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**'Forced' shutdown of nine HPGCL thermal units
Power utilities ink purchase pacts with private companies**

**Manish Sirhindi
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With a thrust on purchasing power from private players, Haryana Power Generation Corporation Limited (HPGCL) has been forced to shut down nine out of its 12 thermal units.

As of today, power generation from the sources within the state has been reduced to about 900 MW even as the state has an installed capacity of 5,300.50 MW a day. Officials in the HPGCL maintained that these units had been shut down as power demand had decreased.

While these arrangements would ensure lesser power cuts, it would also make the consumers pay more, as shutting down the thermal units would add to the power cost. The prolonged shutdown would dent HPGCL finances, as the utility will be paying Rs 1 per unit for keeping the units shut other than buying the power from private players.

As of today, seven out of the eight thermal units at the Panipat Thermal Power Plant and both units at the Khedar Thermal Power Plant are under shutdown. Two units at the Yamunanagar thermal power plant are generating about 250 MW of power each.

The four units of the stage-1 at the Panipat Thermal Power Plant (4X110 MW) are under complete shutdown since September 2013. The unit no. 5 and 6 are non-operational since November 2013 and January, respectively. The unit no. 7 is under annual maintenance since March 11. This has also brought down the plant load factor of the Panipat Thermal Power Plant to 45 per cent as compared to 74.97 per cent in 2012-13.

At Khedar, unit no. 1 of 600 MW capacity is down due to reduced demand, while unit no. 2 of the same capacity is non-operational since October 2013 due to snag in its turbine.

Meanwhile, Haryana is buying 1,424 MW from Adani-Mundra (Gujarat), 90 per cent of power from the 1,320 MW China Light power station at Jhajjar and an additional 750 MW from the Aravali Jhajjar station of the NTPC.