

# MONTHLY SECTOR UPDATE

Issue | March 2021



## POWER SECTOR

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“Invention is the most important product of man's creative brain. The ultimate purpose is the complete mastery of mind over the material world, the harnessing of human nature to human needs.”

— Nikola Tesla

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## Ensuring a 'low carbon economy' while expanding energy-access to every Indian household

In Paris, on 12th December 2015, countries (parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) reached an agreement to combat climate change and accelerate actions and investments for a sustainable low carbon future. The Paris Agreement came into force on 4th November 2016, and 55 parties to this agreement globally accounted for an estimated 55 per cent of the total global greenhouse gas emissions back then. These countries deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval/accession with the Depositary, thereby strengthening the global response to climate change. In alignment with the essence and principles of the Paris Agreement, the Indian government created and enacted various schemes and policies to deliver on the commitments made at the UN. It has also developed initiatives to strengthen the roadmap to inclusive and sustainable development on all the three pillars of energy governance-economic, social and environmental. However, according to 'The Sustainable Development Goals Report, 2020' by United Nations, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the implementation of numerous policies and initiatives towards many of the SDGs around the world, turning back decades of progress in many countries. In India, the pandemic has impacted all sectors of our economy, and it continues to affect the poorest and most vulnerable people the most even today, exposing them to harsh inequalities and intensifying existing disparities internationally. As per the United Nations' forecasts, the pandemic is predicted to globally push 71 million people back into extreme poverty this year, comparing the current situation to the massive rise in global poverty in 1998.

India has made substantial progress in recent years towards achieving UN SDGs. Progress on the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals paves the way for faster progress towards achieving other SDGs as well, like- health, education, water and sanitation that are directly and significantly hampered by lack of reliable electricity access. The comparisons being made with regards to carbon emissions in India and other countries need to be treated with caution as India is at a very different stage of development from other economies and is going to witness rapid population and economic growth for several years to come.

According to India Energy Outlook's report of 2021, "India's emissions per capita rank among the lowest in the world today, and it accounts for only about 3 per cent of the historic energy sector and industrial process carbon dioxide emissions since 1850 (compared with around 30 per cent for Europe, 25 per cent the United States and around 15 per cent for China." Several countries have been announcing targets to achieve net-zero Carbon dioxide or Greenhouse gas-emissions like, the European Parliament and the European Council have endorsed a target to achieve net-zero GHG emissions in the European Union by the year 2050. The Chinese government has announced the objective to achieve net-zero carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2060, spurring innovation and providing incentives for consumers and private actors to reduce emissions. Similarly, the central government in India is providing numerous incentives to ensure emission-reductions in India through lower costs for clean energy technologies and a much larger market for low-emissions products and services, making it possible for India to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by the mid-2060s.

In the power sector, emissions from coal-fired power plants are expected to fall by 90 per cent until 2040, with renewables providing nearly 80 per cent of electricity generation. India also has a target to convert around 100 Mt of coal to natural gas using coal gasification by 2030, which can be another potential trade-off between air pollution and carbon emissions. The government believes that India will have around 60 per cent of its installed electricity generation capacity from clean and green sources by 2030. With the recent most 'Go electric' campaign and emphasis on electric-cooking, the government has expressed confidence that it would go a long way in fulfilling the main objective of Energy Transition, moving ahead on the path of ensuring a Low Carbon economy.

**Nilaya Varma**  
Co-Founder & CEO  
Primus Partners

# News & Announcements

## 1. PM inaugurated key projects of power and urban sectors in Kerala:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Pugalur - Thrissur Power Transmission Project, Kasaragod Solar Power Project and Water Treatment Plant at Aruvikkara in Kerala through video conferencing. It was highlighted at the occasion that, under PM-Kusum Yojana, over 20 lakh solar power pumps are being given to Indian farmers and in the last six years, India's solar energy capacity has increased 13 times, while the country has also brought the world together through the International Solar Alliance.

## 2. Transport Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari launches 'Go Electric' Campaign:

Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Mr. Nitin Gadkari and Mr. R. K. Singh, the Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, launched the "Go Electric" Campaign, with an aim to spread awareness on the benefits of e-mobility, EV Charging Infrastructure and electric cooking in India. Government's endeavors to generate green power from agriculture waste and biomass which can also benefit the farmers across the country. The Go Electric Campaign aims at helping the economy by reducing its import dependence in the coming years and creating awareness at PAN-India level, boosting the confidence of Electric Vehicle manufacturers. The event witnessed an unveiling of "Go Electric" logo which depicts the evolution of e-mobility eco-system and a screening of Audio-Visual Creatives specifically designed for enhancing consumer awareness.

## 3. Glacier burst at Tapovan- NTPC's Tapovan-Vishnugad hydel project and the Rishi Ganga Hydel Project, Uttarakhand:

An avalanche near Tapovan in Uttarakhand damaged a part of our under-construction hydropower project in the region. The glacier burst in the Tapovan-Reni area of Chamoli

District of Uttarakhand led to massive flooding in the Dhauliganga and Alaknanda rivers which damaged houses and the nearby Rishiganga power project, on February 7. Twelve teams of the State Department Response Force (SDRF) are engaged in the rescue operation for missing people from Reni village to Srinagar and the communication team is also working simultaneously for better communication in the area. Over 68 bodies have been recovered and there still is widespread panic and large-scale devastation in the high mountain areas around the region.

