

Reaping full benefit of policy initiatives of Rajasthan govt: Ashish Khanna, President - Renewables, Tata Power

Rajasthan can play a critical role in providing renewable energy not only to this country, but even to the world.

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Ashish Khanna, President - Renewables, Tata Power

We are very closely looking at Rajasthan and keep on taking benefit of their policy

initiatives and advantages, says [Ashish Khanna](#), President - [Renewables](#), [Tata Power](#) in an interaction with Kartik Sharma of ETGovernment.

Edited excerpts:

How do you see the scope of the renewable energy sector in Rajasthan?

India is blessed today to take full advantage of the renewable energy sources with the technology and right policy framework. Rajasthan with no green land, hardly any water in most of it, for this particular aspect of solar energy as well as wind energy, is a blessing in disguise. Rajasthan, which is blessed with sun as well as rain, and then there are grids which crisscross across the nation and very soon I hope in the coming decades even across nations, Rajasthan can play such a critical role in providing renewable energy not only to this country, but even to the world as such, and I think the policy framework which we have seen in the last few years, the way Rajasthan has been propagating and welcoming the investors to invest in that particular state, which is a win win solution for the state as well as for the investors is a great phenomena which I have seen and full marks to the state government there who are facilitating investors for both wind and especially on solar

How do you see the government's role in promoting the RE sector in Rajasthan?

The state government has come forward in welcoming companies and even facilitating training opportunities. And it's then a great opportunity for people in Rajasthan to to train themselves for these RE projects and remain where they are rather than migrating to various parts of the country. And we have seen in Rajasthan that people of that particular area are coming forward in training themselves, upgrading themselves and are now a big part of this work culture for Tata, that helps the community around and helps a business that serves the state. So, I have seen a very welcoming gestures and policy framework, which Rajasthan has come out with, incentivizing manufacturing industry, which was a part for the auto industry Rajasthan's ancillary units have always played a very important role but now they are even looking for manufacturers of renewable components, whether it is panels, cells, glass, or other aluminum extrusions. So you have a workforce available there. You have government policies which are incentivizing. So, I think it's a great place to be.

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Please throw light on your business in Rajasthan's renewable energy market?

We have more than 300 megawatt of our assets which are already working in the state. We also do EPC business as a part of our business segments, and we have major plans of executing EPC projects for our clients. There we have an option of providing them a project or making a project from them anywhere in the country. Most of the time we are selecting Rajasthan as that state for even those EPC projects for clients Like NTPC and SJVN. So with the way we work across there is that we have our own projects of wind and as well as solar, we work for EPC, we keep on looking to have land banks in the state, closely reviewing the connectivity, so that as and when we get a project, we don't take long in commissioning that project. We are also doing solar pump business there, as we speak of more than 11,000 [Solar Pumps](#) we have supplied in the state of Rajasthan. Rajasthan has done a great job in the Kusum scheme. We are also exploring manufacturing capacities and capabilities. We are very closely looking at Rajasthan and keep on taking advantage of their policy initiatives and advantages.

How do you see the rooftop sector in the state?

With such high radiation levels in the state, it makes a big business as well as communities tend to have rooftops out there. The policy framework is there, I wouldn't say it is the best in the world but a certain push from the state towards that particular aspect will also help. The advantage which Rajasthan has on the vast area of land, which is available for utility scale projects, actually, in some manner puts the rooftop in a disadvantageous position, because you have land available even for five or 10 megawatt on a ground mount. So sometimes that doesn't help you, when you can already have a project out there. The other factor which I think will also help in future will be more and more industries coming into Rajasthan, which can be then a captive use of the renewable power which can be utilized out there. This is also something which we are closely mapping, because then you have a capital requirement within the state itself.

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