



Third Assembly of ISA

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Why in News

Recently, **India and France** have been re-elected as the President and Co-President of the **International Solar Alliance** (ISA) for a term of two years at the virtual third Assembly of ISA.

The first two assemblies were held in **India in 2018** and **2019**.

Key Points

- The Assembly approved institutionalising ISA's engagement with the private and public corporate sector through the **Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action** (CSCA).
- **Various solar awards** were conferred on countries as well as institutions.
 - The **Visvesvaraya award** recognises the countries with a maximum floating solar capacity in each of the four regions of ISA, which are:
 - Asia Pacific Region.
 - Africa Region.
 - Europe and others Region.
 - Latin America and Caribbean Region.
 - The **Kalpana Chawla award** for outstanding contribution of scientists and engineers working in the field of **solar energy**.
 - The **Diwakar award** recognises organisations and institutions that have been working for the benefit of differently-abled people and have maximised the use of solar energy in the host country.
- The Assembly was **presented the report prepared by the World Resources Institute** (WRI) which **identifies the sources of funds, opportunities and constraints, in scaling up solar investments and the contribution** of ISA in assisting Member countries.

The ISA will work with WRI to develop a roadmap for **mobilisation of USD 1 trillion by 2030**.

- In the wake of the global **pandemic**, ISA responded by setting up **ISA CARES** (like **PM-CARES** in India), an initiative dedicated to the deployment of solar energy in the healthcare sector.
 - The initiative **aims to solarize one primary health sector** in each district of the target member countries.
- The ISA Secretariat has launched a **Seventh Programme on Solarising Heating and Cooling systems**.
 - Demand for cooling alone outpaced solar deployment in 2017.
 - Heating and cooling systems have scope to directly convert solar radiation and at higher efficiency levels.
- **SAARC Development Fund's** technical assistance along with the **ISA Technical Assistance** is proposed to be implemented jointly with the **Asian Development Bank**.
- The ISA has recently signed a tripartite agreement with the **World Bank** and the Government of India and is now actively involved in preparing a vision and **implementation plan for “One Sun, One World, One Grid” Initiative** to harness the power of interconnected grids for enabling energy transition to a low-carbon world.
- **India's Perspective and Highlights:**
 - The President of the ISA Assembly, **India's Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister** appreciated the Alliance Members coming together to work for combating climate change.
 - He also **highlighted various activities and programmes** initiated by ISA since the 2nd Assembly like the **development of a pipeline** of more than USD 5 billion, **aggregated demand** for more than 270,000 solar pumps across 22 countries, etc.
- **France's Role:**
 - France has **committed 1.5 billion Euros** for financing solar projects in ISA member states up until 2022.
 - The **first project under the Solar Risk Mitigation Initiative (SRMI) is being** launched in **Mozambique** with the support of **France and the European Union (EU)**.
 - SRMI will help mobilise billions in private investment to finance more than 10 GWs of solar projects.
 - In the frame of the **ISA's Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (Star-C) programme**, the **French National Institute for Solar Energy (INES)** will launch a specific program for the small island states of the Pacific.

International Solar Alliance

- It is an **Indian initiative** that was launched by the **Prime Minister of India and the President of France** on **30th November 2015 in Paris**, France on the sidelines 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.
- **Objective:** To collectively address key common challenges to the scaling up of solar energy in ISA member countries.
- **Members:** Till now, **87 countries have signed the Framework Agreement** of the ISA and of these **67 have deposited their instruments of ratification**.
Nicaragua, a Central American country is the **87th** and the latest country to sign the agreement.
- 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 2021-22.

Source: PIB