

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM POWER DEPARTMENT

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NOTIFICATION

Dated Dispur, the 5th June, 2025

No. PEL. 655345/1: In pursuance of the Section 108 of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Government of Assam is pleased to notify the Assam Solar Power Generation Promotion Policy 2025 for the state of Assam.

Assam Solar Power Generation Promotion Policy 2025

1. Preamble

It is envisaged under this policy to leverage solar energy potential of the State of Assam for augmenting the installation of solar power capacity by deploying resources provisioned under state and central schemes, policies and programmes. This Assam Solar Power Generation Promotion Policy 2025 intends to create a framework that enables an accelerated development of solar energy in the State.

2. Objectives

- Develop a minimum of 3500 MW of Solar capacity by 2030.
- Ensure reliable, affordable, and clean energy supply.
- · Attract private and public sector investment.
- To reduce the dependence on fossil fuels and further energy security in the State.
- Enable grid stability and renewable energy integration.
- · Promote Assam as a regional energy hub.

3 Applicability and Duration

- · Effective from the date of notification
- Valid till 31 March 2030.
- Applicable to all Grid Connected Ground mounted & floating solar power plants, rooftop solar power plants across Assam, including Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

4 Scope of the Policy

- This policy will be applicable to all grid connected ground mounted solar power plants, floating solar power plants, rooftop solar power plant and standalone battery energy storage systems (BESS) established by power plant developers, in the State of Assam on the basis of "Assam Solar Power Generation Promotion Policy 2025" during the Operative Period.
- All terms used in the Policy shall have the same meaning assigned in the Electricity Act-2003 and prevailing rules, regulations and guidelines notified by the concerned authorities etc.

5 Implementation Structure

Nodal Agency: Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd. (APDCL) or as notified by the State Government.

> Project Allotment:

- Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding process (TBCB).
- Allotment to the CPSUs / State PSUs on nomination basis.
- Allotment to the private developer on first cum first -serve basis.

6 Eligibility and State Participation

- Applicable to all eligible developers in accordance with the Electricity Act 2003, and other relevant Central/State regulations and/or Standard Bidding Guidelines (SBGs) issued by the concerned authorities and amended from time to time.
- Government of Assam may hold up to 27% equity in any project on mutually agreed terms.

7 Categories of solar power

7.1 Ground mounted / floating solar plants with or with battery storage set up for sale of power to APDCL

plants covered under this policy

- Power will be procured by the State based on need, under Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) and other relevant guidelines.
- Transmission and Evacuation facilities: As per bid documents.

7.2 Captive solar power plant

 Solar Power Projects setup within the premises of a consumer for captive use within the state and sale of surplus power to APDCL or 3rd party sale within and outside the state under Open Access.

The surplus energy may be sold to APDCL:

- Solar power plant with storage: 100% of the latest available lowest bid carried out by APDCL.
- Solar power plant without storage: 100% of the latest available lowest bid carried out by APDCL
- A power plant shall qualify as a "Captive Generating Plant" as per the Electricity Rules, 2005, as amended from time to time.
- The Maximum permissible capacity: 100% of Contract demand of the consumer.
- Transmission and Evacuation:
 - For Assam's internal needs: via DISCOM/ STU/CTU, built by developer at its own cost.
 - ii) For external supply: Developer may use STU, CTU or dedicated lines with approvals.

7.3 Solar Power Plant under Open Access

- Solar power projects setupwithin the State for sale of power to 3rd party within or outside the state under Open Access.
- Solar power plants can avail Open Access as per AERC (Terms and Conditions for open access) regulations 2024 and its amendments from time to time.
- The charges to be levied for Green Energy Open Access (GEOA) consumers as per AERC (Terms and Conditions for open access) regulations 2024 and its amendments from time to time.
- Transmission and Evacuation:
 - For Assam's internal needs: via DISCOM/ STU/CTU, built by developer at its own cost.
 - For external supply: Developer may use STU, CTU or dedicated lines with approvals.

7.4 Grid connected rooftop solar power (RTS) plant

- RTS plants cansetup within the premises of the consumer of APDCL, as per the AERC (The Grid Interactive Solar PV) Regulation, 2019 and its amendments / Guidelines / Orders issued from time to time.
- RTS plant can avail Open Access as per AERC (Terms and Conditions for open access) regulations 2024 and its amendments from time to time.

