

INNOVATING ENERGY

One Earth

NEED FOR SWIFT & IMPACTFUL CLIMATE ACTION



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Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

We have slowly reached a tipping point in our fight against climate change. The 2022 COP conference and the emerging global consciousness around the perils of rising carbon intensive practices marks a shift towards sustainability. In such conditions, this year's World Environment Day gained special prominence. It serves as a clarion call for raising awareness about protecting our environment, especially in the backdrop of the deteriorating ecological conditions.

The theme for World Environment Day this year was "Only One Earth" and it drew our attention towards the fragility of our unique planet and a need to take concerted steps to preserve it. It is now imperative for us to live sustainably in harmony with nature by bringing transformative changes through policies and our choices towards cleaner, greener lifestyles.

In this newsletter, aptly themed, "One earth: Need for swift & impactful climate action" we have invited a myriad of perspectives from leading sectoral experts on how we can mark a conscious shift towards sustainability. The article 'Conference of Panchayats (COP): Moving Towards Locally Led Climate Action' delves into the various ways and appropriate institutional structures to address local needs in a sustainable manner, while discussing the overall developmental agenda. In 'Ethanol: Turning The Energy Matrix Green,' we explore how biofuels and especially ethanol can reduce India's emission intensity and play a key role in helping it meet its climate goals. 'role Of International Cooperation In Building A Sustainable & Energy Secure Future' builds the case for international cooperation in ensuring continued progress and development of coordinated global efforts on sustainable water and energy solutions. In 'a Granular Approach Towards Energy Efficiency Is Now Imperative,' we take a look at Ladakh's sustainability journey and shine the spotlight on the energy efficiency potential of the healthcare sector.

Achieving the desired temperature reduction and goal of a net zero future will require each sector to become green and energy efficient. This would demand multilateral and multi-stakeholder collaboration, adoption and financing of clean energy initiatives, globally. In this newsletter, in the backdrop of World Environment Day, we seek to capture the various facets of climate action and highlight the need for devising swift, scalable and effective clean energy solutions, across sectors.





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

Climate change is disrupting the achievements of India's development objective and Sustainable Development Goals at large. While climate change is a global concern, its impacts are felt more at the local level and requires solutions catering to the needs of local communities by involving local governance institutions. One big challenge in translating global goals into local action is to find ways and appropriate institutional structures to address local needs in a sustainable manner while addressing the overall developmental agenda. In the Indian context, one of the important stakeholders at the local level are "Gram Panchayats" i.e., village level Panchayati Raj Institutions, responsible for rural development through village development plans (GPDP).

The Government of Uttar Pradesh along with GIZ India under Indo-German Bilateral Cooperation Project - Climate Adaptation and Finance in Rural India (CAFRI) - organised Conference of Panchayats (CoP) to kick start a network of panchayats in order to deliberate on approaches and opportunities to empower Panchayats for climate action. The Conference of Panchayats was organised on the occasion of World Environment Day 2022 on 5th June 2022 at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The event saw participation of more than 40,000 gram panchayats (out of total 58195) and public-private actors.

The objective of Conference of Panchayats 2022, which will be an annual feature of the State Government, was to deliberate on strategies to strengthen capacities of local institutions and actors on emerging climate risks and uncertainties, developing evidence based locally led solutions, and implementing climate initiatives over the long run. The conference agenda was organised into three sessions. The first session focussed on "Mainstreaming Climate Action & Disaster Risk Reduction and Leveraging Financing: Opportunities and Challenges at Gram Panchayat (village council)". The session highlighted the benefits of integrating climate concerns, local development planning process and the entry points for leveraging finance from existing budgetary allocations at local level. It further highlighted the importance of analysing climate data at a smaller administrative scale, like at the Panchayat level to support decentralised planning and participation of local communities.

This was followed by a panel discussion on "Climate Resilient Actions in Uttar Pradesh: Panchayat-Private-Partnership (PPP). In order to scale up investments for climate action it is important to have private sector onboard and this session focussed on ways and means to strengthen partnerships between private sector and Panchayats on scaling up climate action. Further, deliberations focused on the important role private sector can play in helping local bodies such as Gram Panchayats to translate the global and national goals on climate and development of local level. With the overall aim on how partnerships between different countries and actors can shape the global agenda while supporting local action, the last session was titled "Global Partnership for Local Action."

