

July 2024

Cover Story.

Union Budget 2024's Impact on Infrastructure & Copper's Role

A graphic with a dark background featuring abstract, colorful, curved lines in red, yellow, and blue. Overlaid on this is the text 'Basic customs duty (BCD) of 2.5% on copper scrap or copper blister.' in white. Faint background text includes 'UNION BUDGET 2024', 'INFRASTRUCTURE', 'SUSTAINABLE GROWTH', and 'COPPER'S ROLE'.

Basic customs duty (BCD) of
2.5% on copper scrap or
copper blister.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman announced a complete customs duty exemption on 25 critical minerals including copper.

Detailed Insight

The budget outlines substantial investments in urban and rural infrastructure projects, which include upgrades to transportation networks and energy systems. A notable inclusion is the prioritization of copper in these initiatives, owing to its critical role in enhancing the durability and efficiency of public utilities.

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In Focus

Seminar Cum Workshop on Best Practices for Distribution Transformers



On July 12, 2024, the International Copper Association India (ICAI) and the Indian Transformer Manufacturers Association (ITMA) organized a **Seminar cum Workshop on Best Practices for the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Distribution Transformers (DT) and the Code of Practice (IS: 18284/2023)** for DT Repair at Hotel Radisson-City Centre, Jaipur. **The workshop aimed to improve DT reliability and efficiency through updated standards and best practices.**

Key Highlights:

- Supported by government bodies like the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the workshop was opened by **Mr Girish Kumar, Senior Vice President of ITMA**, who emphasized the critical role of utilities in providing reliable electricity.
- Mrs. Kanika Kalia, Director of BIS Jaipur**, introduced the new DT Repair Standard (IS: 18284) and stressed its importance in extending the life of transformers through proper repair practices.

Expert Insights:

- **Mr K P Verma, MD of Ajmer DISCOM**, praised the initiative for keeping engineers informed about the latest standards, which are crucial for maintaining reliable power. **Dr Hari Om Gupta, a former Professor at IIT Roorkee**, emphasized using copper in DTs for better performance under high-stress conditions.
- **Mr. D.D. Agarwal, Director of SamtaPower, and Mr. Manas Kundu, Advisor at ICA India**, highlighted the benefits of copper in DTs and the need for DISCOMs to manage quality assets.

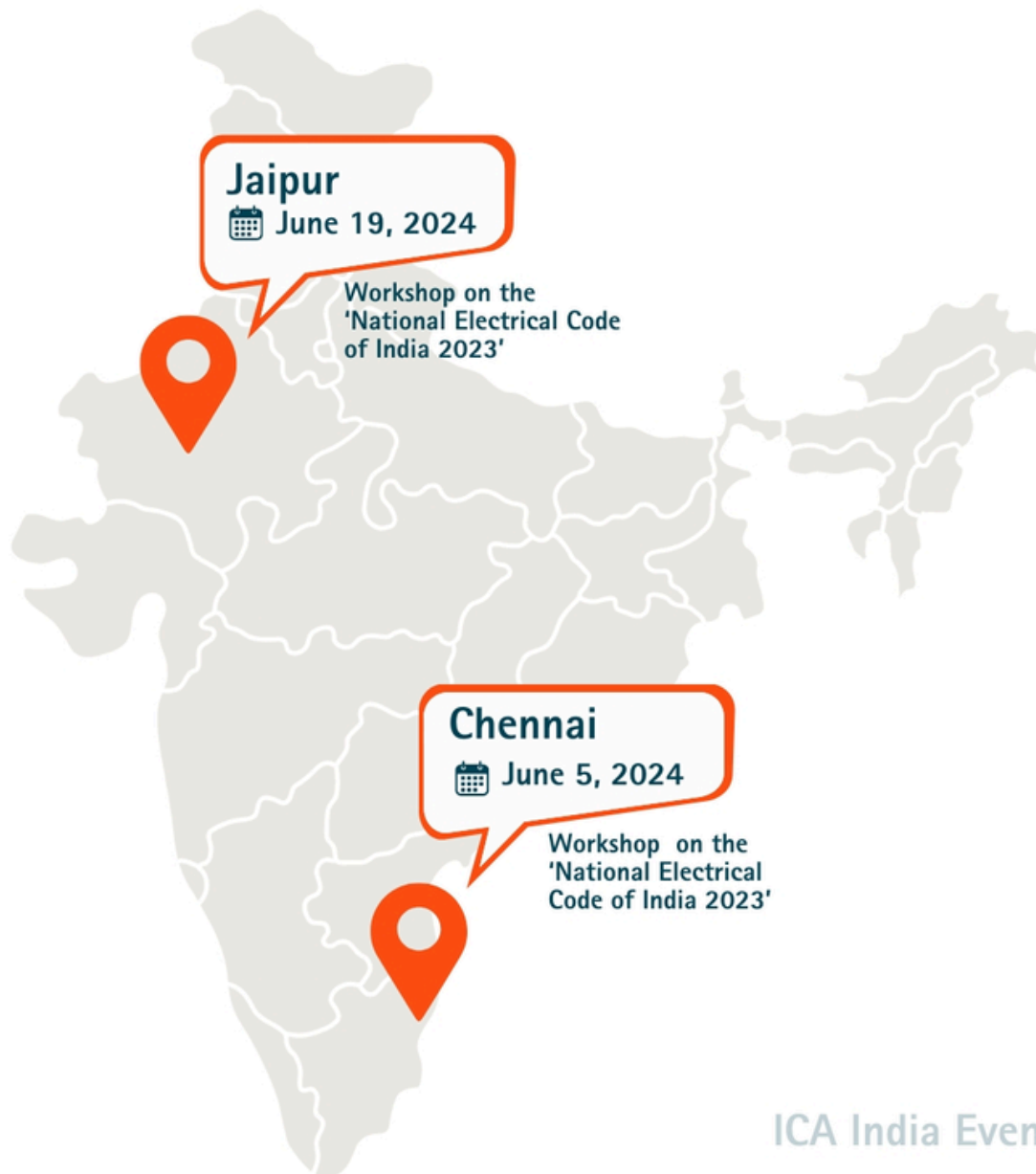
Outcomes:

