



Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas

# ESG, Carbon and Climate Change

Newsletter

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# How to read this newsletter

This newsletter is designed to provide a structured and practical perspective on the evolving ESG, carbon and climate change landscape. As regulatory frameworks continue to mature, market practices evolve and enforcement actions intensify, ESG considerations are increasingly shaping how businesses operate, transact and manage risk.

Rather than presenting developments in isolation, this publication brings together regulatory updates, market activity and dispute trends to offer a connected view of the legal and commercial environment. The objective is not only to inform, but to help readers understand the direction of change and its implications for strategy, compliance and decision-making.

The publication is organised into three core sections:



## [Regulatory and Policy Developments](#) 3

Covers key legislative, regulatory and policy updates, highlighting emerging frameworks and compliance expectations shaping business and investment decisions.



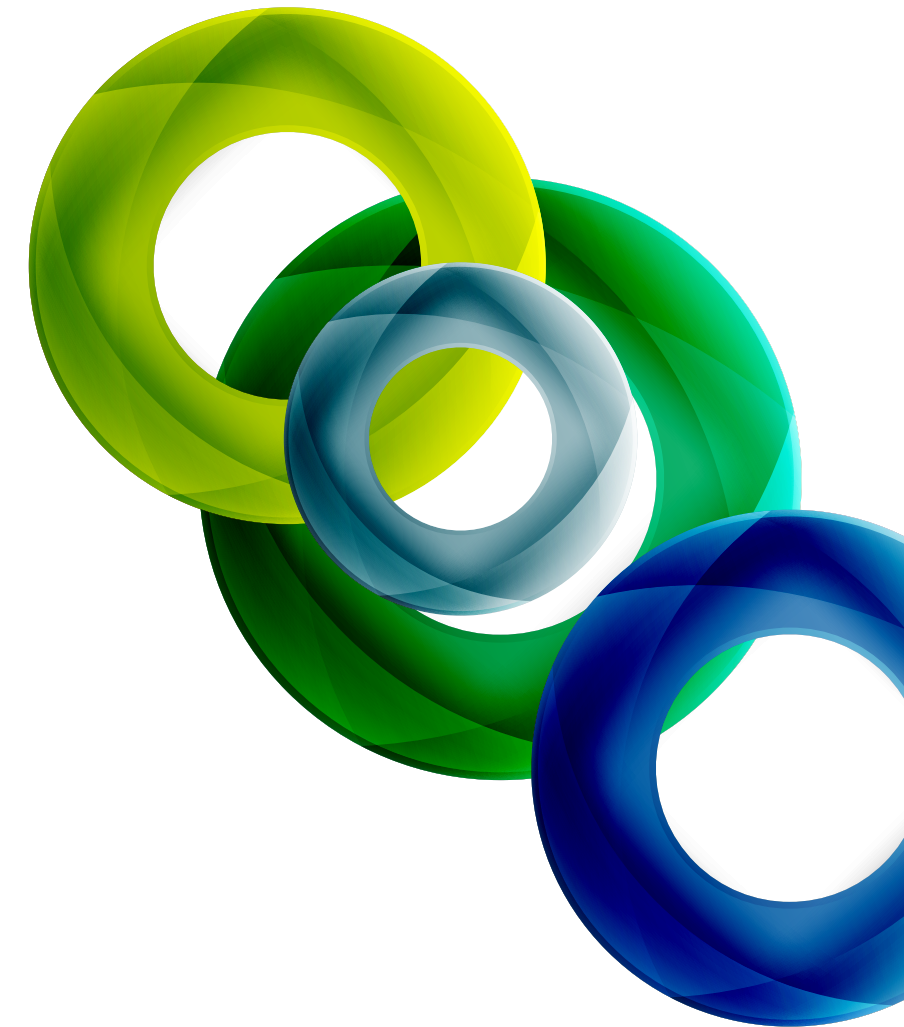
## [Transactions and Market Activity](#) 9

Examines how ESG and climate considerations are influencing corporate transactions, financing structures and market behaviour, with a focus on practical implications for deal-making.



## [Dispute Resolution and Enforcement Trends](#) 20

Tracks significant judicial and enforcement developments, reflecting the expanding landscape of ESG-related liability, litigation and regulatory action.





# Regulatory and Policy Developments



# Regulatory and Policy Developments

## **SEBI has issued Advisory on AI-Driven Cybersecurity Threats; 05 May 2026**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (“SEBI”) has issued an advisory alerting regulated entities to cybersecurity risks arising from advanced AI-powered vulnerability detection tools, including Claude Mythos. These tools can identify system vulnerabilities potential exploitation, data confidentiality breaches, and unreliable outputs across the securities ecosystem. In response, SEBI has constituted a dedicated task force, *cyber-suraksha.ai* comprising representatives from Market Infrastructure Institutions (“MIIs”), Qualified Registrars and Transfer Agents (“QRTAs”), Qualified Registered Entities (“QREs”), and other key stakeholders.

## **Ministry of Labour and Employment has notified the Industrial Relations (Central) Rules, 2026 to operationalise the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; 08 May 2026**

On 08 May 2026, the Ministry of Labour and Employment notified the Industrial Relations (Central) Rules, 2026, operationalising the Industrial Relations Code, 2020 and replacing key earlier rules. The Rules establish procedures for industrial dispute settlement, Works and Grievance Committees, negotiating-union recognition by secret ballot, Model Standing Orders, conciliation, arbitration, tribunal, strike and lockout notices, retrenchment, lay-off, closure, and video-conference hearings.

## **Cabinet has approved Rs. 37,500 Crore Scheme for Coal/Lignite Gasification; 13 May 2026**

The Union Cabinet has approved a Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects with a financial outlay of Rs. 37,500

Crore, targeting gasification of approximately 75 Million Tonnes of coal/lignite and advancing the national goal of gasifying 100 Million Tonnes by 2030. A financial incentive of up to 20% of plant and machinery cost will be provided to new surface gasification projects selected through competitive bidding, with individual project incentives capped at Rs. 5,000 Crore. The initiative is expected to mobilize Rs. 2.5–3.0 lakh crore in investment, generate around 50,000 jobs across 25 projects, and reduce import dependence on LNG, urea, ammonia, and methanol.

## **CBIC has introduced System-Based Mechanism for Hazardous Cargo Clearance; 14 May 2026**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (“CBIC”), through Circular No. 24/2026-Customs dated May 14, 2026, has introduced a system-based mechanism for identification and expedited clearance of hazardous cargo including corrosive chemicals Triflic Acid, Potassium Hydroxide, Acetonitrile, N-Propanol, N-Hexane etc., imported into India. Under the new framework, importers must mandatorily declare hazardous cargo at the item level while filing Bills of Entry. The Customs automated system will flag such consignments during assessment, examination, enabling priority processing. Effective from July 1, 2026.

## **SEBI has released a master circular on Surveillance of Securities Market; 15 May 2026**

SEBI has issued a Master Circular consolidating the surveillance framework for market participants and Market Infrastructure Institutions. It covers monitoring of unauthenticated market-related news shared by SEBI-registered intermediaries through social media, messaging platforms,

VoIP, blogs, chat forums and e-mail, requiring internal codes, supervisory controls, access restrictions, record maintenance and Compliance Officer approval. It also sets financial disincentives for surveillance lapses by exchanges, clearing corporations and depositories, payable to SEBI-IPEF, and consolidates insider trading disclosure and reporting requirements, including code of conduct violations and system-driven disclosures.

## **Administrative approval for Small Hydro Power Development Scheme; 15 May 2026**

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (“MNRE”) has issued administrative approval for the Small Hydro Power (“SHP”) Development Scheme, approved by the Government of India on 18 March 2026, for promoting hydroelectric projects of 1 MW to 25 MW capacity. The scheme has a financial outlay of ₹2,584.60 crore for FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31, with SECI designated as the National Programme Implementing Agency. It aims to add approximately 1,500 MW of SHP capacity, provide Central Financial Assistance, reduce tariffs, support Detailed Project Reports (“DPR”) preparation and technical institutions, generate employment, and avoid around 4.3 million tonnes of Carbon Dioxide (“CO<sub>2</sub>”) emissions annually.

## **Delegation of Powers under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 with respect to Solid Waste Management Rules; 18 May 2026**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (“MoEFCC”), vide notification dated 18 May 2026, has delegated the Central Government’s powers under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to all



## REGULATORY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

District Collectors across India. The delegation has been issued under Section 23 of the Act, pursuant to the Supreme Court’s directions dated 5 May 2026 in Civil Appeal No. 6174 of 2023, in relation to solid waste management. The delegated powers will remain valid for one year from publication and are limited to supervising, administering and implementing the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 (“**SWM Rules, 2026**”) within the respective jurisdictional limits of District Collectors.

### **The extension of EC Validity for Ports to 15+5 Years; 20 May 2026**

MoEFCC has issued a draft notification on 20 May 2026 proposing to amend the Environment Impact Assessment (“**EIA**”) Notification, 2006 to extend the Environmental Clearance (“**EC**”) validity for Ports and Harbors from 10+1 years to 15+5 years. Currently, ECs for such projects are valid for 10 years, extendable by just 1 year. The proposed change would allow an initial validity of 15 years, extendable by up to 5 years, subject to recommendation by the Expert Advisory Committee (“**EAC**”) and State Expert Appraisal Committee (“**SEAC**”). The reason behind it is port projects which generally have long gestation periods and undergo phased development, making the existing timeline insufficient. Both the SEAC and EAC examined the matter and recommended this rationalization.

### **Revised Draft Guidelines on MSW Incineration-Based Waste-to-Energy Plants; 20 May 2026**

Central Pollution Control Board (“**CPCB**”) has issued revised draft guidelines for Municipal Solid Waste (“**MSW**”) incineration-based Waste to Energy (“**WtE**”) plants. Aligned with the SWM Rules, 2026, they

apply to all existing, under-construction and proposed plants in India, irrespective of technology or capacity, and classify them under CPCB’s Blue Category. Waste below 1,500 kcal/kg cannot be incinerated and requires further segregation. The guidelines prescribe emission, leachate, ash-management, buffer-zone, green-belt, odour-control and leachate management, with compliance by Urban Local Bodies, Rural Local Bodies, State Pollution Control Board (“**SPCBs**”) /Pollution Control Committees (“**PCCs.**”)

### **Constitution of Central Remediation Committee for Management of Contaminated Sites; 25 May 2026**

MoEFCC, through an Office Order dated 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026 constituted the Central Remediation Committee under Rule 10(1) of the Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025. The Committee has been established to oversee the implementation of the Rules, review remediation activities, monitor contaminated sites, supervise the centralized online portal, and provide recommendations on environmental compensation and fund utilization. It is required to meet at least once every six months and submit annual reports to Ministry.

### **No Blanket Extension of Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (“ALMM”) List-II Beyond 1 June 2026; 25 May 2026**

MNRE, vide office memorandum dated 25 May 2026, clarified that no blanket extension will be granted for the mandatory applicability of ALMM List-II beyond 1 June 2026. Net-Metering and Open Access renewable

energy projects commissioned on or after this date must source solar PV modules from ALMM List-I and solar PV cells from ALMM List-II. However, case-by-case extensions may be considered for projects where 100% modules were installed before 1 June 2026, or where developers had taken “effective steps”, including land possession, financial closure, connectivity approval, electrical approvals and substantial module installation.

### **Draft Amendment to Annexure II of the CRZ Notification, 2019: Storage of LAB, N-Paraffin and CBFS; 26 May 2026**

MoEFCC has issued a draft amendment to Annexure II of the Coastal Regulation Zone (“**CRZ**”) Notification, 2019, proposing to permit the receipt and storage of Linear Alkyl Benzene , N-Paraffin and Carbon Black Feedstock in CRZ areas, excluding CRZ-IA. The proposal follows representations from State Coastal Zone Management Authorities and recommendations of the relevant Expert Appraisal Committees (“**EAC**”) and National Coastal Zone Management Authority (“**NCZMA**”).

### **Draft Amendment to Annexure II of the ICRZ Notification, 2019: Storage of LAB, N-Paraffin and CBFS; 26 May 2026**

MoEFCC has issued a draft amendment to Annexure II of the Island Coastal Regulation Zone (“**ICRZ**”) Notification, 2019, proposing to permit the receipt and storage of Linear Alkyl Benzene, N-Paraffin and Carbon Black Feedstock in island CRZ areas, excluding CRZ-IA. The proposed amendment mirrors the corresponding CRZ amendment and follows recommendations from the relevant EAC and NCZMA.



