere along the periphery.

In darkness or poor light, the staircase will stand illuminated all along, covering the length and breadth of each step to outline the steps and allow easy movement in zero visibility.



Uttar Pradesh government targets investment of Rs. 400 billion in energy sector

Uttar Pradesh government has set an investment target of Rs 400 billion in the energy sector to expand the energy sources in the state in light of the anticipated increase in electricity consumption over the next five years due to the establishment of industries.

The state's peak electricity demand is expected to

rise to 53,000 MW in 2028, from 26,000 MW in 2022. Electricity demand will increase at a rate of 16 per cent every year, which will be at the rate of 11 per cent in best-in-class and 8 per cent in business-as-usual. At the same time, the rate of electricity consumption is predicted to be 23 per cent in the commercial and industrial sectors and 14 per cent in the residential sector. In this case, the industrial consumption in the year 2028 will be 98,000 million units.



Meralco seeks financing for nuclear energy feasibility study in the Philippines

The Manila Electric Company (Meralco) is seeking support from the Government of the United States to finance a feasibility study for the development of nuclear energy, primarily small modular reactors (SMRs), in the Philippines.

In line with this, the utility company has applied for a grant with the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA). When compared to conventional and large-scale nuclear facilities, SMRs

which have capacity between 50 MW to 300 MW, are faster to build and can be installed in off-grid locations. Considering this, these are a better option for the Philippines instead of traditional nuclear power plants. Additionally, negotiations are ongoing between the Government of the Philippines and the US on a civil nuclear cooperation agreement. The agreement will allow the import of US-developed nuclear equipment and material.



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APAR Industries Limited - Truly Make In India

APAR Industries Limited, India's largest manufacturer of renewable cables and special application cables has been serving Indian defence, railways, government & utility companies with the nation's most advanced cables for over one decade. By participating at ELECRAMA 2023 APAR Industries Limited recapitulates its goals to serve and empower India by investing in new technologies and innovations to make this world more energy efficient, environmentally sustainable and a safer place, bringing tomorrow's solutions today.

The company's cable facilities in Gujarat (Khatalwada & Umbergaon), are well equipped with advanced manufacturing and testing infrastructure and are accredited with NABL, ISO 9001 and ISO 14001. APAR is the largest manufacturer of e-beam cables in India, with three e-beam accelerators (1.5 MeV, 2.5 MeV, 3 MeV). The facility holds all the necessary certifications, including EN 50618, TUV 2pfg1990/5.12, IEC 62930:2017 & UL 4703.

The company is proud to serve the nation and support various Indian government initiatives propelling growth and sustainability and the goal to "Make In India." Here is how APAR Industries is powering every industry and every house in the country to raise the Indian flag as a global leader.

Renewables sector:

As the largest supplier of specialised cables for wind, solar and nuclear energy, APAR is supporting the vision of the Indian government to expand India's renewable energy installed capacity (the world's largest expansion plan). With features like fire-retardant, minimal transmission loss, and twice the life expectancy, as compared to other cables available in India. APAR solar cables can also sustain higher current capacity and are anti-rodent, with the additional product and services of PV Solar Harnesses which provides a 10% cost reduction annually to solar farm owners and EPCs in India. Most of these renewable cables were previously not available in the country and had to be imported.

Defence sector:

APAR is a trusted partner, serving all major naval shipyards and private shipyards. As a highly reputed supplier, the company also caters to Indian defence, developing and supplying specialised OFC cables, tactical cables, and submarine & torpedo cables, to name a few. This range of cables is specially developed to support the Indian Army and Navy, strengthening and safeguarding Indian borders and coasts.

Telecom Sector:

APAR is India's first and only end-to-end telecom

solutions manufacturer supplying a complete range of specialised copper and fibre cables. The company's product range for the telecom sector includes fibre optic cables, hybrid cables, LAN cables, copper cables & Optical ground wire (OPGW) cables.

Railways, steel and mining:

APAR has pioneered work in the elastomer cable segment in India through its wide range of elastomer cables, catering to railway locomotives & coaches, steel and mining industries. To cater to all of these industries, the company has set up three electron beam (e-beam) facilities in Khatalwada, Gujarat.

EV Sector:

APAR Industries has risen as the 1st Indian cable manufacturer to enter the EV segment, geared up for meeting global standards. After detailed studies in cooperation with EV manufacturers, APAR has pioneered expertise in designing, developing, manufacturing and supplying specialised wiring and wiring harness solutions for the EV industry.

Safeguarding every Indian house:

"APAR Anushakti" is the first house wire which brings to every Indian consumer high-quality melt-resistant wires which have 50+ years of life, powered by e-beam technology. This product has become a trusted favourite for electricians, retailers, contractors and builders across the country.

Proudly hoisting India's flag globally:

Backed by extensive R&D and a strong research team, the company has introduced a comprehensive range of application-specific wires and cables in more than 100 countries around the globe.

APAR Industries has bagged the highest number of UL approvals among any Indian cable company allowing it to export massive volumes to the US market. Renowned for its product quality and manufacturing capabilities, today the company is committed to raising the India flag as a trusted brand amongst major OEMs, utilities, power generation, and transmission distribution companies globally.

