



INDUSTRIAL CLUSTERS - ECONOMY

NEWS: Five new industrial clusters from India join WEF initiative

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Indian Clusters Joining the WEF Initiative

1. **Global Participation:**

Thirty-three industrial clusters from 16 countries have joined the **World Economic Forum's (WEF) Transitioning Industrial Clusters Initiative**, showcasing a global commitment to industrial transformation. Among these, five clusters are from India, emphasizing the country's active role in supporting clean energy and sustainability initiatives.

2. **Indian Clusters:**

The new Indian clusters include:

- **Gopalpur Industrial Park:** Located in Odisha, this industrial hub is a growing center for clean energy and industrial innovation.
- **Kakinada Cluster (Andhra Pradesh):** This cluster focuses on sustainable industrial development and clean energy integration.
- **Kerala Green Hydrogen Valley:** A pioneering project aiming to develop and scale hydrogen-based technologies in Kerala for industrial and energy purposes.
- **Mundra Cluster (Gujarat):** Known for its port-based industrial facilities, this cluster aims to integrate clean energy solutions.
- **Mumbai Green Hydrogen Cluster:** A hub in Mumbai focusing on advancing hydrogen technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in energy-intensive industries.

About Industrial Clusters

1. **Definition:**

Industrial clusters are geographically concentrated hubs where interconnected industries, companies, and institutions collaborate to drive economic growth, innovation, and sustainability.

2. **Collaborative Models:**

These clusters represent innovative business models where collaboration occurs not only within individual clusters but also across different clusters. They leverage digital technologies and modern practices to foster industrial transformation.

3. **Clean Energy Deployment:**

Industrial clusters play a vital role in accelerating the deployment of clean-energy infrastructure, promoting renewable energy adoption and reducing carbon emissions globally.



WEF Transitioning Industrial Clusters Initiative

1. Launch and Development:

The initiative was launched during the **COP26 climate summit in 2021**, showcasing global ambition to address climate challenges. It was developed in collaboration with **Accenture** (a consulting firm) and **EPRI** (Electric Power Research Institute), combining expertise in innovation, energy, and sustainability.

2. Aim of the Initiative:

The initiative focuses on helping industrial clusters reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while simultaneously boosting economic growth and creating jobs. This dual approach ensures sustainability while maintaining industrial productivity and economic development.

3. Global Partners:

- Currently, the initiative includes **33 clusters** from **16 countries across five continents**.
- These clusters collectively represent an opportunity to significantly reduce emissions and promote global sustainability.

4. Potential Impact:

- The 33 clusters combined have the potential to reduce **832 million tonnes of CO₂e emissions**, which is comparable to the **annual emissions of Saudi Arabia**.
- They contribute **USD 492 billion** to global gross domestic product (GDP) and support **4.3 million jobs**, underlining their critical role in the economy.



5. Port-Based Expansion:

The initiative is expanding its focus on **port-anchored industrial clusters** as ports are key nodes for trade, energy, and industrial activity. Examples include:

- **European Clusters** joining the network.
- **Ports of Açú** and the **Cartagena Industrial Cluster** in South America.
- **Jubail Industrial City** in the Middle East, which became the first port-based cluster in that region to join the initiative.

Conclusion

1. Ambitious Goals:

The WEF initiative aims to balance economic growth and employment creation with significant reductions in CO₂e emissions, demonstrating that industrial development and sustainability can go hand in hand.

2. Comprehensive Support:

By bringing together leading public and private industrial entities, the initiative helps clusters prepare for funding opportunities, gain regulatory support, and adopt innovative technologies.

3. Global Transition:

Through its activities, the initiative ensures that industrial clusters worldwide are equipped to transition toward cleaner energy systems, fostering a global movement toward sustainability and climate resilience.

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