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**MoEFCC uploads draft Eco-Sensitive Zone (“ESZ”) notifications for Sohelwa Wildlife Sanctuary, UP, Chimmony Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala and Eravikulam National Park Kerala; 26 May 2026 and 02 June 2026**

MoEFCC has uploaded draft notifications declaring ESZs around Sohelwa Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh, Chimmony Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala and Eravikulam National Park, Kerala. They delineate ESZ boundaries and require Zonal Master Plans within two years, covering land use, water-source conservation, tourism, heritage protection, pollution control, waste management and traffic regulation. Activities are classified as prohibited, regulated or promoted, covering mining, industries, hotels, resource use, organic farming, agroforestry and rainwater harvesting. Forest, horticulture, agricultural, park and open-space conversion is barred.

**Ministry of Corporate Affairs (“MCA”) amends the Corporate Social Responsibility (“CSR”) Framework to enable Investments through Social Stock Exchange; 27 May 2026**

MCA has issued two amendments enabling Zero Coupon Zero Principal (“ZCZP”) instruments listed on the Social Stock Exchange (“SSE”) to qualify as CSR under the Companies Act, 2013. Notification G.S.R. 415(E) amends the Companies (CSR Policy Rules) 2014, permitting companies to allocate up to 10% of annual CSR expenditure to ZCZP instruments issued by eligible not-for-profit organisations on the SSE, exempting such projects from impact assessment. Funded projects must be completed within three financial years, with unspent amounts transferred to Schedule VII-approved funds on listing termination.

**Aadhaar Authentication under Direct Benefit Transfer under the Biogas Programme; 29 May 2026**

MNRE, vide notification dated 29 May 2026, has mandated Aadhaar authentication for beneficiaries and turnkey workers seeking benefits under the Biogas Programme. Issued under Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, the notification requires individuals to undergo Aadhaar authentication or furnish proof of Aadhaar possession. Persons without Aadhaar must apply for enrolment and may submit specified alternative identity documents. The notification also provides mechanisms for authentication failure, including One Time Password (“OTP”)-based authentication, Aadhaar Secure Quick Response (“QR”) Code verification and offline electronic Know your Customer (“e-KYC”). Provisions for availing benefits by Children have been stated as well.

**Ministry of Labour and Employment formally notified ₹15,000 per month as wage ceiling for Employee Provident Fund (“EPF”) coverage under the Code on Social Security, 2020; 29 May 2026**

On 29 May 2026, the Ministry of Labour and Employment issued a notification under Section 2(89) of the Code on Social Security, 2020, formally declaring ₹15,000 per month as the wage ceiling for the purposes of Chapter III (Employees’ Provident Fund). The ceiling standardises EPF coverage and contribution limits, facilitates accurate payroll structuring and compliance for employers, ensures social security coverage for lower-income employees, and defines limits on pensionable salary, while permitting flexibility for voluntary higher contributions subject to mutual consent.

**Bihar eliminates regulatory overlap in labour laws by repealing the Shops and Establishments Act, 2025 via ordinance; 01 June 2026**

On 1 June 2026, the Government of Bihar notified the Bihar Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Repeal) Ordinance, 2026, promulgated by the Governor under Article 213(1) of the Constitution. The ordinance repeals the Bihar Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2025, which had been enacted to regulate employment and service conditions in shops and establishments but created overlapping provisions following the enforcement of the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.

**Haryana commences the Smart Metering works; 02 June 2026**

The Ministry of Power has directed Haryana to expedite Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (“RDSS”) reforms, including smart metering, loss reduction and financial sustainability. Haryana will commence on-ground smart metering from 31 August 2026, with prepaid meters first for government consumers and high-load users, alongside automated government dues settlement and expansion of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

**Government of Haryana has proposed Rs. 100 Crore Green Climate Fund; 03 June 2026**

Forest and Environment Minister Rao Narbir Singh has announced the establishment of the Haryana Green Climate Resilient Fund with a seed provision of Rs. 100 crores in the 2026–27 Budget, marking a significant



## REGULATORY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

step toward climate resilience and environmental sustainability. He shared the development ahead of the State-level World Environment Day program in Gurugram on June 5, 2026, themed *“Inspired by Nature – For Climate, For Our Future.”* The proposed fund will support zero-emission vehicles, renewable energy, water conservation, urban greening, and climate-resilient agriculture. The state has also launched a mission-mode initiative to clean the 313-kilometre Yamuna stretch in Haryana by enhancing sewage treatment, curbing untreated discharge, and promoting groundwater recharge, with scientific treatment of all drain water targeted by 2026–27.

**Rollout of E85 Fuel across various Public Sector retail outlets; 05 June 2026**

On World Environment Day 2026, Union Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launched E85 fuel- a high-ethanol blend comprising 80–85% ethanol and 14–19% petrol, designed for Flex-Fuel Vehicles (“FFVs”) at an Indian Oil retail outlet in New Delhi. The rollout begins across 48 public sector Oil Marketing Companies (“OMC”) outlets, with plans to scale to 500 outlets by December 2026 and 5,000 by December 2027, targeting aggregate ethanol blending of nearly 26% by 2030–31. Priced approximately ₹20 per litre lower than conventional petrol, E85 can reduce lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by around 61% compared to petrol vehicles, with near-zero particulate matter emissions. India’s ethanol blending has risen from 1.53% in 2014 to 20% today (five years ahead of schedule), saving over ₹1.84 lakh crore in foreign exchange and substituting nearly 302 lakh metric tonnes of crude oil imports.

**Amendment to Ecomark Rules, 2024; 08 June 2026**

MoEFCC, vide draft notification G.S.R. 452(E) dated 8 June 2026, proposed amendments to the First Schedule under the Ecomark Rules, 2024, covering Paints, Varnishes and Powder Coatings; Batteries; Paper Products; Wood and Wood Substitute Products; Fire Extinguishers; and Coir and Coir Products. The amendments introduce several new requirements absent from the original 2024 Rules, including mandatory ISO 14001:2015 certification, Extended Producer Responsibility compliance (“EPR”), QR codes on product packaging, renewable energy usage mandates, Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (“PFAS”) prohibitions, Life Cycle Assessment (“LCA”) submissions, and quantified freshwater and electricity consumption limits. Notable additions include recycled lead targets for Batteries manufacturers, Online Continuous Effluent and Emission Monitoring Systems for Paper Products units, and rainwater harvesting for Coir and Coir Products units.

**CPCB has tightened the toxic effluent standards; 09 June 2026**

The Union Government of India, through the Environment (Protection) Second Amendment Rules, 2025, notified on 26 March 2025, introduced new environmental standards for standalone caustic soda plants using membrane cell technology. The notification mandates a laboratory-based fish survival bioassay test, requiring at least 90% fish survival after 96 hours in 100% wastewater, to assess combined effluent toxicity beyond individual chemical limits. The rules also prescribe limits for pH (6.5–8.5), chloride (250 mg/l), total suspended solids (100 mg/l), total dissolved solids (2,100 mg/l), water consumption (5 cubic metres per tonne), and wastewater generation (1 cubic metre per tonne). Testing must comply

with IS: 6582-1971 standards prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

**PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (“PM E-DRIVE”) Scheme; 17 June 2026**

The Ministry of Heavy Industries has notified e-ambulance incentives under PM E-DRIVE vide S.O. 3191(E), dated 17 June 2026. Eligible vehicles include Type-B Patient Transport Vehicles, Type-C Basic Life Support Ambulances and Type-D Advanced Life Support Ambulances under AIS-125 (Part 1). E-ambulances must comply with AIS-145, AIS-038 (Rev. 2), and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (“MoRTH”)/Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (“MoHFW”) ambulance standards. Incentives are capped at the lower of ₹30,000 per kWh or 35% of ex-factory price, with prescribed warranty, performance, efficiency and phased manufacturing requirements.

**Constitution of Chandigarh Environment Impact Assessment (“EIA”); 18 June 2026**

The Central Government has constituted the Union Territory Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority for Chandigarh, supported by a Union Territory Level Expert Appraisal Committee, to appraise and decide environmental clearance matters under the EIA framework. The objective is to ensure structured, expert-led review of projects, with decisions based on committee recommendations, and safeguards against conflicts of interest. The body will serve a three-year term and receive administrative support from the Chandigarh Administration.



## REGULATORY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

**Green Channel for Customs Clearance During Oil/HNS Spill Emergencies; 23 June 2026**

CBIC has issued Instruction No. 11/2026-Customs dated June 23, 2026, establishing a Green Channel mechanism for expeditious customs clearance of pollution response equipment and materials during oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (“HNS”) spill emergencies at sea. The mechanism, set up at the request of Coast Guard Headquarters, covers six designated locations across India including Mumbai, Chennai, Kochi, Paradip, Okha, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Each Customs Zone must designate a Nodal Officer (not below Additional/Joint Commissioner rank) for 24x7 coordination with the Indian Coast Guard, port authorities, and other stakeholders to ensure clearances.

**Chhattisgarh Compressed Biogas Policy, 2026; 23 June 2026**

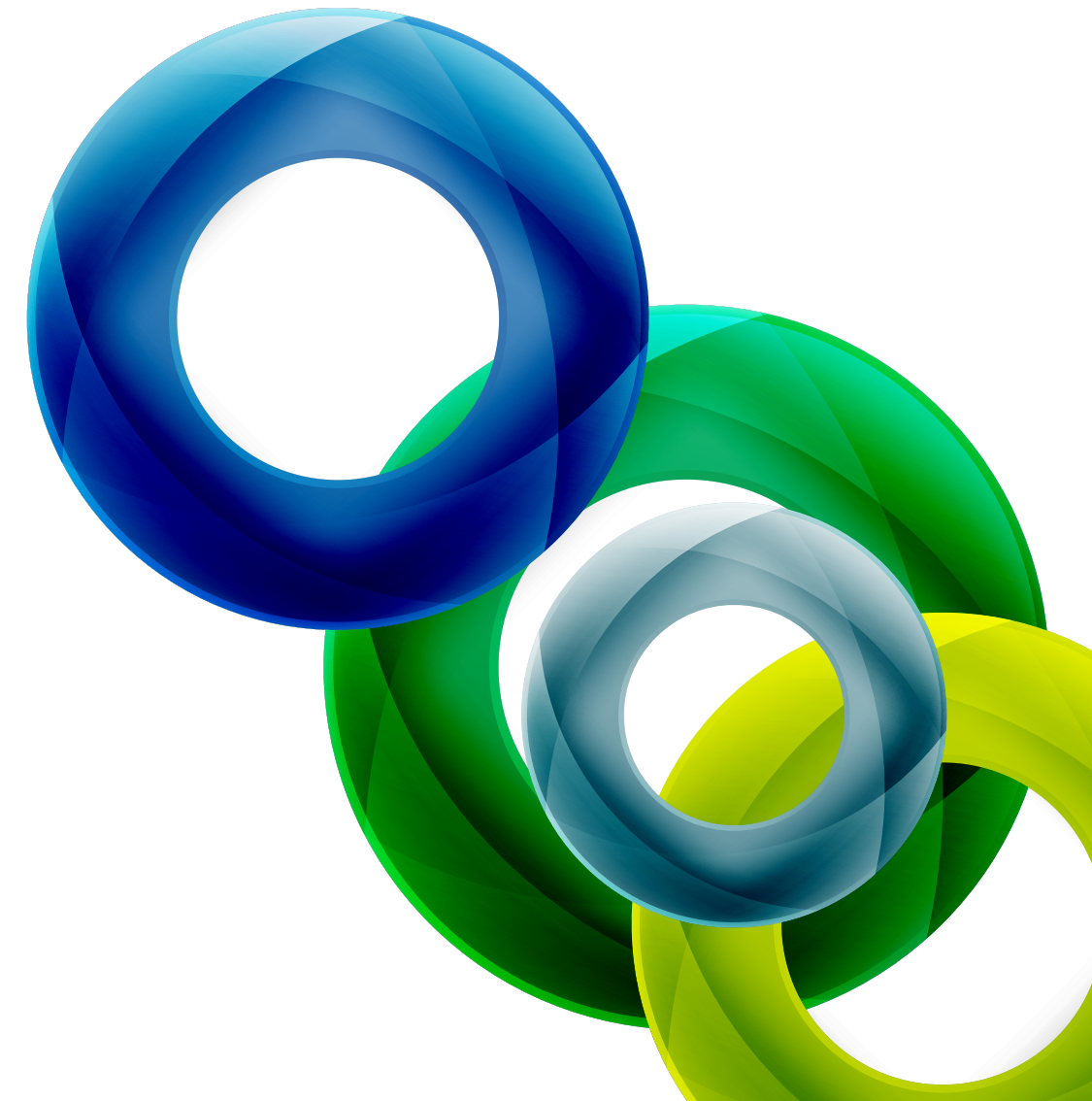
The Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved the Chhattisgarh Compressed Biogas Policy, 2026 to convert agricultural residue, cattle dung and other organic waste into compressed biogas. The policy seeks to use biodegradable resources to produce a renewable fuels that can substitute fossil fuels in transport and industry. The State estimates potential production of nearly 5 lakh tonnes of compressed biogas annually through effective utilisation of biomass and organic waste. The policy is expected to support farmers’ income, rural employment, entrepreneurship, crop residue management and circular economy objectives. It also offers capital support, infrastructure assistance, facilitation of statutory approvals and interest subsidies, with the Chhattisgarh Biofuel Development Authority designated as the nodal agency.

