



US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP)

Why in News

Recently, the revamped **US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership SCEP** was launched during the ministerial meeting of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry with the US Ministry of Energy.

- The SCEP was launched in accordance with the **US - India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership** announced by both countries at the [Leaders' Summit on Climate](#) held earlier this year (2021).

Key Points

- **US-India Agenda 2030 Partnership:**
 - The aim is to create stronger bilateral cooperation on actions in the current decade to meet the goals of the [Paris Agreement](#).
 - The Partnership will proceed along **two main tracks**: the Strategic Clean Energy Partnership and the Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue.
 - India elevated the India-US energy dialogue to a [strategic energy partnership](#) in 2018.
- **Revamped Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP):**
 - Addition of a fifth Pillar on **Emerging Fuels (cleaner energy fuels)**.
 - With this, the **SCEP inter-governmental engagement** now spreads across **five pillars of cooperation** - Power and Energy Efficiency, Responsible Oil and Gas, Renewable Energy, Sustainable Growth and Emerging Fuels.
 - Support India in achieving its goal of installing [450GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030](#).
 - A new **India-U.S. Task Force on Biofuels** was also announced.
- **Reviewed India-US Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation:**
 - The Indo-US nuclear cooperation agreement was [signed in 2008](#).
 - A major aspect of the Deal was that the [Nuclear Suppliers Group \(NSG\)](#) gave a special waiver to India that enabled it to sign cooperation agreements with a dozen countries.
- **Transformation of the Gas Task Force:**
 - It will be the **India-US Low Emissions Gas Task Force**.
 - It will focus on addressing India's natural gas policy, technology, and regulatory barriers by promoting efficient and market-driven solutions aimed at meeting India's growing energy demand, and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.
- **Institutionalism of India Energy Modeling Forum:**
 - Six Task Forces were constituted for carrying out **research and modelling in different areas**.
 - There will be deliberations on Energy Data Management, Low Carbon Technologies and Just Transition in the Coal Sector.
- **Expanded the Scope of (PACE)-R Initiative:**

- Agreed to include **smart grid and grid storage** as part of the second phase of the **Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE)-R initiative** anchored on the Indian side by the Department of Science & Technology.

▪ **Recent Updates on US-India Relations:**

- **Malabar Exercise:** The Navies of the [Quad \(Quadrilateral Framework\) Nations \(India, the United States, Japan, and Australia\)](#) participated in the 25th edition of the exercise.
- **India-US Agreement on ALUAV:** India and the US have signed a **Project Agreement (PA)** to jointly develop an **Air-launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV)** or drones that can be launched from an aircraft.
- **Issues in Free Trade Agreement:** The US administration has indicated that it is no longer interested in securing a bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India.
- **NISAR:** [NASA](#) and [ISRO](#) are collaborating on developing an **SUV-sized satellite called NISAR**, which will detect movements of the planet's surface as small as 0.4 inches over areas about half the size of a tennis court.

[Source: TH](#)

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