

POWER MARKET CAPSULE-184th Edition

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TPTCL'S E-NEWS LETTER



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Tata Power Trading Company Limited (TPTCL)



Power Market News

Utilities' Sept coal imports at 7 year-low despite call to boost shipments

Indian utilities' coal imports fell more than 73% in September to their lowest in more than seven years due to high prices, government data showed, despite a call by the federal government to boost shipments to arrest a crippling coal shortage. Imports by Indian utilities fell to 1.08 million tonnes in September, compared with 4.03 million tonnes in the same period in 2020 and 5.23 million tonnes in September 2019. Import data for periods preceding April 2014 were unavailable.

India had urged utilities to import coal in late August as coal-fired electricity generation surged after coronavirus-related curbs were eased, with several power plants being pushed to the verge of running out of fuel. However, data from the Central Electricity Authority showed state government-run coastal power plants, which are dependent on imported coal, had cut supplies as global prices surged, increasing pressure on state-run Coal India to produce more.

Nearly three-fifths of India's coal-fired capacities currently have coal inventories that would last three days or less, federal power ministry data shows. Imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) by utilities during the September quarter also slumped 36%, the data showed, hitting their lowest levels in three years. The drop represented the steepest monthly decline in at least three and a half years. Coal imports by power plants fell 55% during the quarter, making it the biggest fall in at least six and a half years.

Overall gas consumption by utilities fell by about a fifth during the quarter, with power plants increasing reliance on long-term contracts with global and domestic firms, and cut down on spot buying as prices surged, the data showed. India mainly imports natural gas from Qatar, while Indonesia, Australia and South Africa are key suppliers of coal to the world's second-largest importer of the fuel.

Imports of coal could, however, rise in the coming months as state-run NTPC Ltd has issued a tender to import 2 million tonnes of coal, nearly double the quantity it has imported so far this year. It was not immediately clear when the coal would be delivered. [Source](#)

Discoms need to pay dues on time: Union Minister RK Singh

Unless the state-run electricity distribution entities (discoms) mend their ways and pay power companies on time, the latter may be pushed to defaulting on coal payments, and fuel crises like the current one might recur, Union minister for power, new and renewable energy RK Singh said. "Power plants owe huge quantum of money to Coal India (CIL), so naturally, it (CIL) gets into difficulty," Singh said. He added that the Union power ministry would soon write to the state governments and discoms, asking to clear their dues to gencos — Rs 75,000 crore at last count — at the earliest.

Currently, coal stock at power plants is 8.1 million tonne (MT), up from 7.5 MT on October 19. Low fuel stock levels at power plants in recent weeks are being attributed to higher coal usage in July-September, power plants not stocking enough before the monsoon and low alternative supply of coal. The fuel deficit, the gravest in recent years, resulted in electricity supply shortage rising to as high as 114.5 million units (MU) on October 7. The supply deficit subsequently moderated to 58 MU on October 13, 34 MU on October 19 and further to 8 MU on October 24.

The minister said some central government-owned generating companies could also not pay CIL because they have not been paid (by discoms) for the power supplied. Total unpaid dues to CIL by the



Central sector and state-run power plants is around Rs 16,000 crore at present. Against this, discoms' dues to generating companies is around Rs 75,000 crore, Singh said.

“How do you expect them (gencos) to pay for coal, railway freight, service their loans, pay workers' salaries? This is not sustainable,” the minister said. While private power plants have to pay for coal in advance, the case is not the same for gencos owned by the Central and state governments. In the run-up to the recent coal crisis, many states were receiving lower coal supply because of their outstanding dues to CIL. The government recently said that Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have legacy issues of heavy dues of coal companies.

With the government taking several steps to address the issue of coal shortage at numerous power plants across the country, other industries — which run captive electricity generation units to supply electricity to its factories — have complained about the fuel crisis brewing in the sector. “At this juncture an acute shortage of coal on the back of supply constraints is hitting aluminium manufacturing hard and the industry is struggling to sustain operations with alarmingly depleted coal stocks of only 1.5-3 days as compared to the prescribed level of 15 days,” the Indian Industrial Value Chain Council said on Monday. The government stated earlier that more than 0.25 MT of coal is being supplied to the non-power sectors on a daily basis. As per industry sources, this could meet only half the fuel requirement of the captive power plants. Sources said that such industries are not running at full capacity and are sourcing more than 1 GW power from the grid and exchanges. Coal supply shortage has also pushed the industry to resort to import of the fuel, even as international coal rates doubled in a year to around Rs 12,000 per tonne.

The latest Rs 3 lakh-crore revival scheme for debt-laden, loss-making discoms— approved by the Cabinet in June — is to be implemented in the five years through FY26. While the priority of the scheme is metering electricity supply to consumers to reduce pilferage, discoms will also have to undertake infrastructure creation such as feeder separation, implement digital technologies and provide armoured and aerial bunched cables in high loss areas.