7.5 Grid Connected Solar Power Plant in Agricultural Sector

- Solar power plant on Barren / uncultivable land
- Solar power plant on Agricultural land provided that solar plants to be installed in still fashion (i.e. raised structure for installation of Solar panels) and with adequate spacing between panel rows for ensuring that farming activity is not affected.
- Individual farmers/ group of farmers/ cooperatives/ panchayats/ Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO)/Water User associations (WUA) shall be eligible to setup the

- Solar Power Plant.
- Power will be procured by the State based on need, under Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) and other relevant guidelines.
- For Assam's internal needs: via DISCOM/ STU/CTU, built by developer at its own cost

7.6 Standalone energy storage system (BESS):

- Solar power plants with BESS, BESS with transmission infrastructure, storage for ancillary services are promoted for utilization of BESS in supply of energy and grid maintenance under this policy.
- The state intends to empower the BESS project with the following market models:
 - i) Cost Plus model (For procurement of Power/Services)
 - ii) Competitive bidding (For procurement of Power/Services)
 - iii) Storage as a Service (SAAS) Sharing of profit/benefit between the parties

8 Resource Allocation and Project Timelines

8.1 Resource Allotment Methods:

- Government land or APDCL land, fallow land, land belonging to TEA estateand water bodies may be allotted to the CPSUs and State PSUs on nomination basis with approval of State Cabinet.
- Government land or APDCL land, fallow land, land belonging to TEA estate and water bodies may be allotted to the private developer on first-come, first-serve basis with approval of State Cabinet.
- In respect of tea garden land, the total leasehold area for solar project shall not exceed 5% of the landholding, in accordance with Section 4(2) of the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holding Act, 1956.

8.2 Construction Timelines: -

- Developers must begin construction within 1 year of allotment.
- Allotment shall be cancelled, and the bank guarantee shall be forfeited in case timelines are not met.
- Projects failing to achieve financial closure within 6 months may also face cancellation unless delay is justified and approved by the Project Monitoring Committee
- In the case of projects allotted through competitive bidding process, then the construction timeline, financial closures and other project milestones shall be as per bid documents.

8.3 Pre-feasibility Support: -

- The State may carry out district-level pre-feasibility studies and publish site data to attract competitive bids and investment.
- The State may also publish a list of available substations (MW availability including upcoming/ planned sub-stations) for power evacuation on a quarterly basis.

9 Government Incentives for Solar / Floating Solar Power Plant including BESS projects except rooftop solar power

9.1 Land and Water Bodies Allotment: -

- Government land or APDCL land, fallow land, land belonging to TEA estate and water bodies may be allotted to CPSUs and State PSUs on nomination basis with approval of State cabinet
- Government land or APDCL land, fallow land, land belonging to TEA estate and water bodies may be allotted to the private developer on first-come, first-serve basis at lease rates as fixed by the State Government.

- In respect of tea garden land, the total leasehold area for solar project shall not exceed 5% of the landholding, in accordance with Section 4(2) of the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holding Act, 1956.
- The initial lease period will be for 25 years, which may be further extended by the State Government at its discretion.
- The following amount in the form of bank guarantee required until COD except rooftop solar power plant.

Plant Capacity	Amount	
<= 5 MW	INR 50 Lakh	
>5 MW and upto10 MW	INR 1 Crore	
> 10 MW and upto 50 MW	INR 2 Crore	
> 50 MW and above	INR 5 Crore	

9.2 Industrial Incentives: -

- The State Government may, at its discretion, extend fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, including those under the Assam Industrial and Investment Policy, or any other prevailing policy notified by the Government.
- Any incentive with fiscal implications particularly those not explicitly stated in the policy – shall be approved by the Finance Department.
- In the case of customized incentive packages, the specific details shall be worked out in consultation with the Finance Department.

9.3 Power Procurement: -

 Power will be procured by the State based on need, under Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) and other relevant guidelines.

9.4 Commissioning Timeline: -

- COD to be achieved within specified timeline from PPA signing or land handover or project allotment
- Delays may lead to cancellation of incentives, land or PPA.

9.5 Merchant Sales

 Developers may sell surplus power through open access, merchant markets or bilateral contracts after meeting PPA obligations as per prevailing rules, regulations and guidelines notified by the concerned authorities and amended from time to time.

9.6 Energy Banking, Settlement & Balancing: -

Energy bankingshall be applicable as per the prevailing regulations notified by AERC/CERC.

9.7 Transmission and Evacuation: -

- For Assam's internal needs: The State Government may, at its discretion, provide incentives in terms of construction of grid connectivity and power evacuation facility at State's own cost on case-to-case basis. Such incentive shall be decided at the time of project preparation with approval of the State cabinet.
- For external supply: Developer may use STU, CTU or dedicated lines with approvals.
- Grid Connectivity, Power Evacuation & Technical Standards for Connectivity to the Grid: In accordance with prevailing rules, regulations and guidelines notified by AERC/CERC/CEA and Government of India.
- The Project developer is permitted to connect the solar or BESS project with STU / DISCOM network, subject to the evacuation feasibility.