About APAR Industries Limited:

Founded in 1958, APAR Industries Limited is a diversified billion-dollar conglomerate with a strong presence in over 140 countries.

As the largest aluminium and alloy conductor manufacturer and the 3rd largest transformer oil manufacturer, the company enjoys a leadership position in the global markets. APAR also offers over 350 grades of speciality oils, the largest range of speciality cables, telecom solutions, lubricants, speciality automotive and polymers.





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राज्य शासनाचे सध्य स्थितीत असलेला १५ कोटी रुपये पर्यंतच्या कामाच्या निविदेमध्ये विद्युत कामाच्या स्वतंत्र निविदा काढणेचा निर्णय कायम ठेवणे बाबत -

महोदय,

आज आम्हाला शासन दरबारी अतिशय गतीने स्थापत्य आणि विद्युत कामाच्या एकत्रित निविदा काढण्याच्या संदर्भात निर्णय होणार असलेची माहिती अवगत झालेने आपणास वरील संदर्भीय विषयास अनुसरून विनंती पूर्वक निवेदन देत आहोत की,

- अ) महाराष्ट्र शासनाने १६ एप्रिल २०२१ रोजी शासन शुद्धी पत्रक क्र. एसयूटी ०५/१३/प्र.क्र.११८/इमा-२ नुसार सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभागाच्या दिनांक ५ डिसे. २०१९ व दिनांक १३ डिसे. २०१९ रोजीच्या परिपत्रकात सुधारणा करून समस्त राज्यातील विद्युत ठेकेदारांचे हित आणि भवितव्य लक्षात घेऊन रु.१५ कोटी व त्या पेक्षा अधिक किंमतीच्या बांधकामाच्या स्थापत्य व विद्युत कामाच्या या पुढे एकत्रित निविदा काढाव्यात म्हणजेच रु.१५ कोटी पर्यंतच्या कामाच्या स्वतंत्र विद्युत निविदा काढण्याचा निर्णय घेतला. त्या मुळे राज्यातील विद्युत ठेकेदारांना जगण्याची उर्जा मिळाली होती.

**इकॉम अहमदनगर विभागातर्फे
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- आ) आज मितीस आपल्या संपूर्ण राज्यात नोंदणीकृत ३.५ लक्षाचे दरम्यान विद्युत ठेकेदार आहेत. त्यातील एक लाखाचे वर सुशिक्षित बेरोजगार आहेत त्यांची तेवढी कुटुंबे म्हणजेच ३५ लक्ष लोक या व्यवसायावर अवलंबून आहेत त्यांची उपजीविकेचे निव्वळ हेच एक साधन आहे. असे असताना जर आपण १६ एप्रिल २०२१ रोजीच्या शासन शुद्धी पत्रक रद्द केले तर विद्युत ठेकेदारांचे वार फार मोठा अन्याय होणार आहे.
- इ) स्थापत्य कामाच्या आणि विद्युत कामाच्या एकत्रित निविदा एक वेळ मोठ मोठ्या रकमेच्या कामासाठी योग्यही ठरतील पण जर लहान लहान १५ कोटी पर्यंतच्या कामात सुद्धा हा नियम अमलात आणला तर स्थापत्य ठेकेदारांना परत एकदा विद्युत ठेकेदारांना वेठीस धरण्याची आपणहून संधी मिळणार आहे. विद्युत कामातील कुशलता आणि तांत्रिक बाबी या स्थापत्य ठेकेदारांना अवगत नसतात परिणामी निव्वळ आर्थिक निकष लाऊन कमी किंमतीमध्ये कोण काम करून देतो का अशा नाहक आणि जिवघेण्या स्पर्धा आम्हा विद्युत ठेकेदारांच्या मध्ये लावल्या जातात मग त्या मध्ये कामाचा दर्ज्या आणि कुशलता स्थापत्य ठेकेदार पाहत नाहीत ही वस्तुस्थिती आहे आणि ती नजरेआड करता येणारी नाही. बऱ्याच वेळा तर ही मंडळी निकृष्ट दर्ज्याचे विद्युत साहित्य स्वतः खरेदी करून आहे त्या साहित्यात विद्युत ठेकेदारांच्या हाताखालील अकुशल कारागिरांचेकडून काम करून घेतात परिणामी बऱ्याच वेळा विद्युत सुरक्षा अडचणीत सुद्धा आलेली अनेक उदाहरणे आहेत.
- ई) भारतीय विद्युत नियम १९५६, केंद्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण नियमन २११० आणि विद्युत अधिनियम २००३ अन्वये विद्युत संच मांडणीचे कामे ही फक्त नी फक्त परवाना धारक विद्युत ठेकेदारामार्फतच करून घेणे उपरोक्त कायद्याने बंधनकारक आहे. या मध्ये मानवी जिवित हानी होऊ नये हेच प्रमाण आहे आज विद्युत कायद्याची पायमल्ली पावलोपावली होत असलेली दिसत असताना एक राज्य शासन म्हणून ती रोखणे आपल्या हातात आहे. त्यासाठीच स्थापत्य आणि विद्युत कामांची एकत्रित निविदा रोखणे ही काळाची गरज आहे असे आम्हाला वाटते. आम्ही फार मोठ्या बदलाची अपेक्षा मुळीच धरत नाही आम्ही फक्त आमचा जगण्याचा हक्क जो आम्हाला घटनेने दिला आहे तो अबाधित राहण्यासाठी आमची धडपड आहे. तरी महोदय किमान पक्षी रु. १५ कोटी पर्यंतच्या कामाच्या एकत्रित निविदा न काढता या पर्यंतच्या कामाच्या स्वतंत्र विद्युत निविदा काढण्याचा झालेला निर्णय अबाधित ठेवावा ही कळकळीची विनंती. धन्यवाद.



