

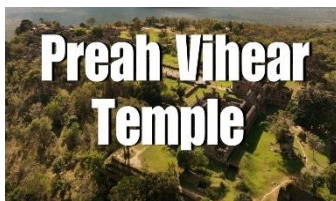
PM SURYA GHAR MUFT BIJLI YOJANA



- It was launched on February 15, 2024, and aims to provide free electricity to households in India.
- Under the scheme, households will be provided with a subsidy to install solar panels on their roofs.
- 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.
- For special states, an additional 10% Subsidy will be applicable per kW.
- It would help one crore families get up to 300 units of free electricity per month with savings of up to Rs 18,000 annually.
- 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.
- The benefits of the scheme include:
 - Free electricity for households.
 - Reduced electricity costs for the government.
 - Increased use of renewable energy.
 - Reduced carbon emissions.
- 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 scheme will be **implemented by a National programme Implementation Agency (NPIA) at the National level** and by the **State Implementation Agencies (SIAs) at the state level**.
- 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.
- **One of the components** of the scheme is the development of **Model Solar Village** in each district of the country.
 - An amount of Rs 800 crore has been allocated for this component with a provision of central financial assistance of **Rs one crore per model village**.
- Under the **component Incentives to Local Bodies**, the scheme has provision of providing an **incentive at Rs 1,000 per rooftop solar installation** in the respective jurisdiction of the **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) at the Gram Panchayat level**.

PREAH VIHEAR TEMPLE



- It is a **Hindu temple** located in the Preah Vihear Province, in the northern part of **Cambodia**.
- It is located atop a cliff on the **Cambodia–Thailand border** in the **Dangrek Mountain range**.
- It is dedicated to **Lord Shiva**.

- It was built primarily during the period of the **Khmer Empire**, in the **eleventh and twelfth centuries**.
- It was built firstly by **King Suryavarman I (1002-50)** and then expanded upon by **Suryavarman II (1113-50)**.
- It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- **Architecture:**
 - It is an outstanding masterpiece of **Khmer architecture**.
 - The temple is composed of a **series of sanctuaries linked** by a system of **pavements and staircases over an 800-metre-long axis**.
 - It features more than **five successive gopuras**.
 - Unlike other structures of this kind, the gopuras here are connected by a long path and topped with multi-tiered platforms.
 - Each gopura has a small staircase. Some of these gopuras have stone roofs, while others have wooden roofs, many of which are in ruins.
- **Dispute:**
 - Preah Vihear Temple is the subject of a long-running **territorial dispute between Thailand and Cambodia**.
 - In **1962**, the **International Court of Justice ruled that it belonged to Cambodia**.
 - However, **Thailand has maintained that the land surrounding the temple** — especially a 4.6 sq.km. patch — **remains unresolved**.
 - Tensions escalated again in 2008 after Cambodia succeeded in registering Preah Vihear as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
 - Thai nationalists objected, and skirmishes broke out, culminating in a deadly exchange in 2011 that killed at least 15 people.
 - The **ICJ reaffirmed its ruling in 2013**, this time declaring that the **surrounding land was also Cambodian** — a decision that still stings in Bangkok.



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PALNA SCHEME



- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** introduced by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** under the **Samarthya Vertical of Umbrella Mission Shakti** for all States and UTs.
- **Objective:** It aims to provide **quality crèche facilities** in a safe and secure environment for children (**from ages 6 months – 6 years**), nutritional support, health and cognitive development of children, growth monitoring & immunization.
- Crèche facilities under Palna are provided to **all mothers, irrespective of their employment status.**
- There are two types of Crèches under Palna: **Standalone Crèches and Anganwadi-cum-Crèches (AWCCs).**
- The Mission Shakti Guidelines state that the crèche timings need to be flexible depending on the local requirements.
- Crèches **shall be open for 26 days** in a month and for seven and half (7.5) hours per day as per the work schedule of majority of the mothers in the area.
- **Funding:** For **General States** it is in the ratio 60:40, for **North Eastern & Special Category States** (90:10) UTs with Legislature (60:40) and for UTs without Legislature centre will provide 100% assistance.
- **Services:** The scheme will provide an integrated package of the following services:
 - Daycare Facilities including Sleeping Facilities.
 - Early Stimulation for children below 3 years and Pre-school Education for 3 to 6 years old children.
 - Supplementary Nutrition (to be locally sourced)
 - Growth Monitoring.
 - Health Check-up and Immunization.

AI FOR INDIA 2.0 PROGRAMME



- It was **launched in 2023** on the occasion of the ‘World Youth Skills’ Day.
- The **objectives and components** of the Programme are
 - **Free online training** in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.
 - **Special focus on vernacular accessibility**—content available in nine Indian languages (e.g., Hindi, Telugu, Kannada).
- **Aim:** It is aimed at college students, fresh graduates, and early-career professionals, especially from rural and non-english-speaking backgrounds.
- This programme has been a tech platform, **enabling tech learning in 9 vernacular languages** empowering the youth by providing them with the access to expert-curated Python courses.
- The Programme had nationally accredited recognition.
- It is a **joint initiative by GUVI** (Grab Ur Vernacular Imprint), **IIT Madras- IIM Ahmedabad incubated ed-tech** company and Skill India, which targets the education of students in vernacular languages.
- This online program reportedly holds the accreditation of NCVET and IIT Madras, which aim to equip young individuals with cutting-edge skills.