## 4. Reach, Reinforce, Reform and Renewable energy:

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, addressed a webinar for consultation on effective implementation of Union Budget, 2021 provisions in the power and renewable energy sector. The PM highlighted that the government is focused on reaching every village and every household and India has become a power surplus country from power deficit country, adding 139 Giga Watts capacity and reaching the goal of one nation-one grid-one frequency. Reforms like the UDAY scheme with issue of 2 lakh 32 thousand crore rupees worth bonds have been undertaken to improve financial and operational efficiencies. For monetizing the assets of the Powergrid, Infrastructure Investment Trust -InvIT was established which is soon to be open for investors.

## 5. The Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2020:

The Centre has brought changes to the Electricity Act to suspend Discoms from buying power if they fail to clear dues to generation companies beyond six months, also bringing in a clause in the Act to impose penalties on the DisComs for late payment of dues. The Centre has issued a notification by amending the Electricity Act, 2003, to ensure DisComs clear their dues on time.

Source:

Press Information Bureau, Government of India

# Key Players Updates

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- Adani Group has released a pledge on 10 lakh share of AGEL, 1.38 crore shares of ATL, by their promoters Gautam S Adani and Rajesh Adani on behalf of SB Adani Family Trust. Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has the current project portfolio of 13,990 MW.
- MG Motor and Tata Power have jointly set up a 50kW superfast electric vehicle (EV)-charging station in Chennai, making it as one of the fastest charging stations in the country, in line with the company's vision to enhance the electric vehicle-charging eco system with 50kW and 60kW DC stations. MG and its partners have installed 22 such stations across 17 cities.
- Shapoorji Pallonji group firm, Sterling and Wilson Pvt Ltd has recently formed a joint venture with Enel X (a subsidiary of Enel Group), with an aim to enter the electric mobility segment in India by setting up charging infrastructure across the country and provide products and software platforms as well.
- National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) shall now implement a waste-to-energy technology, with a Chennai-based orthopedic surgeon. The "torrefied coal", made from carbonized waste, will be used by NTPC in its power plants in Varanasi, Bhopal, Indore and Hubli for power generation. The idea was propagated by Chennai-based inventor Dr SK Sivakumar and co-developed thereafter.
- The Energy and Research Institute (TERI) announced has signed an MoU with Power System Corporation of India (POSOCO) in order to strengthen research and knowledge sharing and capacity building on issues related to the power sector. The MoU seeks to develop "power system simulation models, integrated resource planning, including demand and supply on a short-term, medium-term and long-term perspective." TERI and POSOCO aim to further enhance the modeling capability backed with rich data sets which can address the challenges of Indian power sector.
- The National Green Tribunal has scrapped a plea by NTPC seeking to review of an order passed by Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board (PCB) imposing a penalty of INR 57.96 lakh for damaging the environment due to violation of muck disposal site maintenance norms, resulting in damage to the environment.
- Amazon.com Inc's Indian unit is all set to deploy over a hundred electric three-wheeler vehicles made by Mahindra Electric in seven cities across the country, to help Amazon India meet its target of employing 10,000 electric vehicles in its fleet of delivery vehicles by 2025.
- Tesla Inc is soon to set up an electric-car manufacturing unit in the southern Indian state of Karnataka. State's Chief Minister, Mr. B.S. Yediyurappa, said in a tweet, which was later deleted, that Tesla would start its operations in India with an R&D unit in Bengaluru.

Source:  
Energyworld.com,  
from The Economic Times

## About Primus Partners

Primus Partners has been set up to partner with clients in 'navigating' India, by experts with decades of experience in doing so for large global firms. Set up on the principle of 'Idea Realization', it brings to bear 'experience in action'.

'Idea Realization'— a unique approach to examine futuristic ideas required for the growth of an organization or a sector or geography, from the perspective of assured on ground implementability.

India is and will continue to be a complex opportunity. Private and Public sector need trusted advisory partners in order to tap into this opportunity. Primus Partners is your go-to trusted Advisory for both public and private sector organizations involved intricately with nation building, and the creation and growth of robust corporations as engines of progress.

Our core strength comes from our founding partners, who are goal-oriented, with extensive hands-on experience and subject-matter expertise, which is well recognized in the industry. Our core founders form a diverse cohort of leaders from both genders with experience across industries (Public Sector, Healthcare, Transport, Education, etc), and with varied specialization (engineers, lawyers, tax professionals, management, etc).

Primus Partners brings experience of working in more than 30 countries with private and public sector, including working with Government of India, building and leading large consulting teams at the leadership level, and creating one of the largest public sector consulting practice in India. They also represent 200 person years of experience in leading global and Indian consulting firms and the public sector.

The founding team is supported by a distinguished advisory board that includes experts with leadership experience across Government, large corporate and notable civil society organizations.



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