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News: International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- Spain has become the 99th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) following Panama, by handing over the Instrument of Ratification.

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an **alliance of 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**.