



# CURRENT AFFAIRS




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## REVOLUTION ON THE ROOFTOP: A NEW DAWN OF CHANGE”

### WHY IN THE NEWS?

The government’s rooftop solar initiative has gained momentum, with 12 million households signing up for the PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. This not only promises significant savings for families but also brings the country closer to achieving its renewable energy goals.



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### SOLAR ROOFTOP SYSTEMS A DIY GUIDE

<p><b>₹50,000</b> Cost of an RTS installation for a 1 kW (kilowatt) system</p>	<p><b>4-5.5 Units</b> Electricity generated by a 1 kW solar power plant on a clear, sunny day</p>
<p><b>₹30,000</b> Government subsidy under Muft Bijli Yojana for 1 kW system (Consumer pays Rs 20,000), For 2kW it's Rs 60,000 (consumer share Rs 40,000) and Rs 78,000 for 3 kW (consumer share Rs 66,999)</p>	
<p><b>25 Years</b> Expected life of solar PV modules. For maintenance, periodic cleaning of solar panels is required</p>	<p><b>5.32 Years</b> Time taken to recover costs for a 3 kW RTS system through savings on power bills and sale of excess power to discoms, assuming average electricity charges of Rs 2,000 per month</p>

### WHAT IS PM-SURYA GHAR: MUFT BIJLI YOJANA?

PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana is a government initiative aimed at promoting the adoption of rooftop solar power systems across households in India. The scheme is designed to increase the use of renewable energy while providing economic benefits to citizens by reducing their electricity bills.

### **1. Objective:**

The primary goal of the scheme is to promote solar energy use in households, reduce the reliance on grid power, and bring down electricity costs for families.

The scheme is also in line with India's commitment to achieving 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and meeting its carbon reduction targets under the Paris Climate Agreement.

### **2. Target Beneficiaries:**

12 million households are expected to benefit from this initiative.

The scheme is especially targeted at lower-income groups and underprivileged communities, enabling them to access affordable clean energy.

### **3. Free Solar Panels:**

Under the scheme, eligible households will be provided with free rooftop solar panels. This means the government will cover the installation costs, making it accessible for people who cannot afford the initial investment in solar energy infrastructure.

### **4. Promoting Renewable Energy:**

The scheme is part of India's larger push to promote clean, green energy and reduce carbon emissions. It aims to add substantial capacity to India's solar energy generation potential, aligning with the target to achieve 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030.

### **5. Government Support & Funding:**

The scheme is being implemented with significant government support in the form of subsidies and financing options for installation and maintenance.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and state governments are collaborating to ensure smooth implementation.

### **6. Environmental Impact:**

The widespread adoption of rooftop solar panels under this initiative is expected to reduce India's carbon footprint, contributing significantly to global climate action efforts.

### **7. Economic Benefits:**

Beyond energy savings, the scheme will create job opportunities in the renewable energy sector, including installation, maintenance, and servicing of solar systems.

It will also support India's domestic solar manufacturing industry, helping the country become more self-reliant in terms of solar equipment production.

### **8. Implementation Agencies: The scheme will be executed at two levels.**

**National Level:** Managed by the National Programme Implementation Agency (NPIA).

**State Level:** Managed by State Implementation Agencies (SIAs), which are the Distribution Utilities (DISCOMs) or Power/Energy Departments of the respective states or UTs. Implementation Agencies: The scheme will be executed at two levels.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF PM SURYA GHAR-MUFT BIJLI YOJANA:**

**1. Promotes Renewable Energy:** Encourages the use of rooftop solar power, reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

**2. Cost Savings for Households:** Free solar panel installation helps families cut electricity bills by 30-50%.

**3. Accessibility for All:** Provides free installation and financial support, making solar power affordable, especially for low-income households.

