

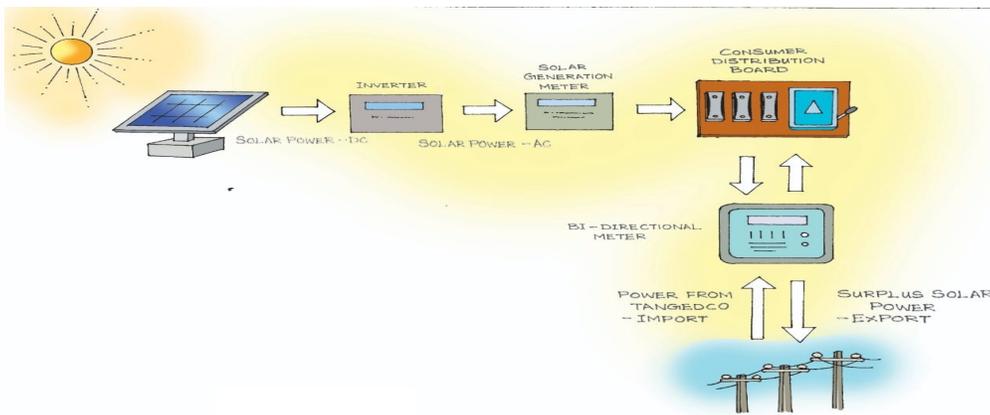
Consumer guide to grid-connected rooftop solar - Part 10

The [previous issue](#) explained the process of applying for a net feed-in connection with TANGEDCO, Part 10 will explain the calculations for net feed-in mechanism.

Net feed-in mechanism

According to the Tamil Nadu Solar Policy 2019, a [net feed-in arrangement](#) has been introduced in Tamil Nadu. Under this arrangement,

- a consumer has to pay for the units of electricity imported from the TANGEDCO grid as per the [prevailing tariff](#) while
- TANGEDCO will pay for the units of electricity exported by the consumer, through generation from rooftop solar panels, to the grid.
- The result is that, if the net monetary charges of the exported units are higher than imported units, then the difference in charges will be added as a credit and shall be carried over to the next billing period for adjustments against subsequent billing. If it is less, a consumer has to pay the difference in charges within the specified period.



Per unit price of surplus solar energy exported to the grid by consumers under solar net feed-in is fixed by [TNERC](#). This price is fixed for each financial year by TNERC and takes the lowest price from among the following:

- 75% of the pooled cost of power notified by the Commission for the respective financial year, or
- 75% of last feed in tariff determined by the Commission, or
- 75% of solar tariff discovered in latest bidding

Based on the above, the rooftop solar price for exported power has been fixed at [Rs 2.28](#) for the plants commissioned in the financial year 2019-20.

(to be continued...)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Editorial	1,2
Tamil Nadu News	3
India News	3
Consumer Focus	4
ECC Voice	4
World News	5
Publications, Statistics	5

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Electric Vehicles (Part - 8)

In continuation of the [previous issue](#) on initiatives taken by the Government of India, this issue will extend its focus on the FAME - India scheme.

FAME - India scheme

In 2015, as part of the mission, Faster adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME - India) scheme was formulated by the Department of Heavy Industries (DHI), Government of India. The scheme was proposed to be implemented over a period of 6 years till 2020.

FAME - India (Phase -I)

[FAME - India \(Phase - I\)](#) mainly focuses on four areas i.e. technology development, demand creation, pilot projects, and charging infrastructures. This scheme intends to encourage wider adoption through demand incentives i.e. the incentives will reach the consumers in the form of lower cost EVs at the time of purchase and the incentive amount will be directly paid to the original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). The [incentive provided](#) to different categories of vehicles is given in the table below.

Phase - I of the scheme was approved for a two-year period (FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17) with an outlay of INR 795 crore. Later the scheme was extended from time to time till March 2019, and also the outlay was increased from INR 795 crore to [INR 895 crore](#).

