

Floating solar farm destroyed

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In India's state of Madhya Pradesh, the world's largest floating solar plant at Omkareshwar dam suffered severe damage during a storm on April 9. Footage captures the destructive impact as strong winds uprooted and damaged solar panels, disrupting operations.

The world's largest floating solar plant in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district has been damaged by a storm. The plant, built on the backwaters of Omkareshwar Dam, was ready for launch but, however, was hit by a summer storm on Tuesday, The Times of India said in a report.

NHDC subdivisional officer Suresh Dwivedi said that a "major loss" occurred to the solar panels installed for the plant. "Officials are assessing the loss. The survey is expected to be completed in two days," TOI quoted Dwivedi as saying.

The Omkareshwar Dam backwaters will house plants with capacities of 100 megawatts in the Kelwa Khurd area, 88 megawatts in the Indawadi region, and 90 megawatts in Ekhand village. Among them, the 100 megawatt project in Kela Khurd village is nearly complete. However, damage was reported in the panels of the Indhawadi plant.

NHDC managing director Vijay Kumar Sinha inspected the solar power plant on Omkareshwar reservoir in Indhavadi village of Khandwa district in February this year. During inspection, instructions were also given to complete the work as soon as possible.

The solar facility in Khandwa district incorporates unique technology akin to that of a hydroelectric power plant, enabling the generation of electricity from water. Floaters positioned atop the water's surface are connected to the solar panels. These floaters are securely anchored together to safeguard the panels from any potential harm resulting from fluctuations in water flow or level.

Auction bids for the floating solar power plant were around Rs 3.25 per unit energy¹; by the operators AMP Energy (100 MW), NHDC (100 MW), and SJVN (90 MW).²;

The 600 MW plant is being built on the Omkareshwar Dam's reservoir and the evacuating infrastructure is being provided by the state-owned Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Limited (RUMSL).³; Reportedly, this plan will be the largest floating solar power generation facility globally.⁴;

In August 2023, a capacity of 278 MW had been activated. The first part of the project started with solar panels that each generate 0.5MW and 0.4MW of power.⁵;

In April 2024, parts of it were damaged in a storm, likely due to insufficient



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anchoring. #6; #93; #91; 1 #93;

Floating solar panels are beginning to boom in the US after rapid growth in Asia. They're attractive not just for their clean power and lack of a land footprint, but because they also conserve water by preventing evaporation. (May 10) (AP Video: Haven Daley and Laura Bargfeld)

The sun rises over floating solar panels on May 3, 2023, in Selangor, Malaysia. Floating solar panel farms are beginning to boom in the United States after rapid growth in Asia. They're attractive not just for their clean power and lack of a land footprint, but because they also conserve water by preventing evaporation. (AP Photo/Vincent Thian)

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