

# Solar Energy Production Proposal

Submitted by UNITEDGLOBAL PEACE FOUNDATION JAIPUR

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#### SOLAR ENERGY PRODUCTION PROPOSAL

For Inclusive Development through Public Participation

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Government of India and the Government of Rajasthan have set ambitious targets to expand electricity generation from renewable sources. By the year 2023, India's total installed renewable capacity stood at about 180 GW, of which solar contributed around 73 GW and wind about 45 GW (MNRE, 2023). The National target is to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil-fuel-based capacity by the year 2030 (MNRE, 2022; International Energy Agency, 2023).

From the perspective of land area, Rajasthan is India's largest state with an area of 342,239 sq kms. It has vast potential in the solar sector. Rajasthan had achieved 33.46 GW of solar capacity by mid-2025. In line with the 2024 policy, the state target is 125 GW by the year 2030.

#### 2. INVEST RAJASTHAN SUMMIT AND INVESTMENT COMMITMENTS

At the "Invest Rajasthan" summit held in Jaipur in December 2022, Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed for investments of about ₹10.44 lakh crore, of which the renewable energy sector alone received commitments exceeding ₹4 lakh crore (Invest Rajasthan, 2022; Economic Times, 2022). Thereafter, major national and international corporations such as Adani, Reliance and ReNew Power announced large-scale solar and wind projects in Rajasthan.

Projects worth approximately ₹2.25 lakh crore are likely to be taken up in the near future (Invest Rajasthan, 2022).

# 3. RECENT DECISIONS IN RAJASTHAN (During the Rising Rajasthan Conclave)

At the recently organized Rising Rajasthan conclave, it was decided to establish new solar and other projects. In this context, the following MoUs were executed for investments totaling about ₹35 lakh crore:

S. No.	Sectors	Investment (in ₹ lakh crore)
(1)	Energy	20.82
(2)	Industry	3.94
(3)	Minerals	1.82
(4)	Energy & Urban Development	0.97
(5)	Agriculture	0.65
(6)	All other Sectors	6.80

# 3.1 Rajasthan State Solar Energy Policy, 2024

With the ultimate goal of scaling up renewable energy and sustainable development, Rajasthan has presented a forward-looking State Solar Energy Policy, 2024, which charts a roadmap for a greener and energy-secure future. The policy has been designed to transform Rajasthan's energy ecosystem by enabling optimal utilization of natural resources and by focusing on achieving long-term renewable targets.

The policy establishes an integrated strategic framework for solar and wind energy, hybrid configurations, biomass and waste-to-energy, energy storage, and green hydrogen. Through incentives and a clear regulatory regime, it lays the foundation for transformative change in the state's energy landscape.

#### 3.2 A Perspective Based on Stability and Growth

The principal objective of the policy is to accelerate adoption of renewable energy while simultaneously promoting investment and infrastructure development in the state. The policy applies a structured approach that aligns different clean-energy technologies with their enabling sectors, including Manufacturing, Transmission, Infrastructure Development, Research & Development initiatives, and Employment generation.

A key milestone of the policy is to achieve 125 GW renewable-energy capacity by 2029-30, comprising:

Sources	Production
Solar Generation	90,000 MW
Wind and hybrid energy	25,000 MW
Hydro, pumped storage and battery	10,000 MW
storage (BESS)	
Total	125 GW

This target not only reflects the state's commitment to expanding its own capacity, but also aligns with India's long-term net-zero emission objectives through accelerated renewable adoption.

### 3.3 Strategic Focus Areas

The Rajasthan State Pollution Control Policy lays strong emphasis on the following several key areas to ensure a clean, sustainable, and efficient environmental framework:

- Promote the complementarity of solar, wind, hybrid and storage solutions to meet diverse demand patterns.
- Support infrastructure and incentives for the emerging green-hydrogen economy.
- Scale up storage systems to enable reliable and secure grid operations.

- Strengthen transmission planning and augmentation so that renewable integration can happen at large scale.
- Emphasize research and development to encourage innovation and technology up-gradation in renewable energy.

# 3.4 Incentives Under Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme, 2024 (RIPS-2024)

To facilitate private investment and support long-term sustainability, the policy is linked to RIPS-2024, which provides a broad package of incentives for different categories of clean-energy projects.

