

Energy Access Monitor

June 2017

Trending topics

Rural Electrification



- Rural Electrification Corporation Limited signs MoU with Power
- Rural Electrification Corporation Limited electrifies 13,685 villages
- Cross border electrification to be taken up with MEA

RE Technology



- Volcanic Rock Stoves Cook Food and Protect Forests

Energy access and SDGs

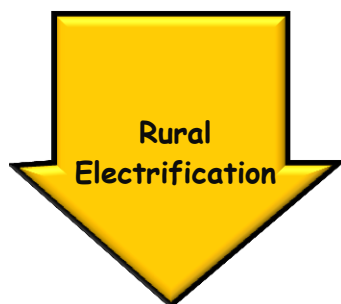


- India, UNOSSC Launch South-South Development Fund to Advance SDGs

Women and Energy Access



- Pune NGO wins UN prize for sustainable farming model



Rural Electrification Corporation Limited signs MoU with Power. Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC), the Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Power for the financial year 2017-18. Dr P V Ramesh, CMD, REC, signed the MoU on behalf of the corporation while P K Pujari, Secretary, Ministry of Power, signed on behalf of the ministry.

Through the MoU, REC reiterated its commitment to continue financial and operational excellence on various performance parameters, besides committing time bound implementation support for prestigious Government programmes like Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) that includes electrification of un-electrified villages, intensive electrification of villages, release of electricity connections to BPL households, increase in substation capacity and 11 KV feeder segregation.

Rural Electrification Corporation Limited electrifies 13,685 villages. According to Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC), a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise, said it electrified 13,685 villages till 20th June. REC is the nodal agency for Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram JyotiYojana(DDUGJY), which is an integrated scheme covering all aspects of rural power distribution such as feedersegregation, system strengthening and metering. The scheme is aimed at transforming the lifestyle of villagers and bringing in overall socio-economic development in rural areas.

According to a press release by REC, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day address to the nation on August 15, 2015 pledged to electrify all 18,452 un-electrified villages within 1,000 days. Thereafter REC has taken up village electrification on a mission mode targeting completion by May 2018,".

DDUGJY has an outlay of Rs 43,033 crore with a grant of Rs 33,453 crore from the Indian Government. New projects for 32 states/UTs worth Rs 42,553.17 crore have been approved.

Cross border electrification to be taken up with MEA. A meeting between Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla and senior officials of the union ministry for power was done in June to take decision on cross border electrification with the ministry of external affairs.

The chief minister had suggested to the centre during a meeting with Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi recently that nearby villages in Myanmar across the international boundary be given electricity from Mizoram. And a high-level central team, led by joint secretary A K Verma from the power ministry is here following the chief minister's request.

[The Hans India, 20 June 2017](#) | [The Hans India, 21 June 2017](#) | [DNA India, 22 June 2017](#)



Volcanic Rock Stoves Cook Food and Protect Forests. To protect the forests and improve the lives of women, an organization based in Kampala, Uganda named as Eco Group Limited has made a cookstove which uses very untraditional means of cooking i.e. volcanic rocks. According the director of Eco Group Limited the main aim of the cookstoves is to provide an efficient form of cooking energy that is user friendly and

good for the environment.

- The stoves use heat-holding volcanic rocks broken down to the size of charcoal. The rocks are heated using starter briquettes and then remain hot for hours with the help a fan blowing a continuous flow of air over them.
- The volcanic rocks can be repeatedly heated for up to two years with the aid of the fan, which is solar-powered and needs very little energy. Any surplus solar power produced can be used to light the house, run a radio and charge mobile phones.



Picture 1: Volcanic rock stove built by the Eco Group Limited

Source: <https://www.voanews.com/a/volcanic-rock-stoves-cook-food-and-protect-forests-in-uganda-/3920313.html>

As per one of the user, the cost of these cookstoves is a bit high but still it is very useful and efficient. As per the data with Eco Group Limited, more than 4,500 individuals and institutions in Uganda - including schools - are now using the stoves.

voanews.com, 28 June 2017



India, UNOSSC Launch South-South Development Fund to Advance SDGs.

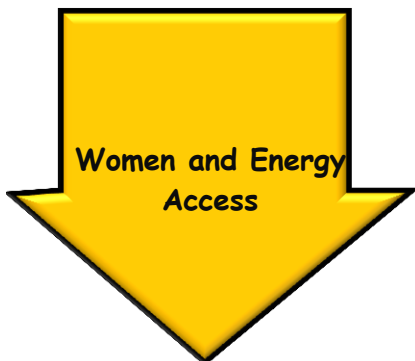
India and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) have launched the India-UN Development Partnership Fund to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by implementing country-driven projects that aim to: reduce poverty and hunger; improve health, education and equality; and increase access to clean water, energy and livelihoods.

M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs, India, announced the launch of the Fund on 8 June 2017 during the UN Ocean Conference.

Following the launch, the first project to receive support from the Fund was announced. The 'Climate Early Warning System in Pacific Island Countries' project will increase natural disaster resilience in seven Pacific island countries and contribute towards achieving SDG 13 (climate action). Welcoming the announcement of the project, Charmaine Scotty, Minister for Education, Home Affairs and Land Management, Nauru, lauded the "demand-driven responsiveness of the Fund to the needs of SIDS."

The UNOSSC-managed Fund will focus mainly on projects in least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS).

sdg.iisd.org, 20 June 2017



Pune NGO wins UN prize for sustainable farming model. Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), a Pune based NGO, has been awarded the United Nations Development Programme's Equator Prize for devising an ecologically sustainable agriculture model to combat the adverse impacts of drought. It is the only Indian organisation to win the award, making the cut from more than 800 nominations across 120 countries. The prize-winning initiative is a women-led 'climate resilient agro-ecological farming model' for restoring land and soil. Prema Gopalan, executive director, SSP, said the project has helped empower more than

20,000 marginal women farmers [landless or those owning less than four acres of land] and their families in Marathwada by helping them make informed decisions about agriculture and the environment.

- The model advocates the use of bio-fertilizers and pesticides, preservation and exchange of local seeds, and a change in farming patterns by diversifying from a single-crop system to growing multiple crops in a bid to reduce the dependency on the caprices of climate.
- This method also emphasises efficient water management through use of hydroponics, drip irrigation, sprinklers, farm ponds, recharging of bore wells and tree plantation leading to improved groundwater levels and soil fertility. So, in times of drought, marginal farmers, especially women, can make informed decisions about types of crops besides having income security.

[The Hindu](#), 3 July, 2017