आपले नम,



चेअरमन



सेक्रेटरी

इलेक्ट्रिकल कॉ ट्रक्टर्स असोशिएशन ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
(पश्चिम महाराष्ट्र विभाग, सातारा)

प्रत-

१. मा. मुख्य सचिव,
सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभाग, मंत्रालय मुंबई-
२. मा. अध्यक्ष,
इलेक्ट्रिकल कॉ ट्रक्टर्स असोशिएशन ऑफ महाराष्ट्र मुंबई-

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Mob.: 9421268888 / 9766968888

Vice Chairman
Shri. Pandurang Pawar
Mob.: 9423033023

Secretary
Shri. Ramchandra More
Mob.: 9422401163

Joint Secretary & Treasurer
Shri. Sachin Randive
Mob.: 8805836700

Extensiom of empanelled agencies for Preventive and Breakdwon Maintenance



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Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd.
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Date :-

2 DEC 2022

To,
The Chief Engineer,
MSEDCL, All (O & M) Zones.

Sub: Extension of empanelled agencies for Preventive and Breakdown Maintenance and for Infrastructure Development to release New Connections including Ag.

With reference to above subject, separate agencies have been empanelled for preventive and Breakdown Maintenance for HT/LT line and DTC maintenance work subdivision wise agencies are empanelled at Division level. The Division wise agencies are empanelled at circle level for Substation maintenance works and repair of failed Distribution Transformers. The SoP Guidelines for preventive and breakdown maintenance are already issued vide circular no under reference No (1).

As per provision of empanelment, the period of existing empanelment is upto 31st March 2022 which may be extendable for the period of further two years. This office is in receipt & request from some of the field offices regarding guidelines for extension of existing empanelment process / new empanelment for preventive and breakdown works.

This office has already extended the existing empanelment initially for the period of three months i.e. upto 30th June 2022, 31st July 2022 and 30th September 2022 and then up to 30th November 2022 vide letter under ref. (2), (3), (4) & (5) respectively. In between the circular vide ref (6) has been issued for new cost data 2022-23.

Further competent authority has directed for the following action to be taken by field -

1. The separate tenders for FY 2023-24 shall be floated and kept ready for the works under NSC/DPDC/Ag Backlog/100% DDF/DT repairing works etc. The LOA shall be placed only after directives by Corporate Office.
2. The separate tender shall be floated for FY 2023-24 towards Breakdown Maintenance at field level,
3. The works against Pre-monsoon maintenance / Preventive maintenance shall be coordinated at Zone/Circle level as per appropriate delegation of power for the years 2023-24.
4. Present agencies deployed for **Preventive & Breakdown maintenance, NSC/DPDC/Ag Backlog/100% DDF, DT repairing agencies** shall be continued with base labour & material rates only (without quoted rate %) as per new Cost Data up to 31.03.2023.

Encl: as above


Executive Director (O&M)

MIDC धुळे येथील कंपनी मध्ये पी डब्ल्यु डी संबधी विषयावर चर्चा



दि. १०/१२/२०२२ रोजी श्री. रघुवीर पाटील यांच्या MIDC धुळे येथील कंपनी मध्ये पी डब्ल्यु डी संबधी विषयावर (१ कोटीचा जी. आर.) चर्चा करण्यात आली. त्यात हेड ऑफिसशी चर्चा करून सर्व लोकप्रतिनिधी, मंत्री, पालकमंत्री, सचिव, मा. उपमुख्यमंत्री व मा. मुख्यमंत्री यांना निवेदन देण्याचे ठरविले.

हॉटेल लेकव्हूच्या कॉन्फरन्स हॉलमध्ये इकॅम पश्चिम महाराष्ट्र विभागाची बैठक

सोमवार दिनांक ५/१२/२०२२ रोजी दुपारी २ वा. हॉटेल लेक व्हूच्या कॉन्फरन्स हॉलमध्ये इकॅम पश्चिम महाराष्ट्र विभागाचे अध्यक्ष मा. श्री बाळासाहेब कदम यांचे मार्गदर्शना खाली एक कोटीच्या वर कॉम्बो टेंडर निघणार या संदर्भात जी मंत्रालय स्तरावर अतिशय गतीने हालचाली चालल्या आहेत त्या बाबत विभागातील सार्वजनिक बांधकाम (विद्युत) विभागाकडे काम करणाऱ्या सभासद ठेकेदारांची मीटिंग झाली. शासनाचे या

निर्णयाला कडाडून विरोध करणे आणि त्यासाठी जिल्ह्यातील सर्व लोकप्रतिनिधींची (सर्व आमदार आणि खासदार यांची) पत्रे माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, उपमुख्यमंत्री आणि झथऊमंत्र्यांना देणे आणि आपल्याही लेटरहेड वर वरील सर्वाना छोटेखानी परंतु महत्त्वाच्या आशयाची निवेदन देणे ठरले. तसेच १७ डिसेंबर रोजी होत असलेल्या खास सार्वजनिक मीटिंगला हजर राहून मीटिंग नंतर मा. सर्वोच्च न्यायालयातील दाव्या बाबत चर्चा करून निर्णय घेणेचे ठरले.