# 4. Existing Land-Allotment Policy

Under the Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy, 2019, land for renewable-energy projects is allotted at concessional rates, which also promotes local participation and balanced regional development (Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy, 2019). The land-allotment process has been made seamless via single-window clearances and time-bound approvals, with priority to both industrial and community-based projects (Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy, 2019; Economic Times, 2022).

- 1. Projects with registered MoUs are assured of timely financial closure, while government-allotted land is provided through the prescribed processes (Invest Rajasthan, 2022).
- **2.** Local population is engaged as field workers and paid as per the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 (Government of India, Ministry of Labour).
- **3.** Surplus power from projects is transferred to corporations which, inter alia, meet the needs of nearby model villages, ensuring social benefits (Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy, 2019; similar provisions exist in the 2024 policy).

## 4.1 Policy Considerations for Project Success

Important factors for successful project execution include:

- Transparent allotment of land under the Rajasthan Industrial Policy, 2022.
- Access to financial resources through banks and government support schemes (MNRE, 2022).
- Participation of community groups and cooperatives (MNRE, 2021; Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy, 2019).

# 5. Proposal For Regional Development & Afforestation to Generate Employment

In districts Barmer, Jodhour, Jaisalmer, Phalodi, Nagaur, Jalore, Bikaner and Balotra where government land is available, the following proposals are being proposed:

- Several windmill projects are currently operational in Rajasthan. Generally, there is a considerable amount of vacant space between two windmills, and the towers are also of significant height. Therefore, the vacant land situated between and around these windmills can be utilized for solar power generation and plantation activities.
- The State Government may enable the use of such vacant land through suitable government orders/circulars. Consequently, this land can be effectively used for solar energy production.
- In revenue villages where such vacant land is available, priority should be given to local residents in its allotment.
- Residents of revenue villages may be allotted 4 acres of land for solar projects and 2 acres of land for plantation purposes.
- Four acres of land can be used to generate 1 MW of solar power, while plantation on 2 acres of land will generate significant carbon credits. Although solar projects may increase local heat, plantation will help maintain environmental balance and create a positive impact on the ecosystem.
- The carbon credits thus generated may be retained by the beneficiaries themselves, or alternatively by the Government, or even transferred to the

Panchayat. However, it is more practical for the beneficiaries to retain the carbon credits.

- The Government may consider formulating a scheme to provide land to local residents at concessional or free rates, in place of industrialists.
- Land for industrialists may be provided by the Government from private owners either at five times of the DLC rate or at the prevailing market value.
- Industrialists may also take land on lease from local farmers at approximately ₹25,000 per acre annually, which is already the prevailing practical rate in the region, whereas the government land rate is ₹6,000 per acre. This wide gap is highly advantageous for private firms/industrialists. For instance, if 1 lakh acres of land is allotted to industrialists, it results in an additional profit of ₹190 crores to private entities, which cannot be considered equitable.
- From the time of land allotment and demarcation, a contour survey should be conducted to identify suitable locations for small ponds/tanks. The allottee should be assigned the responsibility to develop these water structures and ensure water availability. This water shall be utilized for irrigating trees on 2 hectares of land, as well as for providing drinking water to livestock, animals, and birds.

# 6. General Financial Structure for Small Projects

• Two model calculations are as follows (at the prevailing rate of ₹3.04 per unit):

#### (a) <u>Indian Solar Module Plant :</u>

- ightharpoonup Land = 165 ft × 165 ft = 3,025 sq yard = 1 bigha
- > 1.61 bigha = 4,840 sq yard = 1 acre
- ➤ In 4 acres of land = 1 MW Plant
- $\triangleright$  Cost of 1 MW (excl. land) = ₹ 3,54,00,000/-
- Sale rate (average) = ₹3.04 per unit
- ➤ Daily generation (average)= 4,800 units
- $\triangleright$  Daily income = 4,800 × 3.04 = ₹14,592
- ➤ Annual income  $= ₹14,592 \times 365 = ₹53,26,080$
- ➤ Annual O&M cost = ₹5,00,000
  - o Net Income = ₹48,26,080
- ➤ Govt. Tarrif
  - (Current prevailing) = ₹3.50 per unit
- ➤ Daily generation (average)= 4,800 units
- $\triangleright$  Daily income = 4,800 × 3.50 = ₹16,800
- $\triangleright$  Annual income = ₹16,800 × 365 = ₹61,32,000
- ➤ Annual O&M cost = ₹5,00,000
  - o Net Income = ₹56,32,000

