



One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)

Why in News

India and the UK are likely to announce a joint declaration on “one sun, one world, one grid” — or **OSOWOG** at the upcoming [Conference of Parties \(COP26\)](#).

- The **UN Climate Change Conference, or COP26**, is scheduled to be held between 31st October and 12th November in Scotland.
- The concept of OSOWOG is what the British have called a **green grid**.
- The idea behind the concept is a **trans-national electricity grid supplying solar power** across the globe.

Key Points

▪ OSOWOG or the Green Grid:

- The vision behind the **OSOWOG is ‘The Sun Never Sets’** and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.
- This is by far **one of the most ambitious schemes** undertaken by any country (India) and is of global significance in terms of sharing economic benefits.
- It has been taken up under the technical assistance program of the [World Bank](#).
- The OSOWOG plan may also leverage the [International Solar Alliance \(ISA\)](#), co-founded by India that has 80 countries as members.
- With India in the middle, the **solar spectrum can easily be divided into two broad zones**, which are:
 - Far East including countries like Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Lao, Cambodia etc.
 - Far West covering the Middle East and the Africa Region.

▪ Three Phases of the Plan:

- **First Phase:** It will entail interconnectivity within the **Asian continent**.
- **Second Phase:** It will add Africa.
- **Third Phase:** It is about global interconnection.

▪ Significance of the Project:

- **Help all the participating entities in attracting investments** in renewable energy sources as well as utilizing skills, technology and finances.
- **Lead to reduced project costs**, higher efficiencies and increased asset utilization for all the participating entities.
- **Resulting economic benefits would positively impact poverty alleviation** and support in mitigating water, sanitation, food and other socio-economic challenges.
- Allow **national renewable energy management centres in India to grow** as regional and global management centres.

- This move, during the time of the [Covid-19 pandemic](#), gives India the opportunity to be seen as taking a lead in evolving global strategies.

▪ Issues with the Project:

- **Geopolitics:**

- The project is seen as an Indian endeavour for world leadership but under **Covid-19 uncertainties**, the geopolitical implications of projects like OSOWOG are hard to decipher.
- The **mechanism of cost-sharing will be challenging**, given the varied priorities of participating countries depending on their socio-economic orders.

- **Globalisation vs De-Globalisation:**

- The OSOWOG will turn out to be an **expensive, complex and very slow progress project**.
- The strategic benefits, if any, of having a single grid will be obliterated in the wake of any geopolitical problem.
- In India, the **major issue of renewable energy developers is to deal with different state governments** and hence, different laws and regulations.
- Further, the project also contradicts the **Prime Minister's [Aatmanirbhar Bharat \(self-dependent India\) vision](#)**, as it extends the reliance for a major strategic entity, energy supply, to other countries through this grid.

- **Centralised vs Distributed Generation:**

- There is a difference in **voltage, frequency and specifications of the grid** in most regions.
- Maintaining grid stability with just renewable generation would be technically difficult.

Way Forward

- The move is the **key to future renewable-based energy systems** globally because regional and international interconnected green grids can enable sharing and balancing of renewable energy across international borders.
- It allows **grabbing opportunities to learn quickly from global developments** and share renewable energy resources to **reduce the global carbon footprint and insulate the societies from pandemics**.
- Institution building is key to fulfilling the ambitions of a multi-country grid project. In this context, ISA (International Solar Alliance) can act as an independent supranational institution to take decisions about how the grid should be run and conflicts settled.

[Source: IE](#)

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