

REPORT

Indian Cricket Delegation visits solarised soccer stadiums in Germany

High ranking officials from 8 State Cricket Associations and BCCI visited 4 solarized soccer stadiums and the largest international solar exhibition - Intersolar Europe 2017 in Germany. Main objective of this visit was to get an insight of best practices in constructing and retrofitting sport stadiums with solar technology. The German counterparts shared their experiences and motivation for going green. This tour was organised as part of the 'Green Wicket' project, an initiative of GIZ India. The unique initiative has the ultimate goal to provide a 'Greener Tomorrow' by using sports as an ambassador of sustainable measures especially renewable energy.

Modern, solarized stadiums are acting as role models to promote green and sustainable living. In order to promote solar rooftops through sports, the Green Wicket project has already supported the installation of a 400 kW solar photovoltaic rooftop power plant on the Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru along with other sustainable measures such as rain water harvesting, waste water recycling and solid waste management.

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in cooperation with Solar Energy Cooperation of India (SECI) now has aligned with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to support solarisation of stadiums. This special high-profile business delegation on "Sustainability in Sports – Solarizing Soccer and Cricket" took place from the 28th of May to 4th of June, 2017 and was organized by GIZ and Indo-German Energy Forum (IGEF) with support from SECI, National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), German Solar Association (BSW) and Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC). Solarised soccer stadiums, their developers and owners were visited in Mainz, Kaiserslautern, Hoffenheim and Freiburg.

The tour started with a guided visit of the Opel Arena stadium in Mainz and its rooftop solar power plant which was organised by the project developer Juwi, one of Germany's leading international solar companies. The architectural planning, building and installation which was explained in detail intrigued the delegates. Mr. Stephan Hansen, COO of Juwi interacted with the delegation at their headquarters. The interaction at Mainz ended with a visit to a larger 4 MW solar park and a 2 MW wind turbine.

The next soccer stadium was the Fritz-Walter Stadium in Kaiserslautern where the delegates got a glimpse into the history of the stadium as well as the implementation of the solar rooftop by developer "Solar PV Energiedach". Mr. Hans-Joerg Hoch, Vice President of the

South West German Soccer Association was also present to meet the cricket delegation, thanked them for their visit to Germany and their interest in the transition towards 'Green Stadiums'. Mr. Hoch concluded by saying that "Sport stadiums have to take the lead to raise awareness about a greener tomorrow".

On their way to Munich, the delegation also visited the soccer stadium in Hoffenheim where they witnessed a solar carport built by WIRSOL. The idea of building a car port was fascinating to the delegates, as it is cost effective compared to a solar photovoltaic plant on the roof of the stadium and because it can easily be extended at any time. The soccer stadium tour ended in Freiburg the "Eco-City" of Germany. The delegation met the Mayor of Freiburg who explained them the concept and salient features of the 'Eco City' concept. Thereafter the delegation visited the Freiburg football stadium. The installed rooftop solar plant is functioning well since 15 years which aroused curiosity among the delegates to learn about their maintenance practices.

In addition to visiting the solarised soccer stadiums across Germany, the delegation attended the Intersolar Europe 2017 in Munich, the world's leading exhibition for the solar industry, where they got insights into latest developments. The delegation also participated in the "Indo-German Energy Dialogue and Business Roundtable on Photovoltaic-Rooftop Development in India" on 1st June 2017 organised by the Indo-German Energy Forum (IGEF). Together with key persons from the Indian and German PV-Rooftop market, the roundtable was presided over by Mr. Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Government of India who interacted with the Cricket Delegation and motivated them to implement Solar technology.

Mr. Joerg Gaebler, Principal Advisor of Solar and Green Wicket project, GIZ said *"Traveling with the delegation from different Indian State Cricket Associations in Germany was one of the most delightful experiences for us. Now the challenge is to motivate each stadium for implementing best practices of solarisation at their respective stadiums and bring sustainability pan-India through the sport of cricket."*

Mr. T.C. Mathew, Vice President of BCCI, who was leading the cricket delegation concluded by saying that *"the visit to different soccer stadiums, the solar exhibition Intersolar 2017 on latest technologies in Munich and the workshop conducted by IGEF was very fruitful. Hon'ble Minister for Power, Mr. Piyush Goyal directed that all cricket stadiums in India should go solar within a year. The cricket delegation responded positively to his request and assured that steps will be taken at the appropriate forums of BCCI in this regard. The minister also gave us assurance to facilitate necessary support from SECI for implementing these measures"*.