The demand incentive was available to buyers in the form of an upfront reduced purchase price to encourage wider adoption. About [2.78 lakh](#) electric vehicles were supported with a total demand incentive of approximately INR 343 crore in the phase -1 of FAME

Vehicle category	Incentive (in INR)
Motorcycles and scooters	1,800 to 29,000
Three wheelers	3,300 to 61,000
Four wheelers	13,000 to 1.38 lakh
Light commercial vehicles	17,000 to 1.87 lakh
Buses	34 lakh to 66 lakh

FAME - India (Phase - II)

Phase -II focuses on verticals such as demand incentives, establishment of a network of charging stations, and administration of the scheme including publicity, IEC (Information, Education & Communication) activities.

In three wheeler, four wheeler, and bus segments, the demand incentives are mainly applicable to vehicles used for public transport or commercial purposes whereas in two wheeler segment is applicable for privately owned vehicles also.

The [scheme](#) proposed in 2019 is to be implemented over a period of 3 years (FY 2019-20, FY 2020-21 & FY 2021-22) with an outlay of INR 10,000 crore, for faster adoption of electric mobility and development of its manufacturing ecosystem in the country. The scheme was proposed to give an [incentive](#) of INR 10,000 / kW for two, three, and four wheelers based on battery size and INR 20,000 / kW for electric buses.

Under phase -II, [5595 electric buses](#) were sanctioned to 64 cities across India. As of December 2019, there were [1.95 lakh electric buses](#) in India under several State Transport Utilities (STU). The government approved [2636 charging stations](#) to be set up in 62 cities across the country. Out of these, 1633 will be fast charging stations and 1003 will be slow charging stations. Also the government is planning to set up around 14,000 charging stations in selected cities.

(to be continued...)

Tamil Nadu News

Pay last bill amount for current cycle: TANGEDCO

The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) has allowed its low-tension customers, whose billing period falls in March and April, to pay the previous billing amount as the current billing amount. The move comes in the wake of the lockdown, in force till April 14, due to which meter assessment cannot be carried out.

Earlier, Tangedco had allowed customers whose meters were not assessed till March 31 to pay the previous amount as the current bill.

In a release, the Tangedco stated that customers could pay the last billing cycle as the amount for March/April and in the consequent billing cycle, the amount would be adjusted with the actual meter reading.

The Electricity Department has also requested its low-tension customers to use online and mobile app facilities to pay bills, as collection counters would not be open till April 14.

When asked about customers who will not be able to pay electricity bills through the online facility, Electricity Minister P. Thangamani said that power connections would not be cut, even if customers do not pay electricity bills till April 14.

Source: [The Hindu](#), March 27, 2020

India News

Coronavirus: Major relief measures announced for power sector

With the Coronavirus outbreak further deteriorating the financial position of power distribution companies, the government has announced a slew of relief measures to keep them afloat -- cut in payment security, three months moratorium on payments to gencos and no curtailment of supply to them. Due to the lockdown, consumers are unable to pay their dues to the [discoms](#) and this has affected the liquidity position of the discoms impairing their ability to pay to the generating and transmission companies.

"CPSU generation and transmission companies will continue supply or transmission of electricity even to discoms which have large outstanding dues to the generation and transmission companies. During the present emergency there will be no curtailment of supply to any DISCOM," the power ministry said in a statement. It added that till 30 June 2020 the payment security mechanism to be maintained by the distribution companies with the generating companies for dispatch of power will be reduced by fifty percent.

Also, the centre has issued directions to the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) to provide a moratorium of three months to discoms to make payments to generating companies and transmission licensees and not to levy penal rates of late payment surcharge. With the generating companies for dispatch of power will be reduced by fifty percent. "The state governments are being requested to issue similar directions to State Electricity Regulatory Commissions," the statement said. It added in order to maintain the continuity of coal supply by domestic coal companies and transportation by railways, the ministry is in touch with the ministries of railways and coal.

