

Central Sector

❖ The **central government** has **sanctioned Rs 66 billion** to the **state power utilities of Andhra Pradesh** as a **loan under the Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme**. The government released Rs 33 billion to the state under the second trench of the loan and already released an amount of Rs 33 billion so far. Reportedly, the power utilities saved Rs 10.23 billion by procuring power at power exchanges. The power utilities reduce AT&C losses to 13.36 per cent in 2019-20 from 16.36 per cent in the previous year. The state also saved fixed cost payments of Rs 8.50 billion per annum by surrendering 625 MW of coal power from central generating stations. In addition, the power utilities procured 6,320 MUs of power from open market during the current financial year.

❖ The **government** has **received only one technical bid** for **Kuraloi (A) north coal mine** in **Odisha** out of **four mines put up for re-auction**. The coal ministry had re-invited bids for four coal blocks whose tender process was annulled in the first round of auction for commercial mining as the number of technically qualified bidder for each mine was just one. Of the four coal blocks, three are in Odisha and one in Jharkhand. The bids will be evaluated by a multi-disciplinary technical evaluation committee and further action shall be taken in accordance with provisions of the tender document, under the auction process.

❖ The **central government** **plans to provide incentives to mine block allocatees for early commencement of production** from the **auctioned mines** for increasing mineral output of the country and reducing imports. The Ministry of Mines plans to do the same through the Mineral (Auction) Amendment Rules, 2021 seeking to amend Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015. The ministry has sought comments and suggestions from stakeholders on the same. In view of the high-level committee (HLC) recommendation, it has been decided to provide in the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 for fully explored blocks, to provide a 50 per cent rebate in the quoted revenue share, for the quantity of mineral produced and dispatched earlier than scheduled date of production as provided in tender document.

❖ **India** has **signed a strategic partnership agreement** with the **International Energy Agency (IEA)** to **strengthen cooperation in global energy security, stability and sustainability**. This partnership will lead to an extensive exchange of knowledge and would be a stepping stone towards India becoming a full member of IEA. The contents of the strategic partnership will be jointly decided by IEA members and India, including a phased increase in benefits and responsibilities for India as an IEA strategic partner, and building on existing areas of work within association and the Clean Energy Transitions Programme, such as energy security, clean and sustainable energy, expansion of gas-based economy in India etc.

❖ **India and Denmark** have **launched a Green Strategic Partnership**, that will enable Denmark in delivering sustainable solutions to India. Under this partnership, the two countries will be cooperating through ministries, institutions, and stakeholders to expand economic relations, green growth, and reaching climate goals. The partnership would build on and consolidate the existing agreement establishing a Joint Commission for Cooperation between India and Denmark that envisaged cooperation within the political field, environment, renewable energy, and science and technology, among others. Both countries have set ambitious national targets on climate and energy that would contribute to an ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement.

State Sector

❖ The **union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands** has **flagged off 40 electric buses to curb pollution** under a project being executed by **NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVNL)**. The introduction of electric buses in the Island union territory will help cut down tail pipe emissions as well as provide comfortable public transport. In addition to the above project, NVVNL has emerged as the successful bidder for providing turnkey solutions for 90 electric buses in Bengaluru under the smart city project. These buses will provide last-mile connectivity to the Namma metro network in the islands.

❖ **Chandigarh** has **installed over 5,000 smart electricity meters** across the city under the **smart grid project** and linked these with the new command and control centre. Under this pilot project, the UT administration has identified 30,000 devices to replace with these smart meters. After replacement, the engineering department will extend it to the entire city, and replace all power meters. Further, the central government is giving Rs 2.41 billion for 250,000 smart meters in the city.

Private Sector

❖ **Vikram Solar** has **commissioned** a **140 MW solar plant project** for **NTPC Limited** at Bilhaur, Kanpur, **Uttar Pradesh**. The solar project also includes a 33/132 KV switchyard. The project is expected to yield 319 MUs of energy in Uttar Pradesh, enough to power 145,662 houses per year. The project has been developed by NTPC after winning a competitive bid from Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA). This is the largest capacity solar plant commissioned so far in the state.

❖ **CESC Limited**, in collaboration with **Exide Industries**, has **inaugurated** grid-connected **315 kWh battery energy storage systems** (BESS) at low tension (LT) distribution system for better peak load management. This BESS uses latest gel type lead acid technology, propelling a higher level of efficiency and safety. The BESS is located at CESC's east Calcutta substation near Kankurgachi. The project is expected to improve voltage profile, frequency management, integrate intermittent energy sources and ensure high power quality.

Projects and Ventures

❖ **Tata Power Solar Systems Limited** (TPSSL) has **bagged** an **order worth Rs 12 billion** from **NTPC Limited** for setting up a **320 MW ground mounted solar project**. The commercial operation date for this project is May 2022. In a separate development, TPSSL has received a letter of award for a 95 MW solar photovoltaic project worth Rs 4.60 billion for Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited (GSECL). The commercial operation date for the project is expected to be April 2022. With this contract, the order pipeline of TPSSL stands at about 4.2 GWp with a value of about Rs 125 billion.

Financials

❖ **JSW Energy Limited** has recorded a **consolidated total income** of **Rs 16.59 billion** for the **quarter ended December 2020**, a **decrease of 17.71 per cent** over Rs 20.16 billion recorded in the same quarter of previous year. The company's net profit decreased by 64.85 per cent to Rs 1.42 billion in the quarter ended December 2020 from Rs 4.04 billion during quarter ended December 2019.

❖ **Indian Energy Exchange Limited** has recorded a **consolidated total income** of **Rs 960.95 million** for the **quarter ended December 2020**, an **increase of 38.32 per cent** over Rs 694.20 million recorded in the same quarter of previous year. The company's net profit increased by 39.47 per cent to Rs 581.44 million in the quarter ended December 2020 from Rs 416.90 million during quarter ended December 2019.

Debt and Equity

❖ **EDEN Renewables India** has tied up with **DBS Bank Limited, Standard Chartered Bank and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation** (Singapore Branch) for funding or **financing its \$165-million** (about Rs 12 billion) **450 MW peak solar power project** in **Rajasthan**. The project, currently under construction in Rajasthan, was awarded to EDEN within the context of a tender launched by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), following which EDEN signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with SECI in June 2019. The project's commissioning is expected towards the first half of 2021.

❖ **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited** (Powergrid) has **filed draft papers** for an **initial public offering** (IPO) of its **first infrastructure investment trust** (InvIT) for around **Rs 80 billion**, making it the first state-run entity to monetise its assets through this route. The IPO aims to raise up to Rs 49.95 billion by selling new units of the InvIT and another Rs 30 billion through sale of Powergrid's units in the trust. The InvIT will initially have a portfolio of five projects entailing 11 transmission lines aggregating 3,698 km owned and operated by Powergrid across five states, which were awarded to it through the tariff-based competitive bidding route. The power ministry had in September 2020 secured cabinet approval for Powergrid to monetise transmission lines via InvIT. The InvIT IPO is being managed by ICICI Securities, Axis Capital and Edelweiss.

❖ **NTPC Limited** plans to **raise Rs 25 billion** through **issuance of non-convertible bonds** via **private placement** on January 27, 2021. The bonds will have a coupon of 6.43 per cent per annum with a door to door maturity of 10 years. The proceeds will be utilised for funding capital expenditure, refinancing of existing loans and other general corporate purposes, among others. The bonds are proposed to be listed on Bombay Stock Exchange.