



## CSTT Launches Multilingual Technical Terms Portal

[Source: TH](#)

Recently, the [Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology \(CSTT\)](#), under the Union Education Ministry, launched a unique website '[shabd.education.gov.in](#)' to provide access to technical terms in all 22 official Indian languages.

- The portal serves as a **central repository** for scientific and technical terms, offering 322 glossaries with 22,00,000 searchable words, with plans to expand to 450 glossaries.
  - **Users can search for terms by language, subject, or dictionary type**, and provide feedback on existing terms.
- This initiative aligns with the broader effort to deliver [technical education](#) in Indian languages, including fields like medicine and engineering.
- CSTT, established in 1961, focuses on evolving scientific terminology and regularly publishes textbooks, monographs, and journals such as *Vigyan Garima Sindhu* and *Gyan Garima Sindhu*.
- **Key Initiatives in India to Promote Technical Education** are [All India Council for Technical Education \(AICTE\)](#), [Prime Minister Research Fellowship \(PMRF\)](#), [Impacting Research Innovation and Technology \(IMPRINT\)](#), and [Scheme for Trans-Disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy \(STRIDE\)](#), and [Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Sciences \(STARS\)](#) etc. are implemented in the Ministry of Education for promotion of technical education and research ecosystem in Higher Education Institutes.

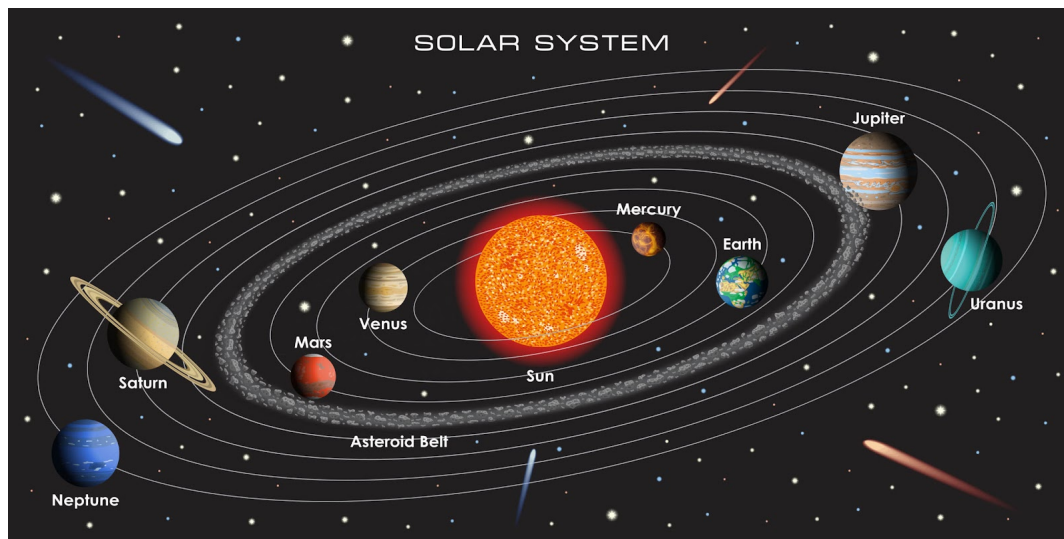
Read more: [Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme](#)

---

## Saturn's Rings Will Briefly Disappear in 2025

[Source: IE](#)

//



Recently, [NASA](#) confirmed that **Saturn's rings will briefly disappear** in March 2025 due to their **alignment with Earth**, making them **appear edge-on** from earth.

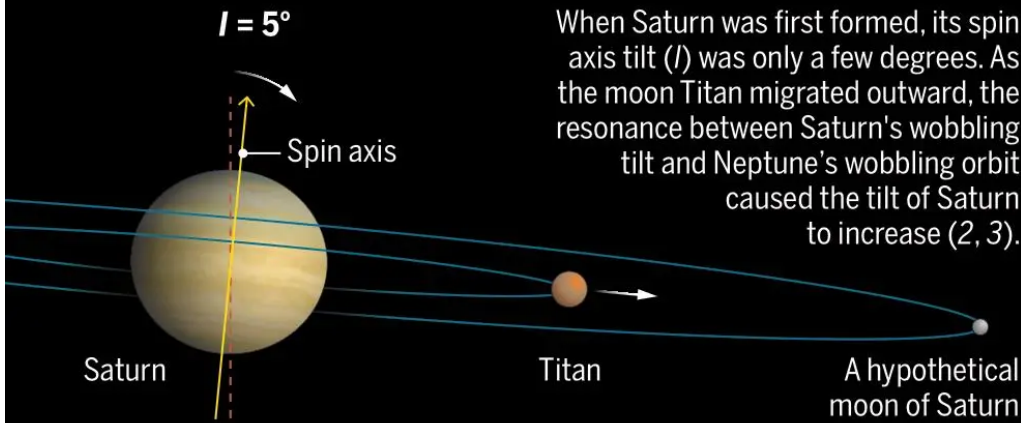
- This optical phenomenon **occurs every 13 to 15 years**, with the last occurrence in **2009**.
- **Saturn takes about 29.4 Earth years to complete one orbit around the Sun and is tilted at an angle of 26.73 degrees so rings appear to change orientation. In March 2025, only the edges of the rings will be visible, reflecting minimal light.**

