



POWER SECTOR

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POWER PURCHASE

» CEA ACCORDS CONCURRENCE TO TWO HYDRO PSPs IN MAHARASHTRA

- > The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has approved two hydro pumped storage projects (PSPs) in Maharashtra, totalling 2,500 MW: a 1,500 MW project by JSW Energy Limited and a 1,000 MW project by Tata Power Company Limited.
- > These approvals were supported by the Central Water Commission, Geological Survey of India, and Central Soil and Materials Research Station.
- > The developers plan to complete the projects within 44 to 46 months, aiming for completion by 2028, providing over 15 GWh of combined storage capacity.
- > CEA aims to approve at least two PSPs monthly this year, targeting 15 hydro PSPs totalling 25,500 MW capacity for 2024-25.
- > An online portal named "Jalvi-store" has been introduced by CEA to enhance transparency in processing projects at the pre-detailed project report stage.



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- CEA ACCORDS CONCURRENCE TO TWO HYDRO PSPs IN MAHARASHTRA
- CIL INKS JVA WITH RRVUNL TO SET UP A THERMAL POWER PROJECT



RENEWABLES

- MINISTRY OF POWER INAUGURATES CSIRT-POWER FACILITY
- MNRE EXPANDS CFA TO INCLUDE BATTERY-INTEGRATED ROOFTOP SOLAR SYSTEMS



Policy and Regulatory

- ROOFTOP SOLAR INSTALLATION SIMPLIFIED: AUTOMATIC LOAD ENHANCEMENT NOW MANDATORY FOR DISCOMS



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» CIL INKS JVA WITH RRVUNL TO SET UP A THERMAL POWER PROJECT

- > Coal India Limited (CIL) has entered into a joint venture agreement (JVA) with Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL) to establish a 2×800 MW brownfield thermal power project at RRVUNL's Kalisindh thermal power station.
- > In the joint venture company (JVC), CIL will hold a 74% stake while RRVUNL will own 26%.
- > The JVC will be structured as a private limited company with an initial paid-up capital of Rs 1 million and an authorized share capital of Rs 100 million, consisting of 10 million equity shares priced at Rs 10 each.





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RENEWABLES

» MINISTRY OF POWER INAUGURATES CSIRT-POWER FACILITY

- > The Ministry of Power (MoP) inaugurated the Computer Security Incident Response Team – Power (CSIRT-Power) facility in New Delhi to tackle cybersecurity challenges in the power sector.
- > CSIRT-Power will act as the central agency for addressing cyber incidents and ensuring coordinated responses.
- > Its main objective is to enhance cybersecurity resilience in the Indian power sector through prevention, response, and analysis of cyber threats.
- > The facility will promote cybersecurity awareness, best practices, and provide expertise to utilities while facilitating stakeholder cooperation to strengthen efforts.



» MNRE EXPANDS CFA TO INCLUDE BATTERY-INTEGRATED ROOFTOP SOLAR SYSTEMS

- > The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) allows residential rooftop solar projects with battery storage to qualify for CFA under the PM-KUSUM scheme.
- > Besides solar panels, small wind hybrids, battery storage systems, solar trackers, and hybrid inverters are also eligible for financial support.
- > Households with solar panels and integrated battery storage systems can now apply for CFA, enhancing their energy independence.
- > DISCOMs (distribution companies) are now required to allow inverter capacity up to the sanctioned load, providing flexibility for future solar system expansion.



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RENEWABLES

- > Projects must be submitted with geotagged photographs as part of the application process to ensure location accuracy and transparency.
- > This program aligns with India's vision of promoting sustainable and cost-effective energy solutions through rooftop solar innovations.
- > The initiative is part of broader efforts to incorporate innovative technologies in the solar sector, supporting government targets for renewable energy adoption.
- > DISCOMs play a crucial role in facilitating these solar projects and ensuring the implementation of CFA benefits.
- > Battery storage enables consumers to store excess energy, reducing electricity bills by utilizing stored power during non-solar hours.
- > This policy move aims to drive further adoption of solar energy, particularly in residential sectors, contributing to the national renewable energy goals.





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POLICY AND REGULATORY

» ROOFTOP SOLAR INSTALLATION SIMPLIFIED: AUTOMATIC LOAD ENHANCEMENT NOW MANDATORY FOR DISCOMS

- > The Ministry of Power issued new rooftop solar guidelines to streamline the process under the PM Surya Ghar program.
- > DISCOMs must automatically increase sanctioned load for rooftop solar installations up to 10 kW, eliminating the need for separate load enhancement requests.
- > Consumers installing rooftop solar can enhance their load without filing additional applications, easing the administrative burden.
- > All fees related to the enhancement, like infrastructure costs and load enhancement charges, should be consolidated during the installation or commissioning of the rooftop solar system.
- > The guidelines mandate that smart meters should be installed for rooftop solar users, prioritizing installations with no additional charges to consumers.
- > DISCOMs are required to digitize consumer data and rooftop solar installation details, leading to faster approvals and better system management.
- > Improved net metering processes are emphasized to ensure seamless integration of rooftop solar power generation into the grid.
- > These reforms aim to simplify the process, reduce delays, and make rooftop solar more accessible to consumers, aligning with India's renewable energy goals.