The aim is to bring down aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses to 15% from the current level of 21%. The Centre is also implementing a Rs 1.35-lakh-crore loan package through PFC-REC to help discoms clear the dues to power generators.

Financial losses of state-run discoms had decreased by about 38% annually to Rs 38,093 crore in FY20, mainly through more efficient billing and improved subsidy disbursement by the state governments. However, with revenue dropping significantly in FY21 as demand from high-paying industrial and commercial consumer segments were disrupted amid the lockdowns, their losses are seen to have increased. (A report released by Icrea in March had indicated that discom losses have increased to Rs 90,000 crore in FY21, which was subsequently concurred by NITI Aayog. But the power ministry has termed such estimates as “grossly inflated”.) [Source](#)

OPINION: Power Sector needs critical reforms to move ahead

It has been 18 years now since the Electricity Act 2003 (the Act) was notified by Govt of India in June 2003. These 18 years have been quite a successful journey for the power sector with the country seeing significant progress on many fronts like achieving self-sufficiency in meeting the electricity needs of the consumers, path-breaking reforms in the Regulatory System of the country and empowering the consumers. It is not wrong to say the Electricity Act was truly the harbinger of reforms for the sector and laid the foundation for many more reforms that followed. Thanks to these reforms, our per capita power consumption reached around 1200 units - a growth of almost 2.3 times since 2003. All the villages of the

country now have access to electricity. The installed capacity of country has grown to 388 GW, with Renewable Energy capacity (Solar, Wind etc, excluding Hydro) crossing 100 GW, which is remarkable. That said, a period of close to two decades is a long time for any policy to remain effective. These tumultuous times are witness to an unprecedented pace of technological innovation and rapidly changing consumer aspirations in all sectors of the economy, including electricity. In the Electricity Sector, we are in the process of leapfrogging to the next level of development. Innovative technology solutions are going to play a bigger role. Batteries, other innovative storage solutions, E-Vehicles and Distributed supply are expected to result in major structural shift. Thus, statues and laws need to be framed to act as facilitators and create an enabling environment for deployment of these technologies. With increasing dependence on electricity in all walks of life, the demand for round the clock, uninterrupted supply of electricity at houses, industries and commercial establishment is likely to increase. We are moving to an era where electricity will be treated as a service and consumers will not hesitate to demand service even if it comes with a cost. At the same time, the pressure on electricity distribution will increase as well. This requires dismantling of the existing structure and move to a new framework.

Delicensing of Generation and Transmission allowed under the 2003 Act, resulted in increased capacity addition of 50,000 MW and 88,000 MW during 11th and 12th Plan period respectively, from 20,950 MW in 10th Plan. This has enabled the country in meeting the ever increasing peak demand and the energy demand and evolution of National Grid.

However, the distribution sector remains the problem area in the entire value chain. The new proposed set of reforms, which will allow delicensing of distribution sector with separation of content (electricity) and carriage (wire) is need of the hour to improve the of the sector, service to the consumers and reduction of AT&C losses. The impact of these losses are spilling to the coal sector as well. The recent power crisis, in spite of available surplus generating capacity, is attributed to coal shortage and has further accentuated the need for such reforms. Apart from impact of Covid-19 and the extended monsoon, the outstanding dues of Rs 23,000 crore from GENCOs (Generating companies) to the coal companies is also an important factor for this coal shortage. This is because distribution Companies (DISCOMs) are unable to pay GENCOs in time, leading to a vicious cycle. The DISCOM dues to power producers currently stand at a whopping Rs 116,127 crore.

With a massive mandate, the current central government is ideally placed to undertake these massive and bold reforms to take the sector to the next level. To be fair, the government did initiate some path breaking reforms, particularly in the distribution sector in the last few years. It should now push ahead with its promulgation and implementation. In fact, Union Budget 2021-22 talked about offering choice to electricity consumers:

“The distribution companies across the country are monopolies, either government or private. There is a need to provide choice to consumers by promoting competition. A framework will be put in place to give consumers alternatives to choose from among more than one Distribution Company.” An outlay of Rs 305,984 crore over 5 years has also been proposed for revamped, reforms-based, result-linked power distribution sector Scheme.

Last year, a series of amendments were proposed by the government, which included reforms in the distribution licensing system, revamping the regulatory system and improving financial health of power distribution companies. Similarly, amendments were proposed in the Tariff Policy in areas like improving payment security mechanism for supply of power and ways to reduce losses and cross-subsidy. With these measures, the government had made its intentions clear that reforms will be pushed. It is time to take action on that intention.

It would not be an overstatement to say that the potential impact of these proposed reforms would be profound on the power sector, just like economic liberalization of the 1990s. Without these reforms, it may be difficult to carry forward and reap the full benefits of Reforms initiated under the Act of 2003. It is time for the government to press on with the next phase of reforms. [Source](#)

Ministry comes out with rules to ensure sustainability of sector

The Ministry of Power announced new rules to sustain economic viability of the sector, ease financial stress of various stakeholders and ensure timely recovery of costs involved in electricity generation. The ministry notified rules for the sustainability of the electricity sector and promotion of clean energy to meet the India's commitment towards climate change, a statement said.

