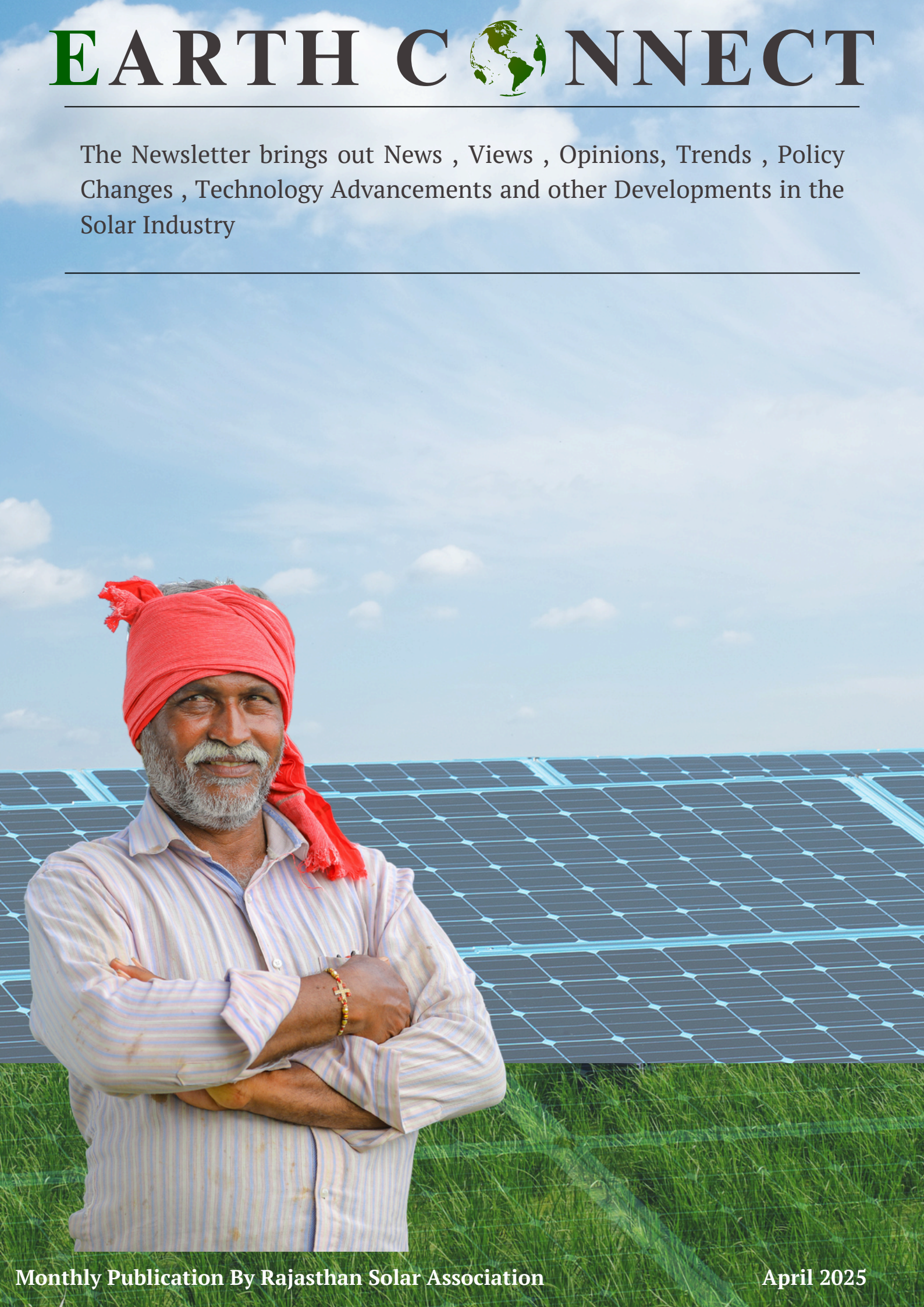
EARTH CONNECT

The Newsletter brings out News , Views , Opinions, Trends , Policy Changes , Technology Advancements and other Developments in the Solar Industry



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TRIBUTE TO THE MARTYRS

SUPPORT TO INDIA

EDITORIAL

Abhinav Mahajan's Vision for India's Solar Revolution

IB Solar's journey reflects relentless growth and innovation, transforming from modest beginnings into a global leader in solar panel and Energy Storage System (ESS) manufacturing. With over 30 years of industry experience, the company is committed to advancing India's renewable energy goals through cutting-edge technology and expanded production capacity.