#### (b) Non-Indian Solar Module Plant (at the prevailing rate of ₹3.04 per unit)

- $\triangleright$  Cost of 1 MW (excl. land) = ₹2,85,00,000
- Sale rate = ₹3.04 per unit
- ➤ Daily generation (average)= 4,800 units
- $\triangleright$  Daily income = 4,800 × 3.04 = ₹14,592
- $\triangleright$  Annual income = ₹14,592 × 365 = ₹53,26,080
- ➤ Annual O&M cost = ₹5,00,000
  - O Net Income = ₹ 48,26,080/-
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(Current prevailing) = ₹3.50 per unit

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- $\triangleright$  Annual income = ₹16,800 × 365 = ₹61,32,000
- ➤ Annual O&M cost = ₹5,00,000
  - o Net Income = ₹ 56,32,000/-

If the above prevailing rate of ₹3.04 is universally increased to ₹3.25 per unit, the revenue will increase accordingly, which can be understood from the following table:

#### (c) <u>Indian Solar Module Plant</u>: (at the rate of ₹3.25 per unit)

 $\triangleright$  Land = 165 ft × 165 ft = 3,025 sq yard = 1 bigha

> 1.61 bigha = 4,840 sq yard = 1 acre

➤ In 4 acres of land = 1 MW Plant

 $\triangleright$  Cost of 1 MW (excl. land) = ₹ 3,54,00,000/-

➤ Sale rate (average) = ₹3.25 per unit

 $\triangleright$  Daily generation (average)= 4,800 units

 $\triangleright$  Daily income = 4,800 × 3.25 = ₹15,600/-

➤ Annual income  $= ₹15,600 \times 365 = ₹56,94,000/-$ 

➤ Annual O&M cost = ₹5,00,000

o Net Income = ₹51,94,000

#### (d) Non-Indian Solar Module Plant: (at the rate of ₹3.25 per unit)

 $\triangleright$  Cost of 1 MW (excl. land) = ₹ 2,85,00,000/-

➤ Sale rate (average) = ₹3.25 per unit

➤ Daily generation (average) = 4,800 units

➤ Daily income =  $4,800 \times 3.25 = ₹15,600/-$ 

➤ Annual income = ₹15,600 × 365 = ₹56,94,000/-

➤ Annual O&M cost = ₹5,00,000

Net Income = ₹51,94,000

Thus, if the universal rate is fixed at ₹3.25 per unit, an additional annual revenue of ₹3,67,920/- will be generated from 1 Megawatt. This additional revenue can be utilized for expenses related to tree plantation, sowing of Sewan grass, construction of ponds, water harvesting structures, and similar activities. The group working in the solar park will be responsible for carrying out these tasks.

# **Adaptive Implementation Scheme**

Under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, CSR funding is encouraged, through which public enterprises and private institutions can support community projects by way of grants or interest-free loans (Government of India, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, 2013).

The utilization of ESCROW Accounts for project financing is a recognized best practice, as it ensures transparency and timely disbursement of funds (Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy, 2019).

The revenue received under CSR is intended to be utilized for public welfare; however, it has been observed that CSR funds are often misused by corporates by channeling them to a few selected NGOs, private institutions, and other entities for personal purposes, due to which the local residents do not receive the intended benefits. Therefore, it would be appropriate that the entire revenue received from CSR be deposited in an escrow account and its utilization for loan disbursement be managed directly by the government. This revenue should be allocated towards solar energy, environmental conservation, and interest-free refundable loans for the unemployed. Such loans should be made available to women as well as educated and uneducated unemployed individuals residing in the area, so that the local residents can be supported in improving their economic condition.

