



# GHOUSIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR WOMEN

## Department of Computer Science & Engineering

Bengaluru, Karnataka 560029

Affiliated to VTU., Belagavi, Recognized by Government of Karnataka & A.I.C.T.E., New Delhi

### SAMPLE FORMAT FOR CASE STUDY

<b>Subject Name</b>	Renewable Energy Power Plants	<b>Subject Code</b>	BME654B
<b>Candidate Name</b>	Dr.NAVEED	<b>USN</b>	1WT23CS000
<b>Branch</b>	CSE	<b>Semester</b>	Sixth
<b>Newspaper Case Study (with Hyper Reference)</b>	Solar plant sealed due to land violations (India) – A 300 MW solar power plant in Khandwa district was sealed by authorities after investigation revealed illegal acquisition of tribal land and regulatory violations. ( <a href="#">The Times of India</a> )		
<b>Assignment Question</b>	Analyze how improper site selection, land acquisition issues, and regulatory non-compliance can affect solar power plant projects. Suggest measures to avoid such conflicts.		
<b>Date of Submission</b>	06-03-2026	<b>Date of Presentation</b>	06-03-2026
<b>Candidate Signature</b>		<b>Maximum Marks</b>	25
<b>Staff Incharge (Name &amp; Signature)</b>	<b>Dr.NAVEED</b>	<b>Marks Obtained</b>	

#### Abstract from the Newspaper:

Edition IN English

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### 300 MW solar plant sealed in Khandwa by district administration

TNN / Jul 20, 2025, 00:58 IST



#### Description:

**Indore:** Khandwa district administration has sealed the 300-megawatt Masaya Solar Plant following an investigation that revealed its unauthorised establishment on tribal land and numerous other irregularities.

The operation was carried out late Friday night by a special inquiry team constituted by Collector Rishav Gupta. The investigation was launched after a complaint was filed with the Indore Divisional Commissioner. The probe uncovered that the solar plant was set up on lands of tribal farmers in Dharampuri, Kanwani, Bhavsinghpura, Badgaon Mali, and Sivna villages without adhering to due legal procedures.



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"The company commenced production after establishing the plant on tribal farmers' land without obtaining proper legal permissions. This is completely improper and illegal," said Gupta.

The investigation further revealed that in some instances, land belonging to Scheduled Caste individuals was acquired under duress. Moreover, land belonging to many Scheduled Tribe farmers was transferred without adequate compensation. Disturbingly, there were also allegations where farmers' illiteracy was exploited, and money was withdrawn from their bank accounts.

According to the Collector, the company also managed to get land diverted for industrial use based solely on possession, even in cases where mutation in the land records (khasra) did not take place. This constitutes a direct violation of the Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue Code.

The Masaya Solar Energy Company was also found to have illegally occupied approximately 27.64 hectares (around 60 acres) of land, including that categorised as 'charanoi' (grazing land), 'nala' (drainage), roads, and small forest areas, taken over without any lease or proper acquisition.

Collector Gupta has directed that the solar plant's operations would remain suspended until the lease or formal allocation process is duly completed. The machinery present at the plant has been sealed as part of the action.

The investigation also brought to light allegations of collusion involving former and some administrative officials in facilitating these illegal activities. There are complaints accusing these officials of accepting bribes amounting to lakhs of rupees. "A high-level investigation will also be conducted against the officers under whose supervision these illegal encroachments occurred. Their assets will also be investigated," the Collector said.

The plant's construction began in 2020, and electricity production reportedly commenced in 2022 without the necessary No Objection Certificates (NOCs). Around 35 tribal farmers from five villages in the region had their land acquired by the company, and their cases reached the revenue department. Notably, there were no protests against these acquisitions until now.

### 1. Observations:

#### 1.1 Improper Site Selection

Improper site selection can create serious legal, environmental, and social issues in solar power projects. If a plant is established without careful evaluation of land ownership, land use classification, and environmental sensitivity, it can lead to conflicts with local communities and government authorities. In the given case, the solar plant was reportedly constructed on tribal land, grazing land, and forest areas, which are protected or commonly used by local populations for their livelihood. Such locations often have legal restrictions and social importance, making project implementation difficult. To avoid such problems, developers must conduct detailed site feasibility studies and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). Modern tools such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can help identify suitable non-agricultural and non-forest lands for renewable energy projects. Proper land classification and approval for industrial use must be ensured before project development begins.





### 1.2 Land Acquisition Issues

Land acquisition is a critical aspect of infrastructure and energy projects. When land is acquired without transparency, fair compensation, or the informed consent of landowners, it leads to social conflicts and legal disputes. In this case, allegations were made that land belonging to tribal and Scheduled Caste farmers was transferred without adequate compensation and, in some instances, under pressure. Such practices create distrust between companies and local communities and may result in protests, legal cases, and project delays. To avoid such conflicts, land acquisition must follow transparent and ethical procedures. Farmers and landowners should be clearly informed about project details, and their consent should be obtained. Fair compensation based on market value must be provided, along with rehabilitation and livelihood support where required. Special attention must also be given to protecting the rights of tribal communities under relevant legal provisions.



### 1.3 Regulatory Non-Compliance

Regulatory non-compliance can significantly affect the success of renewable energy projects. Solar power plants are required to obtain several approvals, such as land conversion permissions, environmental clearances, and No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from relevant authorities before construction and operation. If companies begin operations without these approvals, it constitutes a violation of legal regulations and can result in penalties, suspension of operations, or cancellation of project licenses. In the present case, electricity production reportedly began without obtaining the necessary approvals, leading to government intervention and sealing of the plant. To prevent such issues, developers must strictly follow all regulatory requirements and obtain the necessary approvals before initiating construction or power generation. Proper documentation, compliance with government policies, and regular monitoring or audits should be ensured to maintain transparency and accountability in renewable energy projects.



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### 2. Concluding Remarks:

In conclusion, solar power projects must be developed with careful planning, legal compliance, and social responsibility. Improper site selection, unfair land acquisition, and regulatory violations can lead to conflicts, legal actions, and project delays. Renewable energy development should balance technological progress with environmental protection and community welfare. Transparent procedures, proper approvals, and fair treatment of affected communities are essential for sustainable project implementation. By following ethical and legal practices, solar energy projects can successfully contribute to clean and sustainable power generation.

**Note:** All matter should be in times New Roman with 10 size, justified single line spacing.