## Saturn and its Rings

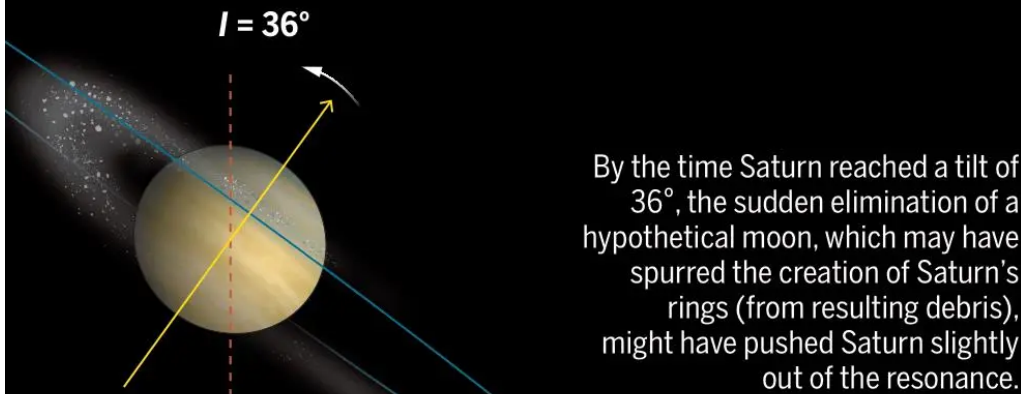
- Saturn is the **sixth planet from the Sun** and the **second largest** (after [Jupiter](#)) in the solar system.
- It has a ring system, made up of **ice and rock**, which is the most complex among all planets.
  - Saturn's rings span about **282,000 kilometers in width** but are **incredibly thin, measuring just 10 to 30 meters thick**.
  - The planet has **7 primary rings**. Each ring orbits Saturn at **different speeds**.
  - If laid edge-to-edge, Saturn's ring system could stretch the distance between Earth and the Moon.
- As per NASA, Saturn has the **highest number of moons (146) in the solar system**. Like Jupiter, **Saturn is a gaseous planet** primarily composed of **hydrogen and helium**.
- **Missions to Saturn: [Pioneer 11](#), [Voyager 1](#), and [Voyager 2](#), [Cassini spacecraft](#).**
- NASA estimates that **Saturn's rings will permanently disappear in the coming 300 million years due to "ring rain,"** a process that drains water from the rings at a rapid rate.

# A lost moon, a young ring, and Saturn's tilt

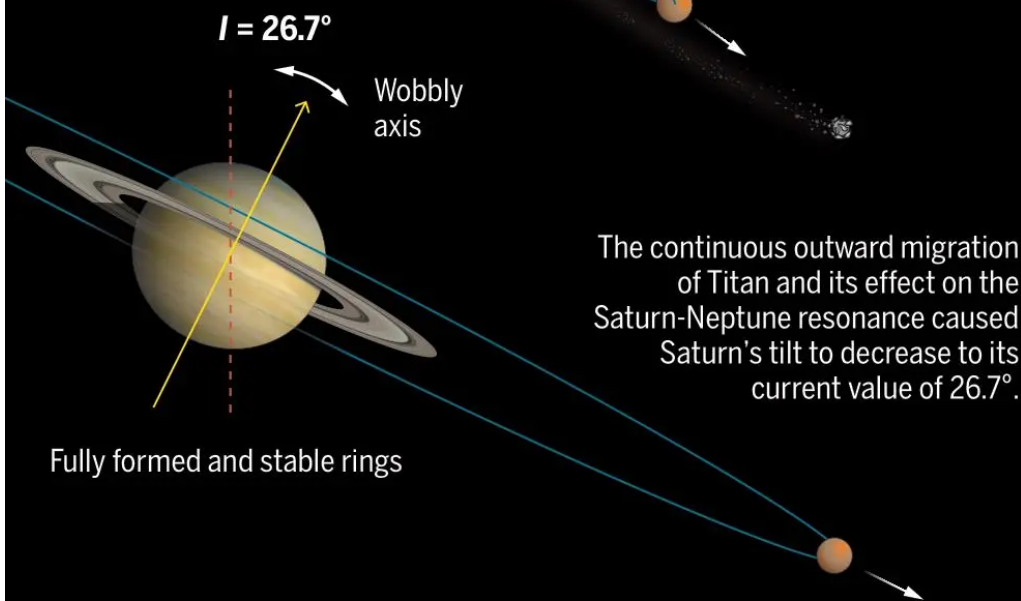
Wisdom *et al.* propose a model that could explain how the current tilt of Saturn's spin axis may be linked to how the planet gained its rings from the destruction of a hypothetical moon 100 million to 200 million years ago.



