



16 July 2024

Kerala Regional News

<p>PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Prime Minister Suryagarh programme, aimed at promoting rooftop solar power plants across India, has shown significant results in Kerala.</li><li>• Kerala secured the third position nationwide for its effective implementation and provision of subsidies, following Gujarat and Maharashtra.</li></ul> <p><b>Implementation and Administration:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Implementing Agency:</b> Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) oversees the project's execution in the state.</li><li>• <b>Financial Disbursement:</b> Subsidies are directly credited to consumers' accounts by the Ministry of Finance, streamlining financial transactions.</li></ul> <p><b>Financial Impact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Subsidy Allocation:</b> Kerala allocated Rs 27.07 crores as subsidies as of July 6, demonstrating substantial financial commitment despite its size compared to larger states like Gujarat (Rs 146.99 crore) and Maharashtra (Rs 28.68 crore).</li></ul> <p><b>Operational Details:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Subsidy Criteria:</b> Subsidies are granted based on the capacity of the rooftop solar plants, with rates ranging from Rs 30,000 to Rs 78,000 for plants producing up to 3 kilowatts.</li><li>• <b>Registration and Installation:</b> 2.17 lakh people registered under the scheme in Kerala, with 55,999 applications received and 16,782 plants installed, generating a total of 52 MW of power.</li></ul> <p><b>Industrial Participation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Partnerships:</b> Kerala has engaged 730 companies for the installation of rooftop solar plants across the state, enhancing local industrial involvement in renewable energy initiatives.</li></ul>
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**About:**

The Union Cabinet approved a ₹75,021-crore package for the 'PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana' (PM Free Electricity scheme) to promote rooftop solar (RTS) installations in India.

- **Free Electricity:** The government will provide 300 units of free electricity per month to 1 crore households, aiming to light up their homes.
- **Rooftop Solar Promotion:** Urban local bodies and Panchayats will be encouraged to promote rooftop solar systems in their areas. This aligns with the free electricity provision, potentially utilising solar power as the source.
- **Financial Support:** The government guarantees no financial burden on the beneficiaries. This will likely involve subsidies deposited directly into bank accounts and offering affordable loans to help cover any costs associated with the program.

**Benefits of PM Surya Ghar Bijli Yojana:**

The PM Surya Ghar Bijli Yojana scheme anticipates several advantages, including:

- **Household Savings:** Households can potentially save ₹15,000 to ₹18,000 annually through free electricity and selling surplus solar power back to the grid.
- **Electric Vehicle Charging:** The increased adoption of solar power could support the charging of electric vehicles, promoting a shift towards sustainable transportation.
- **Job Creation:** Opportunities for entrepreneurs and skilled youth are expected to arise in areas like supplying, installing, and maintaining rooftop solar systems.



<p><b>Genome sequencing</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a pioneering effort aimed at <b>enhancing pandemic preparedness and personalized healthcare solutions</b>, Kerala is leveraging genome sequencing technology.</li> <li>• This initiative primarily targets diseases like sickle cell anaemia and dengue.</li> </ul> <p><b>Kerala Genome Data Centre (KGDC):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> Established to harness genomic data's potential for clinical applications.</li> <li>• <b>Location:</b> To be located in Thiruvananthapuram, expected to be operational by November.</li> <li>• <b>Role:</b> Will store, analyze, and manage genomic data, facilitating advanced sequencing techniques.</li> </ul> <p><b>Genome Sequencing Projects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sickle Cell Anaemia:</b> Focuses on identifying genetic variations among patients in Kerala, particularly prevalent in Wayanad and Attappadi regions. Aims to personalize treatment approaches.</li> <li>• <b>Dengue Treatment:</b> Investigates genetic variants of dengue viruses to tailor treatment strategies based on evolving virus strains. Current efforts address the spike in dengue cases observed in recent years.</li> </ul> <p><b>Healthcare Impact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Precision Medicine:</b> Genome sequencing offers cost-effective clinical care solutions, pivotal in Kerala's healthcare landscape.</li> <li>• <b>Long-term Strategy:</b> KGDC's genomic database will serve as a reference for future disease outbreaks, enhancing proactive medical interventions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Study Linking Epidemics in Kerala to Climate Change</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A recent study highlighted in the <b>'National Library of Medicine'</b> suggests a <b>concerning correlation between climate change and the resurgence of epidemics in Kerala</b>.</li> <li>• This finding underscores the threat posed to global efforts in reducing infectious disease rates due to climate variability.</li> </ul> <p><b>Impact of Climate Change on Waterborne Diseases:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research explores how anthropogenic climate change influences the incidence of waterborne diseases.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes like increased warm days, intense rainfall, and droughts directly affect pathogen survival and water sanitation, exacerbating the spread of diseases like diarrhea.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommendations for Future Research:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The study advocates for a paradigm shift in research focus towards understanding the social and environmental factors that render populations vulnerable to climate change impacts.</li> <li>• It emphasizes the need for robust surveillance systems to monitor disease outbreaks effectively in the face of changing environmental conditions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>First Institution-based Antibiotic policy</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ernakulam General Hospital is poised to make a significant stride in healthcare by becoming the first in the state to publish an institution-based antibiotic policy.</b></li> <li>• This initiative aims to tackle the global challenge of antimicrobial resistance and curb the overuse of antibiotics.</li> </ul> <p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The primary objective of this policy is to assist doctors in determining the appropriate category of antibiotics for patients, thereby reducing the misuse of these medications.</b></li> <li>• The policy is designed to foster a more evidence-based and ethical approach to antibiotic prescription.</li> </ul> <p><b>Expected Outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The implementation of this policy is expected to instigate behavioral changes among both the public and healthcare providers.</li> <li>• Through continuous monitoring, it aims to minimize the misuse of antibiotics and reduce treatment costs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy Development:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The antibiotic policy is being formulated based on an antibiogram created by the hospital.</li> <li>• The development process is currently in its final discussion phase.</li> <li>• The antibiogram was derived from culture results of approximately 4,500 positive isolates collected over the past</li> </ul>



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year, which helped identify microorganisms and their sensitivity to various antibiotics.

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