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Situation in Murshidabad peaceful, internet services suspended

PTI | Last Updated: Apr 09, 2025, 09:33:00 AM IST

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Synopsis

Murshidabad district in West Bengal, previously affected by violence following protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act, has returned to a state of calm. Prohibitory orders are in effect, and internet connectivity remains suspended in certain areas to prevent disinformation.



Agitators raise slogans during a protest over the Waqf (Amendment) Act, in Murshidabad district of West Bengal.

The situation in Muslim-dominated Murshidabad district of West Bengal, which was marred by incidents of violence following protests over the Waqf (Amendment) Act, was calm and peaceful on Wednesday with no report of any untoward incident, a senior police officer said.

Prohibitory orders were clamped in and around Raghunathganj and Suti police station areas and large police force deployed in all sensitive areas of the district, especially in and around Jangipur town, where a large number of people had assembled on Tuesday afternoon, demanding the withdrawal of the legislation, he said.

Internet connectivity remained suspended, within the areas under the Jangipur sub-division to prevent the spread of any disinformation.

"The situation is calm, peaceful and under control. There is not a single untoward incident reported from anywhere in the district. Prohibitory orders remained and would continue till 6 pm of April 10 (Thursday). The suspension of internet connectivity would also remain till 6 pm of April 11 (Friday)," the officer said.

Protestors, who had gathered in large numbers on the NH-12 in the Jangipur area to protest against the Waqf Bill, hurled stones at the police who were deployed in the area on Tuesday afternoon

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Murshidabad protest turns violent, forces deployed

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A couple of vehicles belonging to the police were allegedly torched during the protest and police had to resort to lathi-charge and use tear gas shells to bring the situation under control. A few policemen were injured in the stone pelting, the officer said.

Police have also detained a few people in connection with the incident, he said.

West Bengal Governor [C V Ananda Bose](#) condemned the incident and said attempts to disturb the law and order situation in the state "should be put down with an iron hand".

Bose directed the government to take "bold action" to curb violence and submit a report.

The opposition BJP alleged that the law and order situation in the state was "crumbling" under Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who was busy with "minority appeasement".

BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar said West Bengal, once safeguarded by Syama Prasad Mookerjee, was now "bleeding under the rule of Mamata Banerjee".

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on Thursday, and by the Rajya Sabha in the early hours of Friday after marathon debates in both Houses of Parliament.

The Act aims to streamline the management of Waqf properties (assets permanently donated by Muslims for religious or charitable purposes) with provisions to safeguard heritage sites and promote social welfare.

It also seeks to improve governance by enhancing transparency in property management, streamlining coordination between Waqf boards and local authorities and protecting stakeholders' rights.

President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the bill on Saturday.

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Synopsis

Increasing emphasis on rooftop solar energy generation makes EVs fully green from well to wheel as they can be conveniently charged from the energy produced without any use of fossil fuel while delivering the added benefit of near zero running costs. This further lowers the total cost of ownership of EVs.



New Delhi: Sunlight is abundant in India, and with renewed government push for harnessing this free natural resource, the country is well on its way to significantly enhancing its rooftop solar power capacity. So how does the push for [rooftop solar](#) align with a parallel government initiative to promote the use of [electric vehicles](#)?

Increasing emphasis on rooftop solar energy generation makes EVs fully green from well to wheel as they can be conveniently charged from the energy produced without any use of fossil fuel while delivering the added benefit of near zero running costs. This further lowers the total cost of ownership of EVs. With the central and most state governments providing multiple subsidies and incentives for installing rooftop solar panels, the customer benefits exponentially. In addition, prices of EVs are reducing and fast becoming equivalent to similar petrol or diesel powered vehicles. This makes the combined value proposition of EV and Solar Charging most compelling.

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company, says that the government's promotion of rooftop solar through various incentives is "indeed a significant factor contributing to the penetration of electric vehicles (EVs) in India, although it operates as part of a broader ecosystem. Rooftop solar solutions provide a sustainable and cost-effective way for consumers to generate their own electricity. This becomes particularly relevant for EV owners, as the ability to charge their vehicles using solar power not only reduces dependence on the grid but also significantly lowers the total cost of ownership over time. This synergy between renewable energy and EVs aligns with the government's broader agenda of reducing carbon emissions and promoting energy security."

Government push for solar

The government has been doing its bit to promote rooftop solar installation. Under the [Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana](#), each household that opts for the installation of a rooftop solar system is entitled to 300 units of electricity free every month. The scheme is targeting solar panel installation across one crore households and has been allocated Rs 75,021 crore.

The scheme provides a subsidy of 60% of the solar unit cost for systems up to 2 kW capacity and 40% of the additional system cost for systems between 2 kW to 3 kW capacity. The subsidy has been capped at 3 kW capacity. An official statement earlier this year had said that "At current benchmark prices, this will mean Rs 30,000 subsidy for 1 kW system, Rs 60,000 for 2 kW systems, and Rs 78,000 for 3 kW systems or higher."

Another feature of this scheme is that interested households are allowed to access collateral-free, low-interest loan products of around 7% for the installation of residential RTS systems up to 3 kW. The interest rate has been pegged at 0.5% above the prevailing Repo Rate decided by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time.

The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijlee Yojana promises an assured saving of approximately Rs 15,000 in a year for a household consuming up to 300 units a month by installing a rooftop solar unit of 3 kW capacity. Such a household, by generating its own electricity, will save approximately Rs 1,800–Rs 1,875 on electricity bills.

The official statement quoted earlier said that even after deducting the EMI of Rs 610 on the loan availed for financing the solar unit, the saving would be around Rs 1,265 per month or approximately Rs 15,000 in a year. The savings for households not availing loans will be even higher.

In addition, many progressive states including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka and Rajasthan are already offering additional subsidies to households for installing solar panels and several more are working on policies to incentivise this.

India's journey towards **net zero emissions**



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emissions-free electricity are both key enablers in India's journey towards net zero emissions. Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEML) and Tata Power Renewable Energy (TPREL), a subsidiary of The Tata Power Company Ltd., have announced a collaboration to drive zero-emissions mobility through a combined solution of electric vehicles and solar rooftop systems.

TPEML MD Shailesh Chandra says, "We see significant synergies between the customers of EVs and solar rooftop systems. Over 90% of EV customers use home charging and nearly 30% of our EV owners are already using solar rooftop systems. Combining forces with TPREL, we intend to democratise zero-emissions mobility and decouple EVs from the grid while reducing running costs for customers."

Bhawna Tyagi, Programme Lead at the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW), says that India has a rooftop solar potential of 637 GW. "Tapping this can help meet the residential electricity demand, which is rising due to factors like increasing EV penetration, growing urbanisation, increasing per capita income leading to increasing appliance penetration, etc., while alleviating the financial strain on discoms and reducing dependency on fossil fuels. For a Vikasit Bharat, empowering households with rooftop solar is essential."

Zero emission EV sales though rising year on year, currently account for just 2-3% of total industry volumes. They have an important role to play in reducing the carbon output of India's automotive industry. With the government having set an ambitious target of 30% EV penetration by the turn of this decade, we must as a nation integrate [EV adoption](#) with the broader UN Sustainable Development Goals for the growth of EVs is core to address issues of serious air pollution, energy security, sustainable mobility, and economic stability.

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