



Uttarakhand CM Requests Coal Block for Thermal Power Plants | Uttarakhand | 19 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Recently, CM Dharam Singh met Union coal and mines minister Pralhad Joshi in Delhi and requested him to **allot a coal block with storage capacity of about 125 million tonnes to Uttarakhand** on priority for setting up pit-head [thermal power plants](#) of minimum 1,000 MW.

Key Points

- Uttarakhand is among few states **where no thermal power station is operational.**
- Due to **favourable industrial policy**, there has been **rapid industrial development** in the state as a result of which **demand for electricity has continuously increased.**
- According to the CM, **power shortage becomes severe during the winter** as **cold temperatures reduce the flow of water in rivers.** The **demand for electricity** in the state is **increasing at the rate of about 4% to 5 % each year.**

Thermal Power Sector in India

- Thermal power plants or thermal power stations are **power stations that generate electricity from heat.** Thermal power plants use different sources of energy to produce heat, including coal, oil, natural gas, and geothermal sources.
- The thermal power sector has been **a major source of electricity generation in India,** accounting for around 75% of the country's total installed power capacity.
- India's thermal power plants **rely heavily on coal, which is mostly imported from other countries.** This can lead to supply disruptions and price volatility.
- The **top five states with the highest installed capacity of thermal power** are - Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.