INDIA SKILLS ACCELERATOR INITIATIVE



- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, in collaboration with the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
- **Aim:** It aims to close these gaps through **inclusive upskilling and reskilling**, mobilizing investment in lifelong learning, and fostering government-industry collaboration.

- It functions as a **national public-private collaboration platform** designed to enable cross-sectoral efforts in unlocking innovative ideas and driving systemic progress on complex challenges that demand a multi-stakeholder approach.
- At its core, the Accelerator aims to catalyze change across three critical levels:
 - By improving awareness and **shifting mindsets around future skills needs**
 - **Increasing collaboration and knowledge** sharing among stakeholders, and
 - Committing to upgrade institutional structures and policy frameworks to support a more adaptive and responsive skilling ecosystem.
- By enabling agile career transitions, promoting scalable training, and aligning education with industry needs - especially in high-growth sectors like AI, robotics, and energy - the initiative is to empower India's youth and drive future-ready workforce development.

NATIONAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



- It is established under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005** (53 of 2005) by the Central G
- The committee shall be the apex body for dealing with the **situation arising out of a major disaster**.
- **Composition of National Crisis Management Committee:**
 - **Chairperson:** It is headed by the **Cabinet S**
 - **Members:** Members will constitute of the **Union Home Secretary, Defence Secretary, Secretary** (co-ordination), **Cabinet Secretariat** and member and head of department, the National Disaster Management Authority,
- **Role of National Crisis Management Committee:**
 - The chairperson of the NCMC may co-opt any expert or any officer either from the central government or the state government or any organisation, depending on

the nature of the crisis, to assist the committee in performing its functions during a threatening disaster situation, an emerging disaster situation or a disaster.

- It shall **evaluate preparedness to respond** to any threatening disaster situation, emerging disaster situation or disaster and give directions, where necessary, for enhancing such preparedness.
- It shall **coordinate and monitor actions** of the concerned ministries or departments of the government of India, state governments, national authority, state authorities, governmental and non-governmental organisations in relation to disaster response.
- It shall give such **directions as may be necessary** for the proper coordination and monitoring of disaster response in the country.

HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX



- It is a **popular ranking of global passports** that measures passport strength by the number of destinations that holders can visit without a prior visa.

- The index ranks countries based on statistics provided by the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**.
- It **started in 2006** as the **Henley & Partners Visa Restrictions Index (HVRI)**.
- The index includes 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations.

Highlights of Henley Passport Index 2025

- **Singapore's passport remains the most powerful** in the world, granting visa-free access to 193 of 227 locations.
- **Asian countries dominate the top spots**, with Japan and South Korea securing second place, allowing travel to 190 destinations without a visa.
- **Seven EU passports share third place** — Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, and Spain, all with access to 189 destinations.



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- In contrast, traditionally powerful passports like U.S. and U.K. have seen a dip in influence.
- The U.S. passport has slipped to tenth place from ninth last year, with access 182 destinations, while the U.K. has fallen from fifth to sixth position accessing 186 destinations.

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE POLICY 2025 - REVITALISING INDIA'S COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

- The National Cooperative Policy 2025 comes after a 23-year gap since the last policy was announced in 2002.
- The Union government's decision to create a separate **Ministry of Cooperation** in 2021 signalled a renewed commitment to revitalising this sector.
- With over **8.4 lakh cooperative societies** (and a target to increase this by 30%), the sector reaches over 31 crore people, especially in states like Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- The policy also seeks to expand this network into other states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, thereby decentralising political and economic benefits.

Key Features of the Policy

- The new policy is structured around six pillars:
 - **Strengthening foundational systems**
 - **Promoting vibrancy in existing cooperatives**
 - **Preparing for future challenges through digitalisation and innovation**
 - **Enhancing inclusivity and outreach**
 - **Expanding into emerging sectors**
 - **Engaging youth and building capacity for future generations**
- It aims to increase the sector's contribution to GDP threefold by 2034, establish at least one cooperative society in every village, and bring 50 crore citizens into active cooperative participation.

Expanding into New Sectors

- Under the new policy, cooperatives will now be supported in **non-traditional sectors**, including:
 - Green energy
 - Tourism
 - Taxi services (Sahkar Taxi)
 - Insurance
- PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies) are being enabled to undertake diversified activities like managing fuel outlets, LPG distribution, Jan Aushadhi Kendras, CSCs, and even implementing schemes such as Har Ghar Jal and PM Surya Ghar Yojana.
- A dedicated roadmap has been prepared for sector-specific cooperative development, particularly in rural India.

Model Cooperative Villages and Rural Integration

- A major highlight is the **Model Cooperative Village** Every tehsil will host five such villages, implemented in coordination with state cooperative banks and NABARD.
- These villages will be centres of excellence in cooperative-led development, integrating:
 - Dairy
 - Fishery
 - Floriculture
 - Agri-services
 - Women and tribal participation (via White Revolution 2.0)
- The goal is to localise economic activity while fostering inclusive growth and community ownership.