

## PRESS RELEASE

### Energy Storage Policy to Boost Pumped Hydro Soon

**Bangalore: 19 October 2021**

The Ministry of Power has constituted a Group of Officers to formulate a comprehensive policy for energy storage in the power sector to incentivise Pumped Hydro Storage (PHS). “The new policy will deal with regulation, finance and investment, and demand management. We are also working out a mechanism in consultation with state governments to expedite the stalled hydro projects,” said Mr S. K. G. Rahate, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power. He was speaking at a recent webinar ‘The Future of Hydropower: Global Outlook and Implications for India’, jointly organised by the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), a leading think tank, and the International Energy Agency (IEA).

With the world pushing for renewables in a big way, hydropower will play a critical role in the coming days.

Meanwhile, Mr Keisuke Sadamori, Director (Energy Markets and Security), IEA, said that though “hydro-power is the largest source of carbon-free energy, system flexibility, and storage, there are numerous barriers to it. Without urgent policy action, net capacity addition is likely to slow down.”

Mentioning that there has been a “revival in hydropower in India and ASEAN countries”, Mr Heymi Bahar, Senior Energy Analyst, IEA, said that the IEA Hydropower Market Report shows a promising hydro-capacity growth trend for India reaching 12% in the next ten years. “India’s role thus remains extremely important in the future,” he added.

He also spoke about the need for being more ambitious for net-zero. “We need to see a doubling of the rate of growth in hydropower, and not just acceleration, and this requires raising ambitions, in addition to the other drivers related to finance, regulatory, and policy,” he said.

Mr Pankaj Batra, Project Director, Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), and Former Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) proposed “a single-window clearance for environmental considerations” to speed up hydro projects.

The virtual event—held ahead of COP26, where decisions on achieving net-zero emissions will be taken—brought together key stakeholders from the government, NGO, and private sector to deliberate on issues related to developing sustainable hydropower—the backbone of low-carbon electricity generation.

For more details on the event and for a copy of the complete recording of the webinar, please contact us at [cpe@cstep.in](mailto:cpe@cstep.in).

#### **About CSTEP**

Headquartered in Bengaluru, the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) is one of India’s leading think tanks with a mission to enrich policymaking with innovative approaches using science and technology for a sustainable, secure, and inclusive society. CSTEP’s areas of focus are Climate, Environment and Sustainability, Energy and Power, AI and Digital Labs, Materials and Strategic Studies, and Computational Tools.