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News: PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna (Prime Minister's Rooftop Solar: Free Electricity Scheme)

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- PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna (Prime Minister's Rooftop Solar: Free Electricity Scheme) was recently launched by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** aiming to provide free electricity up to 300 units to households in India.
- Under the scheme, households will be provided with a subsidy to install solar panelson their roofs.
- The subsidy will cover up 60% of system cost to 2kW systems and 40% of system cost of systems between 2 & 3 kW of solar panels.
- The CFA will be capped at 3 kW. At current benchmark prices, this will mean Rs 30,000 subsidy for 1 kW system, Rs 60,000 for 2 kW systems, and Rs 78,000 for 3 kW systems or higher.
- The scheme is expected to benefit 1 crore households across India.

- It is estimated that the scheme will save the government Rs. 75,000 crore per year in electricity costs.
- The scheme has an outlay of Rs 75,021 crore and is to be implemented till FY 2026-27.

Eligibility

- The household must be an Indian citizen.
- The household must own a house with a roof that is suitable for installing solar panels.
- The household must have a valid electricity connection.
- The household must not have availed any other subsidy for solar panels.
- The households will apply for subsidy through the National Portal and will be able to select a suitable vendor for installing rooftop solar.
- The National Portal will assist the households in their decision-making process by providing relevant information such as appropriate system sizes, benefits calculators, vendor ratings, etc.
- Under the scheme, DISCOMs are designated as State Implementation Agencies (SIAs) responsible for facilitating various measures, including net meter availability, timely inspection, and commissioning of installations.

- DISCOMs will receive incentives based on their achievement in the installation of additional grid-connected rooftop solar capacity beyond a baseline level.
- The total financial outlay for the 'Incentives to DISCOMs' component is Rs 4,950 crore.

Impact

- Through PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the households will be able to save electricity bills as well as earn additional income through the sale of surplus power to DISCOMs.
- A 3-kW system will be able to generate more than 300 units a month on average for a household.
- The proposed scheme will result in the addition of 30 GW of solar capacity through rooftop solar in the residential sector, generating 1000 BUs of electricity and resulting in a reduction of 720 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent emissions over the 25-year lifetime of rooftop systems.
- It is estimated that the scheme will create around 17 lakh direct jobs in manufacturing, logistics, supply chain, sales, installation, O&M, and other services.

PM Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM)

- PM Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) scheme seeks to replace all diesel pump-sets with solar pumps and the excess power generated through solar panels will be purchased by state governments at a price that gives the farmer a good profit.
- It is launched by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) under the National solar Mission which targets to install 100 GW solar powers by 2022.
- State Nodal Agencies (SNAs) of MNRE will coordinate with States/UTs, Discoms and farmers for implementation of the scheme.
- Also, to develop solar power, bids are invited from large business players to develop solar parks.
- Installation of grid-connected solar power plants each of capacity up to 2 MW in the rural areas.
- Installation of standalone off-grid solar water pumps to fulfill irrigation needs of farmers not connected to the grid.
- Solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps to make farmers independent of grid supply and also enable them to sell surplus solar power generated to DISCOMs and get an extra income.

- Solarization of tube-wells and lift irrigation projects of the Government sector.
- Encouraging farmers to grow “Solar Trees” on their lands. The Solar Tree is much like that of a real tree, where solar panels (act like leaves) connected through metal branches using sunlight to make energy.
- The first farm based solar power plant under the Prime Minister’s Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) scheme has come up in Jaipur district’s Kotputli tehsil with a provision for production of 17 lakh units of electricity every year.
- For ease of availability of finance the Reserve Bank of India included the three components of the Scheme under Priority Sector Lending Guidelines.

The approved scheme comprises of three components:

- Setting up of 10,000 MW of decentralised ground/stilt-mounted grid- connected solar or other renewable energy based power plants.
- Installation of 17.5 lakh standalone solar agriculture pumps
- Solarisation of 10 lakh grid-connected solar agriculture pumps.

Solar Charkha Mission (SCM)

- The Solar Charkha Mission is launched by **Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) initiative** during June 2018 and being implemented by **Khadi and Villages Industries Commission (KVIC)**.
- The Solar Charkha Mission is an **enterprise driven scheme and envisages setting up of 'Solar Charkha Clusters'** which will have 200 to 2042 beneficiaries (Spinners, Weavers, Stitchers and other skilled artisans).
- **One cluster would involve a maximum subsidy of Rs. 9.60 crore provided in form of Capital subsidy** for individual and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), interest subvention for working capital and capacity building.
- These **solar charkhas are to be operated using solar power which is a renewable energy source**.
- It will help in the **development of Green Economy** as it is an environment friendly programme.
- It will also **generate sustainable employment for the artisans**.