# 7. Direct and Indirect Benefits of the Solar Power Generation Project

### 7.1 Government

#### **Direct Benefits:**

- **Revenue Growth:** The State will earn income through taxes and duties from electricity billing.
- Energy Self-Reliance: Dependence on imported fuels will reduce.
- Employment Creation: New jobs will be generated during project construction, operation, and maintenance.
- **CSR Support:** Under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, additional resources will be made available from the revenue received through the CSR fund.

#### **Indirect Benefits:**

- Policy Credibility: Rajasthan will be recognized as a Renewable Energy Hub.
- Rural Development: Development of basic infrastructure (roads, water, electricity) in revenue villages.
- Social Stability: With improved energy availability, industries and services will operate more reliably.
- Women Empowerment: By providing loans for employment to women on a priority basis, women's empowerment will be achieved.

• Improvement in Law and Order: At present, the problem of unemployment in this region is severe, and certain political parties and local leaders are exploiting the unemployed by involving them in various types of agitations, thereby worsening the law and order situation. If local people are provided with employment opportunities, they will devote their time and effort to supporting their families, which will, in turn, lead to an improvement in the law and order situation of the region.

#### 7.2 Community

#### **Direct Benefits:**

- Monetization of Land: Farmers and local residents will earn regular income from land lease/allotment.
- Local Jobs: Recruitment of local persons in the project as per the Minimum Wages notification.
- Access to Modern Energy: Clean and reliable electricity at the local level.
- Share in Benefits: Direct economic gains to village households.

### **Indirect Benefits:**

- Improved Quality of Life: With higher incomes, improvements in education, health, and overall wellbeing.
- Reduced Migration: Migration from rural areas to cities will decline.
- **Social Empowerment:** Community participation will enhance environmental responsibility and decision-making capacity.

• Women's Empowerment: Participation of local women in the project will strengthen households and society.

#### 7.3 Ecology / Environment

#### **Direct Benefits:**

- Lower Carbon Emissions: A 1 MW solar project reduces thousands of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually.
- Carbon Credits: Plantation activities will generate additional carbon credits that can be sold/utilized.
- Technology Diversification: Reduced dependence on fossil/nuclear fuels.
- Improvement in the Ecosystem.

#### **Indirect Benefits:**

- Climate Change Mitigation: Reduced use of fossil fuels will positively impact climate change.
- **Biodiversity Conservation:** Plantation will help conserve local flora and fauna.
- **Productive Use of Land:** Productive utilization of fallow/wasteland.
- **Ecological Balance:** Heat generated by solar panels will be offset through plantation.

# 8. Rules/Procedure for Land Allotment to Set Up Solar Power Systems

- In March 2024, amendments were made to the Solar Policy. According to these, land allotment will now be carried out only through the bidding process. However, the government retains full authority to grant exemptions. In special circumstances, the government allots land free of cost or at minimum rates to various non-governmental organizations for social and public welfare activities. Instead of allotting government land to large industrialists, they should be encouraged to acquire land directly from farmers for setting up plants. This will provide farmers in Rajasthan with a new source of income in the form of lease rentals, thereby increasing their earnings.
- At present, according to the state government's policy, large industrial houses and industrialists are obtaining government land at the rate of ₹6,000 per acre per year, whereas the prevailing lease rate of farmers' land is ₹25,000 per acre per year, with an increment of 5% every three years. Since the state government is providing its land at only ₹6,000 per acre per year, industrialists are receiving an undue benefit of ₹19,000 per acre per year.

For example, if an industrialist obtains 1,00,000 acres of land from the state government, they would have to spend ₹6,000 lakh annually, whereas if the same land were taken from farmers, the annual payment would amount to ₹25,000 lakh. Thus, companies are directly gaining an undue advantage of ₹19,000 lakh every year.

If land is instead taken on lease from farmers, it would directly increase the income of farmers, providing them with an additional ₹25,000 lakh annually, thereby bringing prosperity to the farming community of that region.

If any farmer is unwilling to lease their land, the government may acquire it at five times the DLC rate. Alternatively, if a farmer is not ready to part with their land, they may be allotted one and one-fourth times the equivalent land elsewhere.

In this way, farmers of the region would have the following options: either lease out their land at the rate of ₹25,000 per acre, or receive compensation at five times the DLC rate, or obtain one and one-fourth times their land at another location.

