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Daily news summary**Decentralised Solar Initiatives Drive Capacity Growth**

UPSC Civil Services • 26 August 2026 • Prelims and Mains

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WHY IN NEWS

- Decentralised solar programmes, led by PM-KUSUM and rooftop solar, contributed 40% of India's total solar capacity additions during the early months of FY27.

WHAT ARE PM-KUSUM AND PM SURYA GHAR SCHEMES?

- PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) was launched in 2019 by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to de-dieselise the farm sector through solar agricultural pumps and solarisation of grid-connected pumps.
- **PM Surya Ghar:** Muft Bijli Yojana provides central financial assistance for installing rooftop solar units on residential households.

CURRENT TRENDS IN SOLAR EXPANSION

- Decentralised additions are offsetting slowdowns in utility-scale solar parks caused by power evacuation and transmission corridor constraints.
- Shift from large land-intensive solar parks toward localized generation reduces transmission losses and land acquisition bottlenecks.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Supports India's updated NDC commitment under the Paris Agreement to achieve 50% non-fossil fuel cumulative electric capacity by 2030.
- Promotes grid decentralization and financial sustainability of state electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs).

KEY TERMS

- **Decentralised Renewable Energy:** Power generated on-site or near the point of use through small-scale systems rather than central power stations.
- **Utility-Scale Solar:** Large-scale solar power plants designed to feed generated electricity directly into the high-voltage transmission grid.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- PM-KUSUM contains components for standalone solar pumps, solarisation of grid pumps, and grid-connected RE power plants on barren farm land.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Evaluate the structural challenges in **utility-scale solar** expansion versus the potential of decentralized solar power.

KEY DATA

- **Ministry:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) - Nodal central ministry implementing PM-KUSUM and PM Surya Ghar schemes.
- **Climate Target:** 50% Non-Fossil Power by 2030 - India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under Paris Agreement.

[Official source](#)

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