

Prospects and Challenges of Solar Power in India

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India is a developing economy. To maintain the economic growth, adequate provision of energy is a prerequisite. Various measures have been initiated in the country to bridge the energy deficit and also to develop sustainable, new and renewable energy sources. India has already been recognized as one of the pioneering countries in development and promotion of renewable energy. As a part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), the Government of India initiated the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission in 2010. It is a major initiative to ensure energy security of the country and to promote environmentally efficient growth through large scale deployment of grid connected and off-grid solar power applications. A number of ambitious goals were set up.

The National Solar Mission has been accepted enthusiastically by all stakeholders. Many State Governments have announced their solar policies. The first phase of the National Solar Mission has already crossed its targeted date. Around 2000 MW solar power projects have been commissioned. The second phase has already been announced by the Government.

The Indian solar market now is one of the most exciting growth markets in the world. The geographic latitude, the high incidence of solar radiation and the demand pattern of energy for many essential services provide the necessary conditions for accelerated exploitation of solar power in the country. The experience gained during the last three years has shown that solar power can definitely play an important role in augmenting the power scenario in the country. However, there are still a number of challenges that need to be addressed to achieve the desired impact.

The lecture would present an analysis of the situation emphasizing on the prospects and challenges of solar power in India.