

07th August 2024

PM Surya Ghar Yojana

Under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, the Uttar Pradesh government had planned to train over 30,000 youths from the state as Surya Mitras to quickly achieve the PM's vision of rooftop solar panels in each household in the state.

Key Points

- ❖ To develop skilled manpower for the solar energy sector, the National Solar Energy Mission has outlined a plan to groom Surya Mitras, creating a workforce of skilled workers for solar projects.
- ❖ **Training Span:** The Surya Mitra training programme spans three months and includes 600 hours of comprehensive training. This training covers classroom instruction, practical laboratory work, exposure to SPV plants, on-the-job training, as well as soft skills and entrepreneurship development.
- ❖ **Qualification:** To qualify for the programme, candidates must have passed the Class 10 and hold an ITI certification in electrician, wireman, electronic mechanic, fitter, or sheet metal trade. Upon completing the Surya Mitra training, trainees receive assistance in securing employment.

Uttar Pradesh Solar Initiatives

- ❖ **UP Commitment:** Following the launch of the PM Surya Ghar Yojana in February 2023, which aims to install 1 crore solar rooftops nationwide, the UP government has committed to contributing 25 lakh solar rooftop panels to this goal.
- ❖ **Registration:** According to available data, registration has been completed for installing solar rooftop panels in over 18 lakh houses in the state, with applications submitted for approximately two lakh additional houses.
- ❖ **Installation:** The installation of solar rooftops has already been completed in more than 10,000 houses .
- ❖ **Net billing/net metering:** To promote solar energy use, the government has introduced a 'net billing/net metering' system.

- ❖ **Rooftop panels:** Additionally, UPNEDA has partnered with the Tata Group to install rooftop panels on 10 lakh houses across the state, with the initiative recently commencing in Varanasi.
- ❖ With the large-scale installation of solar rooftop panels, there will be a significant need for skilled workers in the sector. To address this, UPNEDA has set a target of training 30,000 Surya Mitras through district training centres and ITI institutes/
- ❖ **Solar Park in Bundelkhand:** In its efforts to provide solar energy to both urban and rural areas, the Uttar Pradesh government is developing solar parks to transform the Bundelkhand region into a solar energy hub. The largest of these solar parks is being established across 9,000 acres in Jhansi, Lalitpur and Chitrakoot, where a 2,000 MW solar plant will be installed. This will produce 4700 million units of electricity per year.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijlee Yojana

- ❖ PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijlee Yojana is a **Central Scheme**.
- ❖ It aims to provide free electricity to **one crore households in India**, who opt to install roof top solar electricity units.
- ❖ The households will be able to get **300 units of electricity free every month**.
- ❖ It was **approved by the Union Cabinet on February 29th**, with an outlay of Rs.75,021 crore.
- ❖ The scheme provides for a **subsidy of 60%** of the solar unit cost for systems up to 2 kW capacity and 40 percent of additional system cost for systems between 2 to 3 kW capacity. The subsidy has been capped at 3 kW capacity. 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.

Sanskriti Gram

The Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department is going to establish a 'Sanskriti Gram' spread over 5 acres within the Mahakumbh Mela grounds.

Key Points

- ❖ **Handicrafts and crafts:** This 'Sanskriti Gram' will feature an exhibition of 20 stalls, prioritizing local handicrafts and crafts.
- ❖ **AR and VR:** Additionally, the 'Sanskriti Gram' will be a hub for augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) experiences, showcasing the mythological, spiritual, and historical significance of the Mahakumbh. Through these technologies, the journey of the Mahakumbh across different eras will be presented.
- ❖ **Different Zones:** The 'Sanskriti Gram' will be divided into various zones, highlighting ancient heritage and mythology, artifacts of historical travellers, astrological science, performing arts, and interactive workshops.
- ❖ Sanskriti Gram will feature a range of attractions, including displays of donations made by Maharaja Harshvardhan for the Kumbh Mela and AR-enhanced representations of various sites, providing their historical and cultural contexts.

The Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department will construct thirty grand gates in the Mahakumbh Mela area, namely, Maha Kumbh Logo Gate, Trishul Gate, Swastik Gate, Damru Gate, Shankh Gate, Mahakumbh 2025 Gate, Surya Gate, Dev Dal Gate, Kamal Gate, Gada Gate, Dhanush Gate, Ganga Gate, Kaustubh Gate, Kamdhenu Gate, Lakshmi Gate, Om Gate, Nandi Gate, Sangam Gate, Nag Vasuki Gate, Shivling Gate, Chandra Gate, Kalash Gate, Sudarshan Chakra Gate, 14 Ratna Katha Gate, Airavat Gate, Kachhap Gate, Kalpavriksh Gate, Samudra Manthan Gate, Rudraksh Gate, and Ashwa Gate.