When Saturn was first formed, its spin axis tilt ( $I$ ) was only a few degrees. As the moon Titan migrated outward, the resonance between Saturn's wobbling tilt and Neptune's wobbling orbit caused the tilt of Saturn to increase (2, 3).



By the time Saturn reached a tilt of  $36^\circ$ , the sudden elimination of a hypothetical moon, which may have spurred the creation of Saturn's rings (from resulting debris), might have pushed Saturn slightly out of the resonance.



The continuous outward migration of Titan and its effect on the Saturn-Neptune resonance caused Saturn's tilt to decrease to its current value of  $26.7^\circ$ .



## WB Raises India's GDP Forecast to 7%

Source: TH

Recently, the **World Bank** has raised **India's growth forecast for FY25 to 7%** from 6.6%.

- This aligns with forecasts from the [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#) and [Asian Development Bank \(ADB\)](#).
- The [Reserve Bank of India \(RBI\)](#) has also projected India's GDP to grow at 7.2% in FY25.
- The World Bank expects a gradual **rise in private investment and a recovery in consumption**, but highlights unemployment as a key challenge to India's economic growth.
- While **urban female unemployment** has improved to **8.5%** in early FY 24-25, **urban youth unemployment** remains high at **17%**.

**INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND**

- Estd. - 1944 (UN Bretton Woods Conference following Great Depression 1930s)
- Headquarters - Washington, DC, USA
- Functions -
  - » Global financial assistance
  - » Facilitate international trade
  - » Financing for developing countries
  - » Promotion of exchange rate stability
- Member States - 190 (India a founding member)

*India's FM is the ex-officio Governor on the Board of Governors of IMF*

- Special Drawing Rights (SDR) -
  - » IMF's intl. reserve asset to supplement the official reserves of its member countries (not a currency)

*Currencies in SDR Basket - \$, €, £, ¥ (Yen) and CN¥ (Renminbi)*
- IMF Quotas -
  - » Reflects a member country's relative position in world economy (India - 2.75%)
  - » Denominated in SDRs
- Flagship Publications -
  - » World Economic Outlook
  - » Global Financial Stability Report
  - » Fiscal Monitor
  - » External Sector Report

**World Bank Group (WBG)**

- Estd. - Same as IMF
- Headquarters - Washington, DC, USA

**5 Institutions of WBG (estd.)**

- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) aka **World Bank** (1944)
- International Finance Corporation (IFC) (1956)
- International Development Association (IDA) (1960)
- International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) (1966)
- Multilateral Guarantee Agency (MIGA) (1988)

*Membership of IMF is a prerequisite for membership of IBRD*

**Functions**

- Provide **loans, credits, and grants**
- **Investment, advice**, asset management to companies/govts.
- Low/No-interest loans to **Low-income countries**
- Settle investment-**disputes**
- **Insure lenders/investors** against political risks

- Member States - 189 (India a founding member of IBRD, IFC & IDA)
  - » Ending extreme poverty by 2030

*India is not a member of ICSID; claims it biased towards developed countries*
- Major Publications -
  - » Human Capital Index
  - » World Development Report

 Drishti IAS

Read more: [World Bank Forecasts India's Economic Growth Rate](#)

## Exercise Varuna

[Source: PIB](#)

Recently, the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the **India-France** bilateral **naval exercise VARUNA** took place in the **Mediterranean Sea**.

