



Technology

## Tata Power Seeks to Tap Delhi EV Charging

By [Anindya Upadhyay](#)

January 22, 2019, 9:52 AM GMT+5:30

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- ▶ Distribution unit has approached government about EV chargers
  - ▶ Delhi targeting 25% of all vehicle sales to be EVs by 2023
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[Tata Power Co.](#) is seeking to set up electric vehicle chargers in the Indian capital, a company official said, as one of the most polluted cities on earth plans an ambitious push toward cleaner vehicles.

[Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd.](#), which supplies electricity to 1.64 million consumers in Delhi, has written to the local government saying it wants to set up charging stations for EVs and has requested land to build the infrastructure, Chief Executive Officer Sanjay Kumar Banga said in an interview last week.



Sanjay Kumar Banga *Photographer: Ruhani Kaur/Bloomberg*

“Delhi has a power surplus” even as demand has plateaued due to energy-efficient devices and consumers opting for rooftop solar or open access, Banga said, adding that setting up charging stations would help boost power demand and raise revenue.

The company could also offer cheaper rates for charging during off-peak hours, which could translate into the cost per kilometer for electric vehicles falling to as little as 0.30 rupees, versus 5 rupees for fossil-fuel driven cars, he said.

Lack of charging infrastructure has been one of the biggest hurdles to India’s ambitions to ensure more electric vehicles on its roads, with the federal government dithering on setting clear policy goals. The government recently pushed back yet another deadline to get officials driving 10,000 electric vehicles as most of India’s 29 states don’t have a policy to promote the use of electric cars and lack sufficient charging infrastructure.

In contrast, Delhi's local government has targeted 25 percent of all new vehicle sales to be electrically powered by 2023 in a draft policy that aims to improve air quality by bringing down transport emissions. The Indian capital was eleventh in the World Health Organization's 2016 rankings of the world's most-polluted cities, as measured by fine particulate matter, or PM 2.5.

Separately, Tata Power signed a pact last year with oil retailer Hindustan Petroleum Corp. to set up charging stations at HPCL's outlets and other locations across India. State-run NTPC Ltd. and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. have also announced plans to set up electric vehicle chargers.

## In this article

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Private Company

CL1

**WTI Crude**

55.98 USD/bbl. ▲ +0.39 +0.70%

HPCL

**HINDUSTAN PETRO**

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Markets

## Tata Power Sees Retail Growth as India Nears Electricity Goal

By [Anindya Upadhyay](#) and [Rajesh Kumar Singh](#)

January 23, 2019, 3:30 AM GMT+5:30

- Expects govt to seek more private investment in distribution
- Utility has bid for distribution license in Odisha state

India's plan to provide round-the-clock electricity is likely to open the door for more private investment in the mostly state-controlled distribution business, according to an official at one of the country's largest power utilities, [Tata Power Co.](#)

States will have to open up the distribution businesses to supply reliable electricity to the nearly [25 million new connections added](#) in Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's "Power for All" campaign, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. Chief Executive Officer Sanjay Banga said.





Sanjay Kumar Banga *Photographer: Ruhani Kaur/Bloomberg*

"The distribution sector is now at the cusp of transformation," Banga said in an interview in New Delhi last week. "I am expecting very soon, in a year's time, a push from the central and state governments to involve the private sector in the discom business and we will be playing a very active role as and when the opportunity comes."

States have so far been slow to give away control and invite private investments, especially in the rural sector, where low demand and frequent political interference makes supplies a loss-making business. Government reforms, including transferring a bulk of distribution utilities' debt to states and a sharper focus on enhancing revenue and narrowing losses, is brightening prospects for the power-retail sector, often seen as the weakest link in India's electricity supply chain.

“Once you connect households, the expectations increase and people want uninterrupted supply,” Banga said. “Until and unless the governments involve private sector participation in whatever form, and bring in efficiencies, discoms’ operations will be unsustainable,” and hinder the supply of round-the-clock power.

Tata power, which generates and distributes power, has bid for a distribution license in the eastern state of Odisha , Banga said. Rivals including Adani Group  and CESC Ltd. are also expanding their distribution business. Adani Transmission Ltd. last year completed the acquisition of a distribution business in Mumbai, while CESC has expanded beyond Kolkata, its traditional stronghold.

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