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भावपूर्ण श्रद्धांजली

अतिशय दुःखद वार्ता

इकॅम महासचिव मिलिंद नाईक यांचे मोठे बंधू मनोज नाईक यांचे सोमवार १२ डिसेंबरच्या रात्री हार्ट अॅटॅक आलेने टेक्सास येथे मुलीकडे दुःखद निधन झाले. नाईक सर आणि परिवाराचे दुःखात आपण सहभागी आहोत. नाईक कुटुंबातील सर्व सदस्यांना या कठिण प्रसंगी परमेश्वर मानसिक शक्ती देवो हीच प्रार्थना.



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जुन्या घरात खरेदीनंतर आपोआप होणारे 'चेंज ऑफ नेम'ची प्रक्रिया

पुणे : जुने घर किंवा दुकान खरेदी केल्यानंतर त्याची वीजजोडणी नावावर करून घेण्यासाठी (चाज ऑफ नेम) ग्राहकांची होणारी धावपळ बंद होणार आहे. वीजजोडणी धारकाच्या नावात आपोआप बदल होण्यासाठी 'महावितरण'ने आपली 'आयटी सिस्टीम' मुद्रांक शुल्क आणि नादणी विभागाशी जोडली आहे. त्यामुळे नादणी विभागात घरखरेदीची प्रक्रिया पूर्ण झाल्यावर ती माहिती 'महावितरण'ला मिळणार आहे. त्यानुसार, 'महावितरण'कडून खरेदीदाराला 'एसएमएस' पाठवून प्रक्रिया शुल्क भरण्यास सांगितले जाईल. ग्राहकांना घरबसल्या शुल्क भरता येणार आहे. त्यानंतर वीजजोडणी त्यांच्या नावावर होण्याची प्रक्रिया पूर्ण होणार आहे.

नवीन व्यवस्था आहे कशी?

- नोंदणी विभागात घरखरेदीची प्रक्रिया पूर्ण झाल्यावर 'महावितरण'ला संदेश पाठविण्यात येतो.
- यानुसार, 'महावितरण'कडून घर खरेदीदाराला 'एसएमएस' पाठविला जातो.
- आवश्यक प्रक्रिया शुल्क भरण्याविषयी कळविले जाते.
- प्रक्रिया शुल्क ग्राहकांना घरबसल्या ऑनलाइन भरता येते.
- ग्राहकाने शुल्क भरल्यावर वीजजोडणी त्यांच्या नावावर होते.
- पुढील महिन्याचे वीजबिल नव्या घरमालकाच्या नावाने पाठविले जाते.

अधिक मालक असल्यास...

एकापेक्षा अधिक व्यक्तींच्या नावे घराची खरेदी झाली असेल, तर 'महावितरण'कडून त्यांच्याशी संपर्क साधून कोणाच्या नावे वीजजोडणी हस्तांतर करायची आहे, याची निवड करण्यास सांगितले जाते. विजेची जोडणी एकच व्यक्ती किंवा संस्थेच्या नावे असू शकते.

एकशे साठ रुपयांपर्यंत शुल्क

घरगुती आणि व्यावसायिक ग्राहकांसाठी सिंगल किंवा थ्री फेज कनेक्शननुसार वीजजोडणी नावावर करून घेण्यासाठी एकशेसाठ रुपयांपर्यंत शुल्क आकारण्यात येते, असे 'महावितरण'तर्फे सांगण्यात आले.

घर खरेदीनंतर वीजजोडणी आपोआप बदलून मिळण्यासाठीच्या प्रकल्पाचे काम ऑक्टोबर महिन्यात सुरू झाले. आता हा प्रकल्प पूर्ण झाला असून, ग्राहकांना या नवीन सेवेचा लाभ घेता येणार आहे.

