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Government Bets Big On Solar Power

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 **THIS STORY IS FROM SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

Government bets big on solar power

[Sandeep Moudgal](#) / TNN / Sep 18, 2023, 11:55 IST



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Indian Oil Corporation Ltd and National Thermal Power Corporation are planning to set up two gigawatt solar power plants each in Karnataka. The state already has a 2050MW capacity solar park in Tumakuru and plans to add additional 500MW parks in Kalaburagi and Bidar. The state government has sent a proposal to the

BENGALURU: [Karnataka](#) appears to be betting big on solar power with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd and National Thermal Power Corporation planning to set up plants that churn out a staggering two gigawatts (2,000MW) each. The state already has a 2050MW capacity solar park at Pavagada in Tumakuru, and additional 500MW parks are being planned in Kalaburagi and Bidar respectively.

Sources say the government has identified 10,000 acres of land in Ryapte gram panchayat in Pavagada, in

the vicinity of the existing 13,000-acre solar park, for the plants of the two central government units. A proposal was sent to the ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) earlier this month with the state seeking a revenue of 25 paise per unit of power generated. As a result, KREDL — the state's nodal agency for renewable energy — may see Rs 175 crore flow into its coffers. But officials say the IOCL and NTPC projects have long gestation periods and the state government must decide whether it will benefit Karnataka or whether the companies will only supply power to the national grid since both corporations deal in merchant power.

The government has already proposed the expansion of the Pavagada park and plans to add another 300MW to the existing capacity of 2,050MW. Karnataka Solar Power Development Corporation Ltd (KSPDCL) is handling the expansion which is likely to be completed by 2025. "Karnataka has proved that it is capable of generating big amounts of power, so the government must decide whether the projects of the two central government units will benefit the state," said a government official.

Meanwhile, the government has already decided to call for tenders on tariff basis for the Kalaburagi plant. The Power Corporation of Karnataka Ltd (PKCL) has fixed a price of Rs 22,000 per acre per year and Bescom has consented to purchase power. In Bidar, the government has secured approval of MNRE to set up a 500MW plant with Rs 20 lakh per MW (30%) of the cost as central assistance. KREDL has identified 2,500 acres in four villages of Aurad taluk for the project. In its annual report for 2022-23, MNRE has estimated that Karnataka has the potential to generate 24GW but presently has installed capacity of 7,885MW. Overall, plants in the state generate a maximum of 6,664 MW at peak load.

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About the Author

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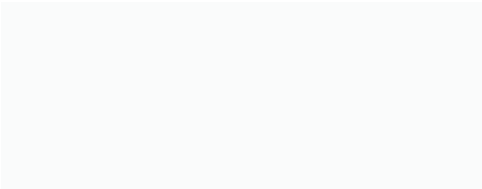
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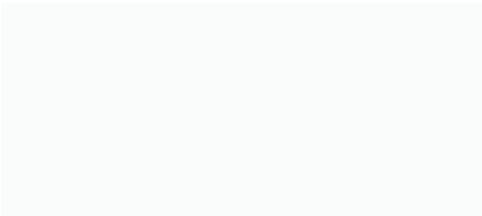
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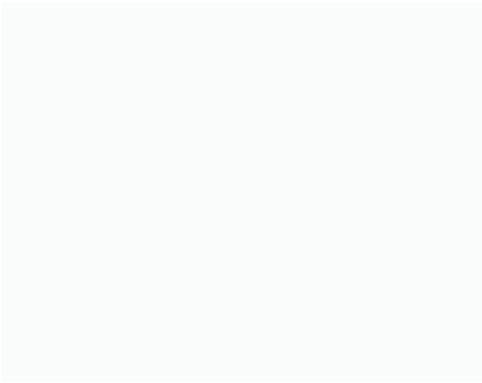
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