



INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE

RELEVANCE FROM EXAMINATION POINT OF VIEW

CSE Prelim Examination

1. International Relations
2. Environment and Ecology

CSE Main Examination

1. Paper II and Paper III
2. To be used in answers related to global efforts to combat climate change.

WHY WAS IT IN NEWS?

International Solar Alliance has met the minimum requirement to become a treaty-based international intergovernmental organisation.

As per the framework agreement of the ISA, the ISA Interim Secretariat was to become a full legal entity 30th day after the 15th member country signs and ratifies the Framework Agreement.

Solar Alliance targets 1000 GW installation by 2030



EXPRESS IN BONN

AMITABH SINHA
NOVEMBER 14

THREE YEARS ago, India had surprised many by announcing that it would develop 100 gigawatts (GW) of solar energy by 2022, scaling up its then-existing target by almost five times. Now, the International Solar Alliance, a new intergovernmental body set up at

India's behest at the Paris climate change conference in 2015, has set its eyes on installing 1000 GW of solar energy by 2030.

"The International Solar Alliance (ISA) has just been ratified by enough number of countries to make it operational. It will become operational by December 6 this year. The ISA has set for itself a target of installing 1000 GW of solar electricity in its member countries by the year 2030. This will be one of the biggest global efforts to shift away from fossil fuels and move towards cleaner sources of energy," Anand Kumar, Secretary in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, told reporters here.

To be sure, this is not the first time that the ISA has talked about the 1000-GW objective. At the

launch of ISA in Gurgaon in January last year, the then French President Francois Hollande had said the ISA was aiming to install 1000 GW of solar energy and would require an investment of about 1200 billion euros to do so. France is a key partner in the ISA which is open for membership to 121 countries in the tropical regions. So far, 44 countries have signed on to the alliance while 16 of them have also ratified it.

The 1000-GW objective, more of a desire when the ISA was launched last year, has now become its official target.

The announcement came on a day when the climate change conference recorded concrete progress in some areas of negotiations, ahead of the last two days

of ministerial rounds of meetings where political decisions would be taken to resolve the deadlock over contentious issues.

Late on Monday evening, countries reached an agreement on discussions over efforts to make agriculture resilient to climate change while attempting to reduce non-CO2 emissions from agriculture. Agriculture is just one of the several components of the overall negotiations but it brought cheers at the conference which has seen slow progress till now.

There was a similar agreement on the issue of loss and damages, one of the main items under discussions here, though many of the demands of the developing countries, especially small island nations, were not accommodated.

The small island countries, also some of the most vulnerable to impacts of climate change, have been asking for a loss and damage mechanism through which they can seek financial help to compensate for the destruction caused by climate change-induced extreme weather events.

The agreements over agriculture and loss and damages will be integrated to the final decision outcomes at the conference.

There was a fresh proposal to resolve the deadlock over the issue of 'pre-2020 actions' as well, and though it still did not address the developing countries' key demands of inclusion of 'pre-2020 actions' in the official agenda of negotiations and setting up of a timeline for the developed coun-

tries to ratify the Doha amendments of 1997 Kyoto Protocol, Indian negotiators said it marked some movement forward. 'Pre-2020 actions' refer mainly to the obligations of the developed countries under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol that still has three years to run.

Meanwhile, India, China, Brazil and South Africa — together known as the BASIC — held a meeting Monday evening where they reviewed the progress made at the conference so far. In a joint statement released Tuesday, the four countries noted that developing countries, including they themselves, had made much more efforts in tackling climate change than they were expected to and urged developed countries to do more.

Solar Alliance comes into existence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's global initiative, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) that aims at increasing solar energy deployment in member countries, came into legal, independent existence Wednesday. It is the first treaty-based international intergovernmental organisation to be based out of India.

So far, 19 countries are part of the compact — Bangladesh, Comoros, Fiji, France, Ghana, Guinea, India, Mali, Mauritius, Nauru, Niger, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan,

Has been in the newspaper highlights recently.....

ABOUT ISA

- Alliance of 121 countries.
- Most of 121 countries are **Sunshine Countries**.