**MNRE has introduced the revised guidelines for installing wind turbine models; 25 June 2026**

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has amended its revised guidelines for installing prototype wind turbine models, originally issued on 12 June 2025. Each prototype model remains limited to a maximum of three turbines for synchronisation or commissioning, but scheduled power from such models may now be purchased by DISCOMs or other entities at a mutually agreed tariff, or a tariff regulated by CERC or the relevant SERC. The amendment also replaces the earlier RLMM-linked restriction: prototype wind turbines cannot be installed until the model is included in the ALMM (Wind) list.

**NITI Aayog’s Working paper on Girls and Women at the Centre: Advancing Non-Traditional Livelihoods in India**

NITI Aayog’s June 2026 working paper with EmPower highlights women’s participation in non-traditional livelihoods and rising female labour force participation. It recommends early career counselling, gender-sensitive curricula, safe infrastructure, industry-linked training, apprenticeships, placements and mentoring to improve women’s access to technical, market-relevant and future-ready skills.





# Transactions and Market Activity





# Transactions and Market Activity

## INDIA UPDATES

### Common EPR portal for integration of compliance across sectors; 4 May 2026

The Environment Ministry is developing a common Extended Producer Responsibility (“EPR”) portal to integrate compliance across seven waste sectors, including plastics, electronic waste, batteries and tyres. CPCB noted a shift to recycling based obligations under the E-Waste Management Rules, 2022. Stakeholders flagged fragmented governance, weak enforcement, limited informal sector integration and need for public data access.

### New standards proposed by NITI Aayog for recovered carbon black and pyrolysis oil; 6 May 2026

NITI Aayog proposed regulatory reforms for waste tyre recycling, including national standards for Tyre Pyrolysis Oil and recovered Carbon Black, separate HSN codes for waste tyres and crumb rubber, GST reduction from 18% to 5% on recycled tyre products, continuous emission monitoring for pyrolysis units and formalisation of informal recyclers through Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (“MSME”) Udyam Assist. The proposals address fragmentation, weak traceability, quality gaps and low value recovery despite India’s FY2024–25 tyre recycling volumes.

### PM MITRA Park at Warangal inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi; 10 May 2026

PM MITRA Park at Warangal, Telangana, developed with a project cost of ₹1,695.54 crore. The park operationalises the Government’s “Farm to

Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign” vision and is intended to support textile manufacturing, logistics connectivity and employment generation. It includes sustainability-linked infrastructure such as a Common Effluent Treatment Plant with Zero Liquid Discharge technology and a proposed 10 MW solar power plant.

### National Conference held to enable nationwide Electric Vehicle (“EV”) Charging Infrastructure; 12 May 2026

Ministry of Heavy Industries (“MHI”) organised a national conference in Bengaluru to accelerate deployment of EV public charging infrastructure under the PM E-DRIVE Scheme. The Government approved Karnataka’s proposal for 1,243 EV chargers with an outlay of ₹123.26 crore, taking total approved EV charging proposals to ₹503.86 crore for 4,874 chargers across States and Central Public Sector Enterprise. The scheme has a total outlay of ₹10,900 crore, including ₹2,000 crore for EV public charging infrastructure and ₹780 crore for modernisation of vehicle testing agencies.

### The unprecedented scale of forest fires in Arunachal Pradesh Forest Fires raises Ecological and Regulatory Concerns; 13 May 2026

Arunachal Pradesh recorded 323 forest fire incidents between January and late April 2026, driven by an unusually prolonged dry spell with little to no rainfall since November 2025. The worst-affected districts were Roing, Pasighat, and Namsai, which saw fires burn continuously for days, threatening military installations, infrastructure, and villages. Approximately 36 hectares of reserve forest and over 36 hectares of

private agricultural land were damaged in the Ralling, Sigar and Mebo areas.

### Green Partnership developments during PM Modi’s visit to Netherlands; May 2026

India and the Netherlands elevated ties to a Strategic Partnership during PM Modi’s May 2026 visit, focusing on energy transition, water management, innovation, science, emerging technologies, agriculture, etc. Key outcomes included the India-Netherlands Green Hydrogen Roadmap, a 5-year clean energy agreement, cooperation on renewables, storage, waste-to-value, battery technology, water resilience and a Centre of Excellence on Water and collaboration with various IITs.

### Wildlife Restoration Progress of Project Cheetah; 19 May 2026

MoEFCC reported that a high-level review meeting assessed the progress and future strategy of Project Cheetah. The project aims to reintroduce cheetahs in India following national extinction and has involved translocation of 20 cheetahs from Namibia and South Africa, supplemented by nine from Botswana. The current population stands at 53 cheetahs, including 33 Indian-born cheetahs, reflecting successful acclimatisation and reproduction. The next phase will focus on further translocations, new sites and a metapopulation framework.

### Meeting on Financing Mechanisms for Electric Buses and Electric Trucks; 20 May 2026

MHI convened a high-level meeting in New Delhi on 20 May 2026 to discuss financing mechanisms for private sector adoption of electric buses



## TRANSACTIONS AND MARKET ACTIVITY

and trucks. Banks, SIDBI, transport operators and industry associations reviewed lending status, financing challenges, potential solutions and government support required for electric commercial vehicle deployment.

### **SEBI, NISM and IICA have signed a MoU for advancing Corporate Governance, capital markets and ESG; 21 May 2026**

National Institute of Securities Markets (“NISM”) and Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (“IICA”) signed an MoU to strengthen corporate governance, Environment, Social and Governance (“ESG”) and capital markets in India. The collaboration covers knowledge exchange, capacity building, research and policy support on ESG reporting, Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (“BRSR”), sustainable finance, insolvency and board governance, with joint certification courses, investor education and training programmes, etc.

### **International Day for Biological Diversity 2026; 22 May 2026**

MoEFCC, with Madhya Pradesh, National Biodiversity Authority (“NBA”) and the International Big Cat Alliance, marked International Day for Biological Diversity 2026 on “*Acting Locally for Global Impact*”. The event highlighted biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration, community participation, and Kunming-Montreal biodiversity framework, and ₹145 crore released under Access and Benefit Sharing (“ABS”).

### **SAIL and EdCIL MoU for Smart Digital Classrooms; 28 May 2026**

The Ministry of Steel announced that Steel Authority of India Limited (“SAIL”) and Educational Consultants India Limited (“EdCIL”) signed an MoU to establish Smart Digital Classrooms in schools around SAIL’s

operational areas under SAIL’s CSR initiative. The initiative is intended to promote inclusive education. The project aligns with the National Education Policy 2020 and Sustainable Development Goal (“SDG”) 4, which seeks inclusive, equitable and quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

### **₹21.26 Crore realized by NBA under the ABS Mechanism in FY 2025–26; 30 May 2026**

NBA realised ₹21.26 crore under the ABS mechanism in FY 2025–26 from approvals for research, commercial utilisation, intellectual property rights, bio survey and bio utilisation of biological resources. The Seed sector contributed ₹11.75 crore, followed by AYUSH, Nutraceuticals and Pharmaceuticals. Around 300 biological resources were utilised, including maize, rice, turmeric, amla, ashwagandha, neem leaves and pepper. Cumulatively, NBA has realised ₹266 crore from users of biological resources and associated knowledge, with ₹145 crore have already been disbursed to beneficiaries.

### **NHRC Core Group Meeting on ‘Heat Wave and its Mitigation in Urban Areas’; 4 June 2026**

National Human Rights Commission’s (“NHRC”) Core Group on Environment and Climate met on 4 June 2026 on the theme “*Heat Wave and its Mitigation in Urban Areas*”. The meeting treated heat waves as an environmental and human rights concern, especially for construction workers, outdoor labourers, gig workers, elderly persons, pregnant women and those without housing or cooling access. Key suggestions included ward-level heat vulnerability and resilience maps using GIS,

remote sensing, AI and land surface temperature, Heat Action Plans across states, districts and cities, dedicated Heat Officers, unified mortality and morbidity surveillance, occupational heat-safety standards, social protection, community cooling centres and heat-resilient urban planning, public awareness and promotion of sustainable water management.

### **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme and Renewable Energy Standards of India showcased at the Environment Week and WTO; 05 June 2026**

On World Environment Day 2026, India organized a special event titled “*Showcase of India’s Carbon Credit Trading Scheme and Standardization in Renewable Energy*” during the World Trade Organization (“WTO”) Trade and Environment Week 2026 in Geneva, highlighting India’s clean energy transition and progress toward its Nationally Determined Contributions (“NDCs”) under the Paris Agreement. Key achievements presented included India’s non-fossil fuel-based electricity generation capacity reaching 53.21% by March 2026 surpassing the 50% target set for 2030 nearly five years early, and a 37.38% reduction in emissions intensity of GDP between 2005 and 2022, exceeding the NDC target of 33–35% ahead of schedule. India also showcased its Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (“CCTS”), aimed at establishing a national electronic carbon credit trading platform, and progress under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, including standards for classifying Green Hydrogen.

### **National Workshop on Small Hydro Power Development Scheme organized by MNRE; 09 June 2026**

MNRE organised a National Workshop on the SHP Development Scheme on 09 June 2026 and launched the SHP Development Scheme Guidelines



## TRANSACTIONS AND MARKET ACTIVITY

for FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31. The Scheme targets installation of about 1,500 MW of new SHP capacity, with a financial outlay of ₹2,584.60 crore. It provides Central Financial Assistance (“CFA”) for SHP projects, Detailed Project Reports (“DPR”) preparation, technical institutions, capacity building, awareness, international cooperation and project monitoring. MNRE noted India’s estimated 21 GW SHP potential remains underutilised. A National Online SHP portal will be launched for transparency and efficiency.

**MoU has been signed with Sikkim under the Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0; 09 June 2026**

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation signed a reform-linked Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”) with Sikkim under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 to strengthen sustainable rural drinking water delivery through a Gram Panchayat-led, service-based and community-centred model, aligned with *Viksit Bharat @2047*. The MoU focuses on functional tap connections, prescribed water quality, source sustainability, operation and maintenance, strengthening community participation (*Jan Bhagidari*) and monitoring.

**India has drawn a red line on the New Climate Obligations at Bonn 2026 as Fossil Fuel Politics Intensify; 10 June 2026**

At United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (“UNFCCC”) Subsidiary Bodies (“SB64”) in Bonn, India stated that no new issues or obligations beyond agreed mandates should be added to climate negotiations. It said initiatives outside the UNFCCC process should remain voluntary and urged focus on implementation, especially

the Article 9.1 climate finance work programme. India also flagged declining developed-country finance, the adaptation finance gap, equity, historical responsibility and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (“CBDR-RC”).

