

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS Power plant maintenance not keeping pace with demand surge

ANUPAM CHATTERJEE
New Delhi, July 15

MANY LARGE POWER plants in the country are running behind their maintenance schedules as they were facing manpower shortages in FY21 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The requirement for continuous power supply in the critical lockdown periods also did not allow many of the plants to go offline to undertake maintenance activities. According to data collected by the industry, only 30,400 mega-watt (MW) of thermal power plants executed planned maintenance activities in FY21, compared to 1,06,022 MW in FY20.

In the ongoing fiscal, maintenance outages are scheduled for 51,990 MW of power generating units. The upkeep of power plants become more critical with power demand surging to record levels, surpassing 2,00,000 MW in the recent past.

The load generation balance report (LGBR) 2020-21 published by the Central Electricity Authority had pointed that "some of the planned outages of the generating units as per maintenance schedule of 2020-21 have not been undertaken by the utilities for the months of April and May, 2020 due to pan India lockdown in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic".

As per the LGBR, cumulative capacity of more than



2,43,000 MW were supposed to undergo maintenance in FY21 (the total capacity of thermal power plants in the country is 2,34,000 MW but the higher cumulative capacity scheduled for maintenance denotes that many units were expected to undergo maintenance outages more than once across the fiscal).

To be sure, capacities that actually undergo maintenance are always lower than what was initially scheduled for a particular fiscal. For example, as per the LGBR for FY18, maintenance was planned for 1,41,981 MW, but actual maintenance was done on 60,640 MW capacity in that fiscal.

"For some power plants, it is already past 21 months since the last maintenance was undertaken, and several units had to undergo forced outages due to high turbine vibrations,

turbine blade failures, high furnace pressure and ash evacuation issues," an official from a power company said.

Planned maintenance includes inspection, servicing and renovation of boiler, turbine generator, and other activities like performance guarantee test of new units and residual life assessment studies on old units. Queries sent to the Union power ministry on this matter have not been responded to.

The issue was raised in a recent meeting of a regional power committee held on June 22. "Annual maintenance of the thermal plants which are long due and could not be undertaken due to severe Covid-19 situation may be carried out during the monsoon season to the extent possible," the minutes of the meeting, reviewed by FE, said.

Lavish fishery sops by advanced nations unjust: Goyal

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, July 15

INDIA ON THURSDAY told the World Trade Organisation (WTO) that allowing developed countries to continue to grant lavish subsidies to their fishermen is "unequal, unfair and unjust".

Speaking at a virtual meeting of trade ministers at the WTO on the politically-sensitive fisheries subsidy negotiations, Union minister Piyush Goyal suggested that "big subsidisers take greater responsibility to reduce their subsidies and fishing capacities", according to an official statement.

This will be in accordance with the principles of "polluter pays" and "common but differentiated responsibilities".



The meeting was aimed at finding out ways to preserve global fish stocks, including scrapping government funding that enables overfishing. The steady fall in the world's fish populations below sustainable levels has added urgency to the negotiations that have been going on for about two decades now.

Massive subsidies, estimated to be in the range of \$14

billion to \$54 billion globally per annum and extended mostly by large fishing nations, have contributed to overexploitation of the world's fish stocks, analysts have pointed out.

Goyal pointed out that the per capita fishery subsidy provided by most developing countries (including India) is minuscule compared to advanced fishing nations.

Any agreement on fishery subsidy must recognise that different countries are at different stages of development and that extant fishing arrangements reflect their current economic capacities, he added.

India is set to oppose any move to end the dole-out for fishermen in developing nations immediately, sources have said. Instead, it will seek more

time for this to soften the blow to millions of fishermen in the country whose depend on fishing to eke out a living.

While developed economies, including the US and the EU, have advocated that all countries do away with fishing subsidies linked to overcapacity and overfishing, developing nations have sought to be exempted from such restrictions to protect their small fishermen. Also, Goyal has argued that countries like India who are yet to develop substantial and advanced fishing capacities, cannot sacrifice their future ambitions.

The fishing sector in the country is estimated to provide direct jobs to about 16 million fishermen and farmers and indirect employment to around 32 million.