Investors and other stakeholders in the power sector had been concerned about the timely recovery of the costs due to change in law, curtailment of renewable power and other related matters. The rules notified by the Ministry of Power under Electricity Act, 2003 are in the interest of the electricity consumers and the stakeholders, it added. The rules include Electricity (Timely recovery of costs due to Change in Law) Rules, 2021. The other rule is Electricity (Promotion of generation from renewable sources of energy by addressing Must Run and other matters) Rules, 2021.

The ministry explained timely recovery of the costs due to change in law is very important as the investment in the power sector largely depends upon the timely payments. "At present, the pass through under change of law takes time. This impacts the viability of the sector and the developers get financially stressed. The rules would help in creating investment friendly environment in the country," it stated.

"The energy transition is happening across the globe. India has also made commitments to bring about energy transition. India has also announced international commitment to set up 175 GW of RE capacity by 2022 and 450 GW by 2030," the ministry said. The ministry said these rules will help in achieving the targets of RE generation. This will ensure that the consumers get green and clean power and secure a healthy environment for the future generation.

A formula has been provided to calculate adjustment in the monthly tariff due to the impact of change in law. The rules also provide that a must-run power plant shall not be subjected to curtailment or regulation of generation or supply of electricity on account of merit order dispatch or any other commercial consideration.

The electricity generated from a must-run power plant may be curtailed or regulated only in the event of any technical constraint in the electricity grid or for reasons of security of the electricity grid. For curtailment or regulation of power, the provisions of the Indian Electricity Grid Code shall be followed.

In the event of a curtailment of supply from a must-run power plant, compensation shall be payable by the procurer to the must-run power plant at the rates specified in the agreement for purchase or supply of electricity. The RE generator is also allowed to sell power in the power exchange and recover the cost suitably. This helps in realisation of revenue by the generator and also the power is available in the electricity grid for use of consumers. [Source](#)

Power minister calls for enhanced action on energy efficiency by states

Power Minister R K Singh called for enhanced action on energy efficiency by states. Singh chaired a virtual meeting with senior officials from state governments and industry partners to review the current level of activities in the field of energy efficiency and clean energy transition being implemented by state

agencies, a power ministry statement said. This is necessary in view of India's commitment to energy transition and to fulfil the Paris Agreement goals.

During June 2021, the Union power minister had interacted with concerned ministries and departments of the central government and it was concluded that state agencies will also have to play more active role in this endeavour. In his address, Singh the government is committed to the environment and India is way ahead of the targets which it had committed to in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) declared in the Paris Climate Agreement.

He stated that while the country is changing the nature of energy by adding more renewable energy, resulting in emissions reduction, it is also reducing the emissions intensity of the economy by schemes for energy efficiency such as UJALA and Perform Achieve and Trade (PAT) which have resulted in reducing millions of tonnes of CO₂ per annum. Singh stressed on the need for collaborative efforts between the Centre and state governments towards large-scale deployment of energy efficiency measures.

He called for setting up of dedicated energy efficiency institutions in states, similar to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) at the central level. He further stated that the states will set targets in accordance with the goals set by the country for emissions reduction. The minister also announced the launch of trading of Energy Saving Certificates (ESCerts) under PAT Cycle-II.

The trading will take place every Tuesday, starting from October 26, 2021 on designated power exchanges. The industries which performed exceedingly well on energy savings have been rewarded with ESCerts and they will be able to earn monetary benefits through sale of these instruments to other industrial units which could not meet their targets. In order to move towards a greener economy, Singh also announced a proposal for National Carbon Market with an objective to involve corporate and private sectors towards energy saving and carbon emission reductions. The draft blue print was released on this occasion for stakeholder consultation.

This carbon market will pave the way for a large scale promotion of clean energy technologies in India, leading to de-carbonisation of the economy through active participation by various stakeholders. Similar markets in other countries have found to be successful in promoting energy efficiency and clean energy deployment. BEE has been mandated by the government to develop such a market which would be functional in the coming years. The meeting was attended by senior officials from state governments who presented highlights of state level activities accomplished during last four years. The Ministry of Power, in consultation with BEE, has drafted a comprehensive roadmap on clean energy transition. [Source](#)

Power privatisation in Chandigarh: Ball back in Centre's court

CHANDIGARH: After the approval from the Punjab governor-cum-UT administrator Banwarilal Purohit, the UT administration has submitted its reply to the ministry of home affairs (MHA) in connection with power privatisation project. Last month, the ministry had sought some clarification on the cabinet note sent by the administration.

UT adviser Dharam Pal said the ministry had sought details related to the process of the power privatisation project, assets and liabilities and some other issues pertaining to the cabinet note. The UT has submitted all the replies related to each and every query, he said.

