

E-India push to loosen Chinese grip on cleantech

TEAM TOI

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday announced a manufacturing mission to accelerate development of a domestic cleantech ecosystem, a move aimed at self-reliance and ending China's near-total dominance over the supply chain.

"Given our commitment to climate-friendly development, the mission will also support cleantech manufacturing. This will aim to improve domestic value addition and build our ecosystem for solar PV cells, EV batteries, motors and controllers, electrolysers, wind turbines, very high voltage transmission equipment and grid



GREEN MILES TO GO

scale batteries," Sitharaman said in her Budget speech. The Economic Survey on Friday flagged China's hold on the cleantech supply chain as a risk for India and called for developing a domestic ecosystem based on circularity with recycling.

In sync with the mission, the Budget waived customs duty on cobalt powder and waste, lithium-ion battery scrap, lead, zinc and 12 critical minerals to ensure availability of inputs for cleantech manufacturing. These are in addition to customs waiver for 25 minerals and reduced import levy on two.

The Budget also raised the 2025-26 allocation for renewable energy ministry by 53% to

Rs 26,549 crore from Rs 17,298 crore revised estimate for the current fiscal. This is expected to boost support for rooftop solar and other incentives.

CEEW senior programme lead Rishabh Jain said that with backward and forward integration, India has potential competitiveness in clean energy components such as battery anodes, solar wafers, silver paste, wind turbine gearbox, etc. The manufacturing mission is the latest step in incentive schemes for making solar cells, modules and batteries. Earlier this week, govt launched the National Critical Mineral Mission to promote domestic ecosystem for cleantech inputs with focus on recycling for circularity.