

**PRESS RELEASE
DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF DELHI
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Delhi Strives to Become Solar Rooftop Capital of India

National Consultation on Delhi Solar Policy organised by Delhi Govt to frame Delhi's new Solar Policy

DDC Delhi and RMI India co-host National Consultation on Delhi Solar Policy to consult with and align relevant stakeholders in the solar energy ecosystem

Rooftop solar installation will not ruin your terrace space as you can explore putting the elevated solar panels (at a height of 8 to 9 feet): Sh. Satyendar Jain, Delhi Power Minister

We aim to draft a benchmark Delhi Solar Policy that is all-inclusive and sets an example for others to follow so that Delhi emerges as a sustainable, modern, and global city: Sh. Jasmine Shah, VC, DDC Delhi

We should aim to increase the contribution of solar power to more than 50% of Delhi's energy basket by 2030: Sh. Satya Gopal, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Department

Promoting rooftop solar is the first step in transforming consumers into producers of electricity and making them an active part of the energy economy: Ms. Akshima Ghate, Managing Director, RMI India

NEW DELHI:

The Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDC Delhi), in collaboration with RMI India, co-hosted the 'National Consultation on Delhi Solar Policy' today to frame Delhi's new solar policy. The consultation aimed to align relevant stakeholders in the solar energy ecosystem on a shared vision for Delhi's solar targets and to establish a clear set of actionable next steps to make Delhi the national and global leader in rooftop solar adoption.

The consultation was organised at the India International Centre. Sh. Satyendar Jain, Hon'ble Minister of Power, Sh. Jasmine Shah, Vice Chairperson, DDC Delhi, Sh. Gopal Mohan, Member, DDC Delhi, and Sh. Satya Gopal, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Department were present at the convening. A host of stakeholders, including solar developers like SunEdison and Fourth Partner Energy, government agencies, DISCOMs, think tanks, consumer associations, financiers, etc., attended the consultation. National and international case studies in solar rooftop adoption were presented by organisations like RMI India, ICLEI, CEEW, Ernst & Young, etc. during the inaugural session.

In his keynote address, Delhi Power Minister Sh. Satyendar Jain said, "The policy consultations organised regularly by the Delhi Government have enabled us to gather a lot of valuable feedback from the stakeholders for formulating a new, effective, exemplary, and robust solar policy for Delhi. Through rooftop solar installation, the Delhi Government will

explore innovative mechanisms to effectively manage peak load, which is also complementary to the growth of EVs in the city. The customer must be provided with continuous maintenance and proper functioning of the solar panels through the promotion of the RESCO model.”

Sh. Jasmine Shah, Vice Chairperson, DDC Delhi, said, “Sustainability is a key aspect of Hon’ble CM Sh. Arvind Kejriwal’s vision for the future of Delhi. Over the last 5 years, Delhi has emerged as an environmental leader by becoming the only state to shut down all its thermal power stations, transitioning its entire industry to clean fuels (PNG), becoming the undisputed national leader for EV adoption; etc. Delhi’s last solar policy of 2016 has laid the foundation for rooftop solar adoption in the city, with 83% of the total rooftop solar capacity (230 MW) installed since 2016. The new solar policy will make Delhi the solar capital of India and, hopefully, a global case study for how cities can lead the rooftop solar movement. It will also create thousands of new green jobs as envisioned under Delhi’s Rozgar Budget.”

Shri Satya Gopal, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Department, Delhi Government said, "The total solar power contribution (within and outside the state) in Delhi’s total energy mix, which was less than 0.3% (79 MW) in 2016, has increased substantially to 7% (1189 MW) in 2022 and it is likely to increase to 11% (2540 MW) in the next two years. With the new policy, we should aim to install solar panels on the rooftops of all government buildings and encourage all individual house-owners, cooperative and group housing societies, owners of industrial and commercial units, etc. to install solar panels on their rooftops and increase the contribution of solar power to more than 50% of Delhi’s energy basket by 2030.”

During the day-long consultation, the attendees were divided into three stakeholder groups: residential, commercial and industrial, and institutional stakeholders. The discussions focussed on identifying the key challenges and barriers that impede solar deployment in Delhi, followed by deliberations on potential solutions. The consultation led to recommendations like RTS installation mandates, streamlining of net metering processes, BTM storage, improving access to finance, fiscal incentives, promoting innovative business models, supporting the growth of Virtual Net Metering (VNM) and Group Net Metering (GNM), etc. The stakeholders also outlined necessary implementation actions and milestones for solarising Delhi.

Ms Akshima Ghate, Managing Director, RMI India, said, “Promoting rooftop solar is the first step in transforming consumers into producers of electricity and making them an active part of the energy economy. DISCOMs have a huge opportunity to potentially lower their average power purchase costs, REC costs, transmission and distribution losses, etc., and rooftop solar also helps them avoid investments in generation capacity, transmission charges, and distribution costs. For governments, it means the creation of local green jobs, increased security and reliability of power, and actionable climate commitments. For consumers, it helps in reducing their reliance on grid electricity consumption, reducing electricity costs by opting for lower tariff plans and gives them an opportunity to create additional income.”

The Delhi Government presented a unique Rozgar Budget this year wherein a new solar policy has been envisaged with the objective of increasing the installed capacity of rooftop solar plants so that they can fulfill 10% of Delhi’s annual energy demand. The plan will also contribute to the creation of 40,000 new green jobs in this sector.