**Microsoft Signs Enhanced Rock Weathering (“ERW”) Carbon Removal Deal in India with Alt Carbon; 12 June 2026**

India-based climate technology startup Alt Carbon and Microsoft announced a multi-year carbon removal agreement on 12 June 2026, under which Microsoft will purchase 36,920 tonnes of carbon dioxide removal (“CDR”) credits generated from Alt Carbon’s enhanced rock weathering (“ERW”) project in Darjeeling. The deal marks Microsoft’s first ERW-based carbon credit purchase in Asia, with an option to purchase additional volumes subject to successful delivery and verification milestones. Alt Carbon’s ERW method involves spreading basalt rock dust across agricultural fields, where it reacts with rainwater to form stable bicarbonate ions stored in soil and eventually as calcium carbonate in the ocean for over 10,000 years. Microsoft has been the largest buyer of carbon removal credits globally, representing approximately 90% of the market in 2025.

**Reconstitution of the Expert Committee on Agrobiodiversity by the National Biodiversity Authority; 13 June 2026**

NBA reconstituted its Expert Committee on Agrobiodiversity under Section 13(1) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, for one year, chaired by Dr. P. L. Gautam with the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights Authority (“PPVFRA”) Chairperson as Co-Chair. The Committee

will advise on agrobiodiversity conservation, sustainable use, ABS, seed sector issues, international collaborative research, threatened native crop varieties and livestock breeds, while supporting the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (“ITPGRFA”) engagement, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (“NBSAP”) Targets 4 and 13, and SDGs 2, 13 and 15.

**India and Japan adopt the rules for implementing the Joint Crediting Mechanism as under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement; 16 June 2026**

India and Japan have adopted the Rule of Implementation for their Joint Crediting Mechanism (“JCM”) under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement. The framework follows the Memorandum of Cooperation between the two governments and is designed to support mitigation activities that reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions while advancing sustainable development in India and contributing to both countries’ Nationally Determined Contributions. The implementation rules establish governance through a Joint Committee, transparent project approvals, third-party validation and verification, safeguards for sustainable development, and national registries for credit issuance and transfer. The mechanism is positioned to attract investment, technology transfer, and capacity-building for low-carbon projects in India.

**Kashmir’s Children have initiated turning of the loss of wetlands into community action; 17 June 2026**

A report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (“CAG”) highlighting the severe degradation of Kashmir’s wetlands and lakes, found that over 70%



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of wetlands and water bodies in Jammu and Kashmir have either shrunk or disappeared since the 1960s, with 315 of 697 recorded lakes completely vanishing. More than 300 children across Kashmir are leading community-driven environmental initiatives, including the “*One Foot Forward*” Clean and Green Drive and the “*Save Neel Naag*” spring restoration campaign in Budgam, involving plantation drives and sustained monitoring efforts. The erratic rainfall, receding glaciers, and rising temperatures are accelerating ecological degradation across Kashmir.

**Launch of Green Hydrogen Certification Portal and National Workshop on National Green Hydrogen Mission; 17 June 2026**

MNRE announced the launch of the Green Hydrogen Certification Portal of India by Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi during the National Workshop on “*Strengthening the National Green Hydrogen Mission: Through State Policies, Hubs & Infrastructure*”. The portal will support transparent certification and regulatory compliance under the Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India. Six states have notified dedicated green hydrogen policies, seven have integrated hydrogen into existing industrial and renewable energy frameworks, and four are finalising policies. Incentives have been awarded to 15 companies for 3,000 MW per annum indigenous electrolyser manufacturing capacity. Contracts have also been awarded for 30,000 MTPA green hydrogen supply to IOCL, BPCL, HPCL and NRL. The ₹19,744 crore National Green Hydrogen Mission targets 5 MMT production capacity, 125 GW renewable energy capacity, over ₹8 lakh crore investment, 6 lakh jobs and 50 million tonnes annual emission reduction.

**Railways has pushed Fly Ash into the circular economy of India ; 18 June 2026**

Indian Railways is preparing a large-scale logistics push to move fly ash from thermal power plants to industries that can use it in roads, bricks, cement, concrete, blocks, boards, and infrastructure development. The initiative, discussed in a review meeting chaired by Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, targets nearly 340 million tonnes of fly ash generated annually by thermal power plants. By using specialized containers and rail-linked logistics systems, the plan seeks to shift fly ash cleanly and efficiently from a waste burden to a productive raw material.

**MNRE has hosted the Green and Sustainable Development Partnership (“GSDP”) Panel Discussion on the theme of “Energy Security through Renewable Energies”; 18 June 2026**

The MNRE co-organised a panel discussion on “*Energy Security through Renewable Energies*” under the 10th GSDP Conversation Series, with participation from MNRE, the German Embassy, ReNew and Observer Research Foundation. MNRE highlighted India’s renewable energy progress, supported by Renewable Purchase Obligation (“**RPO**”)/ Renewable Consumption Obligation (“**RCO**”), Standard Bidding Guidelines, 100% Foreign Direct Investment under the automatic route, Production Linked Incentive Scheme and Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (“**ALMM**”). PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and PM-KUSUM were noted for involving states, households and farmers, while Agri-PV and floating solar were identified as emerging deployment avenues.

**ITM has signed MoU with ARIES for the purpose of establishment of Bharat Climate Observation Network (“BCON”) Station over the Himalayan Region; 19 June 2026**

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (“**MoES**”) announced that the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (“**IITM**”), Pune, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (“**MoU**”) with the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (“**ARIES**”), Nainital, on 18 June 2026 for a period of more than fifty years. The MoU aims to promote collaborative research on climate change and long-term observations of climate variables, including meteorological parameters and climate-active trace gases such as greenhouse gases, short-lived climate forcers and soil moisture, etc.

**Inaugural of the BRICS MSME Forum 2026 hosted by Ministry of MSME; 19 June 2026**

MSME Ministry convened the Inaugural BRICS MSME Forum 2026 in Agra, bringing together government representatives, policymakers, industry leaders and private-sector stakeholders from BRICS Member and Partner Countries. The Forum focused on strengthening MSME ecosystems, sustainability, global competitiveness, economic partnerships and knowledge-sharing across BRICS countries.

**Odisha will be hosting India's First Commercial Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project; 19 June 2026**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to lay the foundation stone for a Rs. 25,016 crore coal gasification projects at Lakhanpur in Jharsuguda, Odisha. The project is India’s first commercial-scale coal-to-ammonium nitrate facility and will be developed by Bharat Coal Gasification and



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Chemicals Limited (“BCGCL”), a joint venture of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (“BHEL”) and Coal India Limited (“CIL”). It will produce 2,000 tonnes per day of ammonium nitrate using indigenously developed BHEL coal gasification technology.

**National Mineral Development Corporation (“NMDC”) has accelerated sustainable mining and digitalisation at Donimalai Complex; 20 June 2026**

NMDC reviewed digitalisation and sustainable mining initiatives at Donimalai, targeting 10 MTPA from Kumaraswamy Mine and 17 MTPA from the complex. It assessed beneficiation of up to 35% Fe ore, slimes, Banded Hematite Jasper (“BHJ”) and Banded Hematite Quartzite (“BHQ”), automated gate management for real time dispatch monitoring, and infrastructure supporting employee welfare and community development.

**India will be hosting the 11th BRICS Energy Ministers’ Meeting; 21 June 2026**

India hosted the 11th BRICS Energy Ministers’ Meeting in Gurugram under its BRICS Chairship 2026, focusing on “BRICS” and the Energy Track theme “सर्वेषां ऊर्जम् (Energy for All)”. The agenda covered energy security, sustainability, access, equity, technology and innovation, noting India’s solar expansion, 60 million smart meters, 410 GWh storage target, 20% ethanol blending, E85 fuel, AI and Carbon Capture, Storage and Utilization (“CCUS”) discussions.

**V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (“VOCPA”) Port emerging as a model basis the Green Maritime Initiatives; 23 June 2026**

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (“MoPSW”) announced sustainability, education and innovation initiatives at VOCPA, Tuticorin. The port’s Sustainability Report noted renewable energy offsetting nearly 94% of energy consumption equivalent and around 45% net carbon emissions reduction. Initiatives included Kendriya Vidyalaya activities, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya MoU, PortGPT launch, Scope-2 Emission Free Port recognition and an IIM Calcutta green hydrogen case study.

**Government has introduced a roadmap for increasing the production of Green Urea; 26 June 2026**

The Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, vide press release dated 26 June 2026, announced that it had conducted a high-level Pre-Expression of Interest meeting for establishment of Green Urea Plants in India. The initiative aims to promote sustainable agriculture, carbon neutrality and technological self-reliance. The meeting discussed Government support, differential pricing mechanisms for Green Ammonia and incentives under the National Green Hydrogen Mission. It also highlighted the use of captured carbon dioxide from thermal power, cement and steel plants for Green Urea production.

**Amazon has achieved their Water Positive Goal ahead of their 2027 target in India; 24 June 2026**

Amazon, vide announcement reported on 24 June 2026, stated that it has become water positive in India ahead of its 2027 target. This means

Amazon is returning more water to communities than it consumes across its direct operations in India, including data centres, corporate offices and fulfilment centres. Amazon’s strategy is based on reducing water consumption, reusing treated wastewater and replenishing local water resources. The company stated that recycled wastewater from on-site sewage treatment plants provided around 298 million litres of water in 2025, while rainwater harvesting systems collected approximately 178 million litres.





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## GLOBAL UPDATES

**EU Commission states that the simplification of EUDR would result in cutting cost borne by companies significantly by 75%; 4 May 2026**

The European Commission's simplification review of the EU Deforestation Regulation ("EUDR") has reduced compliance costs for companies by approximately 75%, lowering annual costs from €8.1 billion to €2.0 billion. Changes include simplified compliance rules for small operators, revised product scopes such as exempting leather, and updated low-risk country classifications, aiming to facilitate implementation by the 2026/2027 deadlines.

**EU has approved State Plans for compensating companies for carbon pricing cost in order to keep them from relocating operations; 6 May 2026**

The European Commission approved Austrian and Spanish schemes to compensate energy-intensive industries due to the impact of carbon prices as under the EU Emission Trading Scheme ("ETS"), for higher electricity prices.

**EU has released the finalized the Voluntary Sustainability Reporting Standards; 7 May 2026**

The European Commission has published new drafts of its revised European Sustainability Reporting Standards ("ESRS") and voluntary standards, initiating a consultation to simplify disclosures under the Omnibus initiative. The proposal maintains a "double materiality" approach while focusing on impact and risks of sustainability issues on an organization and the impact of environment on an organization.

**China, Brazil and EU have launched the International Carbon Pricing Coalition; 11 May 2026**

China, Brazil, and the European Commission have launched the Open Coalition on Compliance Carbon Markets to strengthen international cooperation on carbon pricing and improve environmental integrity. The initiative aims to raise the global standards and share best practices. They will adopt a formal work plan on September 15, 2026, in Wuhan, China.

**ECB releases an updated compendium for nature related risks and good practices for climate; 12 May 2026**

The European Central Bank ("ECB") has released an updated compendium of good practices to help banks manage climate and nature-related risks. While noting industry progress, ECB's Frank Elderson warned that physical and nature-related risk assessments are still in their infancy, increasing the likelihood of risk underestimation amid a disorderly transition. The guide outlines strategies from over 60 institutions, highlighting active client engagement in hard-to-abate sectors, short-term pricing incentives for transition technologies, and the integration of nature-related risks into internal capital adequacy assessments.

**Verra has gained ICVCM approval for two methodologies, namely Mine Methane and Renewable Energy; 10 May 2026**

Verra has secured the approval of Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market ("ICVCM") for grid-connected renewable energy generation (VMR0017) and coal mine methane abatement (ACM0008, Versions 6-8).

**Germany's cabinet has agreed to replace the contested 2023 heating law, which mandated that new heating systems use at least 65 per cent renewable energy; 13 May 2026**

Germany approved replacing the 2023 heating law, dropping the 65% renewable mandate. New gas and oil systems must use climate-neutral fuels from 2029, rising from 10% to 60% by 2040, while existing boilers may remain. It retains the 2045 climate-neutrality target and raising burden on fuel-blending and power capacity markets.

**Swiss and MetaFuels have partnered for scaling up Synthetic SAF Production; 14 May 2026**

Swiss International Air Lines has partnered with Zurich-based startup Metafuels to accelerate the development and market commercialization of synthetic sustainable aviation fuel ("SAF") using the "aerobrew" process.