- In areas where Government/Siwaychak land/barren/unirrigated land is available, 6 acres of land should be allotted for establishing a Solar Park, to be given to women and unemployed youth (both educated and uneducated). Depending on the resources available, a Solar Park and Green Wind Park may be developed there, enabling the production of 1 Megawatt of electricity. The government should guarantee the purchase of the generated units at the prescribed rate, and 98% of the total installation cost should be borne by the Government. Additionally, interest-free loans should be provided from the CSR fund. Local residents should be given priority in land allotment.
- At present, the cost of setting up a solar plant on 4 acres of land with Indian modules is approximately ₹3.54 crore (earlier it was ₹3.70 crore), while with non-Indian modules, the cost now comes to about ₹2.85 crore (earlier it was ₹3.00 crore). Thus, there has also been a reduction in cost.
- Local residents, particularly women of this region, must be given priority in land allotment. Concessions should be provided by the government in these projects, and funds should also be made available to them through the CSR corpus. This will generate employment opportunities for the youth and enhance the prospects of employment in the future.

# 9. Land Allotment Priorities (to be applied by the Allotment Committee)

To ensure benefits reach rural residents of Rajasthan, the priority order for land allotment may be as follows:

1. Educated unemployed youth, under 40 years of age.

- 2. Ex-servicemen /Agniveers/ Paramilitary Forces / Police / Martyrs' Families / Families of War-injured Soldiers.
- 3. Economically weaker and marginalized persons/groups.
- 4. Persons/groups engaged in agriculture or working in unorganized sectors.
- 5. Reservation should be provided in allotment for poor women, giving priority to those who are economically weaker, widows, deserted women, differently-abled, divorced, single women, and minorities.

In order of preference, Gram Panchayat first, followed by District and then State residents may be considered.

Aadhaar-based verification shall be mandatory. In the event of re-allotment of these benefits, stringent penal provisions shall be applicable. Only one allotment per married couple shall be permitted. Provision may be made to allow allotment to other independent members of the allottee's family.

#### 10. Objectives of the Proposal

- Empowering women by providing them with employment.
- Ensuring employment opportunities for local educated and uneducated unemployed individuals.
- Raising awareness among people regarding the environment, solar energy, and the balance of the ecosystem.
- Provisions may be incorporated in the allotment policy to prioritize the above groups.
- Acceleration of water conservation initiatives.
- Elimination of unemployment.
- Preventing the adverse impacts of climate change and promoting green energy.

#### 11. Allotment Procedure

• The data regarding Sivawchak land and barren land in the district is maintained by the District Collector. Based on this data, demarcation of areas for allotment can be carried out. Eligible beneficiaries should be allotted 4 acres for a Solar Park and 2 acres for tree plantation. Blocks capable of producing 1,000 MW to 10,000 MW of electricity should be developed, which can be utilized for solar energy generation.

#### 11-1 Allotment Committee:

• Under the chairmanship of the SDM, an Allotment Committee may be formed, comprising the MLA, Pradhan, Sarpanch, and one officer/employee from the Electricity Department.

## **Analysis of the Proposal (On Viability/Feasibility)**

#### • Financials & Land Requirements :-

For a 1 MW solar project, 4 acres of land (1.62 hectares) are required, with an estimated cost of ₹2.85 crore for a non-Indian solar plant and ₹3.54 crore for an Indian solar plant (excluding land cost). Under the proposed financial structure, 98% of the project cost is to be borne through interest-free loans from financial institutions or CSR funds, while 2% of the cost is to be contributed by the beneficiary, which is considered reasonable. The entire revenue generated from CSR should be deposited into an escrow account by the state government and utilized to provide interest-free loans to educated and uneducated unemployed individuals for employment opportunities. This will enable the unemployed in the region to access means of livelihood, thereby improving their standard of living and helping to eradicate the problem of unemployment.

