



MoU Between CIL and UPRVUNL

Why in News?

[Coal India Limited \(CIL\)](#) and [Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited \(UPRVUNL\)](#) have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to set up a [solar power project](#) in the state.

Key Points

- **About the MoU:**
 - This agreement is part of CIL's **strategic initiative in the [green energy](#) sector**.
 - It is a strong step towards meeting the **rapidly growing energy demand of Uttar Pradesh**.
 - This **is a non-binding agreement** with **the aim** of setting up a **solar power project of 500 MW capacity** within Uttar Pradesh .
- **Solar Energy:**
 - Solar energy, known as energy obtained from the sun, is a clean and [renewable energy](#) source. It is harnessed through solar technology, which is mainly of two types:
 - [Solar Thermal](#): In this the heat of the sun is used to heat water.
 - [Solar Photovoltaic \(PV\)](#): It uses the photovoltaic effect to convert the sun's rays into electrical energy.
 - **Uses:**
 - Solar technologies are scalable and flexible, capable of powering entire cities through solar farms.
 - Electricity can be supplied even to remote areas through decentralized systems.
 - Homes and commercial buildings can be provided with energy by installing solar panels on rooftops.
 - **Example** : Cochin International Airport is one such example where solar energy is being used effectively.
 - **Importance:**
 - Reduction in **dependence on [fossil fuels](#)**.
 - Reducing [carbon emissions](#).
 - Improvement in **air quality**.
 - Promote **energy access and security**.

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Coal India Limited (CIL)

- **Introduction:** CIL is a government-owned **coal mining company in India**, responsible for production and management of coal resources in the country.
 - It was **established in 1975** and is the world's largest coal producing mining company
- **Organisational Structure:** CIL is classified as a 'Maharatna' public sector enterprise. It operates through 8 subsidiaries like **Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)**, **Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)**.
 - **Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)** is the largest coal producing subsidiary of CIL.
- **Strategic Importance:** More than half of India's installed power capacity is coal-based, with CIL supplying about 78% of the country's total coal production.
 - Coal also contributes 40% to India's primary commercial energy needs.
- **Mining Capacity:** CIL operates in 84 mining areas across eight Indian states and manages a total of 313 active mines.

Uttar Pradesh State Power Generation Corporation Limited (UPRVUNL)

- It is a thermal power generation undertaking wholly owned by the state government, which operates five thermal power plants located in different areas of the state.
- It was formed on 25 August 1980 under the **Companies Act, 1956** to construct new thermal power projects in the state.
- The first project constructed by the corporation was **Unchahar Thermal Power Station** (2x210 MW), which was handed over to NTPC on 13 February 1992.
- Later, under the **Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Reform Act 1999** and **Uttar Pradesh Transfer Scheme 2000**, Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board was reorganized and divided into three public sector undertakings:
 - Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Generation Corporation Limited (for electricity generation)
 - Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (for electricity distribution)
 - Uttar Pradesh Power Transmission Corporation Limited (for electricity transmission).

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