In a three-page note, the ministry had asked the UT to provide details of assets to be shifted after privatisation and retained by the administration, current revenue of the department, employees' strength,



performance, liabilities, provision of formation of trust, details of liabilities of employees, infrastructure strength, provision of Electricity Act 2003, and features of transfer scheme.

On September 24, after the approval of former UT administrator VP Singh Badnore, the administration had sent the cabinet note to the MHA. Recently, the UT's empowered committee of power privatisation under the chairmanship of Pal had approved Kolkata-based Eminent Electricity Distribution's highest bid with Rs 817 crore against a reserve price of Rs 174 crore. The administration on August 5 had informed the Punjab and Haryana high court that the process to get cabinet nod for the power privatisation project will take two-three months more and submits that the petition challenging privatisation project is premature.

Kolkata-based Eminent Electricity Distribution was the highest bidder for the privatisation of the electricity department with Rs 817 crore against a reserve price of Rs 174 crore, defeating giants like Tata and the Adani group. The company is a subsidiary of Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation Ltd, a flagship of RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group. After relief from the Supreme Court, the administration had recently speeded up the project.

In June, the apex court had stayed the Punjab and Haryana high court's May 28 order of staying the privatisation process on the application filed by Gopal Dutt Joshi, general secretary, UT Powermen Union. The UT had then moved the Supreme Court.

Recently, the administration had opened technical bids of all seven companies and submitted the case to the technical bids evaluation committee. The UT was planning to open the bids in the first week of June, but the union had moved the high court.

The UT engineering department had issued notice on November 9, 2020, and invited bids for distribution licence in Chandigarh. The bids closed on February 8. On March 8, UT had issued an amendment to the bid document and extended the bidding date to March 18. The amendment also provided an opportunity to new bidders to submit their bids and allowed the existing bidders to modify theirs.

47 lakh consumers in city

The electricity department caters to 2.47 lakh consumers divided into nine different categories. According to official figures, of the total consumers, 2.14 lakh are domestic, which accounts for more than 87% of total consumers. The remaining belong to other categories, commercial, small power, medium supply, large supply, bulk supply, public lighting, agriculture power and temporary supply. [Source](#)

Issues that remain unaddressed in Electricity Amendment Bill 2021

Over the past two decades, India has pushed for significant reforms in the power sector, which have helped the country transition from a power deficit to a power surplus nation. The establishment of The Electricity Act (the "Act") of 2003 laid the groundwork for this progress, as India attempted to reform all aspects of the power sector, including generation, distribution, transmission, trading, and consumption. During this period, India pursued an aggressive capacity expansion strategy in the power sector with a focus on "Power for All"; successfully achieving a 100 per cent household electrification rate. While sustained economic growth will drive electricity demand, necessitating further capacity additions, India's power sector strategy will prioritise efficiency, decarbonization, modernization, and reliability of power sector assets. Investments from foreign and domestic investors in the power sector will be the key to achieve these objectives, especially in realizing Prime Minister Modi's ambition of raising the deployment of renewable energy capacity by five-fold to 450 GW by 2030. This investment into energy is also reflected in realignment of India's diplomatic outreach. A case in point is India's growing energy security



cooperation with the United States, which recently saw the relaunch of the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership, which will aid in the acceleration of the deployment of affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy solutions.

In light of recent reforms, The Electricity (Amendment) Bill (the “Bill”), 2021 can open up the power sector for additional investments by incorporating structural changes, in addition to the existing liberal foreign direct investment (FDI) policies. One of the key proposals of The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021, is to bring in revisions to the Act to end the monopoly of state-run power distribution utilities (DISCOMs) and to delicense power distribution. Distribution of electricity is sacrosanct to the power industry. The proposed reforms appear significant and timely, given that, despite two decades of power sector reforms, many electricity distribution companies' finances are still in poor shape, as the majority of DISCOMs are unable to pay generation and transmission companies, as well as banks and financial institutions. Furthermore, while efficiency improvement efforts aimed at reducing technical and commercial losses have yielded results, with overall AT&C losses in India's DISCOMs hovering around 22 per cent, significant reforms are required to be considered on par with better-run utilities elsewhere in the world.

The bill envisages to increase the private sector participation in the distribution sector introducing competition and creating a framework that allows the power consumer to select their own supplier. This will lead to fresh investments into the sector, increased adoption of cutting-edge technologies and a more resilient network infrastructure. It is significant to note that the current outstanding dues owed to generator by DISCOMs on a pan-India basis total Rs 98,450 crore (as of Sept 2021, PRAPTI portal), which jeopardises the power sector's financial sustainability and erodes investor sentiment significantly. The poor financial health of the DISCOMs has also prevented investors from funding infrastructure needed to improve the supply quality and to integrate renewable energy coming online. The various proposals of the bill, such as Direct Benefits Transfer to deposit power subsidies to end beneficiaries' account and introduction of time limit for adoption of tariff determination, aim to relieve DISCOMs' financial burden. Payment security for power generators, as proposed in the bill, is key to a stable investment climate and the ability to attract greater FDI into the sector.

