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ReNew Energy's 6.5 GW Solar Ingot-Wafer Factory in Anakapalli — India's Solar Manufacturing Push

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ECONOMY

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GS3

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WHY IN NEWS

ReNew Energy Global Plc announced it will invest **₹4,200 crore** to establish a **6.5 GW solar ingot-wafer manufacturing facility** in **Anakapalli district** (near Visakhapatnam), Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone. The facility is expected to be commissioned within **24 months** and create over **2,100 jobs**, making it one of India's largest upstream solar manufacturing investments.

SOLAR MANUFACTURING — THE SUPPLY CHAIN

How Solar Panels Are Made (Upstream to Downstream)

Polysilicon (raw material)



Ingot (silicon block formed by crystallisation)



Wafer (thin silicon slices cut from ingots)



Solar Cell (wafer + chemical treatment → electricity-generating unit)



Solar Module / Panel (cells assembled)



Solar Power Plant

India's gap: India has historically been weak in the upstream segment (ingots, wafers, polysilicon) — 80–90% of solar modules used to be imported from China. The PLI (Production Linked Incentive) scheme is pushing domestic manufacturing, especially in cells and modules. ReNew's ingot-wafer facility directly addresses the upstream gap.

RENEW ENERGY — ABOUT THE COMPANY

FEATURE	DETAIL
Full name	ReNew Energy Global Plc
Headquarters	Gurugram (Haryana), India
Founded	2011 by Sumant Sinha
Listed	NASDAQ (NASDAQ: RNW)
Total renewable capacity	20+ GW operational/under development
Andhra Pradesh commitment	₹82,000 crore total investment
This facility	₹4,200 crore; 6.5 GW ingot-wafer; Anakapalli

ANAKAPALLI — THE LOCATION

PARAMETER	DETAIL
District	Anakapalli (carved from Visakhapatnam district, 2022)
State	Andhra Pradesh
Proximity	Near Visakhapatnam; coastal AP
CM	N. Chandrababu Naidu (TDP)
Industrial significance	Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC)

WHY THIS MATTERS — INDIA'S SOLAR MANUFACTURING AMBITIONS

India's Solar Targets

TARGET	DETAIL
Installed renewable capacity by 2030	500 GW
Solar capacity target (2030)	280 GW+
Current installed solar capacity	~100 GW (2024)
National Solar Mission	Under NAPCC; one of 8 missions

PLI Scheme for Solar PV Modules

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) — Solar PV Modules:

- Launched 2022 under Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- Targets integrated solar PV manufacturing (polysilicon to module)
- Budget outlay: ~₹24,000 crore
- Goal: Reduce import dependence; build domestic solar supply chain
- **ReNew's facility** is part of this broader manufacturing ecosystem

China Dependence — The Strategic Issue

ITEM	CHINA'S GLOBAL SHARE (APPROX.)
Polysilicon	~80%
Ingots & Wafers	~90%+
Solar Cells	~80%+
Solar Modules	~70%+

India's goal is to localise at least the downstream (cells, modules) and progressively the upstream (ingots, wafers) — ReNew's facility directly reduces dependence on Chinese wafers.

ENERGY TRANSITION CONTEXT

India's Clean Energy Ecosystem

INITIATIVE	DETAILS
National Solar Mission	Part of NAPCC; targets solar deployment + manufacturing
PLI Solar	₹24,000 crore for integrated solar manufacturing
PM Kusum	Solar for farmers; solar pumps + decentralised solar
Rooftop Solar Scheme	PM Surya Ghar — 1 crore households
Green Hydrogen Mission	₹19,744 crore; electrolyser manufacturing push
ISTS waiver	Renewable energy projects exempt from inter-state transmission charges

UPSC RELEVANCE

Prelims

- ReNew Energy facility: 6.5 GW ingot-wafer; Anakapalli, AP; ₹4,200 crore
- Solar supply chain: polysilicon → ingot → wafer → cell → module
- PLI Solar: Production Linked Incentive for solar PV modules (MNRE)
- India solar target: 280 GW+ by 2030

Mains

- “India’s solar manufacturing ambitions face a structural challenge in upstream dependency on China. Critically examine.” (GS3)
- Role of PLI in building India’s renewable energy manufacturing ecosystem

FACTS CORNER

FACT	DETAIL
ReNew facility	6.5 GW ingot-wafer; Anakapalli, AP; ₹4,200 crore
Foundation stone	CM N. Chandrababu Naidu
Jobs	2,100+ direct and indirect
ReNew's total AP commitment	₹82,000 crore
India solar target 2030	280 GW+ solar
China's wafer market share	~90%+ globally
PLI Solar scheme outlay	~₹24,000 crore
VCIC	Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor

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