



Rajasthan Aims for Self-Reliance in Power and Energy

Why in News?

The Rajasthan government aims to **produce 30 gigawatt (Gw) of solar power** by the end of FY25 to become **self-reliant in the power and energy sector**.

Key Points

- In March 2024, The state government and **Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC) India** signed an agreement to form a **joint venture for setting up a 1,000 megawatt (Mw) solar power plant and a 125 MW lignite-based power plant in Bikaner**, with an investment of over Rs 7,000 crore.
 - The government also approved land for four major solar projects to make the state a leader in energy self-sufficiency.
 - The projects include **three solar parks in Bikaner** totaling 2,450 MW and a 500 MW project in Phalodi.
- The state is also strengthening the **PM Kusum Solar pump plant**, which will assist in **installing solar pumps in more than 50,000 farms and produce 200 MW of electricity**.
 - The initiative also encourages the **adoption of renewable energy sources** and plays a significant part in **revitalizing the agriculture sector** in the state through the **implementation of solar-powered pumps**.

PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Uttham Mahabhiyan)

- The PM-KUSUM scheme was **launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** to support installation of off-grid solar pumps in rural areas and reduce dependence on grid, in grid-connected areas.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** had in February 2019 approved the launch of the scheme with the **objective of providing financial and water security**.
- The government's **Budget for 2020-21** expanded the scope for the scheme with **20 lakh farmers** to be provided assistance to install **standalone solar pumps**; another **15 lakh farmers** to be given help to **solarise their grid-connected pump sets**.
- This will enable farmers to set up solar power generation capacity on their barren lands and to sell it to the grid.