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Firms opt for alternate solutions to evacuate solar, wind power

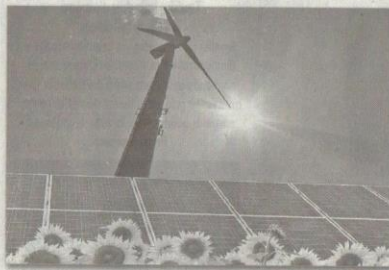
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AS companies continue to face the brunt of state electricity boards due to evacuation-related issues of renewable power produced in southern states, they have started using alternative solutions to evacuate solar and wind power.

VK Midha, global business development advisor of Astonfield Solesa Solar Solutions, said that faced with power shortage, most commercial and industrial units have to use DG sets as back up. The non-availability of grid on a continuance basis also seriously limits the evacuation of renewable en-

ergy, especially in southern states like Tamil Nadu and to some extent in Andhra and Karnataka. "To overcome this situation we have come up with a control system that can run on all three platforms and optimise the use of solar as well as DG sets thereby substantially saving the expensive diesel solution," he said.

The system allows grid-dependent industries to utilise these systems when the grid goes down. Projects of higher sizes are sourcing express feeders at a certain cost, which is slightly expensive. The Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) is also setting up around Rs 13,000 crore worth of inter-



SECTOR TURMOIL: Tamil Nadu and Karnataka were the first to announce solar power policy with renewable purchase pact

state transmission lines under the Green Energy Corridor (GEC) where states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra, Karnataka and Rajasthan

would get the opportunity to flow additional power produced into the national grid.

IS Jha, director projects of PGCIL said, they are only

building inter-state transmission lines while state governments' are responsible for the intra-state transmission networks under the GEC.

It will be up to the state government alone to resolve the issues within the state.

However, if they have additional capacity on the network, they can supply it to the national grid through the inter-state network that we are building.

"We expect our part of laying the network under GEC to get over in the next two to three years," Jha said.

Tamil Nadu continues to face severe power shortages.

Despite it producing the largest quantity of wind power, it does not get fully evacuated to the grid in the

absence of adequate number of substations and overhead lines.

"There is continued blockage in the grid lines or the ineptness

of transmission lines during the peak hours to take on the load. This has led to state electricity boards even refusing to sign permanent agreements with the power producers as they are not dependable," said a director of advisory firm.

Tamil Nadu and Karnataka were amongst the first to

announce solar power policy with renewable purchase agreements of 5-6 per cent.

However, they could not keep the commitment since the investments in T&D capacities have not happened in alignment with renewable

power capacities being added, said Midha. It has

been emphasised in the short term that apart from financial problems, it is important that the government

identify precisely where the roadblocks lie on the existing infrastructure. "It is important to resolve the issue on a permanent basis. Another

area to look at is the transformer capacity," he said.

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