CBIC puts in place response team for faster clearance of Covid vaccine shipments

THE CBIC HAS put in place a Covid-19 Vaccine Response Team (CVRT) at air cargo/courier terminals which will function as a single point of contact for all such clearances and ensure that vaccines are given instant delivery upon arrival, the Finance Ministry said on Friday. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has put in place a Covid Response Plan (CRP) for speedy clearances of C-19 vaccines at all major airports. The plan provides for setting up of a Covid-19 Vaccine Response Team (CVRT) at each Air Cargo/Courier Terminal. — PTI

4,000 Mwh storage tenders coming up: Power minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 15

UNION MINISTER R K Singh on Thursday exuded confidence that India will exceed its target of reducing carbon emission set for 2030 under the Paris agreement. Speaking at the inaugural session of the CII-organised Aatmanirbhar Bharat — Self-Reliance for Renewable Energy Manufacturing Conference, the Power, New and Renewable Energy Minister said that as per its commitment made in Paris, India has to reduce its carbon intensity to 33% by 2030.

However, the way energy transition is taking place in India, "...in the matter of reducing the emission of Co2 will be much much beyond what India has pledged", he added.

He further said that as per the Paris agreement, India has to produce 40% electricity of its total capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030.

"We are already at 39% and if you add the capacities under installation it's already 48%. We are way beyond our NDC (nationally determined contributions) pledges," the minister said. In his address, Singh expressed dissatisfaction over the



approach of some nations towards pledges made under the Paris Agreement.

Without naming any country, he said there are countries whose per capita emissions are up to 9 times more than the global average, while India's per capita carbon emission is

Singh further said that as per the Paris agreement, India has to produce 40% electricity of its total capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030

just about one-third of the global average.

"I frankly don't see any meaningful step forward towards reducing by these countries — their per capita emission. We hear, talk about pledges of becoming carbon neutral by 2050 but that is meaningless. I

sound blunt and harsh but actually, it is meaningless," he noted.

Countries must tell what they will do in the next five years and how they will reduce their per capita emission, the minister said, adding it is something "which nobody is telling".

In India, Singh said, energy transition is taking place rapidly and will continue to happen in future as well.

The minister had earlier said, "We (India) are fastest (among all nations) in establishing renewable capacities. But, till all countries don't come together, we can't reduce global warming".

NHRC: Law of ruler not rule of law in Bengal... deploy Central forces

APURVA VISHWANATH
New Delhi, July 15

TERMING THAT WEST Bengal has "law of ruler" rather than "rule of law", a committee of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has slammed the Mamata Banerjee government, accusing it of subjecting "thousands of its citizens... to murder, rape, displacement and intimidation, etc. in the last couple of months" following the Assembly results, and recommended deployment of Central forces in the state.

In its final report on the alleged post-poll violence, submitted to the Calcutta High Court, the NHRC has said that the serious incidents should be investigated by the CBI and tried outside the state, in fast-track courts. It calls for a court-monitored Special Investigation Team to follow up on the investigations.

Calling the accused and suspects "notorious criminals/goons" in an annexure, the NHRC says very "few" arrests have been made "in contrast to the large-scale violence". Among others it names are



"The NHRC should have respected the court... it should have submitted its findings to the court first... What would you call it other than political vendetta of the BJP," said West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee

leaders of the ruling Trinamool Congress, including its Bardhaman South MLA Khokan Das, former legislator Udayan Guha, former councillor Jaydeep Ghosh, Uma Das and her husband Laltu Das.

In a sharp reaction, Banerjee accused the BJP of using "impartial agencies" to hatch a conspiracy against her government. "Because of political vendetta, the BJP is misusing some institutions to malign the image of Bengal.

They cannot digest their electoral defeat in West Bengal," she said.

Claiming that incidents of pre-poll violence in the state, when "law and order was under the Election Commission", had been passed off as post-poll incidents, Banerjee said the NHRC "should have respected the court". "Instead of leaking the findings to the media, it should have first submitted the same to the court."

The 50-page NHRC report

says that the percentage of accused arrested out of those cited and those still in custody is "abysmally low", adding that "this shows inept performance of local Police and there is no deterrence for criminal elements". Of the 9,304 accused cited in FIRs, only 14% or 1,354 accused were arrested, of whom 80% (1,086) are already on bail, says the report.