Current Achievements: -

IB Solar has significantly scaled its solar panel manufacturing capacity from 90 MW in 2015 to 700 MW today. Its diverse product range includes polycrystalline panels (40 Wp–340 Wp), monocrystalline panels (400 Wp–540 Wp), and the latest N-Type TOPCon panels (580 Wp–640 Wp), all proudly manufactured in India using AAA-grade technology. These advancements highlight IB Solar's unwavering commitment to quality, innovation, and technological excellence, firmly establishing it as a key player in the global solar industry.

Future Expansion: -

Looking ahead, IB Solar plans to increase its solar panel production capacity to 1.2 GW and establish a 1 GW solar cell manufacturing facility. This expansion underscores its commitment to reducing reliance on imported components while contributing to India's ambitious renewable energy targets of 500 GW by 2030. The company's ALMM-approved Mono Perc series further enables participation in government initiatives like the PM KUSUM Yojana and Jal Jeevan Mission.

A Vision Beyond Panels: -

IB Solar's efforts extend beyond manufacturing to providing complete energy solutions under the IB ENERGY brand, powered by advanced lithium technology. With over 17,000 customers globally, the company proves that clean energy is both sustainable and economically viable.
Under Abhinav Mahajan's leadership, IB Solar aims to empower Indian households and businesses with affordable clean energy, driving innovation and sustainability for a greener future. By scaling production and embracing new technologies, IB Solar is shaping a brighter tomorrow—one solar module at a time.

Abhinav Mahajan

Director
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INSIDE

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RERC GREENLIGHTS COMPETITIVE TARIFF FOR JVVNL'S 12.02 MW SOLAR PUSH UNDER PM-KUSUM

Tariff fixed between ₹3.172/kWh and ₹3.310/kWh, paving the way for decentralized solar energy expansion in Rajasthan.

In a strategic move to bolster decentralized renewable energy adoption, the Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC) has approved the tariff structure for Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited's (JVVNL) 12.02 MW of solar projects under Component C of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme.

The approved tariff ranges from ₹3.172/kWh ($0.039), a band that reflects competitive market conditions and aligns with national renewable energy pricing trends.

Powering Progress with Policy Backing

The Commission's approval comes following JVVNL's petition and a comprehensive evaluation process, which included the issuance of letters of award to 58 successful bidders in August 2024. Among the notable developments, KNY Projects raised objections regarding initial bid rejection but later accepted a counter-offer, leading to the issuance of a letter of intent.

Transparent Process, Competitive Pricing

RERC acknowledged that JVVNL's bidding process adhered to the prescribed government norms, ensuring transparency and fair competition. The levelized tariff calculations were rigorously reviewed, factoring in capital costs, debt-equity ratios, capacity utilization, and operating expenses.

A Broader Vision

This decision follows RERC's earlier approval of a levelized tariff of ₹3.04/kWh for 5,000 MW solar capacity under Component A of PM-KUSUM, reinforcing Rajasthan's leadership in India's solar revolution.

RAJASTHAN SOLAR ASSOCIATION ATTENDS HISTORIC ADDRESS BY U.S. VICE PRESIDENT JD VANCE AT RAJASTHAN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

In a proud and inspiring moment for India-U.S. relations, the Rajasthan Solar Association (RSA) had the distinguished honor of attending a special address by the Vice President of the United States, Mr. JD Vance, held at the Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur.

