

Coal Sector Aims to Ramp up Renewable Energy Capacity to Over 9 GW by 2030

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In alignment with the Prime Minister's 'Panchamrit' announcement during COP-26 and to progress towards the goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2070, Ministry of Coal has taken significant steps for promoting renewables initiatives towards reducing carbon footprints. With a keen focus on enhancing renewable energy capacity, the Ministry has set ambitious net-zero electricity consumption plan for Coal/Lignite PSUs. Recognizing the pivotal role of renewables in mitigating environmental impact, the Ministry is actively promoting the deployment of both rooftop solar and ground-mounted solar projects across mining facilities. Furthermore, innovative plans are underway to develop solar parks within the reclaimed mining areas as well as other suitable lands, leveraging underutilized land resources for sustainable energy generation. This strategic initiative is aligned with the government's updated NDC target to achieve 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

In order to minimize the carbon footprints of mining, the Ministry of Coal has issued directives to coal companies to accelerate the adoption of solar energy solutions. This includes the installation of rooftop solar panels on all government buildings and the establishment of solar projects in de-coaled areas and other suitable lands, effectively harnessing solar potential in previously utilized spaces. Presently, the combined solar capacity installed by leading coal companies, including Coal India Limited (CIL), NLC India Limited (NLCIL), and SCCL, stands at approximately 1700 MW, supplemented by an additional 51 MW from wind mills. Looking towards the future, the coal sector aims to ramp up renewable energy capacity to over 9 GW by the year 2030, signalling a profound commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

The plan for "Net Zero" electricity consumption holds immense promise and benefits for the future. By embracing renewable energy sources, it facilitates a significant reduction in carbon emissions, thereby combating climate change and promoting environmental preservation. Additionally, the project fosters technological innovation and advancement in the renewable energy sector, driving economic growth and job creation. As a result, the project is poised to catalyse economic growth and job creation, driving India's transition towards a green economy. Further, the "Net Zero" electricity consumption plan is primed to usher in a transformative paradigm shift, heralding a brighter and cleaner future characterized by a resilient and sustainable energy landscape that meets the needs of present and future generations alike.

The Ministry of Coal is dedicated to fostering innovation and promoting excellence within the energy sector, with a steadfast commitment to securing India's energy future in a sustainable and resilient manner. With the "Net Zero" electricity consumption initiative, the Ministry endeavours to establish a gold standard for sustainable energy practices, serving as a beacon of inspiration for other sectors to emulate. This initiative not only aims to create a greener and more sustainable India but also seeks to drive socio-economic development and enhance the nation's global competitiveness.

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