



Uttarakhand's CM Solar Self-Employment Scheme

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttarakhand government introduced a [solar](#) self-employment initiative aimed at promoting [sustainable energy](#) and [rural employment](#) opportunities.

Key Points

- **Objective:**
 - Designed to curb [migration](#) by fostering local employment through solar power projects.
- **Program Details:**
 - Individuals can establish solar plants (**20-200 kW**) and sell generated electricity to [Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited \(UPCL\)](#).
 - Financial support includes bank loans and assistance under the [MSME](#) and self-employment schemes.
- **Economic Impact:**
 - Encourages income opportunities for local entrepreneurs, enhancing rural economies through sustainable practices.

Current Status of India's Solar Sector

- **About:**
 - India is the 3rd largest energy-consuming country in the world. India stands 5th in solar power capacity (REN21 Renewables 2024 Global Status Report).
 - At COP26, India pledged to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy by 2030, part of the Panchamrit initiative the world's largest renewable energy expansion plan.
- **Solar Energy Growth:**
 - Installed solar energy capacity has increased 30-fold in the last 9 years, reaching 89.4 GW in August 2024.
 - India's solar potential is estimated to be 748 GWp (National Institute of Solar Energy, NISE).
- **Investment and FDI:**
 - 100% [Foreign Direct Investment](#) (FDI) is allowed under the automatic route for renewable energy generation and distribution projects, subject to The [Electricity Act, 2003](#).