



e-paper



Read 5 Time(s)



Jul 22 2016 : The Times of India (Bangalore)

'Solar power must to decarbonize power sector'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Last year, Bengaluru saw a surge in citizens trying to switch over to solar power. And, many are not just using the environment-friendly mode of power but also giving the excess back to the grid and making money.

Though the state government's solar policy hasn't made much difference to the electricity supply companies (Escoms) financially, scientists feel the trend will change in the coming days.

FOCUS ON ENERGY

"Citizens have realized the cost of installing solar power generating system is not a hindrance to move forward. Let anybody (domestic/commercial or industrial consumer) opt for solar power, why would the government worry? One has to see the long-term gain and environment impact if solar power is tapped at higher levels and dependency on fossil fuel is re-

duced. The world is talking about climate change mitigation and that's what the government should be concerned about," Ashok Shukla, IISc professor, said.

He was speaking at the two-day workshop on Smart villages and minigrid energy generation, storage and transmission technology in India for the next decade, organized by the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, and the University of Cambridge, UK.

Scientists from across the world stressed on the need to turn to renewable energy sources to ensure 24/7 electricity.

Jenny Nelson, physics professor, Imperial College of London, who researches on materials used for solar cells, said: "Solar power is critical to decarbonize the power sector. Although the demand for crystalline silicon for photo voltaic (PV) cells is all-time high, our projects in three different remote villages in India proves that the future is bright for organic and concentrator PV to generate solar power and be a sustainable long-term solution."

Energy-smart villages

Ashok Das, founder CEO of Sunmoksha company, said how many clusters in Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar and West Bengal are becoming smart villages. "Renewable energy does not stand alone. Villagers have to be educated about nanogrids—the technology involved in the project, how people's health would improve, better access to water and more employment generation if there's 24/7 electricity, etc. Jharkhand was one of the first states to be notified to have smart villages. This helps check migration to urban areas," he said.

Odisha, which had over 500 villages with no electricity, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal were also desperate to get power. His company has zeroed in on many villages to develop nanogrids that are able to store power from renewable energy sources as well. "It's easier and faster to create 1,000 smart villages than 100 smart cities," he added.

[About Us](#) | [Advertise with Us](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)
Copyright © 2010 Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. All rights reserved.
Site best viewed in 1024 * 786 resolution