

**Press Information Bureau
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Prime Minister's Office**

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**English rendering of the text of PM's address on the inauguration ceremony of International Solar Alliance
Headquarters in Gurgaon**

Honourable President of France, Mr. Hollande, senior Ministers from France, Honourable Governor of Haryana, esteemed Chief Minister of Haryana; Mr. Piyush Goyal, French delegation, and my dear brothers and sisters who have turned out in such large numbers today!

Over the whole of last year, there has been a lot of discussion all over the world over finding ways to mitigate the problem of global warming. COP 21 held in Paris raised a lot of hope and in this two-week long event, various countries held discussions and tried to make an impact on policy. They discussed the way forward for saving mankind from the impending danger of global warming.

While these discussions were on in Paris, two landmark initiatives were taken, in which India and France played a significant role. One of these initiatives was Mission Innovation. On one side, we have the concern to save mankind from the environmental crisis like global warming. On the other side, we also have to meet the needs of mankind. The developing countries still need to achieve newer heights in the realm of development. But, it is not possible for them to meet their development needs without energy. In a way, it can be said that energy is an integral part of the development journey of these countries. If we generate energy from fossil fuels, the concern of Global Warming at once starts worrying us. But without generating energy, we would be surrounded by darkness. So the question is how to find a way out of this dilemma?

In this background, the trio of US, France and India together introduced the initiative of Mission Innovation. This mission aims that our scientists, our technicians, our engineers discover new technologies, build up new resources, come up with new inventions, which don't lead to adverse effects on environment, help us to save the world from global warming and develop such innovations, which are affordable, sustainable and within the reach of the common man.

So, US, France and India launched this Mission Innovation and decided to carry it forward in a big way with the support of other Institutions. This new initiative was kicked off in the presence of US President Obama, French President Hollande, myself, UN Secretary General and Mr. Bill Gates.

Not only this, another major initiative was also launched which is going to make a significant impact on mankind for decades to come.

Currently, there are several organizations of the world working in different areas, for instance, organization for OPEC countries, G-20, G-4, SAARC, European Union, ASEAN Countries and so on. India has mooted a proposal that if oil producing countries can form an organization, if African countries and European Countries can respectively join hands, then why not to set up an organization of those nations of the world who get more than 300 days of sunshine?

Sun is the greatest source of energy. Sun plays a key role in the existence of the entire universe and all creatures. Then, why can't we explore ways of helping the world by tapping the power of sun? There are around 122 countries all around the world, which enjoy the benefit of Sunlight of over 300 days. And therefore, we dwelled upon the idea of setting up an organization of those 122 countries which experience the power of solar energy for large number of days during a year. French President Hollande fully supported this proposal put forward by India and so we contacted all these 122 countries. And while the COP 21 was on in Paris, in the presence of Heads of all the nations, the institution called International Solar Alliance was born on 30th November, 2015.

It was also decided that the Global Secretariat of this Alliance should be set up in India. Now, the headquarter of International Solar Alliance is under construction in Gurgaon. In Haryana lies the land of Kurukshetra, from which the timeless message of Gita echoed in the world. From this very land, we are all set to spread a new message of wellbeing of mankind through this Solar Alliance.

Today, maybe only a handful of people will have an idea about the tremendous impact of this event on mankind in the future. But its immense significance can be easily realized by those living in small island countries, who are facing the threat of devastation caused by rising sea levels and are continuously living under the fear of getting submerged under water completely. Several countries including India are worried about the fate of their cities on the sea coasts, what will be the fate of Mumbai and Chennai if the water level increases due to global warming? Last year, I met with the leaders of many small island nations and thoroughly understood their concerns stemming from climate change. I was compelled to think, Can't India take on this global challenge?

To save life is considered a most sacred deed in our Indian culture. Today, I can say, that International Solar Alliance is meant for accomplishing this sacred deed of saving the lives of people worldwide. The entire world is demanding that the rise in temperatures worldwide be arrested. But, the way to achieve this is also with the help of the temperature of the sun. And this Solar Alliance is meant to fulfil the energy needs of the world as well as lay a special emphasis on innovation to establish the usefulness of solar energy in various walks of life.

This is true that International Solar Alliance is headquartered in India, Gurgaon. However, this will not be just an Indian institution. ISA is a global institution with independent functioning just like the UN and WHO. People from different countries will head it and shoulder its responsibilities. Processes would be soon developed for the same. Today, its Secretariat is under construction, through which we want to further this cause all across the globe.

India has taken up the challenge of optimizing traditional natural resources in the sphere of energy. The entire world was in wonder when India announced its intention to march towards target of Renewable Energy of 175Giga Watt. Earlier, Giga Watt was an unknown word for India and the next power unit of Mega Watt was even beyond our imagination. Today, India is talking about Giga Watt and wants to provide 175 Giga Watt Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Nuclear Energy, Biomass Energy and Hydro Energy. I feel immense pleasure to announce that India has been successful in installing the solar energy capacity of more than 5000 MW.

This task, which has been accomplished in so short a span of time, is the outcome of India's commitment towards the welfare and protection of mankind and towards the protection of nature. Truly, if India has made any contribution to save nature, then it is this one.

I am grateful to the French President from the bottom of my heart that along with sharing our concerns, he also shares a common vision for finding ways of solving global warming and environmental issues. This is because France and India enjoy similar value systems. Therefore, when we met in April 2015, we had decided to launch a book on the occasion of COP 21 and conduct research on the traditional ways of looking at these environmental issues worldwide. Both of us have written the preface of this book and have brought out the fundamental thoughts on these issues.

We are making all these efforts to ensure that whatever is being done to bring mankind out of the crises should be a collective effort of all. It should have an innovative approach, and the outcome should be according to the expectations of mankind without causing any damage to nature. We Indians have been taught by our ancestors to love the Mother Earth. In our childhood itself, we are taught to worship Mother Nature rather than to exploit it. Such is our great tradition. So, we need to make all efforts to ensure that the benefits of our glorious tradition are harvested by all around the world. And for that reason, we are today inaugurating the Secretariat of International Solar Alliance. We are also laying the foundation of this building with the vision that it will take the shape of a great building one day. I am thankful to all of you for attending this ceremony.

It is a matter of immense pleasure for me that while the Solar Alliance is under construction, we could have come here from Delhi by road or by chopper, but both of us decided to come by the Metro. I am grateful to Mr. President that he agreed upon travelling by Metro. By travelling by Metro, we want to give the message that it is one of the ways to fight global warming. I assure you that all our efforts will bear fruit. Tomorrow, India is going to celebrate its Republic Day. My heartfelt greetings to one and all on the eve of Republic Day! Let us carry forward our country keeping in full focus the balance between our rights as well as our duties. With these best wishes, I thank you once again!

Nanu Bhasin