



Solar Energy Hub in Uttar Pradesh

Why in News?

According to the **Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA)**, **125 projects with an estimated outlay of Rs 1 lakh crore in pipeline** in the field of **clean energy** in Uttar Pradesh.

- These projects are in line to achieve Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision of meeting **40% of the energy requirement of the State through solar and alternate sources.**

Key Points

- In the first phases, four large **solar projects worth Rs 35000 crore will be set up in** different districts of **Bundelkhand and Eastern Uttar Pradesh.**
- The state government had received **investment proposals** to the tune of **Rs 40 lakh crore at the Global Investors Summit (GIS) held in 2023.**
- Solar power and other clean energy projects under the **'Akshay Urja' Scheme** accounted for a significant share of the total investment.
- The State **currently generates close to 2152 MW of solar energy**, out of which **372 MW is in open access.**
 - **Bundelkhand region** has witnessed the **maximum number of solar plants** amounting to nearly **60% of the total solar energy generated in the State.**
- The **State's solar energy** generation, which stood at close to 279 MW in 2017, has **witnessed a multi fold rise over the last six years** which includes incentives, rebates, concessions and promotions offered under the new Solar Policy of the state government.
- Under the **current investment pipeline**, **Sonbhadra** in Eastern Uttar Pradesh will witness the setting up of an **off-stream close loop pump storage project by Greenko Group generating 3660 MW of electricity** at an estimated outlay of Rs 17,000 crore.
- The Uttar Pradesh government is set to establish a **50 MW floating solar plant in Bakhira Bird Sanctuary in Eastern UP.**
- Under the **Solar City program**, a **40 MW solar power plant is being established on 165 acres of land in Ayodhya by NTPC.** Part of the project has already commenced and the remaining is expected to be operational by March 2024.