- विजय सिंघल,
अध्यक्ष व व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक,
इमहावितरण'

नवीन व्यवस्था झाली कार्यान्वित

- 'महावितरण'ने सुरू केलेल्या या नवीन व्यवस्थेची चाचणी यशस्वी झाली असून, ती आता कार्यान्वितही झाली आहे.
- त्यामुळे वीज जोडणी नावावर करून घेण्यासाठी लागणारा वेळ वाचणार आहे.
- सध्या जुने घर किंवा दुकान खरेदी केल्यावर वीजजोडणी जुन्या मालकाकडून स्वतःच्या नावावर करून घेण्यासाठी स्वतंत्र अर्ज करावा लागत होता.
- या बदलासाठी 'महावितरण'कडे दोन अर्ज भरावे लागत होते. त्यावर जुन्या मालकाची स्वाक्षरी, मालमतेचा 'इंडेक्स टू', ज्याच्या नावे करायचे त्याचे ओळखपत्र, संयुक्त खरेदी असल्यास अन्य मालकाचे 'ना हरकत प्रमाणपत्र' आदी कागदपत्रे जोडावी लागत होती.
- आवश्यक शुल्क भरल्यानंतर 'महावितरण'कडून या कागदपत्रांची पडताळणी होत असे. त्यासाठी ऑनलाइन सुविधाही उपलब्ध केली आहे.
- ऑनलाइन अर्ज भरून संबंधित कागदपत्रे अपलोड करता येतात. परंतु, या कागदपत्रांच्या पडताळणीसाठी वेळ लागत होता. त्यासाठी ग्राहकांना अनेकदा पाठपुरावा करावा लागत होता.
- ग्राहकांचा वेळ वाचावा, यासाठी 'महावितरण'ने आपली 'आयटी सिस्टीम' थेट मुद्रांक शुल्क व नादणी विभागाशी जोडली आहे.
- या नव्या प्रक्रियेत वीजजोडणी नावावर होण्यासाठी स्वतंत्र अर्ज करणे, कागदपत्रे दाखल करणे, पडताळणी करणे आणि पाठपुरावा करणे कमी झाल्याने ग्राहकांना दिलासा मिळाला आहे.

Mumbai: Power bills may continue to be 10-20 per cent higher till March; MERC to take final call

Reasons cited to collect FAC beyond November are: cost of power procurement remains high in recent months, imported coal is expensive, and to cater to high demand due to October heat and Diwali, power firms have signed short term purchase agreements at costs as high as Rs 7.50 per unit.

The Fuel Adjustment Charge (FAC), an additional levy of 10-20 per cent that you are paying in monthly power bills between July and November, is likely to continue for four subsequent months, power industry sources have indicated. Around 50 lakh consumers in Mumbai and an additional 2.8 crore across the state may thus incur higher electricity costs till March 2023.

An official from the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC), requesting anonymity, said the present order to levy FAC is valid only till November. "A few power discoms have petitioned us to allow recovery of more FAC and this is being looked into," he said, adding that MERC will take a final call in a month. The FAC allowed utility firms such as BEST, Tata Power, Adani Electricity and MSEDCL to charge 10-20 per cent extra till November on account of increase in coal prices in the international market due to the Russia-Ukraine war and the surge in purchase costs up to Rs 12 per unit at power exchanges in summer months. Reasons cited to collect FAC beyond November are: cost of power procurement remains high in recent months, imported coal is expensive, and to cater to high demand due to October heat and Diwali, power firms have signed short term purchase agreements at costs as high as Rs 7.50 per unit

"Consumers should not panic," said MSEDCL managing director Vijay Singhal. "FAC

is a variable component in your bill, and there is also the possibility of input costs and power purchase prices reducing in near future, which could lower the FAC drastically and reduce burden on consumers. Since we procured imported coal at higher costs, it increased power procurement costs and therefore we levied this charge. MERC, however, takes final call on whether to allow or not allow FAC in electricity bills," he pointed out.

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Responding to a query, Tata Power spokesperson said: "During the increased temperature days and in festive seasons, we see a trend of rising power demand. For the month of October when Diwali will be celebrated, we tied up 75 MW of extra power to meet our customers' requirements. We don't see any major effect of this on FAC. Also, there is sufficient quantity of power with long-term tie-ups and we can meet high demand when needed." An Adani Electricity official said that consumers are safeguarded from rising imported fuel prices and the company is already procuring cheaper renewable energy. Further the utility has also taken additional measures to further reduce cost of power supply, which will reduce FAC burden significantly. Power expert Ashok Pendse said power demand prior to the pandemic was around 17,000 MW for MSEDCL, but it shot up to a record 25,800 MW this summer. "We struggled to have zero load shedding...to manage such a power situation, we opted for electricity which was then being sold at a mind-boggling rate of Rs 20 per unit. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission capped this price and issued directives that it cannot be over Rs 12 per unit—which too was very high for Maharashtra. All these factors have increased purchase costs for discoms," he said.

As for power generators, they are citing coal imports, taxes and rail freight as reasons for input costs. "The MERC has allowed levy of FAC but this is spread over a few months so that there is no tariff shock to consumers — maximum hike being 20per cent," Pendse said. Consumers are, however, fuming over the 10per cent hikes. Said a MSEDCL consumer from Bhandup, "The bills were already high in summer and now there is a hike in my bills by 15per cent —from Rs 2,900 in May to Rs 3,400 now." A consumer from Lokhandwala complex in Andheri said the bill from Adani in May had shown charges of Rs 940 and now this has escalated to Rs 1,170, the hike being 12per cent. BEST general manager Lokesh Chandra too said the FAC hike permitted by MERC is likely to be levied till early next year. A MSEDCL official said the average hike was one rupee due to FAC, and this was being collected in installments, thereby reducing burden on consumers. In MSEDCL areas, it was observed that the FAC burden now was more on those whose power consumption was 300-500 units and 500+ units every month. Sources said the average hike in bills was one rupee per unit, but for those above 300 units consumption, the FAC hike was over Rs 2 per unit. The overall burden on state consumers was an estimated Rs 1,000 crore, the sources added.

