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**MNRE INCREASES  
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ASSISTANCE FOR  
RESIDENTIAL ROOFTOP  
SOLAR PROJECTS**



**POWER PURCHASE**

**>> APTEL UPHOLDS RERC ORDER  
DEFYING CLAIM AGAINST RETROACTIVE  
IMPACT ON PPAS**

- > The Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) has upheld the Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission's (RERC) decision dismissing a petition filed by Mangalam Cement, a wind energy generator.
- > Mangalam Cement set up wind energy projects in Rajasthan in 2007, 2008, and 2010, with power purchase agreements (PPAs) signed for 20 years.
- > The 2014 RERC Tariff Regulations for the control period from 01.04.2014 to 31.03.2019 altered provisions related to wheeling charges and power banking options.
- > Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam (JVVNL) applied these 2014 Regulations to Mangalam Cement's PPAs, and issued electricity bills and letters claiming interest on Rs. 8.44 million deposited with JVVNL.
- > Mangalam Cement sought to void such bills and contested that 2014 Regulations should not retroactively impact PPAs related to its wind energy projects in Rajasthan.

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## POWER PURCHASE

- > The APTEL, in its analysis, noted that the wheeling and banking agreement indicated an intention not to maintain a fixed payment structure for unutilized banked energy throughout the entire 20-year period.
- > Referring a Supreme Court judgment, the APTEL noted that regulations under Section 178 of the Electricity Act 2003 supersede existing contracts, obliging regulated entities to align contracts with new regulations.
- > The APTEL concluded that 2014 Regulations take precedence over existing PPAs of Mangalam Cement, and hence, PPAs has to be adjusted and harmonized with the 2014 Regulations.





**RENEWABLES**

## >> MNRE ALLOTS Rs. 515 Cr. FOR A NEW SOLAR POWER SCHEME FOR TRIBAL AREAS

- > The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has obtained approval from the President of India for a New Solar Power Scheme targeting Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) habitations and villages.
- > The Scheme is part of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) and involves an outlay of Rs. 515 Cr.
- > Aimed at electrifying 100,000 PVTG households in areas where grid-based electricity supply is not deemed feasible, the initiative will utilize 0.3 kW off-grid solar power systems.
- > The Government has allocated Rs. 500 Cr. for the Scheme, providing financial assistance of either Rs. 50,000 or the actual cost of the solar power system per household.
- > The Scheme includes provisions for solar lighting in 1,500 multi-purpose centers in PVTG areas without grid electricity, with the Government allocating Rs. 100,000 per center and budgeting Rs. 15 million for this aspect.
- > The initiative is scheduled to be effective from the financial years 2023-24 to 2025-26.
- > PVTG areas identified by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are spread across states such as Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, and Andaman and Nicobar.
- > Funding for the Scheme will be sourced from MNRE's Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes, disbursed over three years—Rs. 20 Cr. in 2023-24, Rs. 255 Cr. in 2024-25, and Rs. 240 Cr. in 2025-26.




**POLICY AND REGULATORY**

## >> MNRE INCREASES CENTRAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RESIDENTIAL ROOFTOP SOLAR PROJECTS



> The MNRE has increased the benchmark Central Financial Assistance (CFA)/subsidy for grid-connected rooftop solar power systems under Phase II of the Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar Program. The revised CFA/Subsidy is given in table below:

Plant Capacity	Applicable subsidy for General Category States/UTs	Applicable Subsidy for *Special Category States/UTs
Up to 3 kW	Rs. 18000/- per kW	Rs. 20000/- per kW
Above 3 kW and up to 10 kW	Rs. 18000/- per kW for first 3 kW and thereafter Rs. 9000/- per kW (subsidy limited to 10 kW capacity)	Rs. 20000/- per kW for first 3 kW and thereafter Rs. 10000/- per kW (subsidy limited to 10 kW capacity)
For Resident Welfare Associations (RWA)/ Group Housing Societies (GHS)	Rs. 9000/- per kW For common facilities up to 500 kWp @ 10 kWp per house, with the upper limit being <b>inclusive of individual rooftop plants already installed by individual residents</b> in that GHS/RWA at the time of installation of RTS	Rs. 10000/- per kW For common facilities up to 500 kWp @ 10 kWp per house, with the upper limit being <b>inclusive of individual rooftop plants already installed by individual residents</b> in that GHS/RWA at the time of installation of RTS



## POLICY AND REGULATORY

- > Special category States/UTs include North-Eastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- > The Ministry has eliminated the CFA for rooftop solar systems above 10 kW capacity for individual households.
- > Only indigenously manufactured solar panels/modules (both solar cells and modules) shall be used for installation of the rooftop solar plant. Certification in this regard from the vendor will be required.
- > The CFA/subsidy would be calculated on the basis of total solar module capacity/solar inverter capacity/capacity approved by DISCOM, whichever is lower.
- > Revised subsidy/CFA rates will be applicable for all subsidy claims submitted on the National rooftop solar portal on or after January 5, 2024.

