

INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE



WHY IN NEWS?

Recently, Bolivia became the 74th country to sign the framework agreement of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**.

ABOUT ISA

It is an initiative **jointly launched by India and France in 2015** on the sidelines of COP-21 of UNFCCC in Paris.

It was officially **established on 6 December 2017**, on the entry into force of the Framework Agreement.

The membership is open to those solar resource-rich States, which lie **fully or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn**, and are members of the United Nations.

The First Assembly at Delhi adopted the proposal made by India to expand the scope of membership of the ISA to **all members of United Nations**. This has not yet entered into force.

Through this initiative, the countries share the **collective ambition**:

to **address obstacles** that stand in the way of rapid and massive scale-up of solar energy;

to undertake innovative and concerted efforts for **reducing the cost of finance and cost of technology** for immediate deployment of competitive solar generation; and

to **mobilise more than 1000 Billion US Dollars** of investments by 2030.

accelerate the **development and deployment of over 1,000GW** of solar generation capacity in member countries.

The ISA has established **five key programmes** of action:

scaling up solar applications for **agricultural use**

affordable **finance at scale**

scaling up solar **mini-grids**

scaling up **solar rooftop**

scaling up solar **e-mobility and storage**

All costs relating to the running of the ISA will be funded through voluntary contributions of **member-countries, partner countries, partner organisations and Strategic Partners**.

Funding under ISA is also been exempted to be treated as a foreign source of **funding for Indian NGOs and other entities under the FCRA**.

It is a first **treaty based international intergovernmental organization** headquartered in India.

The **ISA Secretariat** has launched

a Solar Technology Application and Resource – Centre (**iSTAR-C**) to support capacity building efforts in the ISA member countries.

the ISA Solar Award (**Kalpna Chawla Solar Award**) to recognize solar scientists doing extraordinary work across ISA member countries.

ISA has also been developing a **Common Risk Mitigating Mechanism** (CRMM) for de-risking and reducing the financial cost of solar projects in the ISA member countries.

SIGNIFICANCE OF ISA

Ensure Energy Security

Integration of Global South and Global North

To **Solve Global Energy Poverty** as according to International Energy Association (IEA), there are more than “600 million people without access to electricity” in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Creation of an **Alternative Electricity Energy Grid Based** on solar energy among various countries, to overcome a financial constraint in tapping solar energy.

RELATED NEWS

India is reaching out to the **‘Lithium Triangle’** in South America which consists of Chile, Argentina and Bolivia.

Khanij Bidesh India Ltd., (**KABIL**) consortium of three PSU companies including : National Aluminum Company (**NALCO**), Hindustan Copper (**HCL**) and Mineral Exploration Corp Ltd., (**MECL**) visited these countries recently.

SOUTH AMERICA

