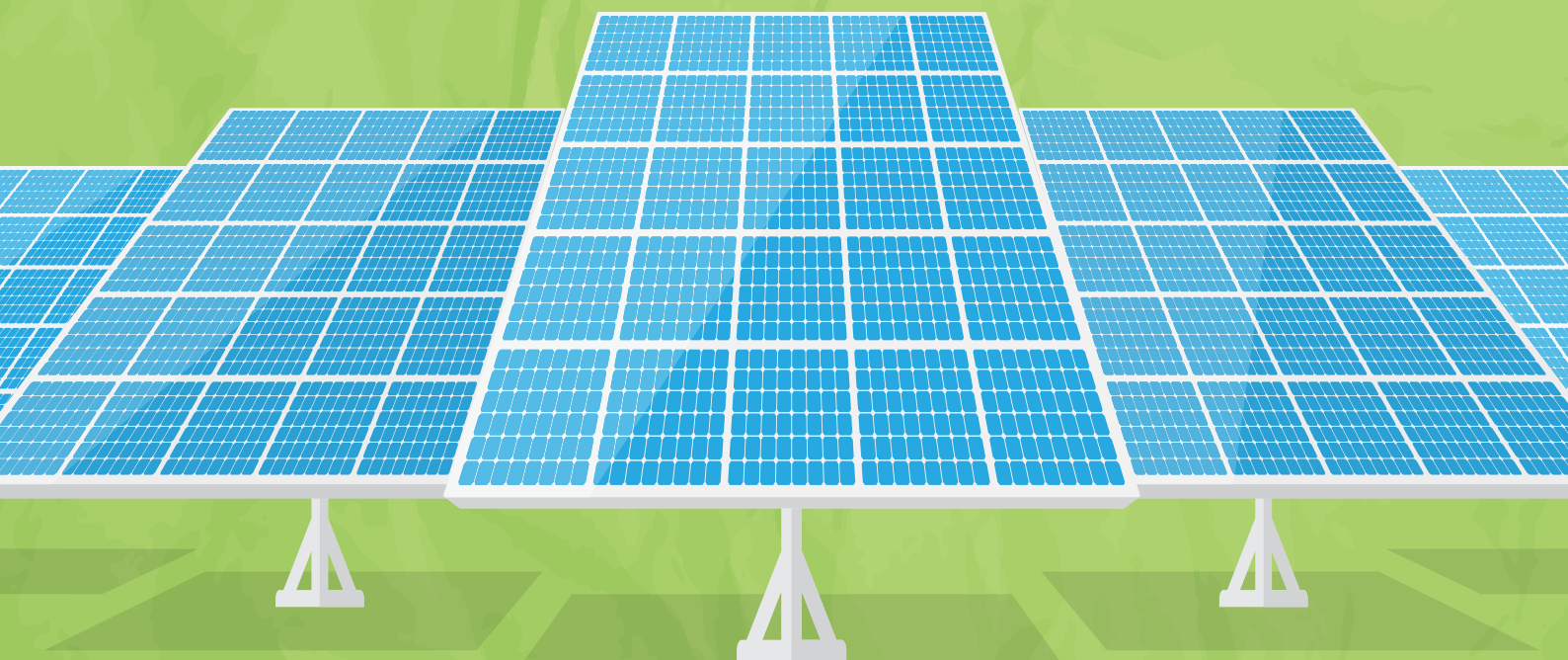


INDIA'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE SOLAR ENERGY SECTOR

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The SFC concept is closely linked with India's leadership role in the solar energy sector. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an inter-governmental treaty-based alliance, an idea that was conceived by India in 2015. It is a coalition of solar-rich countries to promote investment in solar energy and cooperate in research and development on solar energy technologies. The concept of ISA is an effort by India to play a greater role in the global climate governance. It also reiterates India's commitment to its climate goals. The ISA aims to mobilise more than \$1,000 billion by 2030 and install 1000 GW of solar power capacity globally.

ISA has signed joint financial declarations with international institutions such as the Asian Development Bank, Green Climate Fund, and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.¹¹ It also plans to develop insurance for the various risks involved in solar projects by aggregating demand for finance and insurance of the member countries of the ISA. The ISA will also collaborate in research with member countries and has announced the solar technology mission as part of its 10-point action plan.¹² In 2020, ISA released the first of what they promise to be an annual 'Ease of Doing Solar' report that will identify countries that perform well in the solar energy sector. The report compares 80 member countries across various parameters such as macroeconomy, policy enablers, technological feasibility, power market maturity, infrastructure, financing, and energy imperatives. The report is expected to be a reference for financial investors seeking to take part in the solar sector. Thus, ISA can play an important role in closing the information gap that investors face and facilitate greater investments towards the sector.

Solar energy has been central to India's transition to clean energy and it has met with success in implementing solar energy projects domestically. India has set ambitious targets and has been successful in increasing the share of solar energy in the country's renewable energy mix. Solar parks have attracted private sector participation, and India is today home to the two largest ultra-mega solar parks in the world; they continue to attract foreign capital.¹³ Specialised bodies such as the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)