



International Solar Alliance Press Release

Let us together harness the infinite power of SURAJ – Stable, Unconditional, Renewable, Affordable, Justice: Piyush Goyal

Need for Gradual transformation of Oil & Gas companies into energy companies to deploy cleaner energy: Dharmendra Pradhan

NEW DELHI, 09 September 2020: Mr Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry, Govt of India yesterday said that solar energy and new technologies will certainly power our tomorrow to make the world a cleaner and better place for living.

Addressing the valedictory session of ‘First World Solar Technology Summit’, organized by ISA with FICCI as the Convenor for the Global Leadership Task Force of Corporates on Innovation, Mr Goyal said, “Sun is the resource of today for the power of tomorrow. Let us all join hands together to harness the infinite power of the SURAJ (Stable, Unconditional, Renewable, Affordable, and Justice).”

Mr Goyal added that going forward, we will have no choice but to be pure in our sources of energy and to be sure that we all participate in making this future happen and secure a better future for tomorrow.

Highlighting India’s potential in solar energy, Mr Goyal said, “I envisage India, which has a demonstrated capability to go up to 745 GW of solar energy alone, will be providing power to other parts of the world.”

“I see an interconnected grid across the world. I visualize a world grid with transmission lines crossing oceans, such that we can transmit energy throughout the world,” Mr Goyal emphasized.

He further said that to augment India’s clean energy requirement, all government departments do not work in silos but collectively. “The best part about India’s own engagement with clean energy is that we are working with a collective mindset, breaking all departmental silos. We work to support each other to finally achieve a cleaner future,” added Mr Goyal.

Mr Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Govt of India said that no one can predict how the energy system of the future will look and operate but it will be unprecedented by renewables. “International cooperation is the key driver to make this a reality,” he added.

Mr Pradhan said that COVID-19 presents another opportunity to design a new and faster transition to a low carbon future. ISA is well-positioned to drive this process. “We have made significant progress towards meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 on delivering energy access.”

The energy transition is irreversible, and it moved with a renewed vigor during COVID and beyond. The biggest game-changer in our drive to bring about energy sustainability will be through the rapid development of natural gas in our energy base. We plan to increase its share in our energy mix from 6 percent currently to 15 percent by 2030, he added.

Mr Pradhan also said that there is a need to end the energy poverty in India and for this it is imperative to gradually transform the Indian oil and gas companies into energy companies with a vision to deploy cleaner energy, including solar power.

Mr Suresh Prabhu, Prime Minister’s Sherpa to the G7 and G20 via a video message said, “Solar energy if harnessed properly, can meet each and everybody’s demand globally.” He added that technology can transform the solar energy sector globally in a big way. He also urged all stakeholders to work towards making sure that how solar power can be harnessed in a better way.

Mr Poasi Mattaele Tei, Minister for Meteorology, Energy, Information Management, Environment, Climate Change & Communications of Tonga & Vice President, ISA Assembly (Asia Pacific) said that this summit can provide a platform to find the future path. He said that if we continue to reduce cost then solar energy is most sustainable and can replace dependence on costly fossil fuels.

Eng Khairy Abdelraman Ahmed, Minister of Energy and Mining, Republic of Sudan said that Sudan has the advantage of its unique natural resources and solar energy will help bring the desired change. He said that the government is giving impetus to the renewable energy sector and a 2,500 MW solar energy plan has been included in the master plan.

Mr Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt of India said that it is technology that has driven down the cost of producing solar energy and making it affordable and competitive to conventional forms of energy. “It is technology that will enable further scaling up of solar energy production, diversification of decentralized solar solutions and integration of solar energy to the grid,” he added.

Mr Sanjiv Nandan Sahai, Secretary, Ministry of Power, Govt of India said that the three PSUs- REC, NTPC, and PWC are ISAs Corporate Partners and are working to implement the ISAs programs.

Mr Rahul Chhabra, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India said that the government of India has been working in fulfilling the vision of PM Narendra Modi of One Sun, One World, One Grid. “For India to replicate its global solar leadership by encouraging the phased development of the single, globally-connected electricity grid, to leverage the multiple benefits of lower renewable energy costs is important,” he noted.

Dr Sangita Reddy, President, FICCI said, “We can now see the adoption of solar power increasingly not just for its benefit to the environment but also because it is sustainable and cost-effective.” She further said that flexible and innovative financing will help enhance the commitment in the field of solar energy.

Mr Dave Turk, Acting Deputy Executive Director and Head, Strategic Initiatives Office, International Energy Agency (IEA), France said that the lack of policy certainty remains a barrier in too many countries and we are working on it. Today our world has an opportunity to set our global energy systems on a sustainable and secure method to benefit everyone and work on a sustainable recovery process during COVID, he added.

Ms Gauri Singh, Deputy Director General, International Renewable Energy Agency, UAE said that the pandemic along the economic crisis has given us a trailer of what the climate crisis could be like. “Initiatives like One Sun, One World, One Grid can truly fuel energy transformation. Investments in energy to keep global warming below 2 degree brings immediate job creation benefits, a much-needed boost in these times of economic uncertainty,” she added.

Mr Upendra Tripathy, Director General, ISA said that the Summit has given us new opportunities and shown the magnitude of changes that will come. He further thanked Minister Mr Dharmendra Pradhan for announcing that 5 PSUs will be joining ISA’s Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (ISA-CSCA) as Corporate Partners and contributing US\$ 5 million to ISA.

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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