

## Solarizing government buildings in ghana

The Indian government has been making strides towards achieving the goal of a sustainable future, and one of the ways it has been doing so is through its initiatives in promoting the use of solar power. One of these initiatives is the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's (MNRE) scheme to install solar rooftop systems on government buildings.

The potential for solar rooftop systems on government buildings is vast, with various ministries having a combined potential of over 4 GW. The MNRE scheme seeks to tap into this potential by providing financial assistance for the installation of solar rooftop systems on government buildings across the country.

Under the scheme, the government will provide a subsidy of up to 40% of the benchmark cost for the installation of solar rooftop systems on government buildings. The subsidy will be provided by the MNRE, while the State Nodal Agencies will be responsible for the implementation of the scheme.

The scheme has been designed to benefit various government ministries, with each ministry having its own potential for solar rooftop installations. For instance, the Ministry of Agriculture has a potential of 12 MW, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has a potential of 401 MW, while the Ministry of Defence has a potential of 281 MW.

The scheme has several benefits for the government, including the reduction of the country's dependence on fossil fuels, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and the creation of a new market for solar rooftop manufacturers and installers. It also has the potential to create employment opportunities in the renewable energy sector.

In addition to the financial assistance provided by the government, the scheme also includes measures to simplify the process for installing solar rooftop systems on government buildings. The MNRE has issued guidelines for the installation of solar rooftop systems, which provide a step-by-step process for implementing the scheme.

The MNRE scheme for solar rooftop systems on government buildings is a step in the right direction for promoting the use of solar power in India. By tapping into the vast potential for solar rooftop installations on government buildings, the scheme has the potential to make a significant contribution towards the country's renewable energy goals.

His comment was made during a study of state buildings in Accra and Abidjan, which I conducted with Dennis Larbi Mpere and Yah Ariane Bernadette N'djor in 2019. As well as exploring the buildings to get a sense of what they look like and the atmosphere around them, we organised a series of focus group discussions

with citizens who live or work in each of the capitals, focusing on what they know about their state buildings and what they make of them.

Take Accra, the capital of Ghana. Here, state buildings are an eclectic mixture, including a 16th century slave castle (now home to military and administrative offices), a set of modest tropical-modernist mid-20th century government department buildings and parliament, and a daring new presidential HQ shaped like an Asante stool.

In neighbouring C?te d'Ivoire, the de facto capital city Abidjan boasts a much more consistent collection of high-impact, high-modernist buildings mostly constructed over the first 20 years after independence from 1960. Its high-rise towers and daringly abstract shapes have caused the capital to be known locally as "little New York".

Thus, Ghana's state seems to be embodied by a set of buildings that have been adopted and adapted from various times and sources, illustrating the country's historical struggles, from the slave trade through colonialism and into a difficult post-colonial period. The architecture describes Ghana's ups and downs, its making-do as well as its grand gestures.

In stark contrast, the Ivoirian state is projected through its architecture as a spectacle, a product purely of a post-colonial "economic miracle". Its buildings depict an exceptional vision, apparently free from compromise or historical depth.

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