

# JNPT gears up to procure its power via solar energy

TNN | Jun 5, 2016, 12.35 AM IST

**N**AVI MUMBAI: JNPT, the country's biggest container cargo handling port, has embarked upon a major solar power project. The 25MW project, estimated to cost around Rs170 crore, has the potential to meet nearly 55% of the port's requirement.

JNPT requires about 60 lakh units of power a month. The solar project is expected to generate 32 lakh to 35 lakh units. The long-term project, along with a smaller solar project, that JNPT has rolled on is likely to be commissioned next month comes as good news on World Environment Day on Sunday.

Already, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chosen JNPT as the hub for his dream project of Make in India for export-led growth.

The project, also known as solar farm, is in the tendering stage. It is expected to be operational by 2017. The mega project requires 125 hectares of land. Currently, documentation work is going on, JNPT officials said.

MSEDCL chief engineer Satish Kharpe said the project can be equated with the capacity to power 10,000 city homes. While JNPT is still to approach MSEDCL for the formalities, Kharpe said the project would be the biggest in the area he is in charge of. An agreement with MSEDCL will ensure the pr-oject can be set up anywhere in the state and JNPT can use the power at the port site.

Meanwhile, the port has started implementing a smaller solar rooftop project at a cost of Rs4.08 crore to power its hospital, offices, schools and a multipurpose hall. This project, which has 15% subsidy component from Solar Energy Corporation of India, is likely to be commissioned next month. JNPT said the project will help reduce power tariff cost that it pays at Rs 14 per

unit and it will be recovered in two and a half years.