**FTSE Russell and Planetrics have launched Climate-Scenario Indices for Investors; 15 May 2026**

FTSE Russell and Planetrics have announced a partnership to develop climate-scenario-based indices and analytics, helping investors integrate climate risks into financial decisions. Under the agreement, Planetrics will provide its physical and transition climate risk models to FTSE Russell, which will manage governance and distribution.

**CaixaBank CIB has launched a carbon credit trading platform; 18 May 2026**

The platform has been launched enabling corporate clients and SMEs to access internationally verified voluntary credits across renewables,



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reforestation, and carbon capture projects. The bank acts as sole intermediary, centralising sourcing, execution and traceability . The platform forms part of CaixaBank’s 2025–2027 plan to mobilise over €100 billion in sustainable finance.

**ISS-Corporate has launched a new ISSB Sustainability Reporting Solution; 19 May 2026**

ISS-Corporate has launched its ISSB IFRS program, a software and advisory solution designed to help companies meet the IFRS Foundation’s International Sustainability Standards Board (“ISSB”) disclosure standards. The program combines consulting services with carbon accounting software to address both IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 requirements. Key features include gap assessments, Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions tracking, physical and transition climate risk assessment and opportunity assessment.

**Bangladesh has issued its first agroforestry carbon credits under Verra’s Verified Carbon Standard; 19 May 2026**

Bangladesh has issued the first agroforestry carbon credits thereby creating a new carbon finance pathway for the small holder farmers, under Verra’s verified carbon standard, It has been issued with over 60,000 credits generated from 160 demonstration farms using high-density mango-based systems. The project, supported by the World Bank’s 2030WRG, targets expansion to 30,000 hectares.

**Maersk has completed its first ever ethanol voyage; 20 May 2026**

Maersk has completed its first vessel voyage powered entirely by ethanol, expanding fuel optionality for its 45-vessel dual-fuel fleet as shipping targets

net-zero by 2050 and reduction of atleast 20% emissions by 2030. The trial follows earlier ethanol-methanol blend tests.

**SBTi has broadened its focus from Climate Target Setting to Implementation; 21 May 2026**

The Science Based Targets initiative (“SBTi”) has launched its 2026–2030 strategy, shifting focus from target-setting to implementation of the climate goals. The initiative aims to drive action across over 13,000 companies, addressing ecosystem fragmentation and expanding impact in high-emitting sectors.

**Singapore & World Bank have entered a partnership for scaling the National Carbon Markets; 21 May 2026**

Singapore’s National Climate Change Secretariat and the World Bank Group have launched the Singapore Carbon Markets Program to help countries develop and scale high-integrity national carbon markets. The initiative focuses on building carbon market infrastructure, facilitating carbon credit monetization, and strengthening host country capacity building.

**EU Commission has awarded €400 Million for Industrial Heat Decarbonization Projects; 26 May 2026**

The European Commission has awarded nearly €400 million to 65 projects through its first Innovation Fund Heat Auction to accelerate the deployment of clean heat technologies across European areas. These projects are expected to replace natural gas systems, avoid over 6.6 million tons of CO2 emissions over 10 years, and produce 16.3 TWh of clean heat in their first five years.

**TISFD has launched the Proposed Framework on Reporting on Social Impact and Human Rights; 26 May 2026**

The Taskforce on Inequality and Social-related Financial Disclosures (“TISFD”) has released its first draft framework, enabling companies to report on impacts, dependencies, risks, and opportunities related to people, including human rights and inequality. Designed to harmonize with standards like the ISSB and Global Reporting Initiative (“GRI”), the framework features five core requirements, such as materiality and stakeholder engagement, etc.

**Acelen Renewables has secured \$1.5 Billion for building of their Billion-Liter SAF Project located in Brazil; 26 May 2026**

Acelen Renewables has secured \$1.5 billion to build a renewable fuels biorefinery in Bahia, Brazil. Beginning operations in 2029, the facility will produce 1 billion liters of SAF and renewable diesel annually using Hydroprocessed esters and fatty acids (“HEFA”) technology. The project incorporates agricultural production on 144,000 hectares of degraded land, partnering with family farms and the producers operating at a small scale.

**Standard Chartered has issued its first Green Wonton Bond for backing Clean Energy and Green Building Projects; 26 May 2026**

Standard Chartered has issued its first-ever HKD 2 billion Green Wonton Bond to finance renewable energy and green building projects across Asia, marking the first green bond offering on the Wonton Bond Market. The offering drew strong demand, surpassing previous records for the bank and supporting its Sustainability Bond Framework.



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**IFRS and GRI have expanded their collaboration for aligning Sustainability Reporting Standards; 27 May 2026**

The IFRS Foundation and GRI have reaffirmed their commitment to aligning ISSB and GRI sustainability reporting standards to create a seamless, comprehensive global framework. This collaboration aims to reduce duplication for companies by aligning common disclosures. across both investor-focused financial reporting and broad environmental and social impact reporting.

**IFS has launched a New Emissions Measurement and Reporting Solution for Industrial Companies; 27 May 2026**

IFS launched IFS Zero, an agentic AI-powered platform for asset-intensive industries to automate Scope 1, 2, and 3 carbon emissions measurement, reporting, and optimization. The solution replaces manual spreadsheets by linking emissions data with operational systems, providing real-time visibility, anomaly detection, and audit-ready reporting to streamline compliance.

**New York governor has signed law which pushes back the State's Climate Goals; 29 May 2026**

New York Governor Kathy Hochul signed the 2027 budget, amending the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, 2019 to push back key emissions reduction targets from 2030 to a new 60% reduction goal by 2040. The legislation delays necessary emissions regulations until 2028, citing concerns over costs, while maintaining the potential for a cap-and-invest program.

**Brazil has made a significant shift from Mandatory to Voluntary Sustainability Reporting; 01 June 2026**

Brazil's Securities and Exchange Commission ("CVM") introduced an amendment to its regulations, shifting from mandatory to voluntary sustainability and climate-related disclosures for public companies. Mandatory sustainability reporting under ISSB-aligned standards had been scheduled to commence for fiscal years beginning on or after 1 January 2026. Under the revised regulation, companies that opt out of sustainability reporting must publicly announce their decision; those that choose to report must continue to apply the ISSB-based standards, which is the required framework for the companies that continue to report on sustainability and climate.

**The New Green Bond offering of China has drawn around \$9 Billion Order Book; 01 June 2026**

China's Ministry of Finance announced the completion of its second sovereign green bond offering, raising RMB 6 billion (*USD \$887 million*) for environmental initiatives including clean transportation and pollution reduction. The offering drew an order book of RMB 62.4 billion (*USD \$9.2 billion*), with the 3-year and 5-year maturity tranches oversubscribed by 9.8 and 11 times, respectively. The bonds were listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong, following China's inaugural green bond issuance of RMB 6 billion in April 2025 on the London Stock Exchange.

**UK has set target for reducing carbon emissions by 87% by 2040; 02 June 2026**

The UK Government announced in its proposed seventh carbon budget,

targeting an 87% reduction in economy-wide emissions by 2040 on a 1990 basis, consistent with the UK's net zero by 2050 commitment. The budget limits greenhouse gas emissions to 535 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e for the 2038–2042 period under the Climate Change Act 2008 of UK.

**EU Commission Warns over failure to implement the Anti-Greenwashing Rules to 20 Member States; 02 June 2026**

The European Commission announced that letters have been sent to EU Member states, the opening of infringement procedures against EU member states for failing to transpose the Directive on Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition ("ECGT") into national laws, the deadline of which was 27 March 2026. The ECGT, adopted in 2024 was designed aiming at protection of consumers from greenwashing practices and misleading green claims. States receiving formal notices include Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Finland, and Sweden. The member states have two months to respond and complete transposition.

**EU grants allowance to Governments for using Defence Fiscal Leeway for the purpose of Green Energy Investment; 03 June 2026**

It was reported that the European Commission permitted EU States to utilise part of the fiscal flexibility available for defence spending towards green energy investments. The measure allows countries to redirect up to 0.3% of GDP annually from 2026 to 2028, subject to an overall cap of 0.6% over three years, towards projects such as electric vehicles, solar panels, heat pumps, and batteries. The measure expressly excludes fossil fuel subsidies. The policy is intended to support energy resilience and consumer protection.



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**Ecobank has issued \$450 Million Nature Bond for backing Biodiversity; 05 June 2026**

Pan-African banking group Ecobank had announced the launch of a \$450 million Nature Bond, described as the world's first ICMA-aligned Nature Bond issued by a commercial bank, with proceeds directed towards supporting farmers, sustainable agriculture, and water systems across the African markets. The offering drew demand exceeding \$1.36 billion, or 3.9 times the original target, enabling a \$100 million increase and 50 basis point tightening in pricing. Proceeds will be deployed in biodiversity-priority countries including Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Ghana, with 81% of the eligible lending pool allocated to countries where agricultural land-use change drives biodiversity loss. The bond was listed on the London Stock Exchange.

**GRI has urged stronger ESRS Alignment for cutting reporting burden and for protecting EU competitiveness; 05 June 2026**

GRI urged stronger alignment between the revised European Sustainability Reporting Standards and global sustainability reporting frameworks. GRI welcomed the EU's continued recognition of impact and financial materiality, but called for greater interoperability to reduce duplication, preserve transparency and support competitiveness.

**CDP has launched an AI Tool for helping cities turn their climate risk data into funded action; 08 June 2026**

It was reported that CDP launched the Adaptation & Action Explorer, an AI-powered tool developed with support from Google.org, Google Earth Engine and Google Cloud, to assist cities, states and regions in converting climate

risk data into finance-ready adaptation projects. The platform is intended to help local governments identify climate hazards, prioritise resilience measures and communicate investment needs to funders, investors and development banks.

**New Ocean Category added by CDP to its Sustainability Reporting Platform; 09 June 2026**

Environmental sustainability reporting platform CDP announced the expansion of its disclosure system to incorporate ocean data, enabling companies to report on exposure to ocean-related risks and opportunities. CDP's platform already covers water security, climate, biodiversity, forests, and plastics, with more than 22,000 companies disclosing data in 2025. New questions will address target setting, board-level oversight, and supply chain engagement, covering dependencies, risks, impacts, and their influence on strategy and financial planning.

**Omnibus has reduced the Non-EU Companies in the Scope of CSRD from 10,000 to 1,200; 10 June 2026**

European Financial Reporting Advisory Group ("EFRA") announced that the EU's Omnibus process will reduce the number of non-EU companies within the scope of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive ("CSRD") by approximately 88%, from over 10,000 to approximately 1,200. The revised scope includes only companies with net EU revenue exceeding €450 million for two consecutive years and an EU subsidiary or branch with revenues above €200 million. EFRA has resumed work on the Non-EU European Sustainability Reporting Standard ("N-ESRS"), with a draft expected for consultation in mid-July.

**EU has approved \$26 Billion Italian Renewable Energy Scheme, adding to 37.15 GW of Clean Power; 10 June 2026**

European Commission approved Italy's EUR 23 billion State aid scheme to support renewable electricity production under the Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework. The scheme is expected to add 37.15 GW of renewable capacity across onshore wind, solar, hydropower and sewage gas, and is aimed at supporting Italy's 2030 renewable energy targets, reducing energy import dependence and strengthening industrial resilience. The support will be granted principally through two-way contracts for difference for 20 years.

**EU has tightened ETS2 Price controls in order to protect the consumers from Carbon Market Volatility; 11 June 2026**

EU has agreed to strengthen price-control mechanisms under ETS2, the second EU emissions trading system covering heating and road transport fuels from 2028. The agreement provides that where ETS2 permit prices exceed EUR 45 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>, 40 million allowances may be released from the market stability reserve, with the mechanism capable of being triggered twice annually.

**SBTi has released New Corporate Net-Zero Standard for tightening the Climate Target Delivery; 12 June 2026**

SBTi has released an updated Corporate Net-Zero Standard intended to strengthen corporate climate target delivery. The revised standard focuses on practical emissions reduction, annual reporting, assessment of implementation barriers and to strengthen the targets by way of continuous improvement. It also recognises differentiated pathways for SMEs and



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companies in lower-income countries. Additionally, it states that carbon credits may complement, but not substitute, direct emissions reductions.

**UK has proposed dropping of TCFD based climate reporting for investment products; 08 June 2026**

The UK's Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA") announced a proposal to remove requirements for financial firms to publish TCFD-based climate disclosures for investment products, replacing them with on-demand emissions data for institutional clients and simplified reporting on climate risks for retail investors. The FCA estimated the new rules would save investment firms approximately £20 million per year.

