

India-US Strategic Energy Partnership

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In news : Both India and USA have agreed to revamp India-US Strategic Energy Partnership

Key updates

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel recently held an introductory meeting virtually with US Secretary of Energy
- Both leaders agreed to revamp the India-US SEP to reflect the new priorities of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden with focus on promoting clean energy with low-carbon pathways and accelerating green energy cooperation.
- They agreed to prioritise greater collaboration in cleaner energy sector- biofuels, CCUS, hydrogen production and carbon sequestration through technology exchange, joint R&D through Partnership to Advance Clean Energy Research (PACE-R), among other initiatives.⁴
- Both sides agreed to convene the third meeting of a revamped India-US Strategic Energy Partnership at an early date.
- They decided to intensify the efforts to take advantage of the complementarities of both the countries -advanced US technologies and rapidly growing India's energy market, for a win-win situation through a cleaner energy route with low carbon pathways.

Previous SEPs

- Earlier, two SEPs were held under the Trump Administration, where the focus of energy cooperation was more on supply of fossil fuels from America rather than cooperation in reducing carbon footprints.

- While the import of fossil fuel from the US will continue, Washington will support India's efforts for clean energy
- The inaugural SEP, a ministerial meeting, was first held on April 17, 2018. Its second meeting took place on July 17, 2020.

Partnership to Advance Clean Energy Research (PACE)

- Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE) is the flagship program on clean energy between the U.S. and India to jointly work on a range of issues related to energy security, clean energy and climate change.
- It seeks to accelerate inclusive, low-carbon growth by supporting research and deployment of clean energy technologies and policies.
- PACE combines the efforts of several government and nongovernment stakeholders on both the U.S. and Indian sides and includes three key components:
 - Research (PACE-R)
 - Deployment (PACE-D), and
 - Off-Grid Energy Access (PEACE).
- PACE-D includes a USD 20 million five-year technical assistance (TA) program which is led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Department of State and implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Power (MOP) and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

Partnership to Advance Clean Energy

PACE-R

- A Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center (JCERDC) established in November 2010 by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Planning Commission of India to promote clean energy innovation.
- Supports R&D in three priority areas: (1) solar energy, (2) energy efficiency of buildings, and (3) second-generation biofuels.
- A five-year initiative for which DOE and the Government of India (GOI) each are making USD 25 million available (subject to appropriations). Consortia members have pledged matching funds of USD 75 million, for total public-private funding of USD 125 million.
- Lead GOI Counterparts: Planning Commission and Ministry of Science and Technology.



PACE-D

- Designed to tackle multiple clean energy deployment opportunities, including energy efficiency, renewable energy and cleaner fossil.
- Supported by seven U.S. agencies:
 - Department of Commerce (DOC)
 - Department of Energy (DOE)
 - Department of State (DOS)
 - Export Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im)
 - Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)
 - United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
 - United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA)
- Lead GOI Counterparts: Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.