- **INS Tabar**, a frontline stealth frigate, **ship borne Helicopter** and **LRMR Aircraft P8I** participated from the Indian side, while French side was represented by **FS Provence, Submarine Suffren, Aircraft F20; Atlantique2, fighters MB339** and **NH90 Dauphin helicopters**.
- These joint-exercises are conducted either in the **Indian Ocean** or the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- **Operations Conducted: Advanced naval operations, including tactical maneuvers, anti-submarine warfare exercises, flight exercises, air defense exercises, live weapon firings, PHOTO-EX (Photographic Exercise) and steam past.**
- Other Indo-French Joint Exercises:
  - **Desert Knight-21** and **Garuda (Air exercise)**
  - **Shakti (Army exercise)**

### Joint Exercises with India:

Country	Exercise
Australia	Austra Hindbah
Bangladesh	Sampriti
China	Hand in Hand
France	Shakti
Indonesia	Garuda Shakti
Kazakhstan	Prabal Dostykk
Kyrgyzstan	Khanjar
Maldives	Ekuverin
Mongolia	Nomadic Elephant
Myanmar	Imbex
Nepal	Surya Kiran
Oman	Al Nagah
Russia	Indra
Seychelles	Lamitiye
Sri Lanka	Mitra Shakti
Thailand	Maitree
UK	Ajeya Warrior
USA	Yudhabhayas
USA	Vajra Prahar

Read More: [Major Military Exercises of India](#)

---

# Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

[Source: TH](#)

## Why in News?

The **American Association for Cancer Research**, the world's oldest and largest professional organization dedicated to cancer research, has **recognized September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month**.

- This month is dedicated to **raising awareness** about this deadly gynecological cancer.

## Note:

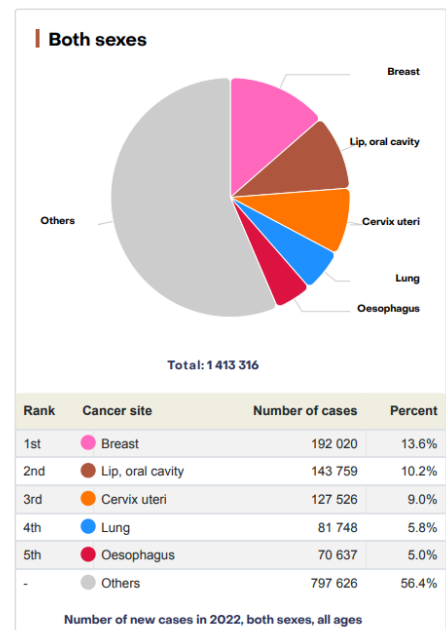
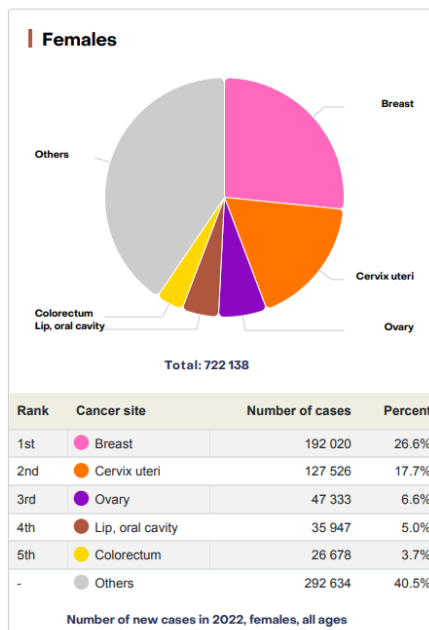
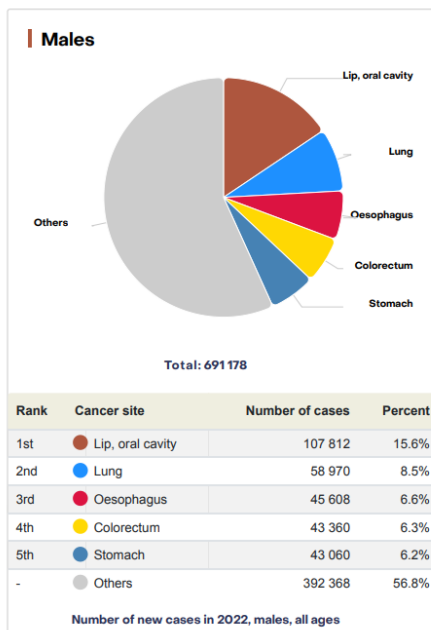
- [National Cancer Awareness Day](#) is celebrated in **India** on **7th November** every year to raise awareness about cancer and encourage early detection.