**4. Environmental Benefits:** Reduces carbon emissions and supports India's climate commitments.

**5. Job Creation:** Generates employment in solar energy installation, maintenance, and manufacturing.

**6. Relieves Grid Pressure:** Decentralizes energy production, easing the burden on the national grid.

**7. Empowers Rural Communities:** Improves energy access and quality of life for rural and marginalized groups.

**8. Supports National Goals:** Contributes to India's renewable energy targets and sustainable development.

#### **CHALLENGES OF PM SURYA GHAR-MUFT BIJLI YOJANA:**

- 1. Awareness Issues:** Lack of awareness and understanding of solar technology, especially in rural areas.
- 2. Roof Space Limitations:** Not all households have enough roof space for solar installations.
- 3. Maintenance Challenges:** Regular maintenance and technical support may be lacking in remote areas.
- 4. Financial Constraints:** Potential delays in funding and long-term sustainability concerns.
- 5. Geographic Variability:** Solar power effectiveness varies by region due to sunlight availability and weather conditions.
- 6. Technological Gaps:** Issues with system efficiency and lack of affordable energy storage solutions.
- 7. Bureaucratic Delays:** Slow application processing and complicated procedures may hinder implementation.
- 8. Skilled Workforce Shortage:** Insufficiently trained technicians for installation and maintenance, particularly in rural areas.
- 9. Financing Barriers:** Some households may face difficulties in securing additional funding for wiring or grid connectivity.

#### **WAY FORWARD:**

- 1. Increase Awareness:** Launch targeted campaigns to educate households, especially in rural areas, about the benefits of solar energy.
- 2. Simplify Processes:** Streamline application procedures and create digital platforms for easy registration and support.
- 3. Infrastructure Support:** Provide roof assessments and region-specific solutions for solar installations.
- 4. Enhance Maintenance:** Train local technicians and offer robust customer support for system upkeep.
- 5. Financial Accessibility:** Introduce low-interest loans and additional subsidies for low-income groups.
- 6. Promote Technological Innovation:** Invest in affordable energy storage and improve solar panel efficiency.
- 7. Monitor Progress:** Regularly assess the impact of the scheme and collect feedback from beneficiaries.
- 8. Public-Private Partnerships:** Collaborate with private companies for scaling up installations and long-term maintenance.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

**The PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana** is a game-changing initiative by the Indian government to promote rooftop solar power, reduce electricity bills, and support renewable energy goals. By providing free solar panels to 12 million households it helps drive India's transition to clean energy while generating jobs and reducing carbon emissions. However, challenges like limited awareness, roof space, maintenance, and regional disparities remain. To ensure success, the government must streamline processes, enhance local support, and invest in infrastructure and technology. With these steps, the scheme can significantly contribute to India's energy future, making solar power accessible and sustainable for millions.

#### **PRELIMS QUESTION:**

**Q. With reference to the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), which of the following statements is/are correct? (2015)**

1. It is a Public Limited Government Company.
2. It is a Non-Banking Financial Company.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only



- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

**MAINS QUESTION:**

Q. Critically analyze the challenges and opportunities involved in adopting solar energy for small households in India.

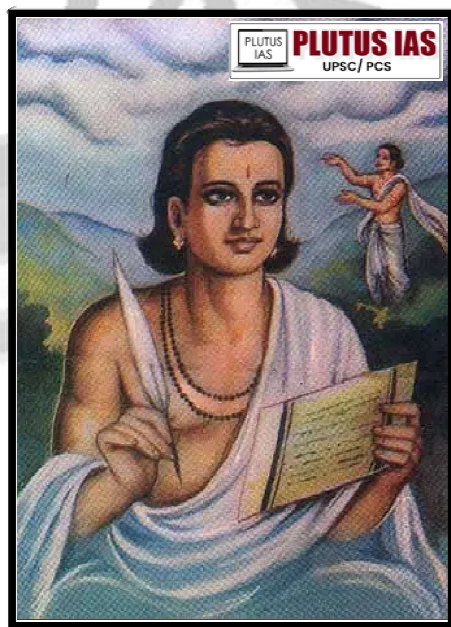
(250 words, 15 marks)

Ritik singh

## PRELIMS BITS: KALIDASA AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDIAN ART AND CULTURE

**WHY IN THE NEWS:**

The Vice President recently inaugurated the 66th 'All India Kalidasa Festival' in Ujjain, celebrating the life and works of Kalidasa, one of ancient India's greatest poets and playwrights. This annual festival honors Kalidasa's contributions to Sanskrit literature and showcases performances and discussions inspired by his works, fostering cultural heritage and classical Indian arts.