**The EU Council has backed the expansion of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism ("CBAM") Carbon Import Tax levied on finished goods; 15 June 2026**

It was reported that the Council of the European Union agreed its negotiating position to strengthen the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism ("CBAM") by extending its scope to selected downstream products which use carbon-intensive inputs. The proposed expansion seeks to prevent carbon leakage and protect competitiveness. The Council also backed anti-circumvention measures, including bringing pre-consumer metal scrap within scope.

**EBA has integrated Climate Risk into the Banking Stress Test by EU; 16 June 2026**

The European Banking Authority ("EBA") announced the draft methodology along with the templates for the EU-wide stress test 2027, incorporating climate risks for the first time through a dedicated module covering transition

and physical risks. Transition risk scenarios include shocks from carbon pricing, GHG emissions pathways, and energy price impacts, whilst physical risk scenarios focus on economic and financial damage caused by riverine flood events that occur across EEA Member States.

**ISO has released the Draft Net Zero Standard; 17 June 2026**

The International Organization for Standardization ("ISO") had launched the draft ISO Net Zero Aligned Organizations Standard (ISO 14060), its first global standard for developing credible net zero transition plans. The standard sets out principles and requirements for setting emissions reduction targets, developing implementation plans, and monitoring verifiable progress, covering direct and indirect GHG emissions. Key requirements include setting interim and long-term targets, publishing a transition plan within two years of target-setting, and provision for validation and verification.

**EU Steel Giants has warned that the rising ETS Carbon Cost Risk Is Resulting In Destroying The Industrial Base; 18 June 2026**

ArcelorMittal Europe, Thyssenkrupp Steel, and Voestalpine, collectively accounting for approximately 60% of Europe's integrated steel production, published an open letter calling on European lawmakers to pause increasing carbon pricing under the EU Emissions Trading System ("ETS"). The companies warned that the current ETS trajectory could raise steel production costs by 50% by the early 2030s, cause a 30–40% decline in EU manufacturing, and put up to 5 million jobs at risk across the value chain. They called for a temporary cost pause until key enablers of decarbonisation are in place.

**Turquoise Nexus Initiative: Turkey's COP31 Presidency, FAO to Unite Food, Water and Climate Adaptation in National Plans; 18 June 2026**

Turkey's COP31 Presidency and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ("FAO") introduced the Turquoise Nexus Initiative ("TNI") at a side event on 16 June 2026 during the Bonn Climate Conference 2026. The initiative aims to integrate food security, water management, and climate adaptation into the national climate plans. It will additionally help in aligning the nationally determined contributions ("NDCs") and Paris Agreement implementation of developing Antions. TNI will be proposed under FAO's Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation ("FAST") Partnership.

**UK to Introduce Mandatory Supply Chain Deforestation Due Diligence Rules; 25 June 2026**

The UK Government proposed new regulations requiring businesses to ensure that their supply chains do not contribute to illegal deforestation. The proposed framework will include mandatory due diligence requirements, with consultation to be launched during the year. The Government proposes to cover the same core commodities and information requirements used in the EU Deforestation Regulation to reduce duplication and support consistent traceability standards. Companies trading in commodities such as soy, cocoa, palm oil and rubber will be required to check that their supply chains are not linked to illegal deforestation. The UK Government has also stated that it has an ambition to transition to a deforestation standard and this ambition would require the relevant products to be deforestation free.



# Dispute Resolution and Enforcement Trends





# Dispute Resolution and Enforcement Trends

## SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

**Environmental objections to port expansion may be reconsidered by the NGT where review is sought on the fact that whether EIA adequately considered the specific issues; 11 May 2026**

***Chetan Kumar Navintray Vyas vs. Union of India & Ors.*<sup>1</sup>**

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in a Division Bench of Surya Kant, C.J.I. and Joymalya Bagchi, J., disposed of a civil appeal challenging the NGT Western Zone Bench's dismissal, at admission, of a statutory appeal against environmental clearance for Pipavav Port expansion. The appellant alleged EAC has failed to consider certain aspects, noting that the 2012 clearance remained substantially unimplemented for 13 years, except ancillary facilities. Objections concerned Olive Ridley turtles, marine mammals, EIA/CSIR-NIO inconsistencies, dredging impacts, sediment sampling, marine fauna, monitoring gaps, mangrove restoration, livelihood risks and absence of climate change analysis. The Court held that the NGT had assigned reasons, but granted liberty to seek review on whether twelve issues were duly considered in the EIA Report, expressing no view on merits.

**Supreme Court has issued directions for curbing illegal sand mining in National Chambal Sanctuary for protectecting endangered aquatic wildlife; 26 May 2026**

***In Re: Illegal Sand Mining in the National Chambal Sanctuary and Threat to Endangered Aquatic Wildlife*<sup>2</sup>**

The Supreme Court, comprising Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, JJ., issued directions in the suo motu proceedings concerning illegal sand mining in the National Chambal Sanctuary across Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The proceedings arose from reports of continuing sand extraction damaging the Chambal River ecosystem, a protected habitat for endangered gharials and other aquatic species. Examining compliance with earlier orders and State reports, the Court noted continued illegal mining through unregistered vehicles and unidentified machinery, with inadequate field-level enforcement. The central issue was whether the States had taken sufficient measures to prevent illegal extraction and whether monitoring mechanisms adequately protected the sanctuary. The Hon'ble Court directed recruitment of forest and enforcement personnel, CCTV and surveillance deployment, strict action against vehicles used in illegal mining and regular compliance reviews. It also sought affidavits from the Ministry of Jal Shakti and Central Water Commission on measures taken for maintenance, preservation and augmentation of environmental flows in the Chambal River and its tributaries. The matter is listed for 22 July 2026.

**Industries which have been acting bona fide on valid CTE and CTO, cannot be shut down merely because the final EC has been pending**

***Neetu Solvents vs. Vineet Nagar & Ors.*<sup>3</sup>**

The Supreme Court, in a Division Bench of J.K. Maheshwari and Atul S. Chandurkar, JJ., set aside NGT closure directions against formaldehyde manufacturing units in Rajasthan and Haryana operating without prior EC under the EIA Notification, 2006. The units had valid Consent to Establish ("CTE") and Consent to Operate ("CTO") from PCB and contended that regulatory uncertainty existed on whether formaldehyde units required prior EC. The Hon'ble Court discussed in detail the judgements passed in *Pahwa Plastics Pvt. Ltd. And Anr. vs. Dastak NGO and Ors.*<sup>4</sup>, which had set aside *Dastak NGO vs. Synochem Organics Pvt. Ltd. & Ors.*<sup>5</sup>, wherein it was held that an industrial unit acting on statutory consents cannot be closed merely because EC appraisal is pending. It permitted operations to continue, directed authorities to decide pending EC applications within one month, ordered restoration of electricity supply, and disposed of the application.

**Supreme Court has set aside the order of Delhi HC's on Interim Directions with respect to Sewer Line Project, and directed the Authorities to Devise Feasible Solution Before Monsoon; 14 May 2026**

***All India Institute of Medical Sciences ("AIIMS") vs. Shailendra Bhatnagar & Ors.*<sup>6</sup>**

The Supreme Court, comprising Sanjay Kumar and K. Vinod Chandran, JJ.,

<sup>1</sup> Chetan Kumar Navintray Vyas vs. Union of India & Ors., Civil Appeal No. 7412/2026, Diary No. 21402/2026

<sup>2</sup> In Re: Illegal Sand Mining in the National Chambal Sanctuary and Threat to Endangered Aquatic Wildlife, 2026 INSC 549

<sup>3</sup> Neetu Solvents vs. Vineet Nagar 2026 INSC 455

<sup>4</sup> *Pahwa Plastics Pvt. Ltd. vs. Dastak NGO*, (2023) 12 SCC 774

<sup>5</sup> *Dastak NGO vs. Synochem Organics Pvt. Ltd.*, 2021 SCC OnLine NGT 131

<sup>6</sup> All India Institute of Medical Sciences vs. Shailendra Bhatnagar & Ors., Civil Appeal Number 7940/2026 arising out of SLP (C) No. 29481/2025



## DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

allowed AIIMS’ appeal and set aside the Delhi High Court’s interim order dated 18 June 2025 in proceedings concerning the design and laying of a sewer line from Green Park Extension to Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi. The Court recognized serious drainage inadequacy, waterlogging and health hazards affecting Green Park, Green Park Extension and nearby areas, but held that courts exercising jurisdiction under Articles 226 and 136 should not devise technical or administrative remedies for infrastructure problems. It directed the Delhi Jal Board, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, AIIMS and other authorities to consult stakeholders and prepare a definite, feasible and expeditious plan before the monsoon. The High Court was requested to consider the report on 20 July 2026 and monitor implementation. The appeal was allowed.

### No Hydropower projects to be undertaken in the Upper Ganga Basin; 20 May 2025

#### *Alaknanda Hydro Power Co. Ltd. vs. Anuj Joshi & Ors.*<sup>7</sup>

The MoEFCC filed a counter-affidavit confirming the unanimous position of MoEFCC, Ministry of Power and Ministry of Jal Shakti that no new hydropower projects would be undertaken in the upper Ganga reaches in Uttarakhand. Only seven operational or substantially progressed projects may proceed: Tehri PSP, Singoli Bhatwari, Madhyamaheshwar, Kaliganga-II, Tapovan Vishnugad, Vishnugad Pipalkoti and Phata Byung. The affidavit followed the Court’s 20 January 2026 order and CABSEC report, which

had considered 21 projects and flagged glacial lake outburst flood risks. The cumulative impacts, minimum uninterrupted flow requirements, the Haridwar Agreement, disaster vulnerability and biodiversity in protected areas, clarifying that Ganga requires special treatment despite hydropower’s clean-energy role, including Nanda Devi, Valley of Flowers, Gangotri and Kedarnath protected landscapes were also discussed.

### Supreme Court upholds the order of NGT for absolving the liability of landlord for environmental violations carried out by the tenant

#### *Gujarat Pollution Control Board vs. Jagmohan Lachiram Jalan*<sup>8</sup>

The Supreme Court, through Satish Chandra Sharma and Sanjeev Sachdeva, JJ., dismissed GPCB’s appeal against the NGT order setting aside recovery of Rs. 25 lakh EDC from a landlord. The premises had been leased to a tenant who, without the landlord’s knowledge, operated M/s Genial Chemi for dye-intermediate production through acid wash without Consent to Establish or Consent and Authorisation. GPCB issued closure directions under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and relied on its 26 June 2020 circular imposing joint and several liability on tenant and lessor-owner. The NGT held that the landlord was not an “occupier” under Section 2(m) of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act or Section 2(d) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, as he had no control over the unit’s affairs.

### Supreme Court had declined to interference with the order of NGT, levying Rs. 50.10 lakh as environmental compensation against Sugar Unit

#### *M/s. Appasaheb Nalawade Gadhinglaj Taluka SSK Ltd. vs. Shahu Shivaji Mokashi & Ors.*<sup>9</sup>

The Supreme Court, comprising Dipankar Datta, Satish Chandra Sharma and Sanjeev Sachdeva, JJ., dismissed Civil Appeal No. 8097 of 2026 filed by M/s Appasaheb Nalawade Gadhinglaj Taluka SSK Ltd. against the NGT Western Zone Bench’s order in *Shahu Shivaji Mokashi vs. State of Maharashtra & Ors.*<sup>10</sup> imposing Rs. 50,10,000 as Environmental Damage Compensation. The matter arose from alleged discharge of molasses/trade effluent into the Hiranyakeshi river and groundwater, causing environmental harm and health risks to inhabitants and animals. The Joint Committee found non-functional ETP equipment, bypass lines, stored trade effluent and effluent pathways leading to napas and the river. MPCB calculated Rs. 38,10,000 for the sugar unit and Rs. 12,00,000 for the distillery. The Court declined interference, but extended deposit time by three months.