The workshop provided practical insights into DT operation and repair, equipping attendees—comprising O&M engineers, utility representatives, and industry experts—with the knowledge to enhance transformer reliability and support sustainable power distribution.

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ICA India Events

The **"National Electrical Code of India 2023"** workshop, covering new changes and interpretations, including IS 18732 and CEA Regulations 2023, took place at multiple locations in June





June 21, 2024 | Hyderabad

Workshop: Advancing Electrification of Passenger Three-wheelers through Retrofitment Copper Intensive Solution

Organizers: Government of Telangana, ASCI, NRDC India, and International Copper Association India

Highlights: The workshop focused on promoting the electrification of passenger auto rickshaws using copper-intensive retrofitment solutions, offering a blueprint for urban electrification in Indian cities.

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June 28, 2024 | New Delhi

Panel Discussion: Securing India's Copper Supply: Challenges and the way forward

Organizers: ICRIER, International Institute for Sustainable Development, and International Copper Association India

Highlights: The panel discussion brought together experts to address the challenges in India's copper supply chain and to explore strategies for ensuring a secure and sustainable copper supply.

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Media Focus

West Bengal Sets Copper Standard for Solar Safety and Efficiency

100% copper conductors
for AC and DC cables
in solar PV installations



Following Jharkhand, the West Bengal Renewable Development Agency (WBREDA) has mandated 100% copper conductors for AC and DC cables in solar PV installations, reinforcing the importance of reliability and safety.

**West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency
(WBREDA)**

Department of Non-Conventional & Renewable Energy Sources, Govt. of West Bengal
Bikalpa Shakti Bhawan, J-1/10, EP & GP Block, Sector-V, Salt Lake Electronics Complex, Kolkata - 700091

Memo No : WBREDA/125/

Dated: 18/06/2024

To
The Project Associate (Eastern Region)
International Copper Association of India
Indrajit20@gmail.com

Subject: Minimum Technical Specifications for wires and cables in respect of Solar PV Power Plant under execution of Engineering Division-II, WBREDA

Sir,

This letter acknowledges receipt of your recommendations regarding the Solar PV Power Plant for the upcoming tenders, under execution of Engineering Division-II, WBREDA

We also express our sincere gratitude for your kind support in adhering to the latest engineering codes and practices in this regard to reach the technical specifications, which may ensure quality of work for the Solar PV Power Plants in upcoming tenders. We would like to inform you that we have gone through your proposals under subject and we are in the process of including the Solar DC cable standards also, which may ensure the use of high-quality, safe, and reliable cables in upcoming solar projects, thereby enhancing overall project performance and durability.

We do hope that this decision may contribute significantly to the quality and sustainability of solar power projects in West Bengal, under execution of Engineering Division-II, WBREDA.

Encl : as above

Yours faithfully,

Divisional Engineer-II, WBREDA

Divisional Engineer
WBREDA

Challenge: Previous standards allowed for using both aluminium and copper, with aluminium often chosen for its lower initial cost.

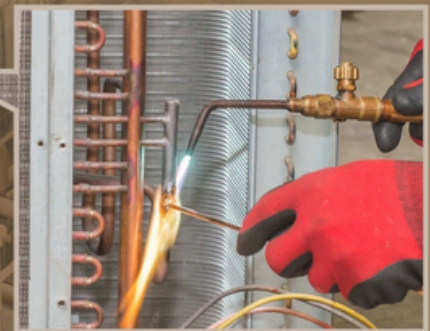
ICA's Response: Invited by WBREDA, ICA experts made a compelling case for copper, emphasizing its superior performance and safety in solar PV systems.

Outcome: The revised standards now prescribe copper conductors exclusively, ensuring safer and more reliable solar PV installations.

Optimizing HVAC Systems – The Role of Copper

Why Copper is the Key to HVAC Efficiency

EFFICIENCY
RELIABILITY
SUSTAINABILITY



With India facing rising temperatures, Ajit Panicker, CEO of Pureblu Technologies Pvt. Ltd, and ICA India share insights on how copper is critical in enhancing HVAC system efficiency.

Key Points:

- **Superior Efficiency:** Supported by research from ICA India, copper's high thermal conductivity significantly improves air conditioner performance, lowering energy costs.
- **Sustainability Focus:** Highlighted for its recyclability, copper aligns with sustainable practices in the HVAC industry.

- **Addressing Challenges:** The need for skilled labor and advanced materials, like copper, to meet the demand for cooling solutions is emphasized.

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