

# Press Release

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## **Consolidated solutions needed for over-arching Renewable challenges**

October 13, Bengaluru: ‘Common themes like scheduling and forecasting, how to plan incentives and planning capacity addition in the renewable sector will need to be looked at in unison as over-arching challenges,’ said Varsha Joshi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) at a Stakeholder Consultation Workshop organised by Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), in association with NITI Aayog.

Despite individual sectoral challenges, there emerged common over-arching issues that India’s wind and solar industries will have to tackle in unison to achieve India’s ambitious 175 GW renewable energy target. The framework for the government’s intended National Energy Policy is a platform where consolidated solutions to cross-cutting challenges like land allocation, power evacuation, grid integration, and forecasting and scheduling of power generation can be included.

‘The policy framework has to be broad based considering a range of issues, it has to be futuristic, address the institutional mechanism to implement the policy and cover issues of energy access, security, and affordability in the country. Besides the above, the Policy must identify the role of State Governments in contributing to the National energy agenda. We plan to involve the States actively in the exercise,’ said Sindhushree Khullar, CEO, NITI Aayog in the invitation letter sent to all the Chief Secretaries of state governments.

‘India’s power sector will have to undergo a paradigm shift if it wants to achieve the recently unveiled INDC commitment of generating 40 % of electric power from fossil-free sources by 2030. One of the important challenges lies with land allocation for renewable energy projects... Using wastelands is a potential solution’, said Dr. Ashvini Kumar, M.D. Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).

Representatives from the private sector, government agencies and academia came together to identify key challenges in India’s renewable energy domain and suggest potential solutions to be included in the National Energy Policy, which is being formulated by NITI Aayog in collaboration with a number of research institutes across the country. Some of the solutions proposed during the discussions include:

- Need for mixed land use policy wherein agriculture land is used for renewable energy project development as well. The current classification of wind power generation as being an industrial process is not conducive – this needs to be changed. Land records will also need to be updated and made available to developers to ease access to land.
- Functioning inter-state transmission will be needed for states to fulfil their Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) requirements. This means that the national grid infrastructure has to be improved and strengthened. The grid also needs to connect the southern renewable energy rich states with the deficit northern states.
- Need for better load forecasting and coordination between scheduling wind generated power and overall thermal generation.

- Extensive studies are needed for understanding grid stability and intermittent renewable power evacuation.

Notes to the Editor:

1. Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) is a not-for-profit research organisation incorporated in 2005 u/s 25 of The Companies Act, 1956. It was formed with the vision “to enrich the nation with technology-enabled policy options for equitable growth”. The mission is to impact policy at governmental and corporate levels by assessing and designing science and technology options with informed and systematic analysis for (equitable and inclusive) human development and economic growth CSTEPs aspiration is to develop as a world-class institution conducting rigorous, independent and interdisciplinary research on subjects relevant to India’s economic, social and technological growth and development. CSTEP undertakes multi-disciplinary policy research in the areas of Energy and Climate Studies, Infrastructure, New Materials, and Security Studies. CSTEP is recognised as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. CSTEP constantly aims at science and technology enabled policy options for an inclusive and equitable economic growth.
2. The Hon’ble President of India in his address to the Parliament, on June 9, 2014, made a declaration of the Government’s intent to frame a National Energy Policy (NEP). NITI Aayog has been entrusted with this task to prepare the National Energy Policy framework, in consultation with a large number of stakeholders.
3. **Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), Bengaluru, is one of the Knowledge Partners selected by NITI Aayog** to facilitate discussions amongst various stakeholders from the central and state governments, industry and academia for 2 important sectors – Renewable Energy and Nuclear Power.

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