

# Solar energy crucial for UP's trillion-dollar economy dream

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Researchers at the Bengaluru-based thinktank, Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSSTP), have emphasised that if India was to become a net zero nation by 2070, the country must attain 500-gigawatt (GW) capacity from non-fossil fuel-based sources by 2030.

As on date, more than 300 GW needs to be added to achieve the target by 2030.

Highlighting the potential in this goal, researchers Rishu Garg and Abhishek Nath noted that "UP's climate and power sector initiatives are bound to have a significant impact on the national targets". Agreeing to this potential, principal secretary, planning and nodal officer, one trillion-dollar economy dream, Alok Kumar pointed out that UP has laid a lot of emphasis on its plan to become a one trillion-dollar economy by 2027.

"Energy needs will hit the sky in the journey towards the one trillion goal. Since UP has pledged to become a circular economy, green energy is a crucial pillar of the strategy," he says, adding that in line with the goal, UP has launched an elaborate solar policy.

"The state rolled out a proper policy in 2022 to encourage use of solar energy in the state. The government has incentivised use of solar power in rural areas besides launching initiatives like Har Ghar Solar to boost solar power use in urban areas," says Anupam Shukla, director, UP NEDA.

Citing an example of UP's commitment towards the cause, Shukla says: "UP is the only state to extend 100% subsidy for KUSUM C1 and KUSUM C2 schemes. While the Union government provides 30% subsidy on the cost of solar infrastructure, UP provides for 90% subsidy, thus covering 90% of the cost. In case of marginalised communities, such as 'mushahars' and 'vantangiyas', the state share goes up to 70%."

He adds that the state is pushing solar in a massive way in Bundelkhand region. "The government has brought on board several companies that will set up solar energy plants in Bundelkhand that will reboot public life in a big way," he says.

The CSSTP researchers also lauded UP's step to bring out a dedicated policy. The UP solar energy policy (2022) aims to set up 22,000 MW Solar Power Projects by 2026-2027 in the state which aligns with India's ambitious solar targets. However, it requires major initiatives from all stakeholders, say researchers.



## 29,858 MW

is UP's total installed capacity. Around 72% of installed capacity comes from thermal plants, which includes coal, gas & diesel

## 16%

comes from renewable energy, 11% from hydro, and 1% from nuclear

## 4,727 MW

is renewable energy capacity of which 2,485 MW (53%) comes from solar, followed by 46% bio-power (2,193 MW). Remaining 1% is contributed by small hydro

## 22,000 MW

solar power projects by 2026-27 have been pledged by the state govt under UP Solar Energy Policy, 2022

## 14,000 MW

capacity is to be added through utility-scale solar parks and remaining 8000 MW through solar rooftop projects, which includes 4500 MW residential, and 1500 MW non-residential and distributed solar generation (2000 MW)

## 22.83 GWP

is the solar potential of UP, according to an assessment by the National Institute of Solar Energy

(Source: ET <https://etenergyworld.com/a/wj1ygz2>; situation as in December 2022)