

UP to develop 17 civic bodies as solar cities

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: With focus on renewable energy and reducing carbon emission, UP govt will develop all 17 municipal civic bodies in the state as solar cities. Govt has already invested in Ayodhya to set up a 40MW solar power plant on 165 acres of land. It is expected to become operational by Mar 2025. Official sources said a 14MW solar power plant is already functional in Ayodhya.

Following the development of solar cities, govt will work towards building solar villages on the same pattern in near future.

Ratan Singh, head of project and additional general manager, NTPC Green Energy Limited, said the 40MW solar power plant will generate 8.65 crore units of power every year. When fully operational, the plant will meet 10% of the total electricity consumption in the temple town. The electrical energy generated from the plant will be transmitted to the Darshan Nagar sub-station through a 132/

33KV overhead powerline.

“The success of Ayodhya plant has motivated govt to push solar policy implementation across the remaining 16 municipal bodies. Soon, solar power plants will come in Agra, Aligarh, Bareilly, Firozabad, Ghaziabad, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Meerut, Moradabad, Prayagraj, Saharanpur, Shahjahanpur, Varanasi and Mathura-Vrindavan,” said an official source.

A total 1,04,580 solar panels are being installed in Ayodhya by NTPC. In Ayodhya, 135 govt buildings have 3.3MW capacity solar panel while 2.3MW capacity solar panels are functional on 98 private buildings.

Sources said state govt will provide funds to install around 25,000 rooftop solar panels in Varanasi. In cities like Prayagraj, Lucknow, Agra, Gorakhpur, Indian railway has already installed solar power panels on its land and official buildings to meet energy demand and reduce carbon footprint.

ches are ready to handle the rush, it would be possible to earmark drop off points at Ram Path in the close vicinity

of the Ram temple. Both Ksheer Sagar Path and Sugriya Path are crucial and work has been expedited on them.”