Sheikh Hasina Resignation

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 15-year rule ended on August 5.

More On News

- ❖ Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has resigned and the Bangladesh Army will be forming the interim government with the help of political parties.
- ❖ Bangladesh has been reeling under protests for the last month over the job quota system, and the protests had been the biggest since Hasina was re-elected for the fourth consecutive term since 2008.
- ❖ It has been reported that she fled to India.

Why did Sheikh Hasina land in India?

- ❖ **Beneficial Relationship:** Over the years, India has been a crucial supporter of Sheikh Hasina, fostering a mutually beneficial relationship between the two countries.
 - Bangladesh shares borders with several northeastern states, many of which have faced militant challenges for decades. A friendly regime in Dhaka has been instrumental in addressing these issues.
 - During her tenure, Sheikh Hasina reportedly cracked down on anti-India militant groups in Bangladesh, earning goodwill in Delhi,
 - Sheikh Hasina, who has maintained close ties with India since her first election in 1996, has consistently defended Dhaka's strong relationship with Delhi.
 - During a visit to India in 2022, she reminded the people of Bangladesh how India, along with its government, people, and armed forces, had supported Bangladesh during the 1971 independence war.
- ❖ **Strategic ties:** The strategic ties between India and Bangladesh have been on the upswing over the past decade.
 - Bangladesh has been one of the main beneficiaries of India's "Neighbourhood First" policy, especially grants and lines of credit aimed at strengthening energy, financial and physical connectivity.

- The achievements in the connectivity sector include the inauguration of the **Maitri Setu bridge over the Feni River in Tripura** and the launch of the **Chilahati-Haldibari rail link**.
- ❖ **Development Partner:** Bangladesh is India's largest development partner, with nearly one-fourth of New Delhi's commitments under lines of credit made to that country. Bangladesh is also **India's biggest trade partner in South Asia** and India is the second biggest trade partner of Bangladesh in Asia.
- ❖ **Export destination:** India is Bangladesh's largest export destination in Asia, with exports worth \$2 billion during 2022-23.


Artificial Intelligence Anganwadi center

The country's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Anganwadi center has been started in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. This center is located in Muradnagar area.



Key Points

- ❖ It was inaugurated by **Governor Anandiben Patel**.
- ❖ **Aim:** This initiative aims to revolutionize early childhood care and development through the power of artificial intelligence.
- ❖ **Facilities:** The Anganwadi center is equipped with AI-powered technology to monitor and optimize nutrition, education, and healthcare services for young children. By leveraging data-driven insights, the facility will provide personalized care and support for each child's development.
- ❖ This will **provide better education and information to children**.

Person In News- Appointment

Daljit Singh Chawdhary	He is a 1990 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, took charge as the director general of Border Security Force (BSF) . Chawdhary is currently director general of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) .	
-------------------------------	--	---

Person In News- Obituary

Sara Abraham	She is a prominent figure in contemporary Indian art, who passed away recently. She initiated the 'Kala Yatra' in the 1970s, a travelling art gallery exhibiting works across various Indian cities.	
Dr. Yamini Krishnamurthy	A renowned Indian classical dancer known for her significant contributions to Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi, passed away on August 3, 2024.	

Schemes/Initiatives

eSankhyiki portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has launched the eSankhyiki portal, an online platform providing real-time data to planners, policy-makers, researchers and the general public. ❖ The portal has two modules, Data Catalog and Macro Indicators. ❖ The Data Catalog module provides a catalog of major data assets of the Ministry, making them easier to access for users. ❖ The Macro Indicators module offers time series data of key macro indicators, with features for filtering and visualizing data. ❖ The portal is user-centric, facilitating the use and re-use of information for data value addition and analysis by users and can also be accessed through the website of MoSPI.
-------------------	--

Sports

Paris Olympics 2024

- ❖ Serbia's Novak Djokovic beat Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in the men's tennis singles final to win the gold medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- ❖ Star shooter Manu Bhaker is set to be India's flag bearer at the Olympic closing ceremony in Paris on August 11.

○○○○○



UPPSC
WALLAH

