

India calls for Speedier Expansion of International Solar Alliance

New Delhi: India today called upon more countries to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to reduce dependence on fossil fuels to meet the growing energy requirement, even as it acknowledged the phenomenal progress made by the Alliance and the growing solar energy capabilities the world over. Speaking at a Ministerial Plenary on "SOLAR AND THE SIDS - Making the Sun Shine Brighter", on the sidelines of the 25th session of Conference of Parties under the UN framework convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC COP25), in Madrid, Spain today, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar said "Four years ago in Paris, when PM Shri Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande launched the International Solar Alliance (ISA), it was a new beginning. Now I can say that the four year old child is running fast, but it must run faster because the need of the hour is that we must tap solar in a big way".

Expressing contentment over 83 countries joining the ISA in just four years, Shri Javadekar stated "When ISA was launched, the idea was that all those



countries, who get more solar energy as they fall between Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn, should come together to create consumers' own market. He further said, "I must also congratulate you all as the International Solar Alliance has aggregated demand from various countries on Solar Agriculture Pumps and have floated a tender in which four parties have submitted their bids. I am sure that a best deal is on the cards and they will get it soon".

Listing out the aggressive manner in

which India has expanded its renewable energy mix, Shri Javadekar pointed out that "five years ago, India had just 3 GW (of Solar). Today we have 33 GW of solar energy. It is huge."

"India is going to achieve 100 GW of Solar energy by 2022 i.e. in the next three years it will add 67 GW more of solar energy," the Minister said pointing to the sharp fall in the prices of solar energy due to enhancement of capacity. "The prices (of Solar Energy) used to be Rs 20 per unit. Now, it is just 10 per cent of it," he further added. Shri Javadekar also spoke at length about making efforts towards increasing renewable energy capacity, "All countries need to do it because the target of UNFCCC is to do away with use of all fossil fuels, not only coal. We (India) have today 37 per cent energy capacity through renewables. We want to increase it because our energy demand is rising so we have decided to have 40 per cent of energy capacity through renewable energy - solar, wind, bio-waste", expressed the Minister.

Shri Javadekar also dwelt upon how earlier on initiatives were made by India in launching of ISA, "PM Shri Narendra Modi,

when he was Chief Minister of Gujarat had suggested in 2011 that we should launch this alliance, but there were not many takers at that time, but it happened in 2015 in Paris. France is cooperating and other countries too. I wish this International Solar Alliance very best," said the Environment Minister, adding "when we meet in Glasgow next year, I am sure, there will be more progress in ISA." Prime Minister of Fiji Mr Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama; Shri Anand Kumar, Secretary Ministry of New and renewable energy, Government of India and Shri Upendra Tripathy, Director General of International Solar Alliance, were among other speakers.

On the sidelines of UNFCCC COP25, in Madrid, Spain today, Shri Javadekar, also held bilateral meeting with the British delegation led by Minister for Climate Change, BEIS, Lord Duncan. Host of issues were discussed ranging from the mechanism of Adaptation, Finance, Technology & many other Climate Action related issues. A bilateral meeting with the Australian delegation led by Mr Angus Tylor, Minister of Energy and Emission Reduction was also held earlier in the day.

Workshop for State Governments on 'Standard for Drinking Water'

New Delhi: The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan on 9th December 2019 inaugurated the One Day Workshop organized by the Bureau of Indian Standard with the aim to disseminate information about requirements of Indian Standard with specification for Drinking Water (IS 10500:2012) and other Indian Standards so as to ensure that quality drinking water is provided to all households across the nation. This is in keeping with the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The Workshop was inaugurated in the august presence of Minister of State Shri Raosaheb Danve, Secretary Consumer Affairs, Shri Avinash K. Srivastava and DG BIS Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari.

Addressing media after the inauguration, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan stressed on the need for providing safe drinking water to the common public since this is a primary requirement for ensuring health of the public. Shri Paswan emphasized that the Central Government and BIS were ready to take all necessary steps in this regard and provide necessary handholding support to the State Governments and various agencies. All the discussions that took place were quite productive and States were convinced about the need for enforcement of BIS Water Standards across the nation. During the workshop, information regarding the certification schemes and testing facilities required for compliance with IS 10500:2012 for providing safe drinking water was also disseminated. The similarities between relevant International Standards, Indian Standard and WHO Guidelines were also explained. Representatives from various States were updated about the measures being taken to ensure supply of safe drinking water and suggestions regarding same were also discussed. BIS, as per the directions of Ministry of Consumer Affairs Food & Public Distribution decided to undertake a study of the quality of piped drinking water being supplied in the country in line with the requirements of IS 10500:2012 (Specification for Drinking Water). The result of testing of the water samples drawn from the Capital Cities of various states indicated that most of the samples did not comply in several parameters with requirements of the Indian Standard.



