

RENEWABLE ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

A Global Magazine on Renewable Energy Systems

Volume 2 • No. 1 • January 2011

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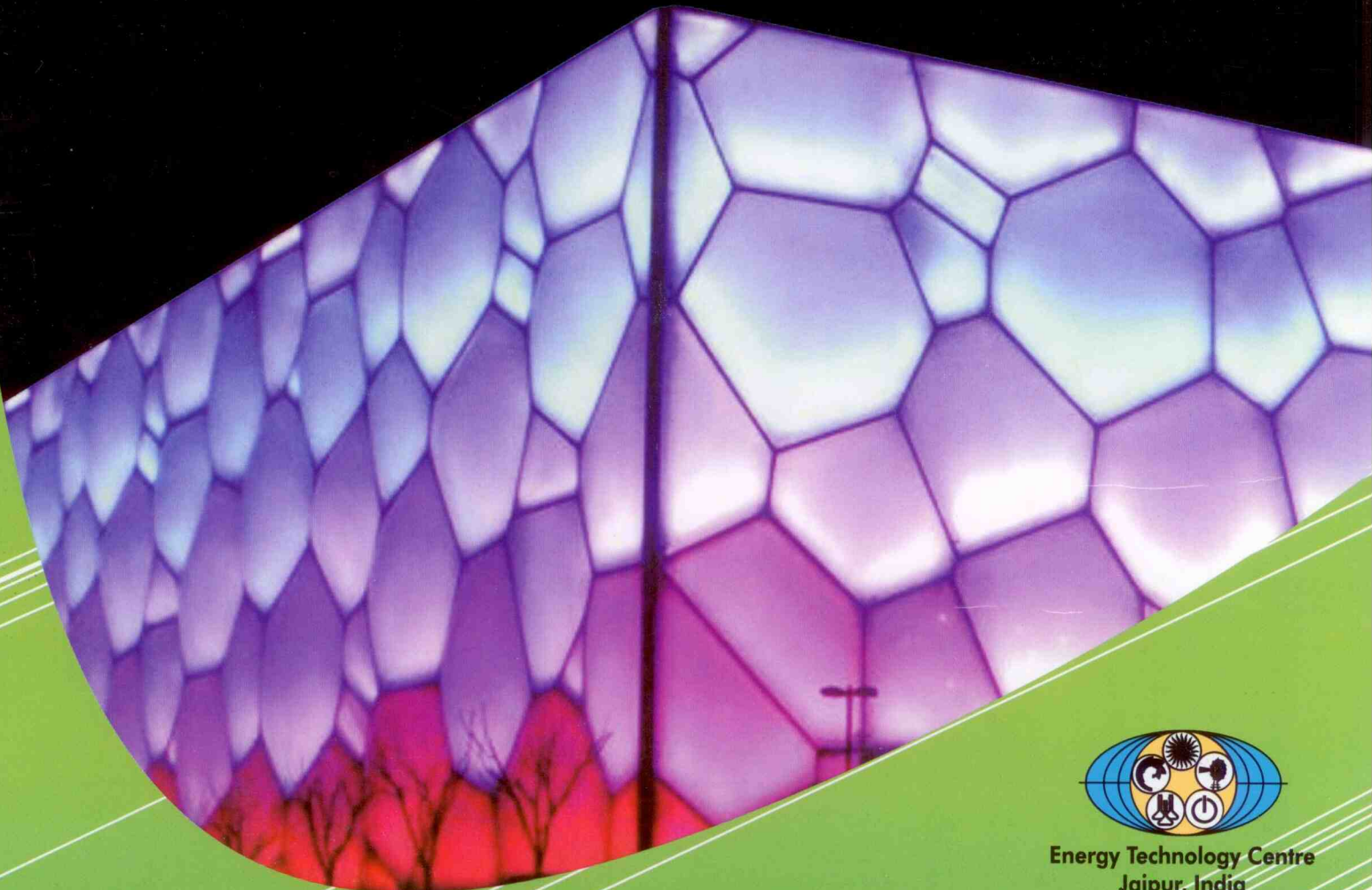


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The Unflinching Dash to *Swarnim* Gujarat

What India needs Gujarat has: the leadership of Narendra Modi. He is known for his dynamic personality. He is also known for his courage and the ability to make decisions quickly. There is one quality he has about which little appears in the media. This is his enlightened approach to problems. This is clearly demonstrated in the way he is developing the state of Gujarat.

The Chief Minister is coming to grips with climate change. It is a problem that often leaves authorities frozen as no action or much delayed action is



Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi

taken by them. But Chief Minister Modi, knowing that environment and sustainability become the causalities of development, is among the pioneers in the world to set up a separate department of climate change in his government. Gujarat has the distinction of being the fourth state or the 4th province in the world to have an exclusive department for this.

As a leader of the state with a stature of national consequence Modi is keen not

only to develop his state but also to place it in a context which is a status of international repute. This has become clear at the conclave of IIM-A Alumni with Gujarat government. .

The occasion was the golden jubilee. "I look at IIM-A from a different point of view," Modi said. The Indian Institute of Management- Ahmedabad (IIM-A) and Gujarat government are now partners in accelerating the state's growth. A core committee comprising IIM-A officials and alumni, representative from industry, and principal secretaries of different government departments will be setup by the state government for this purpose.

He went on, "Gujarat has had a white revolution through the Amul model and a green revolution through achievement of a 9.6 per cent agricultural growth. The state is now moving towards the saffron revolution in energy."

"Apart from making a mark in nuclear, wind, hydro and thermal energy, among others, Gujarat will soon become the world capital in solar energy."

He is the first in the country to come out with a solar policy. His example was followed by others; the National Solar Policy was declared later. Then states came up with their policies. Every state, it seemed, felt that Gujarat was playing a game. So when Gujarat announced a list of companies ready to invest in power generation in the state they too jumped in the boat.

But they could not go all the way as Chief Minister Modi did. Gujarat went

ahead with power purchase agreements (PPAs) with 21 companies initially to generate 365 MW of solar power. This was roughly an investment of about Rs 5,500 crore at an estimated capital cost of Rs 15 crore per MW of solar capacity. And supply was expected from December 2011. This was even earlier than the National Solar Policy came.

Clearly Gujarat speeds in top gear. This has been the experience of the companies which are in the state trying to set up their solar plants. For instance, Moser Baer India, a sister company of which is setting up three solar plants of 15 MW each in the state finds this. Ratul Puri, the sister company's executive director, says, "Gujarat has the most aggressive plans."

Narendra Modi has seen to it that all sources of renewable energy are tapped. Thus Gujarat has formulated a policy for developing geothermal energy as well. It is not just coming out with a policy that is important for Gujarat. Every attempt is made to get to the latest and the best of technologies that the world has developed. For example, in harnessing tidal energy Gujarat is exploring its coastal locations through the services of one of the most advanced multinationals. The advantage of tidal energy is its potential to maintain a continuous supply.

In the state renewable energy is being promoted with a special focus on the best of technologies available in the world. The new technologies do not emit any greenhouse gases. But what about gases already present in the atmosphere? In Gujarat these gases

