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# US firm offers solar power at all-time low tariff to AP

DC CORRESPONDENT  
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Due to an aggressive bidding, solar power tariff in India has touched an all-time low of ₹4.63 per unit. US-based world's biggest developer of renewable-energy power plants, SunEdison won a bid to sell solar power from a 500 megawatt plant in Andhra Pradesh under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission at the rate of ₹4.63 per kilowatt-hour (KWh or unit).


"Delighted that an all time low solar tariff of ₹4.63 (a kWhr) has been achieved during reverse e-auction conducted by NTPC," power minister Piyush Goyal tweeted.

SunEdison is said to have offered tariff lower than SoftBank Group Corp of Japan and Chinese solar products maker Trina Solar Ltd in the

## ELECTRICITY TARIFF

India gets its electricity from power plants run by nine different sources. The following is the approximate range of tariff per unit in each category.

Hydel:	₹1.5- ₹2
Domestic gas:	₹2.6 to ₹3
Nuclear:	₹3.5
Coal:	₹1.9 to ₹6
Solar:	₹4.63 to ₹6.2
Wind:	₹5 to ₹6
Gas:	₹6
RLNG:	₹6 to ₹7
Nafta:	₹11 to ₹12



auction. Softbank bid competitively at ₹4.80 per unit while another firm bid for a 50 MW project at ₹4.79 per kilowatt hour (KWh) or unit, said sources.

The previous lowest solar tariff was about ₹5.05 per unit offered by Candian company SkyPower's for a 150 MW project in Madhya Pradesh. Solar power

tariff were at a peak of ₹18 per unit in 2012 and have since than been falling. The present solar tariff compares to ₹1.5-5 per unit generating cost of electricity from domestic and imported coal.

"In an e-reverse auction conducted by NTPC on Wednesday for 500 MW (10 projects of 50 MW each) to be set up at Ghani Solar Park in Andhra Pradesh under National Solar Mission, Phase-II, Batch-II, Tranche-I of ministry of new and renewable energy, NTPC received the lowest tariff of ₹4.63 per unit of electricity," said a government statement. It said that total 30 bids were received totalling to 5,500 MW capacity.

The Narendra Modi government is targeting a five-fold jump in solar power generation to 100 gigawatts by 2020.