

## Central Sector

❖ The **Ministry of Power (MoP)** has decided to **set up a National Mission on Use of Biomass in Coal-based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs)** to help **solve** the problem of **air pollution** due to **farm stubble burning** and to **reduce the carbon footprint of TPPs**. The main objectives of the mission are to increase the level of co-firing from present 5 per cent in order to have a larger share of carbon neutral power generation from the TPPs; to take up research and development activities in boiler design to handle the higher amount of silica, alkalis in the biomass pellets; to facilitate removing the constraints in supply chain of biomass pellets and agro-residue and its transport to the TPPs; to consider regulatory issues in biomass co-firing. The modalities of the mission are under finalisation. The duration of the mission would be a minimum of 5 years.

❖ **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** has **invited applications** for **setting up manufacturing capacities for high-efficiency solar photovoltaic (PV) modules** under the **production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme**. The beneficiaries of the PLI scheme will be selected through competitive bidding and the evaluation of bids will be on the basis of manufacturing capacity proposed to be set up by companies and the extent of elementary products required for manufacturing solar panels. The applicants are required to set up either a brownfield or greenfield manufacturing facility for the entire capacity allotted under the scheme. The last date for application submission is June 30, 2021 and bids will open on July 1, 2021.

❖ **Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)** has **issued a tender for development of 1,200 MW interstate transmission system (ISTS)-connected wind power projects (Tranche-XI)**. Power purchased by SECI from these projects will be sold to the discoms of Madhya Pradesh through Madhya Pradesh Power Management Company Limited. A minimum capacity of 50 MW and a maximum of 1,200 MW can be offered in a single bid. The projects should be quoted in multiples of 10 MW. The projects should be designed so as to interconnect with the ISTS per prevailing regulations. The last date to submit the bids is July 6, 2021.

❖ The **Ministry of Coal** is likely to **club all spot coal auctions for regulated and non-regulated sectors**, aiming at a **market-determined uniform price** for every grade. At present, separate auctions are held for different sectors and special auctions are held for the power sector, which is the only regulated sector. The move aims to make the process more transparent as to which mine will allocate coal for which auction category. A note has been circulated for inter-ministerial consultations, after which the union cabinet will be approached.

❖ **SJVN Limited** has floated **engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) tender** inviting **bids** for a **75 MW capacity solar project at Parasan Solar Park in Uttar Pradesh**. The responsibilities of the successful bidder will include design, engineering, supply, erection, testing, and commissioning of the project; along with operation and maintenance (O&M) activities of the project for three years. The EPC work needs to be completed within 15 months from the date of issue of letter to the contractor for handing over of land by SJVN. The last date to submit the bids is June 11, 2021.

## State Sector

❖ The **administration of the union territory (UT) of Chandigarh** has **requested the Electricity Department (ED) of Chandigarh to submit the progress report of the privatisation initiative**. Seven firms (Sterlite Power, ReNew Wind Energy, NTPC Electric Supply Company Limited, Adani Transmission Limited, Tata Power, Torrent Power and Eminent Electricity Power Company) had participated in the tender and the UT administration had invited technical bids of all seven firms and submitted the case to the technical bids evaluation committee. The administration is likely to complete the process by soon.

❖ **Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL)** has **signed an agreement with Goa Energy Development Agency (GEDA)** for the **installation of solar PV based home lighting systems** for households in **Goa**. The installation will be carried out in remote areas without proper power supply. As per the agreement, CESL will install and maintain solar PV systems for five years under the remote village electrification (RVE) programme of the Government of Goa. This project is the first off-grid electricity project for CESL.

## Private Sector

Note: Rs 1 crore = Rs 0.01 billion; Rs 1 lakh = Rs 0.1 million; Rs 1,000 million = Rs 1 billion

- ❖ The **Association of Power Producers (APP)** has placed request with the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** for **relaxation of fly-ash disposal norms** due to **declining demand of fly-ash**. APP has requested not to impose penalties on the TPPs in the 2020-22 period if they are unable to utilise 100 per cent of the fly-ash, as the demand for fly-ash from cement plants, brick manufacturing units and road construction agencies had decreased since March 2020 due to the lockdowns and curfews.
- ❖ **Hitachi ABB Power Grids** in India **plans to achieve carbon-neutrality targets by 2030** in its operations. The company has already signed power purchase agreements with some of the green power generators in Gujarat including Amplus Solar Solutions, and will be signing more such contracts to move to 100 per cent green energy by March 2022. Currently, around 30 per cent of its power is green.

## Projects and Ventures

- ❖ **NHPC Limited** has placed an order amounting to **Rs 1,881.9 million** with **Tata Power Solar Systems Limited** to **set up 40 MW solar power plant** at Landeihil village at **Ganjam** district in **Odisha**. As per the EPC contract, the project will be set up on government land acquired by NHPC through the state agency Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation, along with the associated 220 kV transmission line for connectivity work at 220 kV transmission system at loop-in-loop-out provision. The contract will also include responsibilities of O&M activities of the project for ten years. The project has been approved by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and will be commissioned within 12 months.
- ❖ **Salsar Techno Engineering Limited** has received orders amounting to **Rs 2.38 billion** from the **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (Powergrid)**. The order is for the construction of 201 km of power transmission line network and four new substations in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ **Wärtsilä** has secured a project through **international competitive bidding process** to supply **Oil India Limited (OIL)** with a **30 MW power plant** to be delivered under an **EPC contract**, with targeted commissioning by **November 2022**. The plant, located at Duliajan in Assam, will be the main source of power for OIL's facility at Duliajan, which does not have connection to the grid. It caters power to liquefied petroleum gas bottling cum extraction facility, gas gathering station, the entire OIL township and other critical loads. The plant will operate with three Wärtsilä W20V34SG gas engines running on natural gas from OIL's captive fields.

## Financials

- ❖ **Kalpataru Power Transmission Limited** has recorded a **consolidated total income of Rs 130.16 billion** for the **year ended March 2021**, an **increase of 2.3 per cent** from **Rs 127.20 billion** recorded **last year**. Its net profit increased by 69.7 per cent to Rs 6.62 billion from Rs 3.90 billion during the same period.
- ❖ **India Grid Trust** has recorded a **consolidated total income of Rs 17.14 billion** for **year ended March 2021**, marking an **increase of 34 per cent** from **Rs 12.79 billion** recorded **last year**. The company's PAT decreased by 33.9 per cent to Rs 3.34 billion from Rs 5.06 billion during the same period.

## Debt and Equity

- ❖ **Powergrid** has granted approval for investment worth **Rs 22.02 billion** on **projects** in their respective meetings held on May 21, 2021. The projects for which investment approval has been accorded include Transmission System Strengthening Scheme for evacuation of Power from Solar Energy Zones in Rajasthan (8.1 GW) under Phase-II – Part-B1; and the North Eastern Region Strengthening Scheme-XII (NERSS-XII). Other investment approvals include – capital expenditure for procurement of telecom equipment for building an exclusive dedicated telecom network for National Transmission Asset Management Centre (NTAMC); Transmission System for Power Evacuation from Arun-3 (900 MW) hydroelectric plant, Nepal; and approval for equity investment to pay off the state contribution of 5 per cent project cost to UT of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, and expenditure towards procurement of spares for 220 kV Srinagar-Leh Transmission System.
- ❖ **Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited (AREHFL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) has transferred **74 per cent stake of Mundra Solar Energy Limited (MSEL)**. According to the BSE filing, 7,400 equity have been transferred to Adani Tradecom LLP (ATLLP) at face value of Rs 10 each, aggregating to Rs 74,000.