### Supreme Court directs regularisation of the daily wage workers-ISRO, and additionally has quashed the Gang Labourers Scheme, 2012

#### *R. Iyyappan and Ors. vs. Union of India and Ors.*<sup>11</sup>

The Supreme Court, comprising Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, JJ., set

<sup>7</sup> Alaknanda Hydro Power Co. Ltd. vs. Anuj Joshi & Ors. MANU/SCOR/36027/2026

<sup>8</sup> Gujarat Pollution Control Board vs. Jagmohan Lachiram Jalan, MANU/SCOR/43642/2026

<sup>9</sup> M/s. Appasaheb Nalawade Gadhinglaj Taluka SSK Ltd. vs. Shahu Shivaji Mokashi & Ors., Civil Appeal No. 8097/2026, Supreme Court of India

<sup>10</sup> Shahu Shivaji Mokashi vs. State of Maharashtra & Ors., NGT, Original Application No. 50/2023 (WZ)

<sup>11</sup> R. Iyyappan vs. Union of India, 2026 INSC 431



## DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

aside the Madras High Court judgment upholding rejection of regularisation claims by daily-wage employees of ISRO's Mahendragiri Unit, engaged between 1991 and 1997. The Court held that the 2012 Gang Labourers Scheme was inconsistent with that mandate, as it allowed only temporary engagement and did not create sanctioned or permanent posts. It held that the High Court wrongly reopened merits under *Secretary, State of Karnataka and Ors. vs. Umadevi and Ors.*<sup>12</sup> It was directed to regularise with permanent status from 9 September 2010, quashed the clause and extended benefits to similarly situated persons.

### Supreme Court has ordered a Time-Bound Removal of Encroachments from the Ecologically Sensitive Agasthyamalai Landscape and passed other directions

#### *A. John Kennedy & Others vs. State of Tamil Nadu and Others*<sup>13</sup>

On 29 May 2026, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, division bench of Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, J.J, addressed encroachments and restoration aspects across Tamil Nadu's Agasthyamalai landscape, including the Kalakad-Mundanthurai and Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserves and Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary. The Court reviewed analysed the forest encroachment, public utilities inside forest land, impact on biodiversity, water security and wildlife. The Hon'ble Court ordered time bound and division wise eviction plan to be prepared on priority basis. The eviction plan shall include measures for physical eviction and rehabilitation wherever

applicable along with legal action against wilful defaulters. Additionally, it was directed that the State Law Department shall continue to monitor the proceedings before District Courts and other judicial forums. Furthermore, the court directed action against 118 government servant encroachers, and a blanket moratorium was imposed on extension of welfare schemes, public utilities and transportation facilities. Various other directions like stringent disciplinary and legal action against all officers and heads of departments who have permitted or approved the illegal infrastructure works within the forest areas. CEC will bmit its report as on 28 August 2026 and the next date of hearing is 01 September 2026.

## HIGH COURTS

### DELHI HIGH COURT

#### Delhi High Court bans all commercial and religious activities on the Yamuna Flood Plains, aiming at prioritization of ecological sensitivity

##### *Suresh Kumar vs. Delhi Development Authority and Anr.*<sup>14</sup>

The Delhi High Court, Single Judge Bench of Jasmeet Singh, J., disposed of a writ petition under Article 226 seeking restoration of a parking-site allotment at Yamuna Sur Ghat, by directing that no commercial or parking, or religious activity shall be permitted on the Yamuna Flood Plains. The dispute arose from a MoU between Delhi Development Authority ("DDA")

and Municipal Corporation of Delhi ("MCD") concerning parking-site management, pursuant to which MCD allotted the petitioner a 3,780 sq m site through competitive bidding; however, DDA subsequently withdrew permission upon discovering that only 2,508 sq m had been formally transferred, and MCD cancelled the allotment. The Court accepted DDA's contention that the land fell within Zone-O and was a part of the Yamuna Flood Plains, an ecologically sensitive area unsuitable for commercial activities. The Court held that questions concerning the legality of the cancellation and the petitioner's compensation claim involved disputed facts requiring adjudication in civil proceedings, and directed DDA to ensure the flood plain area remained undisturbed, with alternative parking arrangements to be made away from the sensitive zone. The application was therefore disposed of.

### MADHYA PRADESH HIGH COURT

#### Madhya Pradesh High Court has denied granting of bail to the alleged pacher, while citing prima facie involvement

##### *Yangchen Lachungpa vs. State of M.P.*<sup>15</sup>

The Madhya Pradesh High Court, Single Judge Bench of Ramkumar Choubey, J., dismissed a bail application filed by an accused allegedly involved in poaching and trafficking of pangolins and other wildlife animals. The case arose from an investigation by forest officials which revealed the accused and her co-accused's involvement in an international gang of wildlife poachers and traffickers, leading to registration of offences under

<sup>12</sup> Secretary, State of Karnataka and Ors. vs. Umadevi and Ors., 2006 INSC 216

<sup>13</sup> A. John Kennedy & Others vs. State of Tamil Nadu and Others, MANU/SC/0594/2026

<sup>14</sup> Suresh Kumar vs. Delhi Development Authority& Anr., W.P.(C) 5894/2026

<sup>15</sup> Yangchen Lachungpa vs. State of M.P. MANU/MP/2729/2026



## DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

Sections 2(16), 9, 39, 44, 49, 50, 51, 52, and 57 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The accused had previously been granted interim bail for 15 days with a direction to surrender before the Tiger Strike Force Office, Narmadapuram, but failed to comply, resulting in issuance of a non-bailable warrant. The Court held that the record suggested prima facie involvement of the accused in the crime, that the State's apprehension of her absconding appeared well-founded, and considering the gravity of the offence involving an international trafficking network, dismissed the bail application.

### Madhya Pradesh High Court has directed the Additional Chief Secretary to address rehabilitation failures of Narmada Dam-displaced persons after a PIL has been filed by a social activist

#### *Medha Patkar vs. The State of Madhya Pradesh and Ors.*<sup>16</sup>

The Madhya Pradesh High Court Division Bench of Vijay Kumar Shukla and Alok Awasthi, JJ., in a public interest litigation ("PIL") filed by social activist Medha Patkar, directed the Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh, to address the issues and suggestions raised by Medha Patkar regarding rehabilitation of persons displaced by the Sardar Sarovar Dam (Narmada Dam) Project. The PIL, filed in 2024, sought registration of land plots allotted to displaced persons in Districts Dhar, Badwani, Khargone, and Alirajpur, where allotment letters issued in 2002 had never been registered under the Registration Act, 1908. The Hon'ble court had earlier passed directions for constitution of district-level committees for

registration for registration of sale deeds in favour of the land's outsees or in the name of their legal heirs. The Court directed the Additional Chief Secretary to meet Medha Patkar again if necessary and the State to file an updated status report.

### Madhya Pradesh High Court directed the Jal Nigam to lay water pipelines and thereby affirmed the right to potable water as integral to the right to life

#### *Bharat Enterprises vs. State of Madhya Pradesh*<sup>17</sup>

The Madhya Pradesh High Court, Single Judge Bench of Milind Ramesh Phadke, J., allowed a writ petition filed by Bharat Enterprises, a registered coloniser, regarding the failure of authorities to lay water pipelines in a residential colony at Village Sigora, Gwalior. The petitioner had obtained development permission from the Special Area Development Authority ("SADA"), completed all internal development works, and received a completion certificate, but SADA failed to complete external development works owing to financial constraints. The Court noted that a contract between SADA and Jal Nigam for the Multi Village Water Supply Scheme and a State Government order of 14 September 2023 transferring water treatment plants to Jal Nigam clearly vested responsibility for water supply infrastructure with Jal Nigam. The Court held that State instrumentalities cannot evade responsibilities by shifting the burden upon one another, that the right to access water is integral to the right to life, and directed Jal Nigam to lay pipelines and ensure potable water supply within three months.

## RAJASTHAN HIGH COURT

### Rajasthan High Court took suo moto cognizance of the degradation of wetlands across the State

#### *In Re: Protection, Conservation and Notification of Wetlands in the State of Rajasthan and Preservation of Biodiversity, Groundwater Recharge and Ecological Sustainability*<sup>18</sup>

The Rajasthan High Court at Jodhpur, comprising Pushpendra Singh Bhati and Rekha Borana, JJ., took suo motu cognizance of degradation, pollution, encroachment and disappearance of wetlands across Rajasthan based on newspaper reports. The Court noted wetlands' ecological functions, including groundwater recharge, flood moderation, water purification, carbon sequestration, climate regulation and biodiversity preservation, and held that degradation affects water security, climate resilience and quality of life. Invoking Article 21, Articles 48A and 51A(g), Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, Ramsar Convention, Public Trust Doctrine, Sustainable Development, Precautionary Principle and Inter-Generational Equity, it registered a suo motu PIL under Article 226 and sought status reports on inventories, notification, GIS mapping, encroachments, pollution, discharge of sewage, biodiversity assessment, public awareness initiatives, and a restoration roadmap. The matter was listed for 6 July 2026.

<sup>16</sup> Medha Patkar vs. The State of Madhya Pradesh and Ors., 2026 SCC OnLine MP 7882

<sup>17</sup> Bharat Enterprises vs. State of Madhya Pradesh 2026 SCC OnLine MP 10881

<sup>18</sup> In Re: Protection, Conservation and Notification of Wetlands in the State of Rajasthan and Preservation of Biodiversity, Groundwater Recharge and Ecological Sustainability, Rajasthan High Court, Jodhpur, Suo Motu PIL under Article 226, order dated 01.06.2026.



## DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

## KERALA HIGH COURT

**Kerala High Court upheld the validity of Section 104(1-A) of the Industrial Relations Code, 2020*****M.K. Suresh Kumar vs. Union of India*<sup>19</sup>**

The Kerala High Court, comprising Devan Ramachandran and Basant Balaji, JJ., dismissed the appeal challenging the Industrial Relations Code (Amendment) Act, 2026, which inserted Section 104(1-A) into the Industrial Relations Code, 2020 (“**IR Code**”). The provision permits Labour Tribunals constituted under repealed enactments to continue until new tribunals under the IR Code are constituted. The appellants argued that it was manifestly arbitrary and inconsistent with Sections 44(7) and 51(1), which contemplate transfer to multi-member forums. Applying *Shayara Bano vs Union of India*<sup>20</sup>, the Court held that the jurisdiction of court is normally attached in case of arbitrary provisions. Section 104(1-A) is a necessary non-obstante transitional mechanism, preventing cessation of judicial functions.

## MEGHALAYA HIGH COURT

**Meghalaya High Court takes suo moto cognizance of illegal mineral transportation and thereby had issued interim safeguards*****Registrar General vs. State of Meghalaya*<sup>21</sup>**

The Meghalaya High Court, comprising Revati Mohite Dere, C.J., and H.S. Thangkhiew, J., registered a suo motu PIL based on a letter alleging

illegal mineral transportation and extraction along NH-206 towards the Bangladesh border. The Court found apprehensions regarding vehicles without registration plates, illegal mining, public road damage, impact on residents and environmental harm to be prima facie visible and real, reflecting administrative inaction. It directed impleadment of MoEFCC, the State of Meghalaya and concerned authorities, and sought affidavits on action under the Meghalaya Minor Minerals Concession Rules, 2016, Meghalaya Mines and Minerals Policy, 2012, and Meghalaya Mineral (Prevention of Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage) Rules, 2022.

## NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

**NGT has prohibited the construction and dumping of waste in Nehru Park, Kullu, thereby invoking the Precautionary Principle against the proposed MRF; 8 May 2026*****Sanjay Kapoor vs. Municipal Council, Kullu & Ors.*<sup>22</sup>**

The National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, comprising Arun Kumar Tyagi, J., Dr. A. Senthil Vel and Dr. Afroz Ahmad, considered a challenge to construction activity and dumping within Nehru Park, Kullu, a public park maintained by the Municipal Council. The applicant alleged dumping of sand, grit, boulders and idle mobile toilets, and challenged a tender for constructing a Material Recovery Facility within the park. The site was stated to be less than 30 metres from the Sarvari River, adjoining dense

habitations and less than 10 km from Bhunter Airport. The applicant relied on the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, seeking restraint, closure of the existing riverbank waste facility, relocation and inspection. Applying the precautionary principle under the NGT Act, 2010, the Tribunal directed respondents to desist from construction. The matter was listed for 2 July 2026.

