



International Solar Alliance Press Release

Five PSU's in India's Hydrocarbon Sector join ISA's Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (ISA-CSCA); Pledge US\$ 5 Million as Corporate Partners

Half of India's PSU owned fuel stations to be solar powered in five years

PM, Shri Narendra Modi reiterates India's commitment to renewable energy in spite of lowest per capita carbon emission in the world

Tripartite agreement between India's New and Renewable Energy Ministry, the World Bank and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on One Sun, One World, One Grid

NEW DELHI, 08 September 2020: The first World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS) got off to a grand start, this afternoon with 10500 participants and 50 + speakers from across the globe joining the deliberations virtually to discuss how to accelerate the adoption of affordable and sustainable clean green energy across the world.

The President of the ISA Assembly, India's New and Renewable Energy Minister, Mr R.K. Singh was joined by the Vice Presidents of ISA from Africa, Asia Pacific and the Latin American and Caribbean Region (LAC) during the inaugural address. The Co- President of the Assembly, France's Minister for Ecological Transition sent a video message to the Summit.

India's Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister, Mr Dharmendra Pradhan, speaking at the inaugural lauded the efforts of ISA. The Minister committed that the entire hydrocarbon will support the deployment and increased promotion of solar energy and announced that five Public Sector undertakings under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas will be joining ISA's Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (ISA-CSCA) as Corporate Partners and will be contributing to ISA's Corpus Fund. The CSCA is a consortium of public and private entities working in the direction of Universal Energy Access and meeting climate targets. A recent initiative, it brings together energy or non-energy-based companies joining ISA as Corporate Partners. A company, irrespective of its core business area is welcome to join this Coalition by first becoming a Corporate Partner of ISA. -Each partner pledges US\$ 1 million to join the coalition.

With this commitment from the five PSUs, ONGC, IOCL, BPCL, Hindustan Petroleum and GAIL, ISA will have a corpus fund of US\$17 million, having already got 12 private and public enterprises in India to partner with ISA. It is also expected that seven more partners will join in October during the Assembly.

Speaking at the 'First World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS)', organized by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) with FICCI, Mr Pradhan said that the summit will play a key role in our collective journey to make Solar Energy available for the common people. "Increasingly and rightly so, Indian oil and gas companies are actively taking part in clean energy transition," he added

Mr Pradhan further said that in order to reduce carbon footprints, Indian oil and gas companies will be focused more on green energy investments such as renewable, biofuel, and hydrogen energy going forward. The oil and gas PSU are increasingly evaluating new opportunities in the solar and RE space with a diversification.

Mr Dharmendra Pradhan underlined that India's oil and gas companies are making efforts to deploy solar panels across the value chain of their operations. The current installed capacity is 270 MW and an additional 60MW will be added in the coming years. "We have taken up the mission of solarising 50 percent of the fuel stations owned by the PSU companies in the next 5 years. More than 5000 of fuel station of Indian Oil were solarised last year," he said.

Mr RK Singh, India's New and Renewable Energy & Skill Development and President, International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly read out Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message for the summit.

The message said that this summit provides an ideal occasion to discuss the future of technology in solar energy. India and France had jointly taken the initiative of a national solar alliance in 2015. The seeds for the idea down 5 years ago have today blossomed into an inter-governmental alliance.

"Five years ago, world leaders had taken a pledge to restrict the rise in global temperatures through a gradual reduction in the dependence on fossil gas. India has the lowest per capita carbon emission and ranks fourth in Renewable power, but we are still pressed ahead with the deployment of Renewable Energy at a frantic pace. We have enhanced our installed renewable capacity by 2.5 times and increased our solar installed capacity by more than 13 times," the Prime Minister's message said.

The message from the PM also spoke of Kusum, a government scheme that aims to replace the use of diesel in our farm sector with solar energy. Under this scheme, the government has targeted the solarisation of 2.8 million irrigation pumps. Such schemes will not only benefit the environment but also increase the incomes of the farmers, the message said.

One of the main action- agenda of the summit was **the tripartite agreement signed between the New and Renewable Energy Ministry the World bank and the ISA**. The World Bank will be funding the initiative and will explore how energy from one part of the world where the sun is shining can be shared with another part of the world Speaking after signing the agreement, **Mr Junaid Ahmad, Country Director, World Bank said**, "India's commitment to play its global role as the lighthouse of the world would be pivotal in ensuring the One Sun, One World, One Grid." (OSOWOG). The OSOWOG is based on the three critical pivots of sustainability, global interdependencies, and India's commitment to play its global role. The World Bank Group is committed to support India and the global community in achieving this vision."

Three Partnership Agreements were signed by ISA with **International Institute for Refrigeration, Paris; Global Green Growth Institute (Republic of Korea) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)**.

ISA's Technology Journal, Solar Compass 360 was also announced at the event

Prof K Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India set the context for the deliberations by drawing attention to the importance of solar energy as a powerful source in providing energy at moderate cost. He spoke of the long haul in harnessing and storing solar energy and the

need for ISA to focus on research to impact using solar energy at a large rapid scale. He said “We must acknowledge that Solar Energy has become a very powerful source of providing energy at modest costs”. Partnerships between energy generation and energy storage is very important. While we focus on the storage solutions, we must also focus on reuse and recycle, he said. “India’s emission mitigation policy is centered on electricity to expand to transportation in the industrial and agricultural sector as well,” added Prof Raghavan.

Mr Bertrand Piccard, FRSGS, Founder and Chairman, Solar Impulse Foundation, Switzerland, said, “It’s believed by some countries that Solar Energy is expensive, which is not true anymore as no other source of energy can compete with Solar Power in terms of cost.”