The event marked a significant step forward in fostering international collaboration on clean energy, sustainability, and innovation. Vice President Vance emphasized the critical need for global partnerships in the transition to renewable energy and lauded India's progress—especially Rajasthan's role—in advancing solar energy initiatives.

The presence of Team RSA at this gathering highlighted the association's growing impact and leadership in the renewable energy sector. The interaction paved the way for potential future collaborations between U.S. stakeholders and Indian clean energy pioneers.

"This moment strengthens our vision of a greener, more sustainable future and opens new avenues for joint innovation," an RSA representative shared.

With gratitude for the opportunity, RSA looks forward to deepening global ties that drive impactful solutions for climate action and energy transformation.

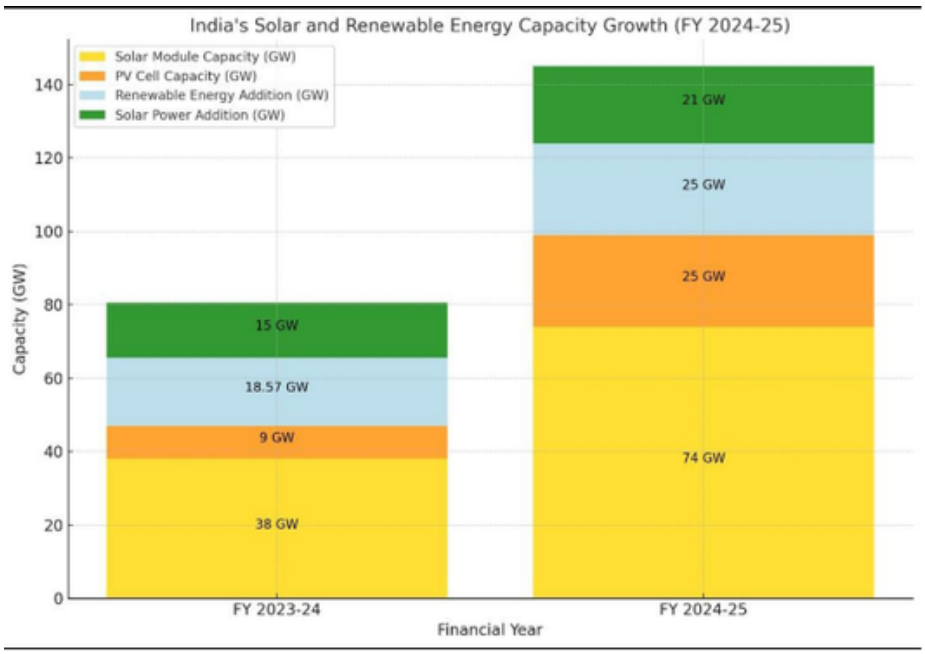
India’s Solar Surge: Powering Towards a Greener Tomorrow

India’s solar and renewable energy sector is witnessing an extraordinary transformation, setting new global benchmarks for sustainability and clean energy leadership. In a record-breaking leap during FY 2024-25, the country has not only doubled down on its solar ambitions but also carved a path towards energy independence and environmental stewardship.

Massive Growth in Solar Manufacturing: Solar module manufacturing capacity surged from 38 GW to an impressive 74 GW, signaling India’s emergence as a global solar manufacturing hub. The capacity of photovoltaic (PV) cells also saw a threefold jump—from 9 GW to 25 GW—showcasing rapid domestic capability expansion.

Record-Breaking Renewable Installations: India added a remarkable 25 GW of renewable energy in the last fiscal year, up from 18.57 GW, reflecting its unwavering commitment to clean power. Of this, solar power led the charge with a jump from 15 GW to a staggering 21 GW.

This exponential progress underscores India's march towards its 500 GW renewable target by 2030 and reinforces its role as a climate champion on the world stage. With every new installation, India moves closer to a self-reliant, sustainable energy future —powered by the sun and driven by innovation.



RSA KNOWLEDGE ADDA

WELCOME TO YOUR SOLAR KNOWLEDGE ADDA!

