

**The Times of India**

**Title : 3RD IN RAJASTHAN - CESC bags 20-year power distribution nod in Bikaner**

**Author :**

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CESC Ltd, a part of the Rs 19,000-crore RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group, has received a letter of intent for appointment as a power distribution franchise for supply of electricity to Bikaner in Rajasthan. This is the city-based group's third distribution operation in Rajasthan, the other two being Kota and Bharatpur. Nationally, it would be fifth distribution area for the power utility. A company official said the power distribution appointment for Bikaner is based on a competitive bidding and a distribution agreement for a period of 20 years, is expected to be signed shortly.

Welcoming the new business opportunity on Monday, CESC chairman Sanjiv Goenka said, "We are delighted to expand our new business opportunity in the growing state of Rajasthan. The Bikaner city distribution franchise, spread over 155 sq km, currently has 1.42 lakh consumers. It will be our privilege to serve a population of 6.44 lakhs, where the peak load so far has been 130 MW."

"At Bikaner, we intend to follow the customer-centric initiatives already introduced in mer-centric initiatives already introduced in Kota and Bharatpur. In the light of very valuable experience earned in Kota and Bharatpur, we are committed to make our electricity distribution operation in Rajasthan one of the best in the country," he added. For CESC, the total revenue from three cities in Rajasthan would be Rs 1,200-1,300 crore. The total peak power consumption would be 400 MW. "With this, our revenue from distribution other than Kolkata will be Rs 2,400-2,600 crore," he said.