Source: [ETEnergyWorld](#), March 28, 2020

Consumer Focus

The petitioner is a domestic consumer having a single-phase connection under Tariff IA. The utility installed a digital meter after the previously installed meter became damaged. Thereafter the consumer noticed that the consumption recorded for two billing cycles 7/2016 & 9/2016 were 1300 units & 1700 units respectively. The consumer registered a complaint with the section office to recalculate the billing as it was very high. On receiving the complaint, the utility observed the functioning of the meter at random intervals for a week and replied that the meter was in good working condition. Dissatisfied with this testing method, the consumer applied for testing of the meter with the Meter Relay Test (MRT) division. After verifying all the parameters, the MRT Division also confirmed that the meter is in good working condition. The MRT also reported that the units calculated for the assessment periods were valid. Thereafter the consumer approached the Consumer Grievance Redress Forum (CGRF) to check the abnormal billing and refund the excess amount charged. CGRF ruled in favour of the utility.

Meanwhile, the petitioner filed an RTI application to get information on the consumer ledger and utility's downloaded data for the year. From the response received, she found that there were huge differences in the reading recorded in the consumer ledger and the reading as per downloaded details. On this basis, the petitioner appealed to the Electricity Ombudsman to redress her complaint. She also pleaded that she was not able to enjoy tariff concession due to change in the slab.

On investigation, the Ombudsman observed and made three findings: a) the meter did not have a problem as stated by the consumer, b) the meter reading made and entered by the assessor was much lower in the disputed billing cycles and c) data uploaded by the assessor by way of manual entries in the consumer ledger was not correct. The Ombudsman also observed the MRT downloaded data was higher than the readings for the previous several billing cycles. The downloaded reading data was recorded 10 days prior to the assessment date. This meant that the MRT data was downloaded based on software which had a timing of 30th of every billing month while manual assessment entries were made on the 10th of every billing month. The Ombudsman suspected that the readings would have been recorded without checking the meter up to 7/16 and the missed units were adjusted subsequently in 7/16 & 9/16 assessment periods. The Ombudsman ordered that the excess charges collected from the consumer be refunded by the utility for 7/2016 and 9/2016. Further, the utility was directed to reconcile the differences in reading of MRT data and consumers ledgers for previous billing cycles over the year to either "refund the excess amount collected, if any or arrange to collect the difference in amount". Source: [Ombudsman case](#)

ECC VOICE

திருநெல்வேலி மாவட்டம், பழையப்பேட்டை வட்டம், அமராவதி நகரில் திரு. சுரேஷ் ஒரு புதிய வீட்டைக் கட்டியுள்ளார். புது வீட்டிற்கு புதிய மின் இணைப்பு பெறுவதற்காக மின் அதிகாரிகளிடம் ஜனவரி மாதம் முதல் வாரத்தில் நேரில் தனது விண்ணப்பத்தை தகுந்த கட்டணத்துடன் சமர்ப்பித்தார். ஒரு மாதம் காலம் ஆகியும் அவர் வீட்டிற்கு மின் இணைப்பு கிடைக்கவில்லை. பல முறை மின் வாரியத்திடம் அணுகியும் தகுந்த பதில் கிடைக்கவில்லை. திரு. சுரேஷ் பிப்ரவரி மாதம் திருநெல்வேலி மின் நுகர்வோர் மையத்தில் புகார் அளித்தார்.

புகாரின் அடிப்படையில் திருநெல்வேலி மின் நுகர்வோர் மையத்தின் ஆலோசகர் சம்பந்தப்பட்ட மின் அலுவலகத்தை தொடர்பு கொண்டார். புதிய மின் இணைப்பு பெற அவரின் தெருவில் புதிதாக ஒரு மின் கம்பம் அமைக்க வேண்டும். இவ்வாறு மின்பாதை அமைத்தால் நுகர்வோருக்கு இணைப்பு கொடுக்கப்படும் என்று மின் வாரியம் பதில் அளித்தார்கள். மேலும், மின் கம்பங்கள் இருப்பு இல்லை என்றும் அதனால் சற்று கால தாமதம் ஆகும் என்றும் கூறினார்கள்.

