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OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN INDIA

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India's Big Bang Reforms in Renewable Energy Sector: Future Prospects

The Indian government is pursuing one of the most ambitious renewable energy programmes anywhere in the world, to ramp up renewable energy and fight climate change simultaneously. A submission by the Government of India on The Intended Nationally Determined Contributions submitted to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change begins by listing a wide array of activities India has already undertaken to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change including the ambitious target of building 160 GW of solar and wind power capacity by 2022 and an enhanced energy efficiency mission cutting across industrial sectors. It also promises to increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix although it does not explicitly state that about 350 GW of solar and wind power would be required to achieve the 40% non-fossil fuel power capacity – a projection the government had made to reach the INDC numbers.

There is increasing realization that renewable energy can be a major contributor in India's future energy mix. Given the volatility in international energy prices, and India's growing dependence on energy imports, renewable energy has an important role in India's aspirations for energy security. Further, as renewable energy can be deployed close to load centres and enable decentralized power generation, it can help achieve the targets of 100% electricity access and 24x7 electricity supply.