



Renewable Energy Key to Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Rural Prosperity: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi

Union Minister Joshi Addresses Inter-Ministerial Dialogue on Scaling Renewable Energy in Agrifood Systems at Abu Dhabi, UAE

Decentralised Renewable Energy is Transforming Farmers from Annadata to Urjadata : Pralhad Joshi

India Highlights PM-KUSUM and PM Surya Ghar for Clean Energy Integration in Agrifood Value Chains

Over 1.1 million Agriculture Pumps Solarised under PM-KUSUM

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Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi today underscored India's commitment to integrating renewable energy with agriculture and food systems to enhance energy security, climate resilience and rural livelihoods, while addressing the Inter-ministerial Dialogue on Scaling Renewable Energy in Agrifood Systems, jointly convened by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Participated in the Inter-ministerial Dialogue on Scaling Renewable Energy in Agrifood Systems, convened by @IRENA and @FAO.

Shared India's perspective as a nation of more than 1.4 billion people, where food security, energy access and rural livelihoods are deeply interconnected.... pic.twitter.com/eGwojA19tS

— Pralhad Joshi (@JoshiPralhad) January 12, 2026

Addressing the gathering, the Union Minister stated that when India speaks on global platforms, it represents nearly one-sixth of humanity and some of the world's largest food security programmes, alongside one of the fastest-growing renewable energy markets. Emphasising India's agrarian ethos, he noted that farmers, revered as Annadata, are increasingly becoming Urjadata, providers of both food and clean energy, through the expansion of distributed renewable energy.



The Minister highlighted that renewable energy offers a unifying solution to the multidimensional global challenge of delivering energy access, climate action, agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods simultaneously. India's approach, he said, is rooted in ambition matched with implementation, supported by robust policies, decentralised action, inclusive design and strong inter-ministerial coordination.

Detailing flagship initiatives, Shri Joshi referred to the PM-KUSUM scheme, launched in 2019, which integrates solar energy into agriculture through standalone solar pumps, solarisation of grid-connected pumps and decentralised solar power plants. As of late 2025, nearly one million standalone solar pumps have been installed and over 1.1 million grid-connected pumps solarised, contributing more than 10,200 MW of installed capacity. The scheme, he added, has reduced dependence on diesel, stabilised irrigation costs, lowered emissions and shifted fiscal support from recurring subsidies to long-term asset-based investments.



On unlocking private investment, Shri Joshi noted that policy consistency and aggregation of agricultural demand through national schemes have improved scale, bankability and commercial viability. Initiatives such as surplus solar power sale by farmers, the National Bioenergy Programme for converting agricultural residues into energy, and the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana for rooftop solar have created new income streams, reduced imports and strengthened rural energy security.

Looking ahead, the Union Minister announced that India is preparing to roll out PM-KUSUM 2.0, with a renewed focus on decentralised solar solutions and agri-photovoltaics (agri-PV), which allow agriculture and solar power generation to coexist. Well-designed agri-PV systems, he said, can maintain or enhance crop yields, moderate micro-climates, generate clean electricity and diversify farmer incomes.

Concluding his address, Shri Joshi reaffirmed India's readiness to deepen partnerships and scale solutions, noting that with abundant sunshine and over 146 million small landholdings, the country is well positioned to emerge as a global leader in renewable energy-enabled agrifood systems.

Had a forward-looking meeting with Ms. @elinrs, Director General, International Development Cooperation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, on the sidelines of #IRENA16A in Abu Dhabi. The exchange focused on technical cooperation to scale geothermal energy in India as part... pic.twitter.com/msEYrZPLin

— Pralhad Joshi (@JoshiPralhad) January 12, 2026

On the sidelines of the 16th Assembly of IRENA, Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi held a forward-looking meeting with Ms. Elín Rós, Director General, International Development Cooperation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland. The discussions focused on strengthening technical cooperation to scale geothermal energy deployment in India as part of its clean energy transition.

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In another key bilateral engagement on the sidelines of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Shri Pralhad Joshi held a constructive meeting with Ms. Ditte Juul Jorgenson, Director-General for Energy at the **European Commission**. The discussions reviewed the steady deepening of the India–European Union Clean Energy and Climate Partnership, with a shared emphasis on delivering tangible outcomes on the ground.

Shri Pralhad Joshi also held a productive discussion with H.E. Mohammed Hassan Al Suwaidi, Minister of Investment of the United Arab Emirates, on strengthening India–UAE cooperation in renewable energy and clean infrastructure. The interaction reaffirmed the strong momentum in bilateral investment partnerships, anchored in India's rapid scale-up of non-fossil fuel capacity, an expanding domestic manufacturing ecosystem, and a stable and predictable policy environment conducive to long-term investments.

Visited the Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi, it stands as a powerful symbol of cultural dialogue and shared human heritage. It was heartening to see India's rich artistic traditions represented through curated artworks and exhibitions, celebrating India's civilisational depth and... pic.twitter.com/Ga6LWy4aYo

— Pralhad Joshi (@JoshiPralhad) January 11, 2026

Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Shri Pralhad Joshi also visited the Louvre museum in Abu Dhabi, describing it as a powerful symbol of cultural dialogue and shared human heritage. The Union Minister noted with appreciation the presence of India's rich artistic traditions showcased through curated artworks and exhibitions at the museum, reflecting the country's deep civilisational legacy.

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