

'Biden to ban new oil drilling over vast areas of US Atlantic, Pacific waters'

REUTERS

BENGALURU, JANUARY 4

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden is set to ban new offshore oil and gas development across 625 million acres (250 million hectares) of US coastal territory, *Bloomberg News* reported on Friday.

The ban, to be announced on Monday, rules out the sale of drilling rights in stretches of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and the eastern Gulf of Mexico, said the report, citing unidentified people familiar with the matter.

Biden is leaving the possibility open for new oil and natural gas leasing in the central and western areas of the Gulf of Mexico, which account for around 14 per cent of the nation's production of these fuels, the report said.

The White House did not immediately respond to a *Reuters* request for comment outside of business hours.

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US President Joe Biden at the White House on January 2. *File*

mate change and his goal to decarbonise the US economy by 2050.

The New York Times reported that a section of the law Biden's decision relies on, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, gives a president wide leeway to bar drilling and does not include language that would allow President-elect Donald Trump or other future presidents to revoke the ban.

Biden, Trump and Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, all used the law to ban sales of offshore drilling rights in some coastal areas.

Trump tried in 2017 to reverse Arctic and Atlantic Ocean withdrawals Obama had made at the end of his presidency, but a federal judge ruled in 2019 that the law does not give presidents the legal authority to overturn prior bans.



Biden to Ban New Oil Drilling over Vast Stretches of US Waters



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India is ahead of other countries in green hydrogen sector: Joshi

'Further, the work of offshore wind power projects is underway and tenders have been invited in Gujarat'

KHANDWA (MP): Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi on Saturday said India is ahead of other countries in the field of green hydrogen.

The Union government has floated a tender for the world's largest green ammonia demonstration project, he said during a visit to a floating solar plant in the Omkareshwar Dam in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district.

Further, the work of offshore wind power projects is underway and tenders have been invited in Gujarat, the minister told reporters.

"When we talk about offshore wind power, it means installing windmills in the sea, which requires development and upgradation of ports and transmission infrastructure. Along with this, work on geothermal (power) is also underway, though it is at the primary stage," Joshi said.



Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi

“A REVOLUTION IS TAKING PLACE IN THE FIELD OF SOLAR ENERGY, AND INDIA IS BECOMING THE WORLD LEADER IN RENEWABLE ENERGY”

A revolution is taking place in the field of solar energy, and India is becoming the world leader in renewable energy,

he said. "India is ahead in the field of green hydrogen, compared to other countries. We have floated a tender for green ammonia which is the world's biggest (project)," he said.

The solar plant in Omkareshwar Dam is one of its kind and produces 278 megawatts of power, the minister noted.

"This plant is providing electricity to Delhi Metro. I am thinking about how can we do this in other parts of the country where there is potential. There is potential of 90 gigawatts power generation but very little has been done," he said.

Officials and leaders from other states and energy experts, especially from regions where there are large dams, should come here and see this project to replicate it elsewhere so that the target of 500 gigawatts (of non-fossil energy) by 2030 and 1800 gigawatt by 2047 could be achieved, the minister said. PTI



Shell Group seeks CCI nod for Raj Petro Specialities acquisition

Our Bureau

New Delhi

Global energy conglomerate Shell Group has sought the CCI's approval for its proposed acquisition of Raj Petro Specialities Pvt Ltd.

Involving Shell Deutschland GmbH and Shell Overseas Investments B.V. acquiring 100 per cent equity in Raj Petro, the deal aims to enhance operational efficiency and improve customer offerings.

भारत हरित हाइड्रोजन क्षेत्र में अन्य देशों से आगे : केंद्रीय मंत्री जोशी

एजेंसी ■ खंडवा

केंद्रीय नवीन एवं नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्री प्रल्हाद जोशी ने शनिवार को कहा कि भारत हरित हाइड्रोजन के क्षेत्र में दूसरे देशों से आगे है। मध्य प्रदेश के खंडवा जिले में ओंकारेश्वर बांध में तैरते सौर संयंत्र के दौरे के दौरान उन्होंने कहा कि केंद्र सरकार ने दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी हरित अमोनिया प्रदर्शन परियोजना के लिए निविदा जारी की है। मंत्री ने संवाददाताओं को बताया कि अपतटीय पवन ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं का काम चल रहा है और गुजरात में निविदाएं आमंत्रित की गई हैं। जोशी ने कहा कि सौर ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में क्रांति हो रही है और भारत

ओकरेश्वर बांध में सौर संयंत्र अपनी तरह का अनूठा है और इसकी बिजली उत्पादन क्षमता 278 मेगावाट है।

नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा में दुनिया का अग्रणी बन रहा है। उन्होंने कहा, भारत दूसरे देशों की तुलना में हरित हाइड्रोजन के क्षेत्र में आगे है। हमने हरित अमोनिया के लिए निविदा जारी की है जो दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी (परियोजना) है। मंत्री ने कहा कि ओंकारेश्वर बांध में सौर संयंत्र अपनी तरह का अनूठा है और इसकी बिजली उत्पादन क्षमता 278 मेगावाट है। यह संयंत्र दिल्ली मेट्रो को बिजली दे रहा है।



भारत हरित हाइड्रोजन में आगे : प्रह्लाद जोशी

खंडवा। केंद्रीय मंत्री प्रह्लाद जोशी ने शनिवार को कहा कि भारत हरित हाइड्रोजन के क्षेत्र में दूसरे देशों से आगे है। मध्य प्रदेश के खंडवा जिले में ओंकारेश्वर बांध में तैरते सौर संयंत्र के दौरे के दौरान उन्होंने यह बात कही। प्रह्लाद जोशी ने कहा, केंद्र ने दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी हरित अमोनिया प्रदर्शन परियोजना के लिए निविदा जारी की है।