

Freiburg inspires KSCA to install solar panels

Chinnaswamy Stadium becomes the first facility in the country to implement the power system on its premises

by S S Shreekumar

Queen's Road: The Karnataka State Cricket Association has installed a roof-top solar power system at Chinnaswamy Stadium. The stadium has become the first sporting facility in India to embrace the system that is modelled on the lines of Germany's fully solar-powered Freiburg Football Stadium.

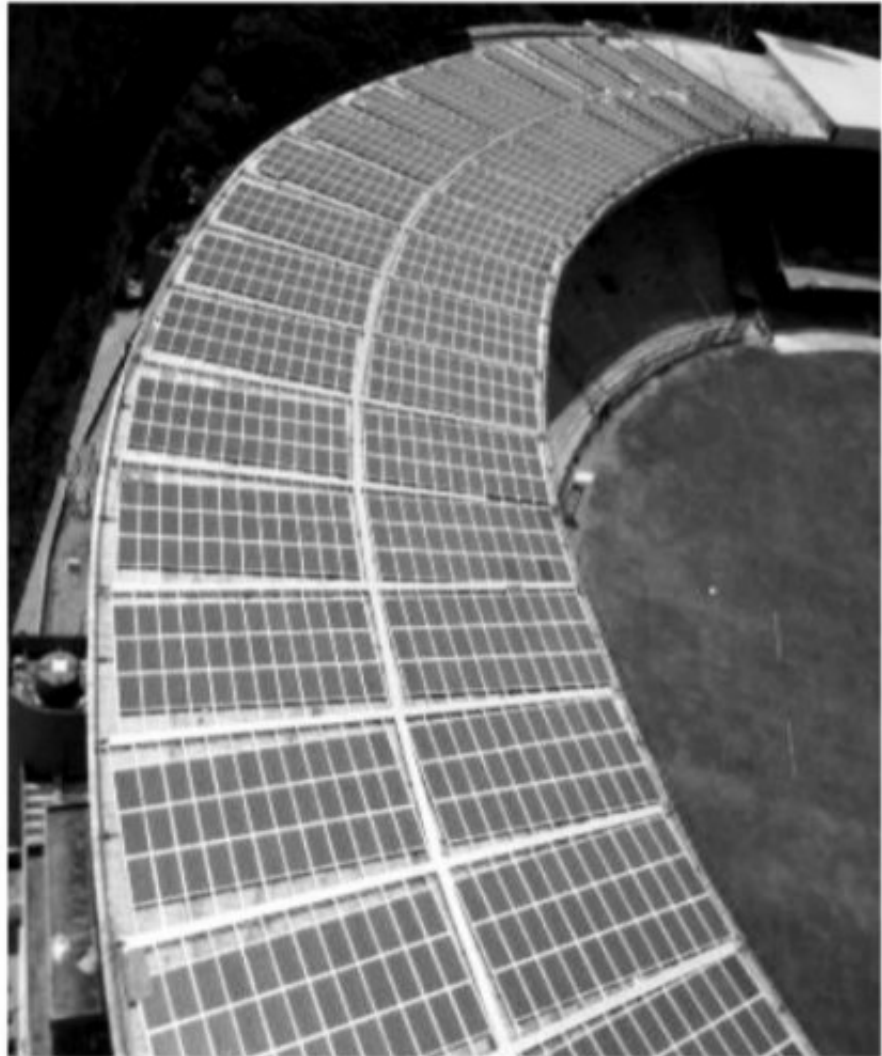
"When Kaushik Mukherjee, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, had visited Germany, he saw their solar power facility at the Freiburg. There is an agency called GIZ that works on various social issues between Germany and India. They conducted a feasibility survey and gave a report, all free of cost. Once it was ready, we got the project going," said KSCA secretary Brijesh Patel.

Installed on the roof of the eastern stands, the solar panels are expected to take care of a significant portion of the power consumed. However, the flood lights will not be fuelled by the panels. They are estimated to generate 1,700 units of power every day.

"Installing solar panels for power generation is not difficult. Panels are available and can be easily installed. The main part is the design of the building and identifying the right placement of the panels. Once this is sorted out, any building can easily be solar powered," said Srinivas Kumar from RenxSol.

"The life span of these panels is 25 years and not much maintenance is required," he added.

"In the second phase, we plan to install another 850 kW solar photovoltaic panels atop the western stands. Put together, the systems are expected to generate 5.9 lakh units of solar power annually and reduce 600 tonnes of carbon emission. About four lakh units will be supplied to the grid and the same will reach citizens," said Brijesh.



"The stadium consumes about 18 lakh units of power annually and spends ₹1 to ₹1.2 crore on bills," Brijesh added.

"The new initiative will bring down this cost significantly and is expected to generate 6 lakh units of solar power annually, utilising a portion of it and selling the surplus to BESCOM," he further said.

"The project, costing about ₹4.5 crore, was completed in just 50 days. It was commissioned in February this year and we expect to break even in

just four years. Not only this, it will also be able to generate revenues of ₹70-80 lakh every year with the power it generates," Brijesh said.

Brijesh Patel has also requested BWSSB to supply sewage water from the neighbouring areas to the stadium, which can then be treated and used for watering its lawns.

"The KSCA is also looking at installing sewage treatment plants to use treated water for the ground and facilities inside the stadium," he said.