

US signs in, India-backed solar initiative gets a boost

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GLASGOW: In what may be a major boost to increasing the footprint of solar power globally, the US on Wednesday joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA), launched and promoted by India and France, as its 101st member country, giving significant heft to the initiative.

Formal joining through signing of the framework agreement of the ISA happened during a meeting between India's environment minister Bhupendra Patel and the US special presidential envoy for climate John Kerry at India's delegation office here at the COP26 venue.

The meeting took place amid unresolved key issue of finance on table at the COP in the wake of the release of the first draft text. It is learnt that

both Patel and Kerry discussed the issue in detail where the latter spoke about contribution of the US and other developed nations towards climate finance and promised to scale it up further as announced

ISA was initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former French President Francois Hollande in 2015. The US entry will also strengthen ISA's recent move to go global through transnational global green grid initiative (GGI) — One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) — which was launched by Modi and his UK counterpart Boris Johnson during the leaders' summit here at COP26 on November 2.

Signing the framework agreement, Kerry, said, "It has long been coming, and we are happy to join the International Solar Alliance, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the lead in making. We worked out the details and this is a process we are pleased to be a part of. This will be an important contribution to more rapid deployment of solar globally. It will be particularly important for developing countries."