While there are other positive reforms in the proposed bill, including promotion of renewable energy, improved governance, and provisions of a universal service obligation fund, there are remaining issues that need to be addressed.

Fears of Centralization:

While the bill empowers the National Load Dispatch Centre (NLDC) with the responsibility of ensuring the safety and stability of the pan-India grid, the Regional Load Dispatch Centres (RLDCs) and State Load Dispatch Centres (SLDCs) also need to be strengthened. The regional and state system operators can be made responsible for monitoring payments to all generating entities, ensuring the establishment of payment security and uploading curtailment data of the grid and its constituents. This will facilitate the Bill's robust implementation, given the concurrent structure of the power sector, and will empower system operators at all levels to act transparently.

Need for strengthening the RE Framework:

All entities defined in the Act should be bound by the provisions of the National Renewable Energy Policy (NREP), the National Tariff Policy, and the National Electricity Policy, which have historically been regarded as merely guiding documents, diluting their true intent. Additionally, generation of electricity from renewable energy sources should be enshrined as a must-run provision in the Bill, as these sources are reliant on environmental resources that are beyond human control. The Bill should include stringent penalties for non-compliance and curtailment for non-grid security-related reasons.

Clarity on delicensing of distribution:

The Bill should clarify the distribution sub-licensee's roles and responsibilities, as well as the way they are intended to operate within their operational and contractual framework.

Demarcation of Powers:

A clear division of authority between the Electricity Regulatory Commissions (ERCs) and the Electricity Contract Enforcement Authority (ECEA) is necessary for contract performance issues. Disputes such as extensions of Scheduled Commercial Operation Dates (SCOD), Change in Law relief, and Force Majeure claims, while purely contractual in nature, have the potential to affect the tariff and may result in contract termination.

The Indian power sector continues to be one of the most attractive investment opportunities globally, as evidenced by India's remarkable progress in renewable energy deployment, with 136 GW of installed renewable capacity now accounting for 38 per cent of its installed electricity generation. However, COVID-19 has had a negative impact on investment inflows, with FDI inflows into the Indian power sector falling to 61 per cent in 2019-20 and 34 per cent in 2020-21, respectively, from 2018-19 levels. With rising power demand over the last few months indicating that India's economy has entered a strong recovery, the situation is expected to reverse soon.

A new wave of inclusive and holistic power sector reforms is necessary to transform DISCOMs and the electricity grid. This is in order to sustain India's economic recovery, maintain the country's transition to sustainable forms of renewable energy, and attract the FDI required to meet the country's ambitious energy and climate targets. Through the recently launched U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership, President Biden and Prime Minister Modi announced several priority areas of collaboration that would help modernize the power sector to support large-scale integration of renewables and facilitate investment to accelerate India's clean energy transition. If the proposed amendments to The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 are implemented by addressing the issues raised above, they will go a long way toward achieving these goals by improving the investment climate in the renewable sector. As COP 26 nears in Glasgow, Scotland, these collective efforts will help develop a cleaner energy roadmap with additional low carbon routes. [Source](#)

Over-reliance on coal in our power mix hurting India

The current shortage of coal is raising the spectre of long power outages. At a broader level, the crisis also underscores India's overwhelming dependence on coal to meet its energy needs, the significant push towards renewables notwithstanding. As of September 2021, thermal power— power generated from burning coal, gas and petroleum—comprised 60% of India's installed capacity in power generation. Coal alone accounted for nearly 50%. By comparison, renewable sources such as wind and solar energy and biomass accounted for 26%. To read the full article click on source. [Source](#)

NITI Aayog launches Geospatial Energy Map of India in collaboration with ISRO

NITI Aayog has launched a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based Energy Map of India. "NITI Aayog in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed a comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) Energy Map of India with the support of Energy Ministries of Government of India," a statement issued by the Aayog said. "The GIS map provides a holistic picture of all energy resources of the country which enables visualisation of energy installations such as conventional power plants, oil and gas wells, petroleum refineries, coal fields and coal blocks, district-wise data on renewable energy power plants and renewable energy resource potential through 27 thematic layers," it said.

The map attempts to identify and locate all primary and secondary sources of energy and their transportation/transmission networks to provide a comprehensive view of energy production and distribution in a country. It is a unique effort aimed at integrating energy data scattered across multiple organizations and presenting it in a consolidated, visually appealing graphical manner. It leverages the latest advancements in web-GIS technology and open-source software to make it interactive and user friendly. The Geospatial Energy Map of India will be useful in planning and making investment decisions. It will also aid in disaster management using available energy assets.

Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, while launching the GIS-based Energy Map of India, stated that GIS mapping of energy assets will be useful for ensuring real-time and integrated planning of the energy sector of India, given its large geographical distribution and interdependence. "Energy markets have immense potential to bring in efficiency gains. Going forward, GIS-based mapping of energy assets will be advantageous to all concerned stakeholders and will help in accelerating the policy-making process. Fragmented data has been brought together; this will be a great research instrument," Kumar said. Dr K Sivan, Chairman ISRO and Secretary Department of Space, also attended the launch event.

[Source](#)

Powering the energy sector

In an energy-dependent country like India, the availability of energy supplies at affordable rates is pivotal for fulfilling developmental priorities. But the energy sector is beset with problems. The distribution sector has for long been the bane of the power sector, consistently making huge losses owing to problems such as expensive long-term power purchase agreements, poor infrastructure, inefficient operations, and leakages and weaknesses in State-level tariff policies. Most discoms are deep into the red as high aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses are chipping into their revenues.

Dismantling state monopoly

Against this backdrop, the Electricity (Amendment) Bill of 2020 is a game-changing reform. The wide-ranging provisions of the Bill will set the process of de-licensing power distribution after the monopoly of the state is dismantled. This will provide the consumers with an option of choosing the service provider, switch their power supplier and enable the entry of private companies in distribution, thereby resulting in increased competition. In fact, privatisation of discoms in Delhi has reduced AT&C losses significantly from 55% in 2002 to 9% in 2020.

Open access for purchasing power from the open market should be implemented across States and barriers in the form of cross subsidy surcharge, additional surcharge and electricity duty being applied by States should be reviewed. Discoms and regulators should be brought on board for proper implementation of open access, which will provide more options to consumers to choose their discom just as they are able to choose telecom providers.

The question of tariffs needs to be revisited if the power sector is to be strengthened. Tariffs ought to be reflective of average cost of supply to begin with and eventually move to customer category-wise cost of supply in a defined time frame. This will facilitate reduction in cross subsidies. All this will happen when discoms are made autonomous and are allowed by regulatory authorities to revise tariffs without interference from the States.

Electrical energy should be covered under GST, with a lower rate of GST, as this will make it possible for power generator/transmission/distribution utilities to get a refund of input credit, which in turn will reduce the cost of power. Other antidotes to the problem include use of technology solutions such as installation of smart meters and smart grids which will reduce AT&C losses and restore financial viability of the sector.



Push for renewal energy

The impetus to renewal energy, which will help us mitigate the impact of climate change, is much needed. One option is to encourage roof-top solar plants. Despite its inherent benefits, the segment has shown relatively slow progress with an estimated installed capacity of 5-6 GW as on date, well short of the 2022 target. Another welcome feature of the Bill is the strengthening of the regulatory architecture of the sector. This will be done by appointing a member with a legal background in every electricity regulatory commission and strengthening the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity. This will ensure faster resolution of long-pending issues and reduce legal hassles.

The Bill also underpins the importance of green energy by proposing a penalty for non-compliance with the renewable energy purchase obligations which mandate States and power distribution companies to purchase a specified quantity of electricity from renewable and hydro sources. This will ensure that India gradually moves towards non-fossil fuels thereby helping it meet its global climate change commitments. Some other significant features of the Bill such as the creation of an Electricity Contract Enforcement Authority to supervise the fulfillment of contractual obligations under power purchase agreement, cost reflective tariffs and provision of subsidy through DBT are commendable. Early passage of the Bill is critical as it will help unleash a path-breaking reform for bringing efficiency and profitability to the distribution sector. [Source](#)

Transmission charges payable by DICs for the billing month of Nov'21

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of Inter-State Transmission Charges and Losses), Regulations 2020 came into force with effect from 1.11.2020. In these New Regulations, STOA charges will be determined based on monthly state transmission charges and there shall not be any separate injection and drawl PoC charges, for STOA. Further, DISCOMs having long term Access are not required to make any payment against POC charges for STOA transaction.

Transmission Charges for Short Term Open Access (STOA)			
Sl. No.	State	Region	STOA rate (paise/kWh)
1	Delhi	NR	45.04
2	UP	NR	47.42
3	Punjab	NR	48.47
4	Haryana	NR	66.40
5	Chandigarh	NR	38.29
6	Rajasthan	NR	58.66
7	HP	NR	37.34
8	J&K	NR	39.80
9	Uttarakhand	NR	47.15
10	Gujarat	WR	46.84
11	Madhya Pradesh	WR	43.34
12	Maharashtra	WR	45.27
13	Chhattisgarh	WR	34.96
14	Goa	WR	44.23
15	Daman Diu	WR	42.35

16	Dadra Nagar Haveli	WR	45.08
17	Andhra Pradesh	SR	47.57
18	Telangana	SR	33.07
19	Tamil Nadu	SR	38.29
20	Kerala	SR	38.61
21	Karnataka	SR	40.13
22	Pondicherry	SR	36.53
23	Goa-SR	SR	32.64
24	West Bengal	ER	43.05
25	Odisha	ER	42.54
26	Bihar	ER	43.15
27	Jharkhand	ER	43.56
28	Sikkim	ER	35.53
29	DVC	ER	39.85
30	Bangladesh	ER	33.37
31	Arunachal Pradesh	NER	38.84
32	Assam	NER	40.70
33	Manipur	NER	38.13
34	Meghalaya	NER	35.15
35	Mizoram	NER	38.61
36	Nagaland	NER	54.71
37	Tripura	NER	42.74

