

CM inaugurates solar plant

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee on Wednesday inaugurated the Solar Photovoltaic Module Manufacturing Plant of Vikram Solar Private Limited, a company under the Vikram Group of Industries at Falta SEZ in South 24 Parganas.

Bhattacharjee said the state government was laying emphasis on developing renewable energy. "In West Bengal, we still derive 95% of energy from coal-based thermal power plants, which is very dangerous. We have to convert to more non-conventional renewable energies following the Centre's na-

tional solar mission," he said. The chief minister also said that a tidal power project in Sunderbans is to come up.

H K Chaudhary, chairman of the Vikram Group of Industries, said that Vikram Solar Private Limited has invested around Rs 100 crore for this project with an initial production capacity of 25 MW per annum "We are already in the process of expanding the power generation capacity and the second phase of investment in this sector will start from June or July this year," he said. The company has plans to increase production to 50 MW per annum by next year.

State IT minister Debesh

Das said that a solar valley project was coming up at Andal and industries on non-conventional energies could be developed at Panagarh also that has been declared an SEZ for developing non-conventional energies.

West Bengal Green Energy Development Corporation (WBGEDC) managing director S P Gon Chaudhuri, who was present at the programme, said that three other companies have bought sheds at Falta. "We are hoping to touch a solar power production of 250 MW by 2011. About 200 acres have been earmarked at Panagarh for an SEZ on non conventional energy," Gon Chaudhuri said.