NTPC commissions 162.27 MW solar capacity in Tamil Nadu



NTPC Limited has declared commercial operations of the first part capacity of 162.27 MW of the 230 MW Ettayapuram solar photovoltaic (PV) project in Thoothukudi District, Tamil Nadu.

The remaining 67.73 MW of Ettayapuram project is expected to be declared operational

within the next week. The engineering, procurement, and construction contractor for the project is Larsen and Toubro. The Ettayapuram plant is spread over about 900 acres of land and uses about 1.05 million solar panels, all of Indian origin. Drone-based digital technologies were extensively used during plant construction, for surveillance and monitoring. The power is being evacuated from the solar plant to Power Grid Corporation of India Limited's Tuticorin-II, gas insulated switchgear (GIS) substation through a 19 km long, 230kV transmission line. Power from the Ettayapuram solar plant is supplied to Telangana discoms. With this, the standalone installed and commercial capacity of NTPC has become 57,801.27 MW, while installed and commercial capacity of NTPC group has become 70,416.27 MW.



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- अशोक पेंडसे

कोविडच्या साथीमुळे बऱ्याच लोकांच्या नोकरीवर गंडांतर आले, अनेकांचा पगार कमी केला गेला, तर काही ठिकाणी वार्षिक वाढ दिली गेली नाही. हे एका बाजूला होत असताना, साधारणतः तीन टक्के वीज दरवाढ होत होती आणि सहा महिन्यांपूर्वी इंधन समायोजन आकार १.३५ रुपयांनी वाढवला गेला; त्यामुळे वीजदरात सुमारे १० ते १२ टक्क्यांची वाढ झाली. या दोन्ही गोष्टींमुळे झालेली वीज दरवाढ सामान्य माणसाला खूपच जाणवली. या पार्श्वभूमीवर भविष्यात वीजदर काय असतील आणि ते का वाढतात, याची कारणे हे दोन्ही बघणे जरूरीचे आहे.

देशभरात कारखाने आणि व्यावसायिक आस्थापने यांना सरासरीपेक्षा जास्त दर लावून नफा मिळवला जातो. या नफ्याचा वापर मुख्यतः शेती आणि घरगुती ग्राहकांना सरासरी दरापेक्षा कमी दरात वीज देण्यास केला जातो. महाराष्ट्र, तमिळनाडू, गुजरात अशा औद्योगिकदृष्ट्या पुढारलेल्या राज्यांत कारखाने आणि औद्योगिक आस्थापने यांचा वीजवापर एकूण वापराच्या २५ ते ३० टक्के आहे. याउलट बिहारसारख्या राज्यात हा वापर फक्त सहा टक्के आहे. महाराष्ट्रात अर्थातच या घटकांकडून मिळणारे अनुदान ७५ ते ८० टक्के, तर उरलेले अनुदान सरकारकडून मिळते. बिहारसारख्या राज्यात अर्थातच संपूर्ण अनुदान सरकारकडून घ्यावे लागते. कारखाने आणि व्यावसायिक आस्थापने यांना जगभरात स्पर्धा करायची असेल, तर विजेचा दर कमी हवा. यामुळे गेल्या काही वर्षांपासून वीजकंपनीकडून वीज घेण्याऐवजी, त्यांनी इतर निर्मात्यांकडून ती घेण्यास सुरुवात केली आहे. अर्थात, या योजनेमध्ये त्यांना अनुदानापोटी काही पैसे द्यावेच लागतात; पण ते पुरेसे नसतात. सौर आणि पवनऊर्जा यांचे दर गेल्या काही वर्षांत खूपच खाली, म्हणजे तीन ते साडेतीन रुपयांपर्यंत आले; त्यामुळे औद्योगिक आणि व्यावसायिक आस्थापनांनी सौर आणि पवनऊर्जेच्या माध्यमातून स्वतःला लागणारी वीजनिर्मिती व तिचा वापर चालू केला. या योजनेत त्यांना अनुदान द्यावे लागत नाही. सौरऊर्जा सुमारे आठच तास मिळते, तर पवनऊर्जा चार-पाच महिने मिळते. २४ तास विजेसाठी या ऊर्जास्रोतांकडून वीज घेऊन साठवणे हा एक उपाय आहे. उदाहरणार्थ बॅटरीमध्ये साठवणे. भविष्यात बॅटरीच्या किमती कमी होत असल्यामुळे, सौरऊर्जा, पवनऊर्जा आणि बॅटरी यांमुळे स्वयंपूर्ण होणे शक्य होईल, असे दिसते. तात्पर्य, कारखाने आणि व्यावसायिक आस्थापने यांचा वापर

कमी झाला आहे, एवढेच नव्हे, तर तो भविष्यात आणखी कमी होईल, असे दिसते. यांचा वापर कमी होणे, म्हणजे अर्थात अनुदान कमी होणे. हे अनुदान भरून काढण्याची निरनिराळ्या राज्यसरकारांची क्षमता आहे, असे वाटत नाही; त्यामुळे सामान्य ग्राहकांना सरासरी वीजदर, म्हणजेच वाढीव दर द्यावा लागेल.

