The Bahamas joins the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as its 116th member

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News

The Bahamas, a Caribbean island nation, handed over its instrument of ratification of the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in New Delhi on 3 Nov 2026, on the sidelines of the 9th ISA Assembly. Bahamas High Commissioner to India P. Nicholas Symonette Jr. handed it to P.S. Gangadhar, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and head of the ISA Depositary. With this the Bahamas became the ISA's 116th member. The Bahamas Foreign Ministry said it will help expand solar power and battery storage and cut dependence on imported fuel.

Key facts

Date / place	3 Nov 2026 – New Delhi, on the sidelines of the 9th ISA Assembly
Handover	High Commissioner P. Nicholas Symonette Jr. → MEA Joint Secretary P.S. Gangadhar (ISA Depositary)
Status	ISA's 116th member country
ISA launch	30 Nov 2015 – Paris, COP21; India (Modi) – France (Hollande)
Framework Agreement	Opened for signature 15 Nov 2016 – Marrakesh (COP22); in force 6 Dec 2017; Depositary – Government of India (Art. XIV)

HQ	Gurugram (Haryana) – National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) campus

Background

- ISA – legal status: the Framework Agreement enters into force on the 30th day after the 15th ratification (Article XIII). Guinea became the 15th on 6 Nov 2017, so the ISA became a treaty-based international body on 6 Dec 2017. The Government of India is the Depositary – so new members lodge their instruments with India's Ministry of External Affairs. An 'Assembly', with one vote per member, meets every year.
- The Bahamas – geography: an archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean, south-east of Florida (USA) and north of Cuba. Capital Nassau (on New Providence island). The Tropic of Cancer passes through the Exuma islands. Currency – the Bahamian dollar.
- The Bahamas – history and polity: most scholars believe Columbus first landed in the 'New World' on San Salvador island in the Bahamas on 12 Oct 1492. Independence from Britain in 1973 (self-government in 1964); the British monarch is head of state (through a Governor-General). Member of the Commonwealth and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM, since 1983).
- Small islands and solar: Caribbean and Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) depend on imported diesel, so power is costly, and hurricanes damage their grids. Solar plus battery storage gives them energy security. Under an amendment adopted at the first ISA Assembly in 2018, in force from 15 July 2020, all UN member states can join the ISA.

Tamil Nadu link: there is no direct Tamil Nadu link. Related fact: since the 2024 power-sector restructuring, solar, wind and hydro projects in Tamil Nadu are handled by the 'Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Ltd' (TNGECL).

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