## What are the Key Facts Related to Ovarian Cancer?

- **About:**
  - Ovarian cancer is a **cancerous tumor that forms in the tissues of an ovary**. The ovaries are a pair of **female reproductive glands** that **make eggs** and **female hormones**.
  - **Cancer** is a disease in which **abnormal cells in the body grow out of control** and form a tumor.
- **Epidemiology:** Ovarian cancer contributes to **6.6% of all women's cancers in India**. The disease is particularly problematic due to late diagnosis, which significantly impacts survival rates.
  - In India, **ovarian cancer ranks among the top 3 cancers** (after **breast** and **cervix cancer**) affecting women.
  - In 2022, India reported **47,333 new ovarian cancer cases** and **32,978 deaths**.
- **Symptoms: Common symptoms include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, loss of appetite, feeling full quickly, frequent urination, indigestion, constipation, back pain, persistent fatigue, weight loss, and postmenopausal vaginal bleeding.**
  - These **symptoms often lead to misdiagnosis** or delayed treatment.
- **Type of Ovarian Cancer:**
  - Type I: Less common, typically diagnosed early, and has a better prognosis.
  - **Type II:** More aggressive, usually **diagnosed at an advanced stage**, and responsible for the majority of ovarian cancer deaths.
- **Survival Rates:** The survival rate is heavily **dependent on the stage at which the cancer is detected**.
  - Research indicates that about **20% of patients with advanced ovarian cancer** who receive optimal treatment can be disease-free at 10 years.
- **Screening Challenges:** Unlike breast or cervical cancer, there are **no effective screening tests** for ovarian cancer.
  - The **CA125 blood test**, while useful for monitoring diagnosed cases, is not recommended for routine screening due to **its limited specificity and potential for false positives**.
    - The CA 125 test measures a **blood protein** to diagnose or monitor ovarian, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal cancer.
- **Genetic Factors:** Ovarian cancer has a **strong hereditary component**, with **65-85% of hereditary cases linked to mutations** in the **BRCA1** and **BRCA2 genes**.
  - Women with these mutations face significantly higher risks of developing ovarian cancer.

- BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes help repair **DNA** and **regulate cell division**. Mutations in these genes **raise the risk of breast, ovarian, and other cancers**.
- **Lifestyle Factors:** Certain lifestyle choices, including **talcum powder usage and exposure to chemicals in hair products**, have been discussed as **potential risk** factors for ovarian cancer.
  - Additionally, [Hormone Replacement Therapy \(HRT\)](#) has been associated with an increased risk.
  - HRT is commonly used to **treat menopausal symptoms** like hot flashes and vaginal discomfort.
- **Reducing Risk:**
  - Genetic counseling is crucial for women with a **family history** or **genetic mutation (BRCA1/BRCA2)** linked to **ovarian or breast cancer**, providing tailored guidance on **risk management and preventive measures**.
  - A **diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains**, and antioxidants may help reduce ovarian cancer risk.
  - Maintaining a **healthy weight** through diet and exercise may lower the risk.
  - **Regular gynecological check-ups** can help monitor reproductive health and detect potential issues early.

### Top 5 most frequent cancers\*\*



## What are the Government Initiatives Related to Cancer Treatment?

- [National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke](#)
- [National Cancer Grid](#)
- [National Cancer Awareness Day](#)
- [HPV Vaccine](#)

Read More: [Rising Cancer Concerns.](#)

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### Prelims

**Q. With reference to the treatment of cancerous tumours, a tool called cyberknife has been making the news. In this context, which one of the following statements is not correct? (2010)**

- (a) It is a robotic image guided system

- (b) It delivers an extremely precise dose of radiation
- (c) It has the capability of achieving sub-millimetre accuracy
- (d) It can map the spread of tumour in the body

**Ans: (d)**

**Q. 'RNA interference (RNAi)' technology has gained popularity in the last few years. Why? (2019)**

1. It is used in developing gene-silencing therapies.
2. It can be used in developing therapies for the treatment of cancer.
3. It can be used to develop hormone replacement therapies.
4. It can be used to produce crop plants that are resistant to viral pathogens.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

- (a) 1, 2 and 4
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 1 and 4 only

**Ans: (a)**

---

## PM Surya Ghar—Muft Bijli Yojana

**For Prelims:** [PM Surya Ghar—Muft Bijli Yojana](#), Renewable Energy Services Company (RESCO) Model, Utility Led Asset (ULA) Model, [Net Metering](#), [Solar Rooftop System](#), [Model Solar Village](#), [Urban Local Bodies](#), [Panchayati Raj Institutions](#), Duck Curve.