சம்பந்தப்பட்ட உதவி பொறியாளரிடம் மின் ஆலோசகர் திரு. சண்முகம் தொலைபேசி வாயிலாக இப்புகாரை கூறினார். ஒரு வாரத்தில் மின் கம்பம் அமைத்து புதிய வீட்டிற்கு மின் இணைப்பு தரப்படும் என்று அவர் உறுதி அளித்தார். அவ்வாறே ஒரு வாரத்தில் மின்இணைப்பு கிடைத்த திரு. சுரேஷ் மின் மையத்திற்கு தொலைபேசி மூலமாக தனது மகிழ்ச்சி தெரிவித்தார்.

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Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) is a non-profit, non-political and professional organization that works towards protecting citizen's rights in consumer and environmental issues and promoting good governance processes including transparency, accountability and participatory decision making.

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World News

Energy storage boom stalls in Europe

Europe's energy storage boom stalled last year due to a slowdown in large-scale schemes designed to store clean electricity from major renewable energy projects, according to the European Association for Storage of Energy (Ease). A new study by consultants Delta-EE for Ease found that the European market grew by a total of 1 gigawatt-hours in 2019, a significant slowdown compared with 2018, when the energy storage market exceeded expectations to grow by 1.47GWh.

The slowdown in 2019 has emerged amid rising concern that the outbreak of the coronavirus may stall the rollout of clean energy technologies in 2020, dealing a double blow to the clean energy industry. The 2019 downturn was particularly marked for large-scale energy storage projects which connect directly to energy grids, and can help make better use of renewable energy by storing the clean electricity to use when wind and solar power is not available.

Patrick Clerens, the Ease secretary general, said: "The message is clear: even if energy storage is a key enabler of the energy transition and clearly seen as a major tool to achieve the emissions targets linked to the Paris agreement, more support is needed." The report expects the EU's clean energy package, which has legislated support for clean energy technologies, to be key to creating a framework for investing in energy storage. Clerens said the package was "an important step" which should allow energy storage "to reach its full potential fast".

But the analysts added that they are "more concerned about demand, as policy-makers may divert attention away from clean energy to more pressing concerns".

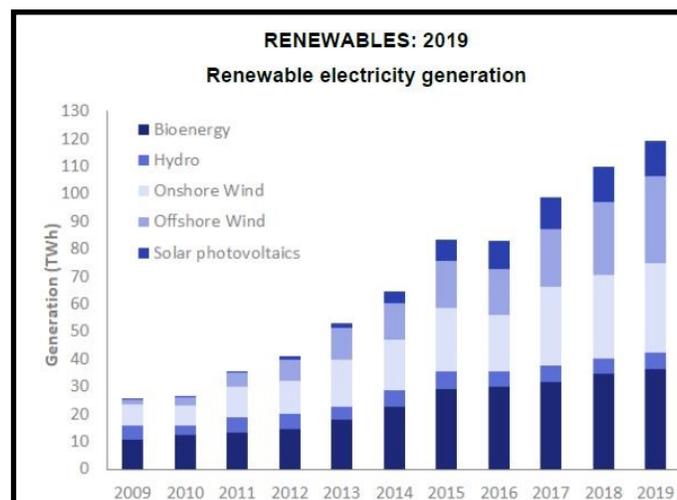
BNEF also expects the year ahead to mark the first time the world's solar power growth falls since the 1980s. The analysts slashed forecasts for new solar power projects by 8%. It expected sales of electric vehicles to stall too due to the coronavirus.

Source: [The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com), March 23, 2020

Publications / Regulations

- Renewable Capacity Statistics 2020, [IRENA](https://www.irena.org)
- Electricity Storage Valuation Framework, [IRENA](https://www.irena.org)
- Global Electricity Review March 2020, [EMBER](https://www.ember.com)

UK Energy Statistics, 2019 & Q4 2019



Source: [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)