



Solar Cities in UP

Why in News?

In the National Conference held under the National Clean Air Programme in Gorakhpur the Uttar Pradesh government decided to develop **all the 17 municipal corporations** of the state as solar cities.

Key Points

- **About the issue:**
 - Under this initiative, the use of renewable energy will be promoted, thereby ensuring **energy self-sufficiency** and environmental protection.
 - The government will implement schemes such as setting up of solar power plants, **solar street lights** and **solar water-heating systems**.
 - This scheme will **reduce energy costs** and promote green energy.
 - This initiative will help in achieving the **'net-zero' target set by Prime Minister Modi by the year 2070**.
 - **The following districts in Uttar Pradesh have Municipal Corporations:**
 - Kanpur, Lucknow, Ghaziabad, Agra, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Meerut, Bareilly, Aligarh, Moradabad, Saharanpur, Gorakhpur, Firozabad, Mathura, Ayodhya, Jhansi, Shahjahanpur.
- **Solar City**
 - It is a city that meets its **energy needs** mainly from **solar energy**. In this, **electricity generation, transportation, water supply** and other basic services depend on solar energy.
 - The main objective of this concept is to make maximum use of **renewable energy sources** and reduce carbon emissions.

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- **About:**
 - The NCAP aims to systematically **address air pollution** by involving all stakeholders and **ensuring necessary action**.
 - Under NCAP, **131 cities** have been identified for **implementation of city specific action plans**.
- **Objective:**
 - This is the **first attempt in the country to develop a national framework** for air quality management with the goal of time-bound reduction.
 - It aims to reduce the concentration of coarse (PM10) and fine particles (PM2.5) by at least 20% over the next five years (base year for comparison – 2017).
- **Monitoring:**
 - **“PRANA” portal** has also been launched by MoEFCC :
 - To monitor the **implementation of NCAP**.
 - Monitoring **action plans and implementation status of cities**.
 - Sharing best practices adopted by cities for others to emulate.

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