

We have already seen the emergence of super-specialty hospitals across the country, especially in the metro cities. Conversely, these developments have also created the conundrum of high energy-intensiveness in the healthcare sector in India.

This rising energy intensiveness is bound to strain India's power sector substantially in the coming years, along with its ambitious climate goals. Many hospitals still rely heavily on diesel power generation to maintain their critical facilities in time of power cuts or fluctuations.

This presents an array of energy conservation opportunities, which have remained largely untapped due to several reasons. The key constraints have been two-fold: Low awareness among the management of the hospitals and lack of in-house expertise in implementing energy saving projects. Creating and building good energy management can foster the creation of an energy efficient culture within the hospital that can usher in a reduction in energy costs, without compromising on the quality of health care offerings to the patients. What needs to be done is to raise the level of awareness on energy efficiency among the hospital administrators and managers and inspire them to initiate and implement energy conservation programmes in their facilities.

A sharpening of focus on policy and budgetary towards healthcare, especially in developing the infrastructure and buildings of healthcare facilities can reap great benefits. It would enable a marked reduction in energy usage, along with mitigating emissions, which will be critical in combating the adverse effects of climate change. The healthcare sector has a vital role to play in building a sustainable future for our country.

The expansion of healthcare facilities in Ladakh after creation of new Union Territory in August 2019 is one of the most prominent development initiatives being undertaken. The Health & Medical Education Department, UT of Ladakh has also planned to switch to energy efficient alternatives and are in the process of finalizing different modalities in this regard.



India ranks 3rd globally for total renewable additions in 2021: Report

India ranked third globally for total renewable power capacity additions with 15.4 GW in 2021, following only China (136 GW) and the US (43 GW), according to REN21's Renewables 2022 Global Status Report (GSR 2022). The report sends a clear warning that the global clean energy transition is not happening, making it unlikely that the world will be able to meet critical climate goals this decade. According to the report, India added 843 MW of hydropower capacity in 2021, raising the total capacity to 45.3 GW. India was the second largest market in Asia for new solar PV capacity and third globally (13 GW of additions in 2021). It ranked fourth for total installations (60.4 GW), overtaking Germany (59.2 GW) for the first time. India ranked third globally for the total installed capacity of wind power (40.1 GW), behind China, the US and Germany.

The value of urgent action on energy efficiency

The IEA Net Zero Emissions by 2050 Scenario (NZE) sees the average annual rate of global energy intensity (i.e., energy use per unit of GDP) improvement as a key measure of the economy's energy efficiency - doubling from around 2% achieved between 2010-2020 to just over 4% from 2020-2030. With accelerated action, the global economy by 2030 could be around one-third more energy efficient than in 2020. The current challenges regarding energy security, energy prices and the cost of living have intersected with the climate crisis to remind us that energy efficiency is more indispensable than ever. The cleanest, cheapest, most reliable source of energy is what countries can avoid using, while still providing full energy services for citizens. That is why the IEA refers to energy efficiency as the "first fuel". Without early action on efficiency the energy transition to net zero emissions will be more expensive and much more difficult to achieve.

Europe faces 'scramble' to replace dwindling Russian energy: IEA

Europe must race to replace sanctioned and curtailed Russian energy supply and should double down on efficiency and renewables, including nuclear power, the International Energy Agency (IEA) reported. Gas prices have hit record levels as a slowdown in flows from Russia in recent days has deepened worries over supply in higher-demand winter months. "In the near term, the scramble for alternative sources of fossil fuels creates clear openings for non-Russian suppliers," the Paris-based watchdog said in its report on investment. Europe must react to the crisis "with a determined acceleration of investment in efficiency, renewables and other clean technologies," it added.



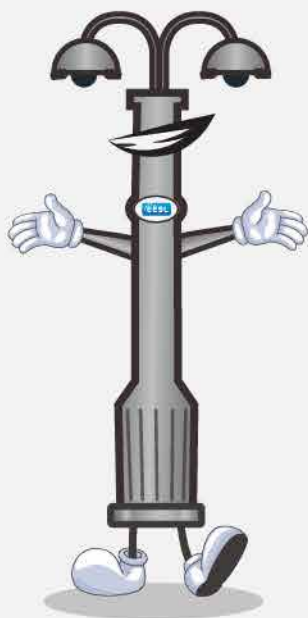
India needs \$223 billion to meet 2030 renewable capacity goals: Report

India will need \$223 billion of investment to meet its goal of wind and solar capacity installations by 2030, according to a new report by research company BloombergNEF (BNEF). The government has set a target of increasing non-fossil power capacity to 500 GW by 2030. It wants non-fossil fuel power sources to provide half of its electricity supply by 2030. By 2021, 165 GW of zero-carbon generation had already been installed in the country. Central Electricity Authority forecasts that the country's reliance on coal to drop from 53 per cent of installed capacity in 2021 to 33 per cent in 2030, whereas solar and wind together make up 51 per cent by then, up from 23 per cent in 2021.

Shell, the oil giant, will sell renewable energy to Texans

Shell would begin selling electricity generated from renewable sources to residents and businesses in Texas, a move that brings the European oil company's shift to green energy to the U.S. market. The announcement underscores a widening gulf between the strategies of European and U.S. oil companies as elected leaders and consumers demand that the energy industry do more to tackle climate change. European businesses including Shell, BP and TotalEnergies are seeking to expand into renewable energy, electric vehicle charging and other fast-growing businesses as U.S. companies like Exxon Mobil and Chevron mostly keep their focus on oil and gas while investing in capturing carbon from industrial plants and biofuels.





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