**For Mains:** Significance of solar power for energy security, Challenges associated with solar power

**Source:** [LM](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** has come up with draft guidelines for the **central financial assistance** and **payment security mechanism** for the [PM Surya Ghar—Muft Bijli Yojana](#).

- The union cabinet approved the **Rs 75,000 crore PM Surya Ghar—Muft Bijli Yojana** to benefit **1 crore families** in February 2024.

### What are the Key Highlights of the Draft Guidelines?



- **Models:** The draft guidelines have been issued under the **renewable energy services company (RESCO) model** and **utility led asset (ULA) model** of the rooftop solar scheme—'PM Surya Ghar—Muft Bijli Yojana'.
  - **Renewable Energy Services Company (RESCO) Model:** RESCO develops and owns the rooftop solar system installed on the consumer's rooftop for **at least five years**.
    - The RESCO also makes all the **operational expenditures** required for the maintenance of the plant, as needed.
    - **Customers pay** the RESCO for the **electricity generated** and receive **net metering benefits** on their electricity bill.
    - The RESCO may enter into an **arrangement** with a **distribution company (discom)** for the sale of generated power to the grid under a **power purchase agreement**.
  - **Utility led Asset (ULA) Model:** Under it, a **state discom** owns the rooftop solar systems for the project period of at least of **five years**, after which the ownership is transferred to the household.
- **Eligibility for Central Financial Assistance (CFA):**
  - **Grid-connected** rooftop solar systems on residential properties, including **roofs, terraces, balconies, and elevated structures**.
  - Installations under metering mechanisms such as **group net metering** and **virtual net metering**.
  - **Exclusions:** Households with **pre-existing** rooftop solar systems are **not eligible** under the RESCO and ULA models for the PM Surya Ghar scheme.
- **Payment Security Mechanism:** A **Rs 100 crore corpus** will be established to ensure **payment security**, managed by a national program implementation agency.
  - The creation of a payment security corpus ensures **financial stability and security** for the solar projects.

## What is PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana?

- **About:** It is a **central scheme** to promote the adoption of **solar rooftop systems** by providing substantial financial subsidies and ensuring ease of installation.
- **Objective:** 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**.
- **Implementation Agencies:** The scheme will be executed at **two levels**.
  - **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.
- **Role of DISCOMs:** As SIAs, **DISCOMs are responsible for facilitating various measures** to promote rooftop solar adoption, including ensuring the availability of **net metres**, and conducting timely inspections and commissioning of installations.
- **Subsidy Structure:** 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 2kW to 3kW capacity.
- **Additional Features of the Scheme:**
  - **Model Solar Villages:** A "**Model Solar Village**" will be developed in each district to serve as a demonstration project and promote rooftop solar adoption in rural areas.
  - **Incentives for Local Bodies:** **Urban Local Bodies** and **Panchayati Raj Institutions** will receive incentives to **promote rooftop solar installations** in their respective areas.

## What are Expected Benefits of PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana?

- **Economic Benefits:** Households will benefit from **reduced electricity bills** and can **earn additional income** by selling surplus power to Distribution Companies (DISCOMs).
  - A 3 kW system can generate over **300 units of electricity** per month, providing free

electricity as per the scheme's objectives.

- **Solar Power Generation:** The scheme is expected to **add 30 GW of solar capacity** through residential rooftop installations, generating **1000 billion units (BUs)** of electricity over the system's **25-year lifetime**.
- **Low Carbon Emission:** It will reduce **CO2** equivalent emissions by **720 million tonnes**, contributing significantly to environmental sustainability.
- **Job Creation:** The scheme is anticipated to create around **17 lakh direct jobs** across various sectors such as manufacturing, logistics, supply chain management, sales, installation, operations, and maintenance (O&M).

## What are the Challenges in Implementation of the Scheme?

- **Household Reluctance:** A significant challenge is the reluctance of households to adopt rooftop solar systems due to the availability of **free electricity** provided by several states and union territories.
- **Restricted Space Use:** Serving the **1-2 kW segment** is complicated due to **limited terrace space**, uneven terrain, shading, low property ownership, and risks like vandalism or theft of solar panels.
- **Operational Strain on DISCOMs:** The current net metering system is financially **burdensome for DISCOMs**, which already face substantial losses.
  - DISCOMs become **unpaid storage facilities** for homeowners who generate energy during the day but draw from the grid at other times especially night.
- **Storage Integration:** The **lack of a mandate for storage systems** with rooftop solar installations could lead to grid management issues similar to the **“duck curve”**.
  - The Duck Curve refers to a graphical representation of **electricity demand** from the grid on **days** when solar energy production is **high** and demand in the grid is **low**.
- **Quality Assurance Challenges:** Customers often find it difficult to assess the quality of the installed systems, making them **vulnerable to substandard service** and performance.