1. Power Off Before You Clean Off!

Think your panels need a wash? Always turn off the inverter and disconnect the system before touching anything. Solar panels generate electricity when exposed to sunlight—even if your appliances are off. Never take chances with safety.

2. Clean = Green = More Power!

Dust, bird droppings, and leaves block sunlight and reduce output. Just like you clean your car windshield for a better view, panels need a clear surface for best results. Use plain water, a soft cloth, or a long-handled wiper—no chemicals, no harsh scrubbers. Pro tip: Clean early morning or late evening when panels are cool.

3. Safety Gear is a Must

Never climb your roof without proper gear. It's not worth the risk. Use a safety harness, non-slip shoes, and ideally, work with someone watching over you. If it feels unsafe, call a professional—your safety matters more than a few extra watts.

4. Monitor the Magic

Most modern systems come with monitoring apps or inverter displays. Keep an eye on daily generation. If you notice a sudden dip, don't panic—but don't ignore it either. It might be time for a check-up.

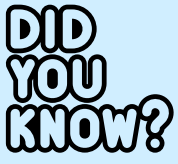
5. Keep Kids and Pets Away

Inverters, wires, and rooftop structures are not playgrounds. Make sure children and pets don't go near the solar setup. Label your system areas clearly and ensure no flammable materials are stored nearby.

6. The Annual Health Check

Schedule a professional inspection once a year. Trained technicians can spot issues you might miss—like loose wires, worn-out parts, or bird nests under panels. Prevention is always better (and cheaper) than cure!

Quick Facts from the Adda Corner:



- 1 dirty panel = 30% less power
- Rain helps but doesn't replace cleaning
- Touching hot panels can cause burns or cracks
- Even a shadow from a water tank or tree can reduce output drastically

Your Solar, Your Responsibility!

A rooftop solar plant is like a mini power station at home. Respect it. Care for it. And it will give you clean, free energy for over 25 years. With just a few safety habits, you can enjoy a greener, safer, and brighter future.
Stay sun-smart, stay safe!

☀Solar Momentum at Risk: Addressing Roadblocks in PM Surya Ghar Scheme

Bringing Light to Challenges—And Solutions

The PM Surya Ghar scheme is a game-changer in India's renewable energy transition, aiming to scale rooftop solar adoption. However, several bottlenecks are stalling progress. Addressing these challenges is critical to ensuring uninterrupted growth in the sector.

Key Challenges and Their Impact

Despite its potential, the scheme faces major hurdles, affecting thousands of installations nationwide:

- DCR Module Shortage (4-6 months) → 1,00,000 projects stalled
- Duplicate Serial Number Issues (3-5 months) → 50,000 projects affected
- Loan Re-application Delays (1-2 months) → 20,000 projects in limbo
- DISCOM Data Refresh Delays (1-2 months) → 10,000 projects on hold

The Numbers Behind the Delays

India successfully installed 10 lakh rooftop solar projects in the last year, averaging 1 lakh installations per month. However, data suggests that:

- 20% of projects are facing module shortages over five months (~1 lakh affected).
- 5% are affected by duplicate serial number conflicts (~50,000 projects).
- 5% are struggling with loan re-approvals (~20,000 projects).
- 5% are delayed due to DISCOM portal updates (~10,000 projects).

The Road Ahead: Why Speed Matters

The longer these roadblocks persist, the greater the risk to India's solar adoption targets. Faster interventions—such as streamlining DISCOM approvals, boosting module supply, and fixing data discrepancies—are imperative to keep the momentum going.

