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Inside Stories

- ▶ **Animesh Mishra**, Head - (Sales, PR & CC), EESL - **Editor's Note**
- ▶ **Ashish Tiwari (IFS)**, Secretary, Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change at Government of Uttar Pradesh - **Conference of Panchayats (COP): Moving Towards Locally Led Climate Action** **PG.01**
- ▶ **Eduardo Leão de Sousa**, Executive Director, UNICA - **Ethanol: Turning the Energy Matrix Green** **PG.02**
- ▶ **SAITO Mitsunori**, Chief Representative, JICA India Office - **Role of International Cooperation in Building a Sustainable & Energy Secure Future** **PG.04**
- ▶ **Dr. Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury (IRS)**, Add. Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, Ladakh - **A Granular Approach Towards Energy Efficiency is Now Imperative** **PG.05**
- ▶ **Dr. Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury (IRS)**, Add. Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, Ladakh - **A Granular Approach Towards Energy Efficiency is Now Imperative** **PG.06**

ENERGY TRENDS

Top energy trends from India & across the globe

PG.08

CONTENT



Animesh Mishra
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SAITO Mitsunori
Chief Representative,
JICA India Office
Role of International Cooperation
in Building a Sustainable &
Energy Secure Future



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Role of international cooperation in building a sustainable & energy secure future

We are witnessing the formation of a global consensus in combating climate change. Organizations and agencies from across the world are working towards ushering in a sustainable and greener tomorrow, with an array of climate projects in the pipeline. There has also been an increased collaboration between the nations and the agencies, who are working in a mutable, geographically agnostic ecosystem. The COP26 conference in Glasgow was a key steppingstone towards the formulation of global alliances that can help in building cross-border clean energy mechanisms.

International cooperation is imperative to ensure the continued progress and development of coordinated global efforts on sustainable water and energy solutions. It is also critical to create widespread awareness and disseminate knowledge on the advantages of such a coordinated and integrated approach.

Large-scale water and energy projects, that transcend borders to benefit people in multiple nations will be the key going forward. For example, interconnections of power grids can play a significant role in balancing structural differences or temporary fluctuations in renewable power generation, demand and supply. It can also enable efficient, sustainable and climate friendly usage of the available energy resources. Countries have general requirements for improved air quality and reduced emissions and pollution. International energy cooperation and governance must adapt to these new changes; promote the transition to clean, low-carbon, efficient and secure global energy; and drive high-quality development of global energy.

Thus, it is amply clear that international cooperation is critical to achieving global energy objectives. For us to combat the global challenge of enhancing energy security and decarbonizing the energy sector, governments have to look beyond unilateral decision making.

Regional cooperation, both within India and involving other countries, has now become especially pivotal, as it can enable technical, financial and research cooperation to help facilitate cross-border renewable energy transfer projects. For example, JICA is conducting a survey on cross-border electricity trade (CBET) in Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, and Nepal to identify opportunities to facilitate a cross-border power transmission line. Several recommendations for desirable modalities (Long-term PPA, electricity trading market, etc.) and steps to formulate CBET projects will be provided as an outcome of the survey. This will hasten the creation of a global ecosystem of interconnected renewables. Such trans-national projects, supported by multilateral organizations and global financial institutions can be true gamechangers.

Further, to support ambitious transition needed for India's net-zero target in 2070, decarbonization of thermal power plants by introducing ammonia co-firing, grid stabilization measures for mass introduction of variable renewable energy (VRE), optimization of power distribution system operation, and improvement of energy efficiency in industrial sector are the required focus areas of assistance in energy sector.





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