Metro goes green, opens first rooftop solar power unit at Dwarka Sec 21

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation inaugurated its first rooftop solar power plant at the Dwarka Sector 21 station and is expected to start production from next month.

The first solar module of Delhi Metro’s inaugural ‘Roof Top Solar Power Plant’ has a capacity of 500 kWp. With the beginning of power production next month, DMRC will become the first ever Metro system in the country to install rooftop solar power plants at its stations.

The power produced from this plant will be used to cater to the power requirements of DMRC at this station. A power purchase agreement (PPA) regarding the installation of the plant was signed between DMRC and the developer, a multinational firm engaged in the installation and production of solar power worldwide last February.

This is the largest rooftop plant with such capacity in Delhi NCR region under the RESCO model, DMRC claimed. Under this model, DMRC will pay for the units of power generated by the plant and the capital investment will be provided by the developer.

DMRC is also exploring the possibility of installing more such plants at its stations, depots, parking lots as well as residential complexes. Efforts are also being made to integrate such solar plants with the station structures of Phase 3.

The first solar module of the plant was inaugurated on Sunday at site by DMRC’s Director (Electrical) Anoop Kumar Gupta in the presence of officials from DMRC and GIZ, which has actively supported DMRC’s solar initiatives.

The production of solar power will help DMRC partially fulfill its energy requirements as well as reduce carbon footprints.

Delhi Metro has already taken up a slew of measures towards the conservation of environment and the use of renewable means of energy. In 2011, DMRC was certified by the United Nations as the first Metro rail and rail-based system in the world to get carbon credits for reducing green house gas emissions.

The DMRC also saves energy by the innovative regenerative braking process. Whenever metro trains apply brakes, three phase-traction motors installed on them act as generators to produce electrical energy which goes back into the Over Head Electricity (OHE) lines. The energy that is supplied back to the OHE is used by other accelerating trains on the same line, thus reducing about 30% of electricity requirement.