



# drishti

## News Analysis (31 Oct, 2019)

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### Second Assembly of ISA

The **second assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is being **hosted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** from 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

- The **Assembly is the supreme decision making body** of the ISA, and gives directions on various administrative, financial and programme related issues.
- **India** (represented by the Minister for New and Renewable Energy and Power) is the President and **France** is the **Co-President** of the ISA Assembly.
- Till now, 81 countries of the 121 prospective member countries have signed the **Framework Agreement of the ISA**. Of these, **58 countries have ratified** the same. During the first Assembly of the ISA, an Indian resolution to extend the Membership of the organisation to all countries that are Members of the United Nations was adopted.
- Since the **first assembly on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018**, ISA has initiated many activities and programmes.
  - For building domestic capacity of the ISA member countries programmes such as **STAR - C Programme**, development of the **Infopedia** etc. have been launched.
    - STAR C is a Solar Technology Application Resource Centre project.
    - Infopedia is an online platform dedicated to the dissemination of information, best practices and knowledge on Solar Energy.
  - The ISA sent country missions to eight countries over the course of 2019 in order to understand the challenges and issues 'on the ground'.
  - ISA has significantly extended outreach and have partnered with over 40 organizations. These broadly include **United Nations (UN)**, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), etc.

### International Solar Alliance

- The ISA, is an **Indian initiative** that was **launched** by the Prime Minister of **India** and the President of **France** on 30<sup>th</sup> November **2015** in Paris, France on the side-lines of the **Conference of the Parties (COP-21)**, with 121 solar resource rich countries lying fully or partially between the tropic of Cancer and tropic of Capricorn as prospective members.
- The overarching objective of the ISA is to collectively address key common challenges to the scaling up of solar energy in ISA member countries.
- The Government of India has allotted **5 acres of land to the ISA** in **National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE)** campus, Gurugram and has released **a sum of Rs. 160 crore** for creating a corpus fund, building infrastructure and meeting day to day recurring expenditure of the ISA up to the year 2012-22.

**Source: PIB**

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## Cyclone Maha

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A depression that developed in the **Comorin Sea (near the southernmost end of India)** has intensified into a cyclonic storm, **named 'Maha'**.

- The name has been given by Oman.
- It lies centered over Lakshadweep and the adjoining southeast Arabian Sea and the Maldives area.
- Cyclone storm 'Maha' is the **second in the 2019 northeast monsoon season**, following close on the heels of **super cyclone Kyarr** which took its way towards the Arabian peninsula.

**Source: PIB**

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