

Karnataka's Pavagada solar park fails locals, India's renewable energy goals

The park, one of the world's largest, has failed to transcend caste and gender barriers in bringing jobs and other economic benefits for the locals.

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Back in 2015, Muthyallappa Venkatesh and his fellow villagers from Karnataka's Vollur village received a lucrative offer. They could earn Rs 21,000 per acre every year in exchange for covering their land with solar panels.

For a long time, Venkatesh had yearned for some kind of relief, working as an agricultural labourer in rich farmers' lands for much of his life. His three-acre farm barely produced enough to feed his 17-member family amid prolonged spells of drought in the region. By 31, he was already deemed a "Naxalite" by the state, with ...

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