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'India's solar power generation to double by March 2017'

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Ahmedabad: With more and more developers lining up their mega solar power projects, India's solar power generation capacity is expected to almost double by March 2017. National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI) estimates the power generation from solar energy will rise to 10,000 MW.

"Currently, India's solar power production is 5129.81 MW, and it is going to increase to 10 GW (10,000 MW) by March 2017. Many big projects are coming up in various states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu," said Pranav Mehta, chairman, National Solar Energy Federation of India.

India is currently ranked 11th in the world in terms of solar power generation. "However, with new capacities being added, India will be among the top five solar producing countries. With 43 MW, China is at the top followed by Germany, which has 38 GW capacity," added Mehta, who has also been co-chairman of Global Solar Council, an

international solar energy body.

The union ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) has approved 33 solar

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up big solar projects in various parts of the country. "Rooftop solar power generation is another area which the government is focusing on. Around Rs5,000 crore have been earmarked in the new solar policy to encourage rooftop solar installations," Mehta added.

Haryana, Delhi, Telangana have come up with attractive policies to promote rooftop solar power generation. "However, Gujarat government needs to revise some of its norms for rooftop solar projects," he said.

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