



## Sixth Assembly of International Solar Alliance

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### Why in News?

Recently, the **Sixth Assembly of the [International Solar Alliance \(ISA\)](#)** was convened at **Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**.

### What are the Major Highlights of the Assembly?

- The Assembly discussed the **ISA's broader strategy**, emphasizing the need to focus on energy access before transitioning to renewable sources, echoing the **organization's philosophy of "access first and then transition."**
- The assembly announced an increase in [Viability Gap Funding \(VGF\)](#) for projects, raising it from **10% to a range of 10% to 35% to foster greater investments**, particularly in African countries.
- Four projects supported by the ISA were inaugurated during the assembly. These initiatives spanned across different countries:
  - Solarization of the **Malawi Parliament**
  - Solarization of **rural healthcare centers in Fiji**
  - Installation of a **solar-powered cold storage in Seychelles**
  - Solarization of a **school in Kiribati**
- India reaffirmed the commitment to make [solar energy](#) the **primary energy source** and emphasized that renewable energy could potentially supply **65% of the world's total electricity by 2030 and decarbonize 90% of the power sector by 2050**.

### Note

Around **80% of the global population reside** in countries that **depend on fossil fuel imports**.

### What is the International Solar Alliance?

- The **International Solar Alliance** is an **action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform** for increased deployment of solar energy technologies as a means for bringing **energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries**.
- Initially conceived as a **joint effort by India and France**, ISA was conceptualized during the [21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties \(COP21\)](#) in 2015.
  - With its framework Agreement amended in 2020, all UN member states are eligible to join ISA.
  - Currently, **116 countries are signatories**, with 94 having completed the necessary ratification to become full members.
- The ISA is guided by its '**Towards 1000**' strategy which aims to **mobilize USD 1,000 billion** of investments in solar energy solutions by **2030**, while delivering energy access to **1,000 million**

people using clean energy solutions and resulting in **installation of 1,000 GW** of solar energy capacity.

- This would help mitigate global solar emissions to the tune of **1,000 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> every year.**

- The **Assembly is the apex decision-making body of ISA**, in which each Member Country is represented.
  - This body makes decisions concerning the implementation of the ISA's Framework Agreement and coordinated actions to be taken to achieve its objective.

### **UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)**

#### **Prelims:**

#### **Q. Consider the following statements: (2016)**

1. The International Solar Alliance was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2015.
2. The Alliance includes all the member countries of the United Nations.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (a)**

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