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News: International Solar Alliance (ISA)

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

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.

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of 121 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- The primary objective of the alliance is to work for efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- The alliance is a treaty-based (Paris Declaration) inter-governmental organization.
- ISA is the nodal agency for implementing One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG).
- Countries that do not fall within the Tropics can join the alliance and enjoy all benefits as other members, except for voting rights.
- After the United Nations, it is the largest grouping of states world-wide.
- The framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance opened for signatures in Marrakech, Morocco in November 2016, and 200 countries have joined.
- The ISA is headquartered in Gurugram, India.

- The ISA aims to pave the way for future solar generation, storage and technologies for Member countries' needs by mobilizing over USD 1000 billion by 2030.
- Recently, International Solar Alliance (ISA) has been conferred the Observer status by UNGA.

Host Country Agreement

- The Host Country Agreement is an agreement between the International Solar Alliance and India.
- Its motive is to make ISA functioning independent in discharging its functions.
- Through this agreement ISA will get power to contract, to acquire and dispose movable and immovable property, to institute and defend legal proceedings.
- Under the agreement ISA will get tax concessions and exemptions necessary for ISA independent functioning.