Bundelkhand: Center of Solar Energy

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh is progressing rapidly in the field of **solar energy** and **Bundelkhand** has emerged as **a major centre of energy ,** playing an important role in this progress .

Key Points

- **Development of Solar Energy in UP:**
    - The government has implemented a comprehensive **solar energy policy** , under which various incentives are being provided to solar energy projects.
    - In 2024, **17 solar power plants** with a capacity of about 1100 MW have become operational in the state..
    - These solar plants have created direct employment opportunities, underlining the significant economic impact of **renewable energy** expansion in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Role of Bundelkhand:**
    - Bundelkhand has emerged as a **major region in the field of renewable energy** and is promoting regional development and employment.
    - The **abundant sunlight and climatic conditions** in this region make it **ideal for solar energy production.**
- **Major projects:**
    - Solar power units of 4 thousand MW have been installed in Bundelkhand. Out of the 10 new solar plants installed in this region **, 995 MW** have started operating.
        - **Jhansi Solar Power Project** 600 MW project by TUSCO Limited commissioned in January 2025.
        - Along with this, a 100 MW solar plant by Fourth Partner Energy started in **Babina, Jhansi with an investment of Rs1200 crore in mid-2024.**
        - Another significant development in Bundelkhand **is the Sun Source Energy Solar Open Access Project,** which contributes an additional 135 MW to the state's energy grid.

Bundelkhand

- **Bundelkhand** is a geographical and cultural region located on the border of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- It is a **semi-arid region comprising seven districts** of Uttar Pradesh (Jhansi, Jalaun, Lalitpur, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Banda and Chitrakoot).
- It is also a mountain range. Jhansi is **the largest city of Bundelkhand .**
- Bundelkhand was earlier known as **Jejabhukti or Jejakabhukti** , but from the time of the Bundelas in the 14th century it came to be known as Bundelkhand.