

Stakeholders Conference

Enabling Energy Transition for a Future-Ready Jharkhand



23rd February, 2023
Ranchi



Introduction



Centre for Environment and Energy Development (CEED), the technical partner of the Task Force for Sustainable Just Transition (Government of Jharkhand) held a stakeholder conference on “Enabling Energy Transition for a Future-Ready Jharkhand” in Ranchi on 23 February 2023. The objective of the roundtable was to examine challenges and potential solutions for developing a state-based transition strategy based on renewable energy, with an emphasis on expanding the renewable energy portfolio.

The roundtable conference was attended by leading research think-tanks, energy and environment groups, sustainability organisations, academic institutions and civil society organisations from the state, who expressed their commitment to help in developing the low carbon development roadmap for Jharkhand.

The year 2022 marked a turning point for India's renewable energy industry, which was encouraging for the nation's transition to a clean economy. This remains true despite trying times, unpredicted weather, such as the severe heat waves that have affected the entire country, and growing energy costs. In addition, given its targets for 2030 and its aim to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070 in accordance with the ‘Panchamrit’ Principle for India's Climate Action (at COP-26) to combating climate change is extraordinary.

Depending on the geographical complexity of each state, developing an effective energy transition strategy necessitates in-depth analysis and strategic decision-making. In response to the aforementioned situation, Jharkhand has taken a historic step, becoming the first state in the country to set a policy direction through a "Task Force on Sustainable Just Transition" in order to leap towards a net-zero scenario and sustainable development goals.

Plenary and Open Session

Mr. Ashwani Ashok, Head-Clean Energy, CEED, highlighted the regional implications of the nation's net-zero goal while emphasising that Jharkhand adopted a comprehensive strategy by forming the first of its kind Task Force on Sustainable Just Transition in India. He further outlined the state's concerns over the depletion of resources, dependency on fossil fuel ecosystems, and vulnerability to climate change, as well as the significance of assisting with a smooth transition to green energy.

While outlining the target of Jharkhand state Solar policy-2022, Mr. Satyam Abhishek, Senior Research Associate, CEED, elaborated the Jharkhand energy scenario with a focus on renewable energy. He also shared recent Jharkhand energy transition related progress, such as the solarisation of government buildings, solar pumps, and solar mini grids, as well as hurdles to enabling a successful energy transition to boost up Jharkhand's mineral-rich state with green energy.

With an emphasis on scaling up renewable energy in light of developing technology and the GoI's goal of net zero, the first session of the roundtable dealt with renewable energy for a sustainable energy transition.



Mr. Sanjeev Jain, Chief Engineer, Chhattisgarh Renewable Energy Development Agency (CREDA), emphasised the crucial turning points in the state's energy transformation. It is important to mention that Chattisgarh has successfully implemented Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE) models and has received honours on numerous occasions, including the ASDEN awards. The Indian renewables industry has advanced significantly in recent years. The nation's ability to produce green energy is expanding, and Chhattisgarh

appears to be one of the primary contributors to the overall capacity in India's renewable energy sector. Many initiatives have been taken, including the construction of solar parks, a solar power facility for the Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board, a solar micro-grid project, and numerous others that are in the progress.

Prof. S.K. Samdarshi, Coordinator-Centre of Excellence in Green and Efficient Technologies, Central University of Jharkhand, highlighted the significance of capacity building and skilling of the workforce for enabling just energy transition in the state. Moreover, he mentioned the important role that prestigious institutions like the academic institutions may play in achieving this. According to Prof. Samdarshi, "Just Transition is an interaction between energy and the environment, and we need a green energy plan to meet our energy needs."

Mr. Ashok Kumar, Director of Transforming Rural India Foundation (TRIF) highlighted a number of DRE-based livelihood applications in Ramgarh, Jharkhand. He further discussed the steps that must be made to persuade the current or future workforce to extensively accept these solutions, as well as the function of youth networks in the districts in terms of delivering skill development to young people in rural areas.

Key Takeaways



- In rural Jharkhand, energy efficiency, income security, and electricity assurance are key factors in DRE adoption. It is crucial to consider the aspirations of the rural residents in a hamlet when designing a micro grid in a rural section of the state.
- The state's RE market has to be developed. Startups in the field of renewable energy can be helped to make this happen. It is necessary to address important issues including easy access to capital, skill development, market assistance, and a level playing field for women business owners.

- Just Transition should adopt a comprehensive strategy that addresses both environmental and human development on all fronts. There is need to define the role and responsibilities of industries association in the enabling successful and just energy transition in the state.
- Together, the energy transition and just transition should usher in a sustainable future because they are complimentary. To prevent mass migration during the period of agricultural failure and coal phase-down process, rural youngsters must receive training and job-related skills.
- When it comes to generating, ownership, operation, and maintenance of solar systems are essential for really greening the state's energy mix. There is a need for increased public-private partnerships and collaborations to drive innovation and accelerate the deployment of energy storage solutions.
- The DRE initiatives in Hariharpur, Patratu serve as an example of a self-sustaining DRE model that can be used in other regions of the state.
- Encourage energy efficiency measures that reduce overall energy use and make solar energy a more viable option.
- Energy storage technologies are still relatively expensive making them unaffordable for many individuals and businesses.
- Land availability for RE-Projects in the state may be addressed by scaling up the state's RE ecosystem and reusing abandoned or closed mines.
- Finding land for utility-scale solar projects is a major issue. Farms, much of which are owned by the numerous Adivasi people in Jharkhand, make up another 40% of the land. The sale of Adivasi lands to non-tribal persons is prohibited by laws like the Santhal Paranagas Tenancy Act of 1949 and the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act of 1908.
- Support solar industry growth by investing in research and development, workforce training, and infrastructure development. Need to develop mechanism for solar financing in the state via CSR funds or special funds.
- Streamline permitting and interconnection processes for solar projects, making it easier and less expensive for homeowners and businesses to install solar panels.
- Administrative barriers between JREDA and DISCOMs must be removed.

Participants' List

Name	Organisation
Ashok Kumar	TRIF
Md. Rustam	TRIF
Dr. Bhaskar Singh	CUJ
Deepak Kumar Arya	Switch On Foundation
Debnath Bera	Ranchi Partners Management Consultants
K.K. Srivastava	Soura Renewable Energy Pvt. Ltd
Himanshu	Swaniti Initiative
S.k. Samdarshi	CUJ
Dheeraj	WRI India
Amit Kumar	WRI India
Vinay	ASSOCHAM
S Rath	ASSOCHAM
Amit	Sologix
Bablu	Sologix
Satyam Abhishek	CEED
Ashwani Ashok	CEED
Richa Jha	CEED
Kumar Gaurav	CEED
Pooja Kumari	CEED
Manish Ram	CEED
Gaurav Mahto	Khethworks