France to host the 8th AgriVoltaics World Conference in 2027

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News

The 7th AgriVoltaics World Conference, hosted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 21–23 Oct 2026 (theme 'Powering the Global South'), concluded on 23 Oct. At the closing ceremony, hosting of the 8th edition in 2027 was formally handed over to France; the city and dates are yet to be announced. The Indo-German Cooperation on Agrivoltaics project (Germany's International Climate Initiative – IKI) supported the conference.

Key facts

8th edition	2027 – France (city, dates not yet announced)
7th edition	21–23 Oct 2026 – Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi; MNRE
Theme (2026)	Powering the Global South
First edition	14–16 Oct 2020 – Perpignan, France (online due to COVID); INRAE + Fraunhofer ISE, Germany
Support	Indo-German Cooperation on Agrivoltaics (IKI); ISA DG Ashish Khanna at closing

Background

- History: the conference series began in 2020 at Perpignan, France (online), organised by the French agricultural research institute INRAE and Germany's Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (ISE). The 2027 edition thus returns to France.
- Science: generation of voltage/current when light falls on a material is the 'photovoltaic effect' – discovered in 1839 by French physicist Edmond Becquerel. Einstein won the 1921 Nobel Prize for explaining the photoelectric effect.
- France – climate: the Paris Agreement was adopted on 12 Dec 2015 at the 21st Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC (COP21, Paris) and entered into force on 4 Nov 2016; it aims to keep warming well below 2°C, preferably 1.5°C; countries submit Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- French settlements in India: Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam – de facto transfer to India on 1 Nov 1954; treaty of 28 May 1956; de jure cession with exchange of ratifications on 16 Aug 1962.

Tamil Nadu link: Puducherry and Karaikal are French-linked enclaves surrounded by Tamil Nadu. Auroville, the international township mostly in Viluppuram district (partly in Puducherry), was founded on 28 Feb 1968 by French-born Mirra Alfassa ('The Mother'); Auroville Foundation Act 1988. Tharangambadi (Tranquebar, Mayiladuthurai district) was a Danish – not French – settlement.

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