

'NTPC to add 1,600 MW in UP by 2028, expands green push'

NTPC is expanding its energy infrastructure in Uttar Pradesh with over 14,000 MW installed capacity and major upcoming projects, including 1,600 MW at Singrauli Stage-III by 2028. Talking to **Arvind Chauhan** ahead of the culmination of the financial year, regional executive director of Northern Region, NTPC, and CEO of NSPCL-NTPC's joint venture with SAIL, **Diwakar Kaushik**, outlined the company's growth trajectory and key developments in the state. Edited excerpts:

Can you give an overview of NTPC's existing infrastructure in UP and your plans to strengthen it?

■ NTPC has over 14,000 MW of installed capacity in Uttar Pradesh under our northern region. We are adding 1,600 MW at Singrauli Stage-III, expected to be commissioned by 2028. A 20 MW solar project at Rihand is in its final stage and will start generation by April. Meja Stage-II is under discussion with the UP govt and work should begin next year.

What is NTPC's renewable energy capacity in UP?

■ Apart from the 20 MW Rihand solar project, we have a 225 MW solar plant at Bilhaur near Kanpur. Nearly 1,000 MW of solar capacity is under development in Chitrakoot and Lalitpur.

What are your initiatives on green hydrogen?

■ A pilot green hydrogen initiative is underway in Greater Noida through our research and development wing. While the technology is stable, we are working on scaling it economically. A large green hydrogen and green chemicals hub is being developed at Pudimadaka near Visakhapatnam on 1,200 acres. At our Varanasi plant, 600 tonnes of municipal solid waste is converted into green coal, which is used in Unchahar power station boilers. Similar projects can be replicated in Gorakhpur and Greater Noida.



plans in UP?

■ Battery energy storage systems (BESS) are being piloted at non-pithead stations like Dadri to address solar intermittency. NTPC has secured 5GW of BESS capacity nationally, to be deployed over the next two years.

What is NTPC's role in India's Net Zero by 2070 goal?

■ We are reducing fossil fuel emissions, expanding renewables, and planning nuclear power for long-term coal replacement, ensuring growth and sustainability go together.

What are your top three priorities?

■ Timely commissioning of Singrauli units, improved gas availability for Dadri and Auraiya gas plants, and on time delivery of solar projects in UP.

What are the opportunities in solar cities like Ayodhya, Varanasi and Gorakhpur?

■ NTPC has already set up a 40 MW solar plant in Ayodhya. NTPC Green Energy Ltd participates in solar tenders nationwide and is keen to support such initiatives.

What is the status of nuclear power plants in UP?

■ NTPC's nuclear wing has identified three potential sites near Lalitpur, Sonbhadra, and Prayagraj. Proposals have been submitted to the UP govt and discussions are ongoing.

What are the battery storage

NTPC NOD TO ₹5,800 CR INVESTMENT FOR ENERGY STORAGE, POWER EXPANSION

NTPC Ltd has approved an investment of Rs 5,821.9 crore to build a large battery energy storage system which will have a total capacity of 4.7 GWh and is aimed at improving power storage and supply reliability. The company has approved an additional equity investment of Rs 3,173.67 crore in Meja Urja Nigam Pvt Ltd (MUNPL) in Prayagraj. This joint venture is equally owned by NTPC and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. The funds will be used to develop Stage-II of the Meja Super Thermal Power Project, which will add three units of 800 MW each. After this investment, NTPC's total equity in MUNPL will reach Rs 5,000 crore, depending on UPRVUNL contributing its share. MUNPL has shown steady financial growth, reporting a turnover of Rs 5,099 crore in FY25. The new investment will be made in cash and is expected to be completed by 2029-30.