 Grant of connectivity to be provided within 15 days on receipt of requisite documents.

9.8 Single Window Clearance: -

- State-level approvals to be granted within 60 days.
- State will support central-level clearance facilitation

9.9 Infrastructure Development: -

 The State will build all-weather roads to project sites and facilitate essential utilities.

9.10 Social Infrastructure: -

 Government shall promote the development of schools, health centres, drinking water, and sanitation near project sites.

9.11 Carbon Finance and Green Investment: -

 The State shall support the registration of solar projects under domestic and global carbon credit mechanisms and facilitate access to green bonds, ESG finance, and concessional climate funds through IREDA,SECI and others

9.12 Time-bound Incentive Disbursement: -

- All eligible incentives to be disbursed within 90 days of COD after PMC verification.
- Delays to be escalated to the PMC with a 30-day resolution mandate.

9.13 Transmission & Distribution charges, Cross Subsidy Surcharge & Additional Surcharge & Electricity Duty: -

The State Government may, at its discretion, provide the following incentives for captive / open access consumers on consumption of energy from solar projects commissioned in the state during the Policy period: -

- Transmission Charges: Waived off upto 25% for a period of 5 years.
- Distribution / wheeling- charges: Waived off upto 25% for a period of 5 years.
- Electricity Duty: Waived off upto75% for a period of 5 years.
- Cross Subsidy Surcharges: Waived off upto 50% for a period of 5 years.

10 Government Incentives for grid connected Rooftop Solar Power (RTS) Plants

10.1 Metering:

- Net metering: For residential consumers connected load upto 10 kW.
- Net billing (EXIM metering): All categories of electricity consumers including residential consumers of connected load above 10 kW:
- The metering arrangements shall be applicable as per relevant AERC regulation/guidelines / orders issued by AERC and amended from time to time.

10.2 Individual RTS Plant Capacity:

- · Minimum plant capacity: 1 kWp
- Maximum plant capacity: 1000 kWp
- Maximum plant capacity for Tea coffee Rubber category of consumer of APDCL:
 1000 kW at AC side

10.3 Energy Banking, Settlement & Balancing

Energy banking shall be applicable AERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV System)

Regulation 2019 and its amendments from time to time.

 Energy banking for all the consumers of Tea coffee Rubber category shall be permitted on a yearly basis.

10.4 Peer-to-peer energy trading

 Residential consumers connected load upto 10 kW shall be eligible for Peer-topeer energy trading as per relevant regulations / guidelines / orders issued by AERC.

10.5 State Subsidy:

- The residential consumers shall be eligible for availing of state subsidy as notified by the Government of Assam from time to time.
- 11 Project Monitoring Committee (PMC)
- Chaired by Chief Secretary, Assam; includes Secretaries from Power, Industries, Land, Water Resources and CMDs of DISCOMs.
- Oversees project implementation, clears bottlenecks, issues policy clarifications.
- 12 Project Management Unit (PMU)
- Housed under the Nodal Agency.
- Provides expert support for project tracking, clearances, and inter-departmental coordination.
- Monitors site-level progress through to COD.
- 13 Mid-Term Review
- The State Government may conduct a policy review after 2 years or as required.
- 14 Power to Remove Difficulties
- The Power Department may issue clarifications or amendments to ensure effective implementation

Dr. Krishna Kumar Dwivedi, IAS
Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Power Department
Dated Dispur, the 5th June, 2025

Memo No. PEL. 655345/1-A Copy to:

1. The Principal Accountant General, Assam, Maidamgaon, Beltola, Guwahati -29

- 2. The Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Power, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi 110001
- The Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Atal Akshay Urja Bhawan, Opp. Gate No. 2, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003.
- 4. PPS to the Chief Minister, Assam, Dispur, Guwahati 06
- 5. PO to the Chief Secretary, Assam, Dispur, Guwahati -06
- 6. The Senior most Secretary, Industries, Commerce and Public Enterprises Department / Finance Department / Department of Housing and Urban Affairs / Science & Technology Department / Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Dispur, Guwahati -6.
- 7. The Chairman, APDCL/APGCL/AEGCL.
- 8. The Chairman, Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission, ASEB Compound, Sixth Mile, Guwahati -22
- 9. The Managing Director, APDCL/APGCL/AEGCL, Bijulee Bhawan, Guwahati -01.

By order etc.,

Addl. Secretary to the Govt. of Assam Power Department