## What are the Other Government Initiatives to Harness Solar Energy?

- [One Sun, One World, One Grid](#)
- [Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana \(SAUBHAGYA\)](#)
- [National Smart Grid Mission \(NSGM\) and Smart Meter National Programme](#)
- [International Solar Alliance \(ISA\)](#)
- [National Solar Mission](#)
- [Solar Park Scheme](#)
- [Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan \(PM-KUSUM\)](#)

## Way Forward

- **Ensure Targeted Beneficiary Outreach:** Partner with **local bodies** to develop strategies to reach the economically disadvantaged households that consume less than **200-300 units monthly**.
- **Community Solar Projects:** Encourage the development of **Community Solar Projects** that allows shared solar generation from a **central plant**, benefiting low-income and rural households who cannot install rooftop solar systems.
- **Revise Net Metering:** Explore options like **Time-of-Use (TOU) pricing**, where consumers are **charged based on the time they consume energy**, to reduce the grid strain from surplus daytime solar generation.
- **Mandate Storage Integration:** Make **storage integration mandatory** for all rooftop solar installations to enhance grid stability and optimise the use of surplus solar energy.

### **Drishti Mains Question:**

Q. Critically examine the challenges and opportunities associated with adopting solar energy production

among small households in India.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### ***Prelims***

**Q. With reference to the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), which of the following statements is/are correct? (2015)**

1. It is a Public Limited Government Company.
2. It is a Non-Banking Financial Company.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (c)**

### ***Mains***

**Q. "Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is the sine qua non to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". Comment on the progress made in India in this regard. (2018)**

## **"Effective Consultation" in Judicial Appointments**

**For Prelims:** [Collegium System](#), [Chief Justice of India](#), [Supreme Court](#), [High Court](#).

**For Mains:** Evolution of the Collegium System and its Criticism, Appointment of Judges in SC

**Source:** [IE](#)

### **Why in News?**

Recently, the [Supreme Court \(SC\)](#) in its ruling emphasised the importance of **seniority and effective consultation** in the appointment of High Court judges.

- In a case involving the Himachal Pradesh High Court (HC) collegium, the Supreme Court ruled that a '**lack of effective consultation**' in judicial appointments falls within the scope of [judicial review](#).
- It directed a reconsideration of two judicial officers recommended for elevation, highlighting the importance of procedural adherence.

## What is the Background of Case and Supreme Court Ruling?

### ▪ Background:

- In December 2022, the **Himachal Pradesh HC collegium recommended** two District judges for elevation to HC Judges.
- However, the **SC collegium requested reconsideration** on this prompting a further review.
- Later, HC collegium recommended two other judicial officers. The **initially recommended judges challenged this decision in the SC**, arguing their seniority was overlooked.

### ▪ Supreme Court' Ruling:

- **Maintainability:** The SC assessed whether it had jurisdiction to review appointment recommendations, referencing the [Second and Third Judges Cases](#).
  - It ruled that its review focused solely on **whether "effective consultation" occurred** after the SC collegium's resolution, **without evaluating the candidates' "merits" or "suitability."**
- **Proper Procedure: The SC collegium had returned the recommendations to the HC Chief Justice and requested for reconsideration of names.**
  - The **SC examined** whether the HC Chief Justice had **"effective consultation"** with **other judges of the High Court**.
  - SC held that despite the resolution being addressed to the Chief Justice of HC, he **could not independently make recommendations**. Decisions **must involve "collective consultation"** among the Chief Justice and the two senior-most judges of HC.
- This ruling reinforces the **need for adherence to established procedures in judicial appointments** and highlights the importance of seniority, ensuring a fair and transparent process in the elevation of judges.

## What is the Procedure for the Appointment of High Court Judges?

- **Procedure:** The appointment of judges to the High Courts follows a procedure based on the **collegium system**, which was established through various landmark cases, such as [Second Judges Case \(1993\)](#) and further clarified in the [Third Judges Case \(1998\)](#).
  - The collegium system empowers the judiciary to **recommend appointments and transfers of judges** to the Supreme Court and High Courts, with the government having a limited role.
  - After the **Third Judges Case (1998)**, the central government and the SC formalised High Court judge appointments through a **Memorandum of Procedure (MoP)**.