**KALIDASA AND HIS MAJOR LITERARY WORKS:**

**LIFE AND BACKGROUND**

**Period:** Likely lived around the 4th-5th century CE during the Gupta era.

**Court Poet:** Associated with King Vikramāditya, possibly Chandragupta II.

**Location:** Speculated to have ties to Ujjain, Kashmir, and Kalinga.

**Legacy:** Considered one of ancient India's greatest poets and playwrights, revered as one of the "seven avatars of Brahma" in Sikh texts.

### EPIC POEMS:

**Kumārasambhava:** Focuses on the birth and youth of Pārvatī, her union with Śiva, and the birth of their son, Kumāra (Kartikēya).

**Raghuvamśa:** Chronicles the lineage and stories of the Raghu dynasty, including celebrated kings like Raghu and Rāma.

### MINOR POEMS:

**Meghadūta (The Cloud Messenger):** A love poem in which a Yakṣa sends a message to his beloved through a cloud, known for its lyrical beauty.

**Shyamala Dandakam:** Describes the beauty of the goddess Matangi.

### PLAYS:

**Abhijñānaśākuntalam (Recognition of Śakuntalā):** Tells the story of Śakuntalā and King Duśyanta, celebrated internationally and translated widely.

**Mālavikāgnimitram (Pertaining to Mālavikā and Agnimitra):** Explores King Agnimitra's love for a servant girl, who is revealed to be a princess.

**Vikramōrvaśyam (Ūrvaśī Won by Valor):** The tale of King Pururavas and the celestial nymph Ūrvaśī, involving love, separation, and reunion.

### INFLUENCE AND TRANSLATIONS

**Global Impact:** Works like Abhijñānaśākuntalam influenced European literature; admired by Goethe and translated into multiple languages.

**Translations:** Sir William Jones published an English translation of Śakuntalā in 1791, introducing Kalidasa's work to Western audiences.

### LEGACY AND RECOGNITION

**Cultural Icon:** His name appears in inscriptions from as early as 634 CE and is honored in both Indian and Western literary traditions.

**Popular Recognition:** Revered in Indian culture and celebrated for his refined expression of nature, human emotions, and philosophical themes.

### KALIDASA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDIAN CULTURE:

**Masterful Poet and Playwright:** Kalidasa is regarded as one of ancient India's greatest poets and playwrights, with works that exemplify the richness of Sanskrit literature.

**Epic Narratives:** His epic poems, such as Kumārasambhava and Raghuvamśa, explore themes of love, heroism, and divine relationships, contributing significantly to the narrative tradition in Indian literature.

**Influential Plays:** His play Abhijñānaśākuntalam is celebrated for its emotional depth and intricate character development, influencing both Indian and global theatrical traditions.

**Cultural Symbol:** Revered as one of the "seven avatars of Brahma" in Sikh texts, Kalidasa's works are integral to the spiritual and cultural fabric of India.

**Nature and Emotion:** His poetry is renowned for its exquisite depiction of nature and human emotions, reflecting the philosophical and aesthetic ideals of the time.

**Global Impact:** His works, particularly Abhijñānaśākuntalam, have had a profound influence on European literature, inspiring writers like Goethe and being translated into numerous languages.

**Enduring Legacy:** Kalidasa's contributions have left an indelible mark on Indian culture, fostering a lasting appreciation for poetry, drama, and the arts that continues to thrive today.

**PRELIMS QUESTION:**

**Q. Which of the following statements about Kalidasa is/are correct?**

1. Kalidasa is believed to have lived during the Gupta era and is associated with King Vikramāditya.
2. His notable works include the epic poems Kumarasambhava and Raghuvamsha
3. Kalidasa is recognized as one of the "seven avatars of Brahma" in Hindu texts.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2, and 3
- D. 1 only

**ANSWER: C**

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Munde Dhananjay Navnath

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