Cownomics at Motipur Kaai Lake - A Success Story

According to the Water Resources Information System Portal under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Chhattisgarh has the maximum number of water bodies among all the states in India with the total number of 104,716 water bodies. Motipur Lake is located in Motipur suburb in Rajnandgaon city, which the locals often started addressing as Kai Talab (means the lake filled with algal boom). The reason was excessive algae. There was so much algae in water that the local residents had to filter the water with cloth or strainer to separate water from the algae, and still what they used to get was just water full of foul smell, fat, oil & grease kind of layer. The project team describe that the foul odour of rotting water was so high that some local residents of the vicinity were forced to plan and escape route by selling of their houses and relocate to a better environment. Another obvious and related problem was mosquitoes thriving on the rotten water, which were the cause of many dreaded vector-borne diseases. The water had become so polluted that it resulted into itching all over the body, if someone took it in hand or had taken a bath. When the clothes were washed, the green colour of algae remained in the clothes. There was a smelly greasiness in the Water all across the Lake. Apart from the above visibly devastating scenes of the lake, the local residents were troubled by the depressive decay smell around the reservoir, and worried about the possibility of outbreak of some vector-borne epidemic diseases arising from the increasing number of mosquitoes.

The Rajnandgaon Mayor, the administration and the Municipal Corporation started a massive mission of searching for viable options for treatment in a planned manner and discovered a revolutionary technology for ecological restoration of reservoirs called "Cownomics". This case study is in reference to this new technology, which is not just eco-friendly but Ecological. Credential Corporate Services, is a private organization working in the field of environmental restoration and ecology in capacity of the State Representative for Chhattisgarh, for the Delhi based Vedic Cownomics (P) Ltd.- the original technology manufacturer. Vedic Cownomics

has developed a new Ecological process inspired by Vedic Science, by which any type of water can be refined and brought back to its Natural Living condition. No chemical, microbial or mechanical dredging is used in this process and the entire task is performed by forces of Nature. But the most exemplary and unique feature is that the revival process is completely performed in-situ conditions, which means, there is no provision for wasteful processes like decantation and refilling of the reservoir. The project implementation started on 21st August 2019 and, when the pond was inspected again on 24th August 2019, some cheerful local residents shared that it was nothing short of a miracle. In mere two days, the Cownomics process had established a proof of concept and had overcome the fears of useless and wasteful conventional processes like drainage and refill of water through mechanical dredging. There was neither time nor astronomical budgets for an expensive and unsustainable projects like setting up a STP. In such a challenging situation, the Cownomics method had proven to be the most suitable, sustainable and viable option.

There were only two treatments in a week and the progress of the project was monitored by the administration. Everything was going smoothly. Soon the solid waste and plastic submerged in the bottom of the lake also started to resurface due to ecological dredging process, which was being removed of by the administration from time to time. And the lake started to become lively with each dosing.

The reports show that in a period of one month time the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) value came down from 125 mg/L to a level of less than 10 mg/L. Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) value came down from 986 mg/L to a level of 48 mg/L. Total Nitrogen value was reduced from 15.59 mg/L to 1.5 mg/L and Dissolved Oxygen was increased from almost zero level to 5.6 mg/L. Umesh Yadav, a happy resident living next to the lake, described that there is foul smell now, algal contamination is visibly lowered and colour of water is lighter than before.

BASIC Ministerial Joint Statement at UNFCCC COP25

New Delhi: A BASIC Ministerial Joint Statement at the 25th session of Conference of Parties under the UN framework convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC COP25), in Madrid, Spain was declared on 11th December 2019. The Ministers of the Brazil, South Africa, India and China group (BASIC) met during the 25th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25) in Madrid, Spain, on 10th December 2019. The meeting

was chaired by H.E. Mr. Zhao Yingmin, Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, and attended by H.E. Mr. Ricardo Salles, Minister of the Environment of Brazil, H.E. Ms. Barbara Creecy, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries of the Republic of South Africa, and H.E. Mr. Prakash Javadekar, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Information and Broadcasting of the Republic of India. Ministers underlined that COP25 should achieve

outcomes listed in 8 points. Ministers highlighted that BASIC countries are implementing ambitious climate actions based on their national circumstances and have achieved great progress, contributing significantly to global efforts in combating climate change. The document has highlighted that India has already achieved a 21% reduction in emission intensity of GDP in 2014 compared to 2005 levels, thereby achieving its pre-2020 voluntary target.