### ▪ Appointment of High Court Judges:

- For High Court appointments, the collegium comprises the [Chief Justice of India \(CJI\)](#) and the 2 senior most judges of the Supreme Court.
- This collegium would **form an opinion on a person** to be recommended for appointment to the High Court, taking into account the **views of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court**, senior Judges of the High Court, and Judges of the Supreme Court conversant with the affairs of that High Court.

### ▪ Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for Appointment of High Court Judge:

- **High Court Collegium Recommendation:** The **Chief Justice of the High Court**, in consultation with the **2 senior most judges of that court**, **recommends names** for appointment.
- **State-Level Review:** The recommendations are sent to the **Chief Minister** and **Governor** for their views, though they do not have the power to reject the recommendation.
- **Central Government Process:** The Governor forwards the recommendations to

- the **Union Minister of Law and Justice**, who conducts a background check.
- **Supreme Court Collegium Review:** The recommendations are then **sent to the CJI**, who consults the Supreme Court collegium. If approved, the names are sent to the **President** for final approval.
  - The government's **role is limited to delaying appointments or raising concerns**, but it cannot overrule the collegium's recommendations.

## What is a Collegium System of Judicial Appointments?

- **About:** It is the system of **appointment and transfer of judges** of the Supreme Court and High Courts that has evolved through judgments of the **Supreme Court (SC)**, and **not by an Act of Parliament** or by a provision of the Constitution.
- **Evolution of the System:**
  - **First Judges Case (1981):** It is also known as *S.P. Gupta v. Union of India (1981)*.
    - It stated that the **CJI's** recommendations on judicial appointments and transfers **can be rejected for "cogent (strong and convincing) reasons."**
    - The ruling **gave the Executive primacy over the Judiciary** in judicial appointments for the next 12 years.
  - **Second Judges Case (1993): SC in Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association vs Union of India (1993)** introduced the Collegium system, holding that **"consultation" really meant "concurrence"**.
    - The ruling made the SC collegium's recommendations **binding on the central government** and granted the **judiciary the authority to appoint and transfer higher judiciary judges**.
    - It also added that **it was not the CJI's individual opinion**, but an **institutional opinion** formed in consultation with the two senior-most judges in the SC.
  - **Third Judges Case (1998): SC on the President's reference (Article 143)** expanded the Collegium to a **5-member body, comprising the CJI and 4 of his senior-most colleagues**.
    - It also outlined 2 limited grounds for challenging a recommendation.
      - **Lack of "effective consultation"** with relevant individuals or institutions.
      - The **candidate's ineligibility** based on the qualifications specified in **Articles 217** (High Court) and **Article 124** (Supreme Court) of the Constitution.
  - **Head of Collegium System:**
    - The **SC collegium is headed by the CJI (Chief Justice of India)** and comprises 4 other senior most judges of the court.
    - A **HC collegium is led by its Chief Justice** and 4 other senior most judges of that HC.
      - Names recommended for appointment by a HC collegium reaches the government only after approval by the CJI and the SC collegium.
    - **Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed only through the collegium system** and the government has a role only after names have been decided by the collegium.

Appointment	Consultation
Appointment of Judge of Supreme Court	4 Senior most Judges of the Supreme Court
Appointment of Judge of High Court	2 Senior most Judges of the Supreme Court
Transfer of Judge of High Court	4 Senior most judges of the Supreme Court along with the judges of the two High Courts.

## What are the Demerits of the Collegium System?

- **Lack of Transparency:** The system is criticised for its opaqueness, with limited public insight into the appointment process.
- **Nepotism:** There is a **concern that personal connections and relationships (Uncle Judge**

- syndrome)** within the judiciary can influence appointments, potentially leading to favoritism.
- **Inefficiency:** The absence of a permanent commission for judicial appointments can lead to delays and inefficiencies in filling vacancies.

## Conclusion

The ongoing debate surrounding judicial appointments in India underscores the necessity for **reforming the collegium system to enhance transparency**, accountability, and efficiency. Implementing measures such as **revising the [National Judicial Appointments Commission \(NJAC\)](#)** or adopting comparable reforms could effectively address these concerns and **contribute to the overall improvement of the judiciary's operations**.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### ***Prelims***

**Q. With reference to the Indian judiciary, consider the following statements: (2021)**

1. Any retired judge of the Supreme Court of India can be called back to sit and act as a Supreme Court judge by the Chief Justice of India with the prior permission of the President of India.
2. A High Court in India has the power to review its own judgement as the Supreme Court does.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (c)**

### ***Mains***

**Q. Critically examine the Supreme Court's judgement on 'National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014' with reference to appointment of judges of higher judiciary in India. (2017)**