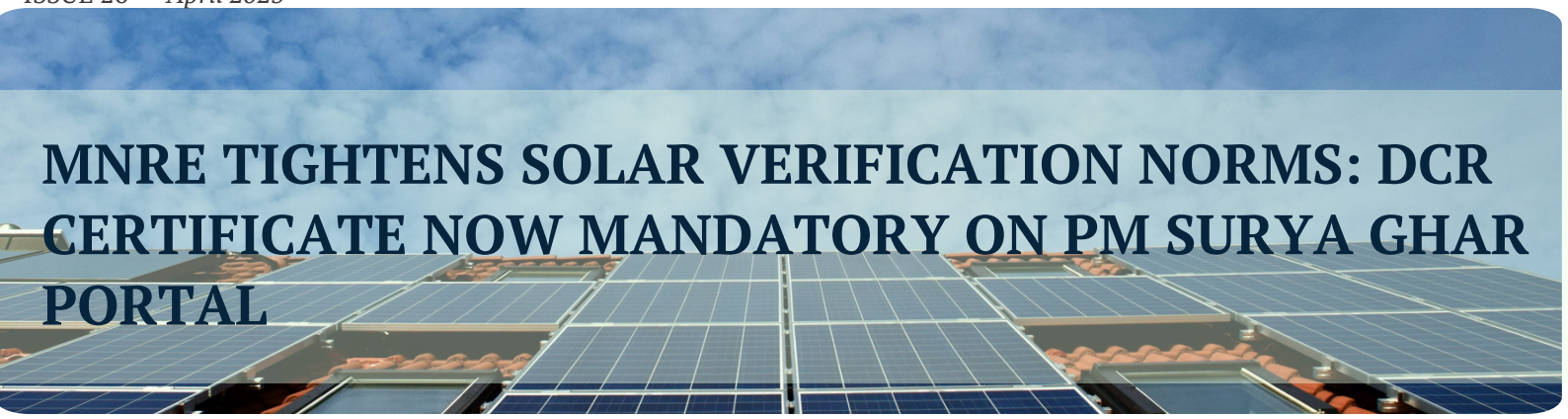
Powering Progress: Your Role

The industry, policymakers, and stakeholders must come together to ensure:

✔️ Better coordination between DISCOMs and developers
✔️ Quicker resolution of serial number duplication issues
✔️ Increased manufacturing and supply chain efficiency
✔️ Streamlined loan processing for faster approvals

By addressing these issues proactively, we can keep India’s rooftop solar revolution on track.

Let’s power the future, one rooftop at a time! ☀



MNRE TIGHTENS SOLAR VERIFICATION NORMS: DCR CERTIFICATE NOW MANDATORY ON PM SURYA GHAR PORTAL

In a decisive step towards ensuring transparency and eliminating duplication in rooftop solar installations, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has mandated the generation and input of a 16-digit DCR (Domestic Content Requirement) certificate number through its integrated PM Surya Ghar portal.
This initiative is designed to prevent duplication of solar module serial numbers and bring uniformity and accountability to the installation process under government-supported schemes like PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, PM-KUSUM, and CPSU Phase-II.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

1. **Manual Entry Eliminated:**

Vendors can no longer enter solar module serial numbers manually. The system will auto-fetch and populate serial numbers from the DCR verification portal upon submission of the DCR certificate number.

2. Seamless Integration of Portals:

The DCR verification portal is now linked to the PM Surya Ghar portal, ensuring that only verified modules are used and any duplication or typo errors are ruled out.

3. Error-Free Data Submission:

This move addresses the challenge of installation delays due to duplicate serial number issues, which previously caused project bottlenecks and rejected submissions.

4. B2C DCR Certification Compulsory:

Vendors must now generate a B2C (end-consumer) certificate after module verification and use the certificate number to auto-link the module's serial number with installation details.

5. New Rectification Process for Duplicates:

MNRE has also rolled out a duplicate serial number rectification mechanism. Vendors facing duplicate serial number flags can now:
Submit a legal undertaking confirming the correctness of the serial number
OR
Undertake corrections, allowing resubmission of installation details despite earlier portal errors.

Applications already inspected by DISCOMs will be returned with a 'repeated serial number' tag and re-verification flag, prompting DISCOMs to verify and reprocess such submissions.

WHY THIS MATTERS:

This development ensures that:

- Only verified and approved solar modules are installed
- Government subsidies and benefits are allocated transparently
- End consumers are protected from faulty or misrepresented installations

Rajasthan's Revolutionary Solar Power Scheme: 150 Free Units—But Only If You Go Solar!