"Thus, overall speaking, less than 3% of the accused are in jail, while 97% are out in the open, making a mockery of the whole system. It is quite evident that Police... do not have the courage to take action against looming goons belonging to the ruling dispensation," the report says.

Of the leaders it names, the report says, "Their exact culpability will be established through greater scrutiny of records, analysis of telephonic records and cross verification of statements recorded and police station records." It lists 13 police stations specifically where registration of FIRs was low, and said statements by people showed they had "no trust in police".

Domestic natural gas output up 19% in June

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, July 15

DOMESTIC NATURAL GAS production increased 19.1% to 2,769 million standard cubic metre (mscm) in May on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, mainly due to higher production from Reliance Industries and BP's ultra-deep-water field in the KG-D6 Block of the Krishna Godavari basin

on the east coast.

The output had fallen 8.1% y-o-y to 28,670.6 mscm in FY21. Indigenous natural gas production caters to about 51% of the country's requirements, while around 85% of the country's crude oil is imported.

The 2.5 million tonne (MT) of crude oil produced in the country during the month was 1.9% lower than

the production in the year-ago period.

The data for June oil and gas imports are not available yet, but the cumulative LNG import of 5,242 mscm in April-May, 2021 was higher by 24.9% compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

The value of LNG import in the first two months of FY22 was \$1.5 billion, about

67% higher annually.

Due to the increase in global crude oil rates, the value of the import was \$8.3 billion, 261% higher than May 2020.

In the first two months of FY22, the value of crude import, at \$16.8 billion, was 217% higher than the same period last year though import volumes were up only 13.8% to 35.5 MT.

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UN AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2021
(₹ in Lakhs except EPS)

S.No.	Particulars	Quarter ended June 30, 2021 Unaudited	Year ended March 31, 2021 Audited	Quarter ended June 30, 2020 Unaudited
1.	Total Income from operations	1,54,471.08	5,56,974.31	1,27,927.79
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	7,461.41	36,415.29	8,284.36
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary Items)	7,461.41	36,415.29	8,284.36
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary Items)	5,832.99	24,635.06	5,610.56
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period	5,853.41	24,636.12	5,619.41
6.	Paid-up Equity share capital (Face value of Re. 1/- per share)	2,156.02	2,156.02	1617.11
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the audited Balance Sheet of previous year)		99994.99	
8.	Earnings per share (of Re.1/- each) (Not annualised):			
	a. Basic	2.71	11.43	3.50
	b. Diluted	2.71	11.43	3.47

Note:
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the website of the Stock Exchange(s) (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and the Listed Entity (www.hap.in)

2. The above unaudited financial results prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles laid down in the Indian Accounting Standard 34 "Interim Financial Reporting" ("Ind AS 34"), prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on July 14, 2021.

3. The Board of Directors, at its meeting held on July 14, 2021 has declared an interim dividend of Rs. 6 per equity share (600%) (on the fully paid up equity shares of the face value of Re. 1 per share). This is the first interim dividend declared by the Board for the financial year 2021-22.

4. Figures for the quarter ended March 31, 2021 are the balancing figures between the audited figures in respect of full financial year and the published year to date figure of nine months ended December 31, 2020.

For Hatsun Agro Product Limited
Sd/-
C Sathyan
Managing Director

Place: Chennai
Date: July 14, 2021

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OBSERVANCE OF JULY 2021 AS BANKING MONTH

The COVID-19 pandemic still continues to keep the world on the edge. COVID-19 has led to significant structural and behavioural changes in the form of social distancing, drive for economic rejuvenation, and increasing regulatory and government interventions. These changes, such as disruptions to physical operations, impact on asset quality and liquidity, and demand pressure on digital channels, have posed challenges to financial institutions especially the Banking Sector across key functions.

In view of the significance of the Banking sector in the Indian economy and to spread the awareness of various schemes in Banking especially during this pandemic it is felt that the Institute should observe July 2021 as the Banking month.

The **BANKING MONTH** celebrations and observations is an initiative of the Banking, Financial Services & Insurance Board (BFSIB) of the Institute in association and active involvement of other Committees, Regional Councils and Chapters of the Institute. All the webints will be streamed live through the official YouTube channel of the Institute to reach the students, members and all stakeholders of the Institute.

The webints would be graced by many chieftains of the Banking fraternity with eminent CMAs in the helm of affairs.

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