Nobel Laureate, Dr M Stanley Whittingham, winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry (jointly with John B Goodenough & Akira Yoshino) in 2019 for the revolutionizing discovery of the lithium ion batteries delivered the key note address in the inaugural. Nobel laureate Dr M Stanley Whittingham said, “Li-ion Batteries have transformed the adoption of renewables and allowing the world to move to an electrical society.” He also added that the future of storage will be one that eliminates dirty peak power plants.

Amb. Claver Gatete, Minister of Infrastructure, Rwanda said, “In Rwanda, we have set a target of achieving universal access to electricity by 2024. This is planned to be achieved through a combination of on-grid and off-grid energy connections at 52% and 48% respectively. “The National Energy Policy prioritizes the deployment of renewable energies of which solar is included and the set target is to deploy over 60% before the end of 2030 (SDG7 target).

Mr Luis Miguel Incháustegui Zevallos, Minister of Energy and Mines, Republic of Peru & Vice President of ISA Assembly (LAC Region) said, “Peru is committed to the global efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change. The objective of our participation at the summit was to position our country as a technical hub in the generation and the use of solar energy and other clean energy technologies.”

Ms Kadri Simson, Commissioner for Energy, representing Hon’ble President, European Commission said, The EU Green deal was launched to address the defining issues of our generation, countries-climate change and clean energy for all. By the mid of this century, we aim to make Europe a carbon-neutral continent and that it will work hand in hand with international partners for a global clean energy transition.”

The Co- President of the ISA Assembly, France’s Minister for Ecological Transition Ms Barbara Pompili said we need solar energy more than ever and France which has a low carbon economy is committed to sustainable energy security. She called upon the Members for support so that through France’s regional centers, training, research, innovation and cooperation can help in meeting the climate objectives. She said “France has a multi-tier energy program that supports the development of solar energy. Through its low carbon strategy, France also encourages solar application to decarbonize all sectors of its economy.”

Director General of ISA. Mr Upendra Tripathy earlier welcoming the participants and speakers spoke of the action- packed summit deliberations. He presented the Technology Charter, which will be essentially a technology task force looking into the technology needs of ISA member countries. He also spoke of other initiatives like the MBA programme and the Undergraduate programmes which have been started, the new initiative in the SAARC Fund and the solarization of one million solar pumps. Thanking all the Member countries and partner organizations, DG, ISA stated that “Together

we will make great strides under the framework agreements and achieve the goals enshrined in the treaty”

The inaugural was followed by the Global CEO’s session, with Mr. Jean-Pascal Tricoire, Chairman & CEO, Schneider Electric, Mr. Eric Rondolat, Chief Executive Officer, Signify, Mr. Anand G Mahindra, Chairman & Managing Director, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., Mr. Bertrand Piccard, Chairman, Solar Impulse Foundation, Dr. Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals & President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Mr. Uday Kotak, CEO & Founder, Kotak Mahindra Bank, President CII and Ms. Walburga Hemetsberger, CEO, Solar Power Europe, Belgium. The session was moderated by **Ms Jeanette Rodrigues**, Mumbai Bureau Chief, Bloomberg News. This session witnessed conversations between the CEOs of the world’s largest corporations that contribute greatly towards the promotion of solar energy integration with other renewables and storage solutions.

Four technical sessions saw a galaxy of renowned academicians, scientists, researchers as well as industry leaders deliberate on the future prospects of the solar PV technology and the vision for solar energy up to 2030 and beyond. Equally interesting sessions were planned on exploring low cost – electricity (Towards a Decarbonized Grid) followed by intense deliberations on Disruptive Solar Technologies and Solar Beyond the Power Sector.

The valedictory session of the WSTS was graced by **Mr. Dave Turk** , Deputy Executive Director, and Head of the Strategic Initiatives Office, International Energy Agency,

Dr. Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals & President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry,

Ms. Gauri Singh, Deputy Director General, International Renewable Energy Agency, UAE,

Shri Rahul Chhabra, Secretary, ER, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India,

Shri Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India,

Shri Sanjiv Nandan Sahai, Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India,

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Prime Minister’s Sherpa to the G-7 and G-20 to deliver key note address,

H.E. Eng. Khairy Abdelraman Ahmed , Minister of Energy and Mining, Republic of Sudan,

H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy the African Union Commission,

H.E. Mr. Poasi Mataele Tei , Minister for Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change & Communications of Tonga & Vice President for Asia Pacific Region, ISA,

H.E Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon’ble Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel, Government of India as chief guest of this session,

H.E Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon’ble Minister for Railways, Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

The event was streamed in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

The ISA, an action-oriented organization, aims at lowering the cost of technology and finance and thereby facilitate deployment of over 1,000 GW of solar energy and mobilize more than USD 1,000 billion into solar power by 2030 in Member countries. The ISA envisions to enable the full ecosystem for availability and development of technology, economic resources, and development of storage technology, mass

manufacturing and innovation. The reduced cost of technology would enable the undertaking of more ambitious solar energy programmes. Noting that Solar is key source of affordable and reliable energy, successful project implementation could play significant role in achieving the universal energy access goal (SDG 7).

The ISA has 67 Member countries. ISA works through its six programmes viz. Solar Applications for Agricultural Use, Affordable Finance at Scale, Solar Mini Grids, Solar Rooftops and Solar E-mobility & Storage and Solar Parks. Till date, as an accelerator ISA has created a pipeline of solar projects worth USD 5.5 Billion by aggregating demand from Member countries. Besides working to facilitate financing of solar projects in member countries, the ISA has contributed as an enabler towards several capacity building initiatives, including the Solar Technology and Application Resource centers.

For More Information:

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