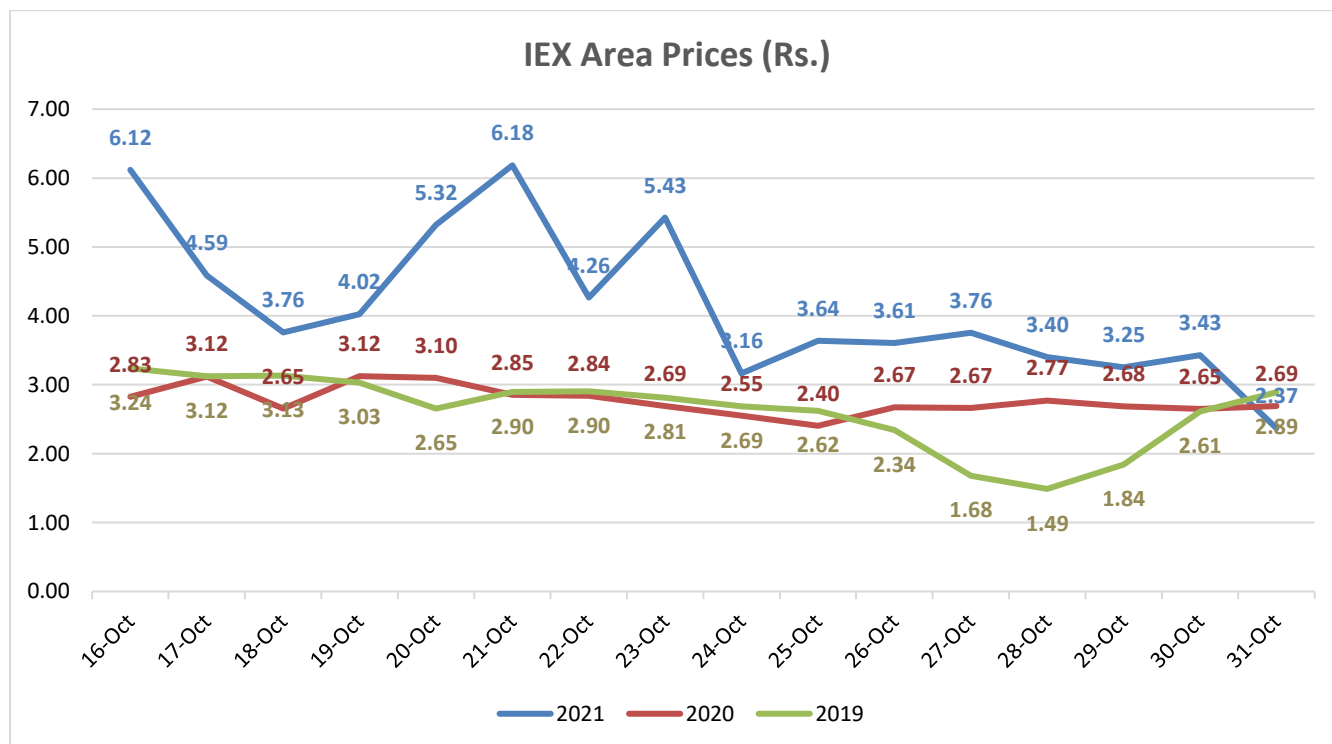
Bilateral Tender Results: -

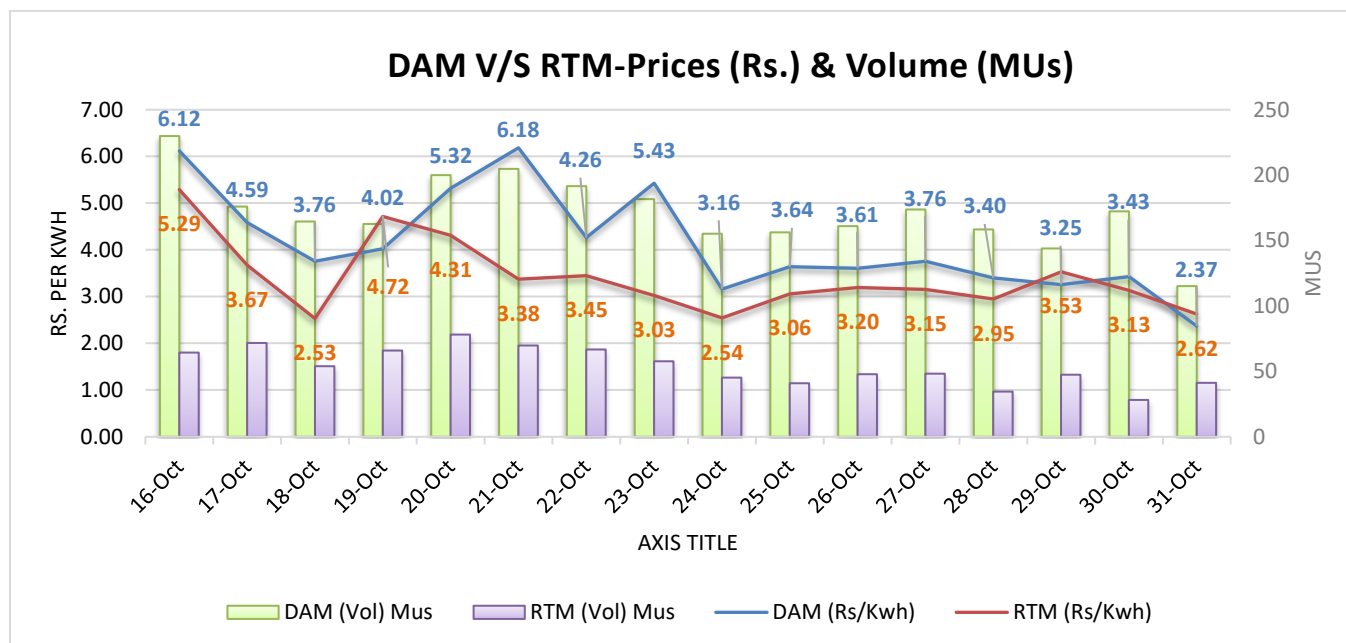
TPCL/Short/21-22/RA/41				
1	75	15.10.2021 to 31.10.2021	00:00 to 24:00	-
2	75	01.11.2021 to 30.11.2021	00:00 to 24:00	-
3	75	01.12.2021 to 31.12.2021	00:00 to 24:00	5.2
4	50	01.01.2022 to 31.01.2022	00:00 to 24:00	5.2
5	50	01.02.2022 to 28.02.2022	00:00 to 24:00	5.2
6	75	01.03.2022 to 31.03.2022	00:00 to 24:00	-
7	75	01.04.2022 to 30.04.2022	00:00 to 24:00	3.27
8	75	01.05.2022 to 31.05.2022	00:00 to 24:00	3.27
9	75	01.06.2022 to 30.06.2022	00:00 to 24:00	3.27
10	75	01.07.2022 to 31.07.2022	00:00 to 24:00	3.27
11	50	01.08.2022 to 31.08.2022	00:00 to 24:00	3.27
12	50	01.09.2022 to 30.09.2022	00:00 to 24:00	3.27
PSPCL/Short/21-22/RA/52				
1	500	01.11.2021 to 30.11.2021	06:00 to 18:00	9.1

2	500	01.12.2021 to 31.12.2021	06:00 to 18:00	9.10-13.00
3	500	01.01.2022 to 31.01.2022	06:00 to 18:00	8.10-13.00
4	500	01.02.2022 to 28.02.2022	06:00 to 18:00	8.10-13.00
5	500	01.03.2022 to 31.03.2022	06:00 to 18:00	8.10-13.00
6	500	01.11.2021 to 30.11.2021	07:00 to 17:00	9.07
7	500	01.12.2021 to 31.12.2021	07:00 to 17:00	9.07-13.00
