GENERAL SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT 21 October 2026

New National Policy on Agrivoltaics to Boost Farmers' Income

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi announced the upcoming policy during the Agrivoltaics World Conference 2026 in New Delhi.

Agrivoltaics is an innovative practice that combines agricultural crop cultivation and solar photovoltaic energy generation on the same piece of land.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy **Pralhad Joshi** stated that around 30 per cent of India's **160 million hectares** of cropland is suitable for agrivoltaics.
- Approximately **4 acres** of land are required to install **1 MW** of solar capacity under this framework.
- About **85 per cent** of total farmers in India are small and marginal, making dual land-use systems crucial for economic viability.
- States like **Maharashtra**, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh account for nearly **50 per cent** of India's agrivoltaic potential.
- The policy aims to simultaneously address land availability constraints and enhance **farmers' income** through clean energy generation.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

India surpassed its **non-fossil electricity** capacity target well ahead of the **2030** Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) timeline.

PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) scheme was launched in **2019** to promote solar farming and grid-connected solar power plants.

National Solar Mission was launched in **January 2010** as part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

Article 48A of the Indian Constitution directs the State to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife.

International Solar Alliance (ISA) is headquartered at Gurugram, Haryana, established jointly by India and France in **2015**.

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is the nodal central ministry responsible for research, development, and scaling of renewable energy sources in India.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Agrivoltaics combines agricultural crop cultivation and solar energy generation on the same land to enhance farmers' income.

Syllabus Relevance: Highly relevant for TNPSC Unit 1 (General Science - Agriculture and Energy) and Unit 2 (Current Events - National Policies).

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