



Solar Waste Management | Rajasthan | 06 Apr 2024

Why in News?

Recently, a report titled '**Enabling a Circular Economy in India's Solar Industry - Assessing the Solar Waste Quantum**' shed light on India's escalating [solar waste](#) crisis.

Key Points

- The study was conducted by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** in collaboration with experts from the [Council on Energy, Environment and Water](#) (a leading not-for-profit policy research institution in Asia).
- **Key Highlights** of the Report are:
 - The current solar capacity of India, as of FY23, has generated about **100 kilotonnes (kt)** of cumulative waste, which will increase to 340 kt by 2030.
 - Around 67% of the projected waste by 2030 is expected to be produced by five states: **Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh.**
 - Discarded solar modules contain critical minerals essential for India's economic development and national security, including silicon, copper, tellurium, and cadmium.
- Rajasthan has the **highest solar power generation potential** of all states in the country.
 - As of August 2023, **Rajasthan's operational solar power projects** produced roughly **17.8 GW of solar energy.**

Solar Waste

- It is any waste generated during the **manufacturing of solar modules, or discarded modules and scrap** from manufacturing processes.
 - Modules are discarded at the end of their functional life or due to damages from transportation, handling, and installation.
 - Improper handling and landfilling of solar waste should be avoided. Proper treatment is necessary to **reclaim valuable minerals and prevent the leaching** of toxic materials like lead and cadmium.
- According to the [International Renewable Energy Agency \(IRENA\)](#), approximately **80% of solar panel components, including glass and metal frames, are recyclable.**
 - Solar waste can be recycled to recover materials like glass, aluminium, copper, silicon and silver.
 - Recycling can be broadly categorised into **mechanical, thermal and chemical processes.**
 - Each process helps in the recovery of specific minerals of varying purity grades.

Health Department Guidelines For Managing Heat-Related Illness |

Uttar Pradesh | 06 Apr 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **Uttar Pradesh Health Department** has issued guidelines to all District Magistrates and Chief Medical Officers with the preparations for the **prevention and management of heat-related diseases** in the state during summer.

Key Points

- According to the [Indian Meteorological Department](#), most parts of the country are likely to experience higher temperatures than usual during this summer, especially the central and north-western parts of Uttar Pradesh.
 - Various institutions have anticipated **seasonal outbreaks of diseases** between March and May 2024.
 - There is a higher likelihood of [heatwaves](#) prevailing in the central and north-western regions of the country from March to May 2024.
- The Health Department will have inter-departmental coordination to organise an array of events to raise awareness about heat-related diseases as well as their prevention and management.
 - The department will make arrangements for **cool and clean drinking water** in crowded places and **provide shelters for heat protection**.
 - [Weather forecasts and temperatures](#) will be displayed on screens installed at crowded locations, while awareness **sessions will be held on protection from heat waves in schools**.
 - The Department will prioritise the **training and awareness of medical officers, paramedical staff, and frontline workers**, ensuring they are equipped with the skills to promptly identify and treat these diseases.
 - Sufficient availability of essential medications, **intravenous fluids, ice packs, oral rehydration salts**, and other necessary supplies will be ensured.
 - **Educational materials** will be distributed to **raise public awareness** about heat-related illnesses and how to prevent and manage them.

Uttar Pradesh Government Procures Power Units to Address Deficit | Uttar Pradesh | 06 Apr 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL)** has traded 5,500 million unit (Mu) power from 11 states through power banks.

- Around 4,000 Mu will be supplied during the high energy demand period (April-October).

Key Points

- In 2023, the state established a high demand of 28,284 megawatt (Mw), while the power corporation arranged for 3,000 Mu of energy from five states to overcome the demand-supply gap.
- UP's power banking state partners include **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh**.
- Uttar Pradesh's **peak energy demand** is likely to breach **31,000 Mw in 2024** and to **53,000 Mw by 2028**.
 - However, the state government is hopeful that it will ramp up [renewable energy](#)

- generation sufficiently.
- The state is **targeting 22,000 Mw of solar energy generation in 4-5 years.**

Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL)

- **Established on 14th January 2000**, as the result of power sector reforms and restructuring in UP which is the **focal point of the Power Sector**, responsible for planning and managing the sector through its **transmission, distribution and supply of electricity.**
- It is a professionally managed utility supplying reliable and cost efficient electricity to every citizen of the state.

World's Oldest Ghost Fair in Madhya Pradesh | Madhya Pradesh | 06 Apr 2024

Why in News?

The Ghost fair, also known as **'bhooton ka mela'** is a **400 years old** fair organised every year in the village of **Malajpur (Betul district), Madhya Pradesh.**

- The fair attracts **pilgrims, mystics, and curious travellers** from across the globe.

Key Points

- Every year **on the occasion of Basant Panchami** a fair is conducted on the Tombstone of Hindu Saint **"Gurusahab Baba"**.
 - This ghost fair is celebrated for three weeks, and people **'possessed' by evil spirits**, visit the village to get rid of such negative energies.
- According to the legend, Malajpur Ghost Fair dates back to the 18th century when a man called Deoji Maharaj with **magical powers**, visited the village. Eventually he started controlling spirits and exorcising people.