देशभरामध्ये, सुमारे ७५ टक्के वीजनिर्मिती कोळशापासून केली जाते. याचा अर्थ, कोळशाशी संबंधित घटकांचा वीजदरावर परिणाम होणार. भारतामध्ये मोठ्या प्रमाणावर कोळसा उपलब्ध असला, तरी तो निर्मिती केंद्रांना मिळतो का, हा खरा प्रश्न आहे. केंद्र सरकारच्या अखत्यारीतील वीजनिर्मिती केंद्रे (उदा. एनटीपीसी), राज्याच्या अखत्यारीतील (महाजनको, तमिळनाडू जेनको वगैरे) आणि खाजगी वीजनिर्मिती केंद्रे (अदानी, जिंदाल, रतन इंडिया वगैरे) अशा तीन स्रोतांना कोळशाची गरज असते. राज्यस्तरीय आणि खासगी निर्मितीकेंद्रांना पुरेसा कोळसा मिळत नाही. ही तूट आयात कोळशाने भागवली जाते. आयात कोळशाची प्रत चांगली असली, तरी दर दुप्पट आहे. आयात कोळसा वापरणे, म्हणजे वीजदरात वाढ. वीजनिर्मितीचा दर कोळशाच्या किमतीवर अवलंबून असतो. त्यामध्ये कोळशाचा दर, अधिक वाहतूक खर्च (रेल्वे वाहतूक), अधिक केंद्रिय व राज्यस्तरीय कर. हे तिन्ही घटक प्रत्येकी एक तृतीयांश आहेत. उरलेल्या दोन घटकांवरील खर्च कमी होत नाही, तोपर्यंत नुसता कोळशाचा दर कमी होऊन खूपसा फरक पडणार नाही.

खासगी वीजनिर्मिती कंपन्यांनी इंडोनेशिया या देशातील कोळसा खाणी विकत घेऊन, दर नियंत्रित करण्याचा प्रयत्न केला होता; परंतु त्या देशांनी कायदा बदलून, त्या योजनेला सुरुंग लावला. सर्वोच्च न्यायालयाने निर्णय दिला, की इंडोनेशियातील कायदा बदल या नावाखाली भारतामध्ये त्या कंपन्यांना वीजदर वाढवता येणार नाही. या निकालातच, वचन दिल्याप्रमाणे कोळसा न देणे, हा मात्र कायद्यातील बदल आहे आणि त्यामुळे झालेली वीजदरातील वाढ जवळजवळ सर्व खासगी कंपन्यांना देणे भाग पडत आहे. हाही वीज दरवाढीचा मोठा भाग आहे.

आपण मोठ्या प्रमाणावर सौर आणि पवनऊर्जा विकत घेत आहोत. आधी म्हटल्याप्रमाणे ही वीज २४ तास १२ महिने मिळत नाही; त्यामुळे आपल्याला पुन्हा भरवशाच्या विजेवर, म्हणजे कोळशाकडे जावे लागते. कोळशापासून वीजनिर्मिती करणाऱ्या आस्थापनांशी पंचवीस वर्षांची दीर्घकालीन वीजकरार केले आहेत. या करारांद्वारे वीज घेतली किंवा नाही, तरीही ठरावीक स्थिरआकार द्यावा

लागतो. सौर आणि पवनऊर्जा होत असताना, कोळशापासूनच्या विजेची गरज नसते; पण स्थिरआकारातून सुटका नसते. हा दीर्घकालीन करारांमुळे आलेला स्थिरआकाराचा बोजा आता निश्चितच जाणवायला लागला आहे.

शेतीपंपासाठी वापरली जाणारी वीज नक्की किती, याचा घोळ संपतच नाही. आयआयटी अभ्यासगट, नियामक आयोग अभ्यासगट असे सगळे होऊनदेखील ही एक जादुगाराची पोतडीच झाली आहे. या पोतडीतून काय निघेल, हे सांगताच येत नाही. याचे मोजमाप नसल्यामुळे, वीजगळती कमी दाखवता येणे; तसेच शेतीचा वीजवापर वाढला, की सरकारी अनुदानात वाढ होणे, या दोन घटनांमुळे वीजकंपनीला ही परिस्थिती सुधारण्यात किती रस आहे, याची शंका येते. सप्टेंबर अखेरीस सुमारे ७१ हजार कोटी रुपयांची थकबाकी होती. यात शेतीची, अधिक पाणीपुरवठ्याची, अधिक दिवाबत्तीची, अधिक कामयस्वरूपी वीजजोडणी तोडलेल्याची अशी सुमारे ९२ टक्के एवढी थकबाकी आहे. घरगुती ग्राहकांची २.५० टक्के आणि कारखान्यांची चार टक्के थकबाकी आहे. घरगुती ग्राहकांना साधारणतः पाच टक्के बिले ही चुकीची जातात; त्यामुळे हे ग्राहक मंच, लोकपाल, उच्च न्यायालये अशा वेगवेगळ्या कायदेशीर मार्गांचा अवलंब करतात. त्यातील थकबाकी कितीशी वसूल होईल, हा एक प्रश्नच आहे. ही आकडेवारी दिली, तरी सर्वसामान्य वीजग्राहकांनी बिल भरलेच पाहिजे. बिल न भरणे, म्हणजे आपल्या वीजपुरवठ्यावर परिणाम करून घेण्यासारखे आहे.