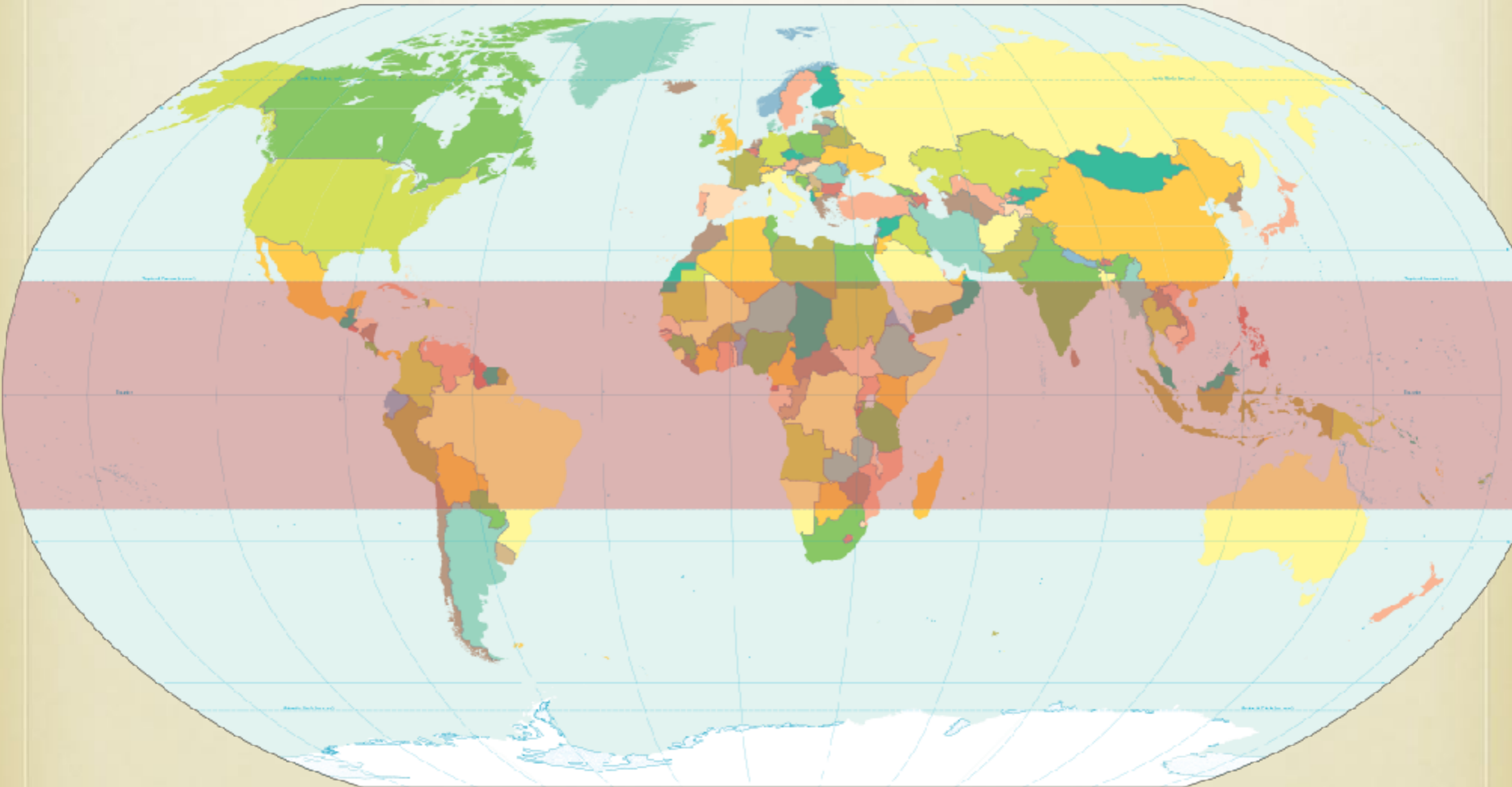
Sunshine Countries

Countries which partly or completely lie between Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn.

There are 107 such Sunshine Countries.

Famously called '*Suryaputras*' by the Indian PM.

MAP: SUNSHINE COUNTRIES



ABOUT ISA



- Brain Child of India.
- Launched jointly by Indian PM and French President at the CoP 21 held at Paris in 2015.
- Also called International Agency for Solar Policy and Application - **IASPA**.
- It is headquartered at Gurugram, Haryana.

MEMBERSHIP

- 121 countries have joined the alliance.
- 46 countries have signed the Framework Agreement
- 19 countries have ratified the Framework Agreement so far (15th Guinea).
- The Framework Agreement was opened for signatures in Marrakesh, Morocco (CoP 22) in 2016.

OBJECTIVE OF ISA

- The International Solar Agency Intends to:
 1. To endorse clean energy,
 2. To promote sustainable development,
 3. Utilise solar energy harnessing maximum available potential.
 4. Help sunshine countries to meet their INDCs under Paris Climate Deal or CoP 21.

SIGNIFICANCE OF ISA

- Shared ambition to undertake joint efforts.
- Technology transfer.
- More avenues for financing the green projects.
- Reduced cost of financing.
- Mobilise US \$ 1000 billion investment for adoption of solar energy.
- Strengthening of ties and creation of goodwill.

SUMMARY

Following dimensions must be kept in mind:

1. What is ISA?
2. What are Sunshine Countries?
3. Membership to the ISA.
4. Condition for ISA to become a legal entity.
5. Objectives and Significance of ISA.

BRAINSTORM YOURSELF

Question: Consider the following statements about International Solar Alliance:

1. It is an alliance of 121 'Sunshine Countries' launched in 2015 alongside CoP 21 at Paris.
2. Thirtieth day after ratification by the 15th member - Guinea - it has become an international legal entity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| a. 1 only | b. 2 only |
| c. Both 1 and 2 | d. Neither 1 nor 2 |

SAMPLE QUESTION FOR MAINS

Question - “The World has become progressively concerned about use of Renewable Energy particularly after the CoP 21 to UNFCCC held at Paris in November 2015”. Discuss.