



National Energy Conservation Awards

Why in News

Recently, the [Bureau of Energy Efficiency \(BEE\)](#) felicitated various industrial units, institutions and establishments with 31st [National Energy Conservation Awards \(NECA\)](#) on the occasion of [National Energy Conservation Day](#) (14th December) to showcase India's achievements in **energy efficiency and conservation**.

- A new award - **National Energy Efficiency Innovation Awards (NEEIA)** is also institutionalized.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency

- The BEE is a **statutory body** established through the [Energy Conservation Act, 2001](#) under the Union Ministry of Power.
- It **assists in developing policies and strategies** with the primary objective of reducing the energy intensity of the Indian economy.
- BEE coordinates with designated consumers, designated agencies, and other organizations to identify and utilize the existing resources and infrastructure, in performing its functions.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - The Ministry of Power had launched a scheme in 1991, **to give national recognition through awards to industries and establishments** that have taken special **efforts to reduce energy consumption** while maintaining their production.
 - The awards were given away for the **first time on 14th December, 1991**, which was declared as the **National Energy Conservation Day**.
 - It **recognizes the energy efficiency achievements** in 56 sub-sectors across industry, establishments and institutions.
- **Energy Efficiency in India:**
 - Energy efficiency means using less energy to perform the same task – that is, eliminating energy waste. **Energy efficiency brings a variety of benefits:** reducing [GreenHouse Gas \(GHG\)](#) emissions, reducing demand for energy imports, and lowering our costs on a household and economy-wide level.
 - India's energy sector is **set for a transition with recent developmental ambitions of the government** e.g.
 - [175 GW of installed capacity of renewable energy by 2022](#), 24X7 Power for all, [Housing for all by 2022](#), [100 smart cities mission](#), promotion of [e-mobility](#), [electrification of railway sector](#), 100% [electrification of households](#), [Solarization of agricultural pump sets](#), and [promotion of clean cooking](#).
 - India **can avoid building 300 GW of new power generation up to 2040** with implementation of **ambitious energy efficiency policies**.
 - Successful implementation of energy efficiency measures contributed to electricity savings

of **7.14% of total electricity consumption** of the country and emission **reduction of 108.28 million tonnes of CO₂** during 2017-18.

▪ **Efforts Related to Energy Efficiency and Conservation:**

◦ **Indian:**

• **Energy Conservation Act, 2001:**

- The Act provides regulatory mandates for: Standards & labeling of equipment and appliances; Energy conservation building codes for commercial buildings; and Energy consumption norms for energy intensive industries.

◦ **PAT Scheme:**

- **[Perform Achieve and Trade Scheme \(PAT\)](#)** is a market based mechanism to enhance the cost effectiveness in improving the Energy Efficiency in Energy Intensive industries through certification of energy saving which can be traded.

◦ **Standards and Labeling:**

- The scheme was launched in 2006 and is currently invoked for equipment/appliances Room Air Conditioner (Fixed/VariableSpeed), Ceiling Fan, Colour Television, Computer, Direct Cool Refrigerator etc.

◦ **Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC):**

- It was developed for new commercial buildings in 2007.
- It sets **minimum energy standards for new commercial buildings** having a connected load of 100kW (kilowatt) or contract demand of 120 KVA (kilovolt-ampere) and above.

◦ **Demand Side Management:**

- DSM is the **selection, planning, and implementation of measures** intended to have an influence on the demand or customer-side of the electric meter.

◦ **Global:**

• **International Energy Agency:**

- **IEA** works with countries around the world to shape energy policies for a secure and sustainable future.

• **Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL):**

- It is an international organization that works in partnership with the United Nations and leaders in government, the private sector, financial institutions and civil society to drive faster action towards the achievement of **[Sustainable Development Goal 7 \(SDG7\)](#)**.

• **Paris Agreement:**

- It is a **[legally binding international treaty](#)** on climate change. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

• **Mission Innovation (MI):**

- It is a global initiative of 24 countries and the European Commission (on behalf of the European Union) to accelerate clean energy innovation.

▪ **Suggestions to Improve Energy Efficiency:**

◦ **Change in Energy Use Behaviour:**

- The high ambitions of citizens to live and work in comfortable air conditioned spaces with appliances providing ease of living will lead to a multi fold increase in energy consumption.
- An **approach to change the course of energy use behaviour through energy efficiency programmes is needed** to curb future energy demand.

◦ **Push for Nearly Zero Energy Buildings Programme:**

- It is crucial for India to push for the expansion of the **Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) programme** to all segments of the construction sector. The objective of this programme is to develop a framework for conventional buildings to achieve low energy use per unit area.

◦ **Amending the Electricity Act:**

- Also, India's power sector is slated for a revamp with multiple policy level changes through the **[amendment of the Electricity Act](#)**.

◦ **Installation of Smart Meters:**

- One of the major initiatives as a solution to issues like low billing efficiencies leading to revenue losses, heavy transmission and distribution losses, monitoring of

electricity consumption, etc. is installation of **smart meters**.

- The **installation of smart meters at a fast pace** can help India in facilitating energy efficiency interventions at a large scale.
- **Energy efficiency interventions:**
 - Embracing an energy efficient lifestyle will provide a positive impetus towards transformation of India's energy system for the better. Energy efficiency interventions are one of the most cost-effective means of achieving a low carbon transition.

Source: PIB

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