

Ghaziabad to Become Uttar Pradesh's Second 'Solar City' in Four Years



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Ghaziabad, a city in Uttar Pradesh, is set to become the state's second 'solar city' after Ayodhya. The Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) has announced plans to meet 10% of Ghaziabad's energy needs with solar power within four years. This initiative was introduced during a workshop on solar and renewable energy, as part of the state government's goal to generate 22,000 MW of solar power in Uttar Pradesh by 2027.

To achieve this, UPNEDA will invest Rs 200 million over five years to install rooftop solar panels in residential, industrial, commercial, and government buildings in Ghaziabad. Solar energy offers a 30% cost advantage over conventional sources, and both the central and state governments offer subsidies to encourage adoption. The central government provides a subsidy of Rs 14,588 per kilowatt (kW) for solar panels in residential areas, while the UP government contributes Rs 15,000 per kW, up to a maximum of Rs 30,000 per kW.

To simplify the installation process, 30,000 trained 'Surya Mitras' will assist, and consumers can choose from 351 government-approved vendors. Additionally, any surplus solar energy generated can be returned to the main grid, offsetting electricity bills through net metering.

The Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation (GMC) will also play a role in raising awareness about solar energy, and the initiative will later extend to 17 more municipalities in Uttar Pradesh. This project aims to promote sustainability and green energy across the state.

Sources:

- Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA)
- Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation (GMC)