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1 Ganga Water Sharing Treaty (Source: The Hindu)

The 1996 Ganga Water Sharing Treaty is a 30-year bilateral agreement between India and Bangladesh, signed in December 1996, to share the Ganga's water during the lean season (January 1–May 31). The treaty is scheduled to expire in December 2026.

Why such an initiative?

- It ensures fair water distribution for both upstream (India) and downstream (Bangladesh) users, especially during low-flow periods.

Key Features

- It regulates water flow at the Farakka Barrage in West Bengal.
- The fund will select projects through a transparent, competitive challenge mode focused on results-oriented projects.
- Private sector participation will be encouraged through structured risk-sharing frameworks and benchmarking of service delivery standards.
- The fund will cover all cities with a population of 10 lakh or more.
- Central assistance will cover 25% of project costs.
- A minimum of 50% of the project cost should be raised from the market, including municipal bonds, bank loans, and public-private partnerships.
- A dedicated ₹5,000 crore corpus will enhance the creditworthiness of 4,223 cities.

Fact you need to know :

- Farakka Barrage is essential for maintaining the navigability of the Calcutta Port.
- Calcutta Port, or Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, is India's oldest operating and sole major riverine port, situated on the banks of the Hooghly River.

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2 PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (Source: The Hindu)

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is a flagship government scheme to promote rooftop solar installations for households, and it was launched in 2024.

- Under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- *It is a central sector scheme.*
- Households will be able to get 300 units of electricity free every month.

Implementation

- 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.

Subsidy

- The scheme provides subsidies to reduce the cost of installing solar rooftop systems. The subsidy is capped at a maximum of 3kW capacity.
  - 60% subsidy for solar systems up to 2kW capacity.
  - 40% subsidy for systems between 2 kW and 3 kW capacity.

Additional Features

- A "Model Solar Village" will be developed in each district to serve as a demonstration project and promote rooftop solar adoption in rural areas.
- Urban Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions will receive incentives to promote rooftop solar installations in their respective areas.
- Collateral-free loans up to ₹2 lakh at a 6.75% subsidised interest rate through 12 Public Sector Banks.

Fact

- Chandigarh and Daman & Diu have achieved 100% of their rooftop solar targets for government buildings.
- Gujarat is the top-performing state in solar rooftop installations, followed by Kerala and Uttar Pradesh.

Solar Potential of India

- As per the study India has a total potential of 10,830 GW, including 4,909 GW from ground-mounted, 4,177 GW from Agri-PV, and 960 GW from rooftop solar.
- Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Karnataka hold high potential due to large, arid landmasses and high solar irradiation.

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3 Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) (Source: The Hindu)