8	500	01.01.2022 to 31.01.2022	07:00 to 17:00	8.10-13.00
9	500	01.02.2022 to 28.02.2022	07:00 to 17:00	8.10-13.00
10	500	01.03.2022 to 31.03.2022	07:00 to 17:00	8.10-13.00
11	500	01.11.2021 to 30.11.2021	07:30 to 17:30	7.21
12	500	01.12.2021 to 31.12.2021	07:30 to 17:30	7.21
13	500	01.01.2022 to 31.01.2022	07:30 to 17:30	7.21
14	500	01.02.2022 to 28.02.2022	07:30 to 17:30	7.21
15	500	01.03.2022 to 31.03.2022	07:30 to 17:30	7.21
MPPMCL/Short/21-22/RA/51				
1	300	01.11.2021 to 30.11.2021	05:00 to 20:00	6.75
2	500	01.12.2021 to 31.12.2021	05:00 to 20:00	6.75
3	500	01.01.2022 to 31.01.2022	05:00 to 20:00	6.75
4	300	01.02.2022 to 28.02.2022	05:00 to 20:00	5.71

[Source](#)

IEX Price Trends





Weather (Estimated for next fortnight)

City	Max Temp	Min Temp	Precipitation (Probability)
DELHI	25	10	3%
MUMBAI	32	25	16%
KOLKATA	30	20	6%
CHENNAI	29	25	57%

[\(Source - Accuweather\)](#)

TPTCL offers comprehensive consultancy for Connectivity Long term Medium Term & short term Open Access- For details please contact px@tatapower.com; For any suggestions and feedback Please write to us on pmc@tatapower.com

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