#### • Revenue & Expenditure :-

Each 1 MW plant generates 4,800 units per day and an average of 1,44,000 units per month. At the electricity purchase rate of ₹3.04 per unit, the monthly revenue amounts to approximately ₹4,37,760. The annual surplus generated from this project is significantly higher than the statutory minimum wage for unskilled workers in Rajasthan, thereby demonstrating its financial viability and potential socio-economic impact. If the universal tariff is revised from ₹3.04 per unit to ₹3.25 per unit for a 1 MW plant, the monthly revenue will increase to ₹4,68,000. This additional amount can be utilized for environmental improvement in the region, including the development of new ponds, tanks, contour trenches, and the plantation of Sevan grass, among other activities.

### Adaptive Implementation Scheme :-

1. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding is encouraged under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013. Under this provision, public undertakings and private institutions may support community projects through grants or SOLAR ENERGY PRODUCTION PROPOSAL Page 18 of 21

concessional loans. Since this initiative is directly linked with public welfare, all such companies should allocate funds from their CSR corpus to ensure that the money is not misutilized. These funds can be channelized towards providing concessional financing for solar parks and other eligible projects.

2. In the proposed districts (Jodhpur, Barmer, Bikaner, Nagaur, Jaisalmer, etc.), a large portion of land had earlier been allotted at very low rates for wind energy projects. However, this land was neither fully utilized nor used for plantation. Therefore, after leaving adequate space for access roads and safe distances around their plots, the remaining land may be taken back by the state government by compensating at twice the original allotment rate. This land can then be utilized for solar energy and green parks, to be allotted to educated and uneducated unemployed persons, ex-servicemen, etc., for establishing Solar Parks and Green Parks. This would also help increase greenery. In such allotments, the government may recover the amount from the allottees in installments.

# **Summary (Key Metrics & Reach)**

- ✓ It is noteworthy that Rajasthan has a total area of 3,42,239 sq. km., out of which the districts of Jaisalmer, Barmer, Balotra, Jodhpur, Phalodi, Nagaur, Bikaner, and Jalore together account for 1,37,603 sq. km., which is 40.21% of the State's total area. As per projections, the population of Rajasthan in the year 2025 is estimated at 8.54 crore, whereas the combined population of these seven districts is 1.67 crore, constituting approximately 20% of the State's total population.
- ✓ There are a total of 247.1 acres in one square kilometer. To provide 6 acres of land each to 15 lakh people, a total of 90 lakh acres of land would be required, which is equivalent to 36,437 sq. kms. In Rajasthan, these districts together have a total area of 1,37,603 sq. km. Out of this, only about 26% of the land would be required for such allotments. It would therefore be

appropriate to allocate unused portions of Government land and land earlier reserved for solar energy in these districts.

- ✓ According to this proposal, through land allotment, subsequent installation of solar units, and afforestation, approximately 15 lakh people will be directly linked with employment.
- ✓ Around fifteen lakh people will also purchase vehicles, thereby creating a demand for drivers. This will accelerate growth in the automobile industry, increase the requirement for petrol pumps, raise the demand for domestic help, and enhance tax collection for both the Central and State Governments. In this way, nearly 45 lakh people will receive direct benefits, which will relieve the Government of its responsibility to provide food, clothing, and shelter, and will enable Rajasthan to emerge as the most developed state in the country.
- ✓ If large industrial houses purchase 1,00,000 acres of land directly from farmers, they would have to pay at the rate of ₹25,000 per acre (whereas the Government rate is only ₹6,000 per acre). This would provide poor farmers with an income of ₹25,000 lakh. However, if the Government allots land to them at the rate of ₹6,000 per acre, it would mean that private entities are receiving an undue annual benefit of ₹19,000 lakh. If this amount is instead utilized to provide subsidies to local residents under the KUSUM scheme, the people of the region would gain economic benefits and prosperity would be achieved.
- ✓ As a result of the proposed allotments and their wider impact, scientists will also be drawn towards Rajasthan. There will be a requirement for 15,000 technicians, 15,000 drivers, and 15,000 domestic workers, thereby creating diverse employment opportunities. This will help in reducing brain drain, accelerate the economy, and transform Rajasthan into a greener state that will achieve the foremost position in the Nation in the field of solar energy.

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"Solar Energy is a subject today, in which the whole world is looking at its future and for India, the Sun God has not only been worshiped for centuries, but has also been the focus of our way of life. How solar energy is changing the lives of the poor and middle class of our country is also a subject of study."

# Shri Narendra Modi Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

