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Daily Current Affairs



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Plans under way to make Assam power-surplus State

CM inaugurates 70-MW Amguri Solar Park



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AMGURI, May 31: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday inaugurated the much-awaited Rs 300-crore 70-MW Amguri Solar Park at Lalim Chapori, Japisa-ja, 5 km from here.

The solar park is an outcome of a power purchase agreement between the Assam government and solar power developer Power Private Ltd. The solar park will presently produce 50 MW of power and it will attain full capacity in a couple of months.



Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma lighting the ceremonial lamp to inaugurate the 70 MW Amguri Solar Park at Lalim Chapori, Japisa-ja near Amguri in Sivasagar district on Tuesday. -- UB Photos

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The erstwhile Assam State Electricity Board is now divided into three companies based on functions. They are Assam Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGCL) for generation; Assam Electricity Grid Corporation Limited (AEGCL) for transmission; and Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) for distribution

The state-owned APGCL has natural gas-based power plants and hydroelectric plants which generate about 350-400 MW in total. The overall requirement for power exceeds the output of the APGCL, this, bringing in the need for buying power from other places

In Assam, prices are generally fixed for a year by the Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (AERC)

Until a couple of years back, only 16% rural households were electrified, which has now enhanced to about 50%; but as per the National Electricity Policy, steps have been undertaken to electrify every household of Assam by the year 2019

Till now, Assam is mainly dependent on hydro generations. This is about 60% of the total existing availability. Most of these hydro generators are sourced through Run of the River (RoR) which are solely dependent on the rainfall in the respective catchments areas.

Assam Power Generation Corporation Ltd. (APGCL) was constituted after unbundling of ASEB in Dec 2004 through State Power Sector Reforms Programme under the provision of Electricity Act 2003. The final Transfer scheme was implemented on Aug 2005 with a new Company Balance Sheet w.e.f. April 2005. The company is mainly responsible for maximum energy generation to meet up the energy demand in the state. The Total Installed Capacity of APGCL is 379.7 MW and APGCL Peak Generation is around 250 MW.

- 1) Namrup Thermal Power Station (NTPS) (119.5 MW), Namrup, Dibrugarh
- 2) Lakwa Thermal Power Station (LTPS) (157.2 MW), Maibella, Lakwa, Sivasagar
- 3) Karbi Langpi Hydro Electric Project (KLHEP) (100 MW), Lengry, Amtereng, Boithalangso, Karbi Anglong
- 4) Myntriang Hydro Electric Project (MSHEP) St-II (3 MW), Lengry, Amtereng, Karbi Anglong

Solar topic covered last week

Centre issues guidelines to states on **monkeypox**

Stress on surveillance, identification



NEW DELHI, May 31: Amid increasing cases of monkeypox being reported in non-endemic countries, the Government on Tuesday issued guidelines directing district surveillance units to consider even one such case as an outbreak and initiate a detailed investigation through the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme.

In the 'Guidelines on Management of Monkeypox Disease' issued to states and Union Territories, the Health

Ministry stressed on surveillance and rapid identification of new cases as the key public health measures for outbreak containment, mandating the need to reduce the risk of human-to-human transmission.

It stated that India needs to be prepared in view of the increasing reports of cases in non-endemic countries even as no case of monkeypox virus has been reported in the country till date.

The guidelines proposed a

surveillance strategy to rapidly identify cases and clusters of infections and the sources of infections as soon as possible in order to isolate cases to prevent further transmission, provide optimal clinical care, identify and manage contacts and protect frontline health workers and effective control and preventive measures based on the identified routes of transmission.

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Surveillance in India

- The Government of India launched the National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases in 1997.
- However, this initiative remained rudimentary.
- In wake of the SARS outbreak, in 2004, India launched the Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP).
- The focus under the IDSP was to increase government funding for disease surveillance, strengthen laboratory capacity, train the health workforce and have at least one trained epidemiologist in every district of India.

Transmission:

- Primary infection is through direct contact with the blood, bodily fluids, or cutaneous or mucosal lesions of an infected animal. Eating inadequately cooked meat of infected animals is also a risk factor.
- Human-to-human transmission can result from close contact with infected respiratory tract secretions, skin lesions of an infected person or objects recently contaminated by patient fluids or lesion materials.
- Transmission can also occur by inoculation or via the placenta (congenital monkeypox).

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