

Govt plans to set up 14GWh battery storage unit in Kutch

FROM PAGE 1

stone of the park was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last December.

Mint first reported India's plan to set up solar and wind projects on fallow land along its border with Pakistan in the Kutch district of Gujarat and Bikaner, Barmer and Jaisalmer districts in Rajasthan.

India has already crossed 100GW of installed solar and wind capacity, with another 63GW under construction.

The plan is to have 175GW renewable energy capacity by 2022 and 450GW by 2030. This huge injection of electricity in the grid from sources such as solar and wind requires a storage mechanism that can help balance the national electricity grid.

According to the Central Electricity Authority, there will be a need for 27GW of grid-scale battery energy storage systems by 2030 with four hours of storage.

"So that's the size I need to begin with. That's for starters," Singh added.

Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd has also announced plans to set up an advanced energy storage Giga factory. India recently unveiled its ₹18,100 crore production linked incentive scheme for developing a battery storage ecosystem that involves setting up 55-GWh manufacturing capacity for advanced chemistry cell batteries.

"How do you bring the cost of storage down? By adding volume. That's how the price of solar came down, how the price of wind came down," Singh said.

The Ladakh plan involves setting up 10GW of large green energy capacity in the strategic region comprising solar and wind parks and using these large battery units to store that electricity to supply to the rest of the country.

Ladakh, Thar, Rann of Kutch, Lahaul and Spiti have the potential to generate 315.7GW of solar and wind power and will require investments of ₹43.7 trillion over the next 30 years to 2050, according to a study conducted by the state-owned Power Grid Corp. of India Ltd.

"We have resources available with us. We have plentiful sun. We have plentiful wind. We will need storage, and we will get there," Singh said.