वीज वितरण कंपनी मुख्यतः दोन-तीन कारणांसाठी भांडवली खर्च करते. एखाद्या नवीन भागात वस्ती होत असताना, त्यांना वीजपुरवठा करण्यासाठी भांडवली खर्च करावा लागतो. सध्याच्या ग्राहकांच्या मागणीत वाढ झाल्यामुळे, उपकरणांची क्षमता वाढवावी लागते आणि तिसरा भाग म्हणजे, ग्राहकांना अधिक सुविधा देणे. उदा. वीजबिल वाचन करायला कर्मचारी येणार असल्याचे एसएमएसद्वारे कळवणे. पहिला भाग वगळता, उरलेल्या दोन भागांसाठी प्रस्तावात म्हटल्याप्रमाणे खरोखरीच फायदा झाला का, हे तपासणे अत्यंत आवश्यक असते. भांडवली खर्चांमुळे घसारा, अधिक व्याज, अधिक भागभांडवलावरचा परतावा यापोटी खर्चात सुमारे वीस टक्के वाढ होते. कंपन्यांच्या कर्मचारी आणि अधिकारी वर्गावर होणाऱ्या खर्चातही मोठ्या प्रमाणावर वाढ होत आहे.

असे म्हणतात, की मांजर पडताना नेहमी चार पायांवरच

पडते; त्याचप्रमाणे वरील घटकांत काहीही घडले, तरी त्याचे उत्तर एकच, वीज दरवाढ आणि देणाराही एकच तो, वीजग्राहक. वीज दरवाढीस वर विश्लेषण केल्याप्रमाणे बरेच घटक जबाबदार आहेत. जोपर्यंत वेगवेगळ्या स्तरावर; तसेच सरकार, वीजकंपनी, वीजग्राहक असे सगळे मिळून प्रयत्न करित नाहीत, तोपर्यंत या घटकांवर वचक ठेवणे कठीण आहे.



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CIL issues orders for seven coal projects to be developed by MDOs



Coal India Limited (CIL) has issued orders for seven coal projects to be developed by mine developer and operators (MDOs).

Of the seven projects, three belong to CIL's subsidiary Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and two belong to Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL). Meanwhile, South Eastern Coalfields Limited and Eastern Coalfield Limited account for one project each. CIL is set to invest Rs 206 billion in land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement issues, and railway sidings. It is tracking a total of 15 new coal projects to mine coal through MDOs. The MDOs will excavate, extract and deliver coal to the companies as per the approved mining plan. Ownership of the mines and coal and the right to sell coal rests with CIL.

This engagement with MDOs via open global tenders aims to augment domestic coal production and reduce reliance on imports.

Geothermal energy powered EVs launched in the Philippines

Energy Development Corporation (EDC) has launched geothermal energy powered electric vehicles (EV) in the Philippines in an effort to decarbonise its operations.

As a part of its long-term sustainability goals, these EVs will be rolled out across all EDC sites in the Philippines. The first three EVs launched have been developed in partnership with Hong Equipment and Development Corporation. These EVs will undergo a six-month-long pilot test to assess the need for additional units for the other facilities. The company also plans to launch two additional EVs in 2023. Energy to power the EVs will be sourced from EDC's Geo 24/7 facilities.



IREDA inks Rs 44.45 billion loan agreement with SJVN Green Energy for 1,000 MW solar power project

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) has signed a loan agreement for Rs 44.45 billion with SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL), a subsidiary of SJVN Limited, for development of a 1,000 MW solar power project at Bikaner, Rajasthan.

SJVN has bagged the project through a tender floated by IREDA under the central public sector undertaking (CPSU) Phase-II (Tranche III) scheme for development of grid connected solar photovoltaic (PV) power project through competitive bidding process based on viability gap funding (VGF) support. The project will connect to 400/220 KV substation Bikaner-II. This partnership will encourage green investment.



NTPC Limited set to raise Rs 5 billion via issuance of non-convertible debentures

NTPC Limited is set to raise Rs 5 billion through the issuance of unsecured non-convertible debentures (NCDs) on private placement.

The NCDs will have a coupon of 7.44 per cent per annum, with a door-to-door maturity of 10 years 3 months 30 days on April 15, 2033. The proceeds from the transaction will be used for inter alia, funding capital expenditure, refinancing existing loans, and other general corporate purposes.

The NCDs will reportedly be listed on BSE. Debenture Trust Deed will be duly executed as per the requirements of and within the period of time prescribed under the Companies Act and rules specified therein. These debentures will be issued under the recommendation of the board resolution issued on July 29, 2022 and subsequent approval obtained through the shareholders' resolution dated August 30, 2022. This is the first issue of debentures under the above-mentioned approval.





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