Expanding Solar Power Capacity

Why in news?

\n\n

The clearance was given by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for a plan to double the capacity of solar power installed in dedicated solar parks to 40 gigawatts (GW) by 2020.

\n\n

What is the National Solar Mission?

\n\n

\n
- The **Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission** was launched in 2010 and has set the ambitious target of deploying 20,000 MW of grid connected solar power by 2022.
\n
- In 2014, the government revised the mission and has increased the target from 20,000 MW to 1,00,000 MW i.e., 100 GW.
\n
- The above capacity is proposed to be achieved via deployment of 40,000 MW of Rooftop Solar Projects and 60,000 MW of Large and Medium Scale Solar Projects.
\n
- So, the clearance given by CCEA is in line with the goal of creating a base of 100 GW by 2022.
\n

\n\n

What are the advantages of expansion of solar power?

\n\n

\n
- It is among the most efficient means to meet the commitment under the **Paris Agreement** on climate change, i.e., to keep carbon emissions in check.
\n

- It can create additional employment with economic dividends.
\n
- Recent report suggests jobs in solar energy have witnessed the fastest growth since 2011.
\n
- Asia has harnessed the potential the most by providing 60% of all renewable energy employment.
\n

\n\n

What the government should do?

\n\n

\n
- India should also take a look at **manufacturing of photovoltaics.**
\n
- It should open training facilities to produce the human resources the industry will need in future.
\n
- Low-cost financing channels can quickly augment the solar generating capacity.
\n
- **Electricity regulators should fix tariffs** taking into account the reduction in the levelised cost of electricity.
\n
- Other funding options like **green bonds** are also be necessary.
\n
- Without realistic **purchase prices** i,e the price an investor pays for an investment, curtailment of renewable power sources happen because of some non-technical considerations. It directly affect investments.
\n
- Tamil Nadu, the largest producer of solar energy in the country, resorted to curtailments last year that has muted interest in the industry itself.
\n
- Besides promoting phase two of the solar parks plan, and powering public facilities using solar power, **the Centre should make it easier for citizens and small business to adopt rooftop solar.**
\n
- This is crucial for achieving the goal of 100 GW, and also to raise the share of renewables in the total energy mix to 40% in the next decade.
\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu

\n