INTRODUCTION

The Government of India launched the PM Suryaghar Free Electricity Scheme on February 29, 2024, to enhance solar rooftop capacity and enable households to generate their own electricity. The scheme's financial outlay is ₱75,021 crores and is scheduled to be implemented by the financial year 2026-27. The administrative approval was issued on March 16, 2024, through Order No. 318.

This scheme includes Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to support 1 crore residential consumers.

Under the scheme, rooftop solar systems will be installed through registered vendors, and guidelines for CFA settlement were issued on June 7, 2024.

Rajasthan has unveiled a groundbreaking initiative to accelerate solar adoption while ensuring affordable electricity for millions. Under the Chief Minister's Free Electricity Scheme, domestic consumers using more than 150 units per month must install rooftop solar systems to continue availing free electricity benefits.

This bold move aligns with the PM Surya Ghar Yojana and introduces three strategic implementation models, making solar energy accessible to urban and rural households alike.

The Three-Model Approach to Solar Power in Rajasthan
Model 1: Individual Rooftop Solar—Mandatory for Free Electricity

- **Compulsory Solar Installation:** Consumers exceeding 150 units/month must install a rooftop solar system.
- **Government-Supported Solar Plants:** Eligible households will receive a 1.1 kW solar system for free, ensuring 150 free units of electricity every month.
- **Non-Compliance Consequences:** Consumers failing to install solar will lose free electricity benefits.
- **Financial Assistance:** The ₱50,000 installation cost is offset by ₱33,000 from the Central Government and ₱17,000 from the State Government, making it fully subsidized for eligible consumers.

Model 2: Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) – Community Solar for 7.7 Million Consumers

- Designed for households with low consumption or no rooftop space.
- Shared solar plants with battery storage to provide 150 free units/month per consumer.
- Implemented via Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) with tenders issued by the State Government.

Model 3: PM Surya Ghar Yojana – Incentives for Non-Beneficiaries

- For consumers not covered under the CM Free Electricity Scheme.
- Perks include a free induction cooktop and a 15 paise/unit feed-in tariff for excess electricity exported to the grid.

A Game-Changer for Rajasthan's Renewable Energy Future

With a vision to install 27 lakh (2.7 million) rooftop solar plants, adding 3 GW of solar capacity, Rajasthan is setting a new benchmark in sustainable energy. This initiative not only promotes energy independence but also ensures a cleaner, greener future for all.

Rajasthan 2030: Lighting Up India's Future with Solar Power

Rajasthan's Solar Strategy: Building a 500 GW Dream

With an installed solar capacity of over 19,000 MW and iconic projects like Bhadla Solar Park,
Rajasthan is at the forefront of India's clean energy revolution.
Empowered by progressive policies, global investments, and cutting-edge infrastructure, the state is
setting a gold standard for renewable energy development.
At a time when the world grapples with energy insecurity and climate change, Rajasthan shines as a
beacon of innovation. Over 300 days of sunlight annually, a transparent investment ecosystem, and
strategic initiatives like hybrid energy models, energy storage, and agrivoltaics give Rajasthan a
decisive edge.

Key Drivers of Success:
☒ Stable regulatory frameworks
☒ Single-window clearances
☒ Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model
☒ Aggressive global investor engagement
Major investments are pouring in from countries like UAE, France, and Japan, propelling Rajasthan
toward India's ambitious 500 GW renewable energy goal by 2030.

Impact Beyond Energy:

Solar expansion is transforming Rajasthan's rural economies—creating jobs, boosting infrastructure,
and enabling local communities to thrive.

The Road Ahead:

Rajasthan aims to become a net exporter of clean energy, balancing growth with ecological
sustainability through environmental safeguards and innovative land-use models like agrivoltaics.

"In Rajasthan, we're not just generating electricity—we're generating hope, prosperity, and a greener future for generations to come."

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