**NGT has issued notice on Illegal Mining in Gochar Land in Rajasthan, thereby directing the constitution of a Joint Committee*****Megha Ram vs. Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board & Ors.*<sup>23</sup>**

The NGT Central Zone Bench, comprising Sheo Kumar Singh, J., and Dr. Afroz Ahmad, took cognizance of alleged illegal mining on Gochar land in Village Koliya, Didwana, Rajasthan, without EC, permissions or pollution-control measures. The applicant alleged dust pollution, land degradation, blasting vibrations and cracks making his residence unsafe. The Tribunal noted GPS photographs showing excavation and lack of water sprinkling or dust control, and land records confirming Gochar status. It issued notice, sought replies, and constituted a Joint Committee of representatives nominated by District Collector and Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (“**RSPCB**”) for inspection and factual/action-taken report. The matter is listed for 4 August 2026.

<sup>19</sup> M.K. Suresh Kumar vs. Union of India, MANU/KE/1277/2026

<sup>20</sup> Shayara Bano vs. Union of India, (2017) 9 SCC 1

<sup>21</sup> Registrar General vs. State of Meghalaya, MANU/MG/0138/2026

<sup>22</sup> Sanjay Kapoor vs. Municipal Council, Kullu & Ors., O.A. No. 299/2026

<sup>23</sup> Megha Ram vs. Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board & Ors, NGT, Central Zone Bench, O.A. No. 109/2026 (CZ)



DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

**NGT has issued notice to Brick Kiln operating illegally without any pollution control measures in Bhilwara; 13 May 2026**

***Mahaveer Prasad Jain vs. Vijay Kumhar & Ors.***<sup>24</sup>

The NGT Central Zone Bench, comprising Sheo Kumar Singh, J., and Dr. Afroz Ahmad, considered allegations of illegal brick kiln operation at Village Badanpura, Bhilwara, Rajasthan, without land-use conversion approvals, CTE, CTO or pollution-control safeguards. The applicant alleged absence of zig-zag technology, green-belt plantation, Central Ground Water Board (“CGWB”) permission and stack emission monitoring, causing black smoke, dust and particulate matter affecting air quality and public health. It was further alleged that ash and pollutants contaminated nearby water bodies, including a seasonal pond/nala, making it unfit for cattle to drink the water, and affected agricultural land, soil quality and crop productivity. Finding substantial environmental issues, the Tribunal issued notice, sought replies, and constituted a committee consisting of one representative from RSPCB and one from the Collector, Bhilwara, Rajasthan. The matter is listed for 4 August 2026.

**NGT has admitted the appeal as against the Stage-II Forest Clearance for Sijimali Mine Access Road, Alleging Circumvention of FRA Consent; 14 May 2026 and 27 May 2026**

***Munidei Majhi & Ors. vs. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & Ors.***<sup>25</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Mahaveer Prasad Jain vs. Vijay Kumhar & Ors., Central Bench Zone, NGT, O.A. No. 110/2026 (CZ)

<sup>25</sup> Munidei Majhi & Ors. vs. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & Ors., Eastern Zone, NGT, Appeal No. 11/2026/EZ

<sup>26</sup> RKMP: Yahan Safai Par 7 Lakh Kharch, Karmchari Maalgadi Par Rakh Dete Hain Kachre Se Bhari Theliyan appear in Dianik Bhaskar Bhopal Newspaper dated 27 April 2026 vs. State of Madhya Pradesh, O.A. No. 113/2026 (CZ), Central Zone, NGT

<sup>27</sup> Govind Pathak vs. State of Jharkhand & Ors., O.A. No. 132/2026/EZ, NGT Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata

<sup>28</sup> Siddharth Singh Rajpoot & Anr. vs. State of Madhya Pradesh & Ors., O.A. No. 96/2026, Central Zone Bench, Bhopal

The NGT Eastern Zone Bench, comprising Arun Kumar Tyagi, J., and Ishwar Singh, heard a matter on 14 May 2026 under Sections 16(e) and 18(1) of the NGT Act, 2010 challenging MoEFCC’s Stage-II forest approval, working permission and tree-removal. The appellants alleged violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, precautionary principle, sustainable development and Articles 14 and 21, citing impact across 44 villages. The matter was listed for 20 May 2026, on which respondents were granted time to file reply. The next date of hearing is 7 July 2026.

**NGT has taken Suo Motu Cognizance of the mismanagement of Solid Waste at Rani Kamlapati Railway Station; 14 May 2026**

***RKMP: Yahan Safai Par 7 Lakh Kharch, Karmchari Maalgadi Par Rakh Dete Hain Kachre Se Bhari Theliyan appear in Dianik Bhaskar Bhopal Newspaper dated 27 April 2026 vs. State of Madhya Pradesh***<sup>26</sup>

The NGT Central Zone Bench, comprising Sheo Kumar Singh, J., and Dr. A. Senthil Vel, took *suo moto* cognisance of a news report alleging SWM Rules violations at Rani Kamlapati Railway Station, Bhopal. Despite a ₹7 lakh per month cleaning contract, waste was allegedly packed in polythene bags, placed on goods trains, dropped on tracks and not sent to a disposal facility. The tribunal additionally mentioned *Paryavaran Suraksha Samiti vs. Union of India and Ors.* and *Bhopal Municipal Corporation vs. Subhash Chand Pandey & Ors.* The Hon’ble Tribunal issued notice and constituted a committee consisting of members from DRM Bhopal and one representative from the

Member secretary state pollution control board for factual and action-taken report. The matter is listed for 5 August 2026.

**Any Illegal commercial construction within an Eco-Sensitive Zone thereby initiates and raises various substantial environmental questions**

***Govind Pathak vs. State of Jharkhand & Ors.***<sup>27</sup>

The NGT Eastern Zone Bench, comprising Arun Kumar Tyagi, J.M., and Ishwar Singh, E.M., considered alleged illegal construction of 59 hotels and resorts within the Palamau Tiger Reserve ESZ, notified under S.O. 2898(E) dated 9 August 2019. The applicant alleged two constructions were within Palamau Wildlife Sanctuary and violated Paragraph 4 of the ESZ Notification prohibiting new commercial construction within one kilometre of protected areas or the ESZ extent, whichever is nearer. The applicant has argued the absence of Zonal Master Plan, Tourism Master Plan and Monitoring Committee. The Tribunal issued notice and sought responses. The matter is listed for 8 July 2026.

**NGT sought a report on the Milk Pouring ritual into the Narmada River; 18 May 2026**

***Siddharth Singh Rajpoot & Anr. vs. State of Madhya Pradesh & Ors.***<sup>28</sup>

The NGT Central Zone Bench, comprising Sheo Kumar Singh, Judicial Member and Sudhir Kumar Chaturvedi, Expert Member, discussed that



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Gram Panchayat Satdev organized a religious ceremony in which nearly 11,000 litres of milk and 210 sarees were poured or immersed into the Narmada river stream passing through Satdev and Bheruda villages, Sehore District. The impact on environment, ecology, aquatic life, drinking water was discussed. It was analyzed as to whether the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 was prohibited. The Tribunal directed CPCB and MPPCB to submit report and the matter is listed for 17 July 2026.

**NGT has restrained any further construction on Gramya Jungle Land in Puri; 27 May 2026*****Sudarsan Mishra vs. State of Odisha & Ors.*<sup>29</sup>**

In Sudarsan Mishra vs. State of Odisha & Ors. (O.A. No. 26/2026/EZ), the National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata, comprising Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and Mr. Ishwar Singh, on 27 May 2026 passed interim injunctive directions in proceedings alleging that Respondent No. 10 had encroached upon forest land and a water body and raised construction thereon without approval from any authority, in violation of environmental laws and norms, at Khata No. 324, Plot No. 18, measuring Ac. 2.64, Kissam: Gramya Jungle, Mouza Bairipur, Tahasil Gop, District Puri, Odisha. Noting that respondents no. 1 to 7 and 10 had failed to file responses despite opportunity granted by order dated 16.02.2026, the Tribunal granted a further month for filing replies. Invoking the precautionary principle embodied in Section 20 of the National Green Tribunal Act,

2010 and exercising powers under Section 19(4)(i), the Tribunal restrained Respondent No. 10 from raising any further construction. The matter is listed for 27 August 2026.

**NGT has restrained the construction activities on Forest Land Proposed for the purpose of Hotel and Resort Project in Mayurbhanj Rakesh Kumar Mohanty vs. State of Odisha & Ors.**<sup>30</sup>

In Rakesh Kumar Mohanty vs. State of Odisha & Ors. (O.A. No. 09/2026/EZ), the National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata, comprising Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and Mr. Ishwar Singh, on 26 May 2026 passed directions in proceedings concerning alleged attempted diversion and alienation of ecologically fragile forest land comprised in Khata No. 123, Plot No. 138, measuring Ac. 93.280, Village Laxmiposi, Tehsil Shamakhunta, District Mayurbhanj, Odisha, in favour of Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (“IDCO”) for a private hotel and resort project. The Tribunal noted that respondents no. 2 and 4 had not appeared despite service of notice and proceeded against them ex parte. Invoking the precautionary principle under Section 20 of the NGT Act, 2010 and exercising powers under Section 19(4)(i), the Tribunal restrained respondents no. 2, 4, and 5 from raising any construction on the land until further orders. The matter is listed for 31 July 2026.

**NGT dismisses the challenge with respect to the EC to Vadodara–Mumbai Expressway*****Gujarat Khedut Samaj & Ors. vs. Secretary, MoEFCC & Ors.*<sup>31</sup>**

The National Green Tribunal, Western Zone Bench, Pune, comprising Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh, J.M. and Dr. Sujit Kumar Bajpayee, E.M., on 2 June 2026, dismissed Appeal No. 44 of 2016 (WZ) filed by Gujarat Khedut Samaj and three individual appellants challenging EC dated 11.02.2016 granted by MoEFCC to the National Highways Authority of India (“NHAI”) for Phase-I of the Vadodara–Mumbai Expressway project. The NGT noted that the appellants ultimately confined their challenge to alleged procedural deficiencies in the public hearing and no other ground was pressed before the Hon’ble Tribunal. Accordingly, the Tribunal held that no infirmity was established in the public hearing process and dismissed the appeal with no order as to costs.

**NGT directs expeditious constitution of the Delhi Ridge Management Board; 18 May 2026*****Pavit Singh vs. State (NCT of Delhi) & Ors.*<sup>32</sup>**

The National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, comprising Justice Prakash Shrivastava (Chairperson) and Dr Afroz Ahmad (Expert Member) heard an Execution Application for directions passed in O.A. No. 10/2014 regarding the demolition of unauthorized construction and barricading the entire forest area. The directions passed include the constitution of an Oversight

<sup>29</sup> Sudarsan Mishra vs. State of Odisha & Ors., O.A. No. 26/2026/EZ Eastern Zone Bench, NGT

<sup>30</sup> Rakesh Kumar Mohanty vs. State of Odisha & Ors., O.A. 9/2026/EZ, Eastern Zone Bench, NGT

<sup>31</sup> Gujarat Khedut Samaj & Ors. vs. Secretary, MoEF&CC & Ors., Appeal No.44/2016, (WZ), Western Bench, NGT

<sup>32</sup> Pavit Singh vs. State (NCT of Delhi) & Ors., EA No. 32/2024 in OA No. 10/2014



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Committee, whose main function will be the removal of encroachments from the ridge, preparation of management plan for its restitution and its protection by way of boundary/fencing. It was held in order of 11 February 2026 that the OC constituted by the tribunal is substituted by Delhi Ridge Management Board (“DRMB”) and work of OC will be conducted by DRMB. In the hearing of 18 May 2026, it was submitted by the Respondents that the notification with respect to phase-I of the Central Ridge has been prepared and is likely to be published in the near future. The Hon’ble Tribunal directed to place the same on record post publication and directed the concerned respondents and DRMB to file the progress report in respect of Phase-II of the Southern Ridge. The matter is next listed for 31 August 2026.

**NGT has taken suo motu cognizance of the rise in heatwave crisis**  
*In Re: News Item titled “48 Degree Heat 360 Degree Plan” appearing in The Times of India dated 22 May 2026*<sup>33</sup>

The NGT Principal Bench, New Delhi, comprising Justice Prakash Shrivastava, Chairperson, and Dr. Afroz Ahmad, E.M., registered a *suo motu* application based on a Times of India report on India’s heatwave crisis. Noting 48°C in Banda, Delhi heatwave conditions and Uttar Pradesh red warning, the Tribunal recorded impacts on health, productivity, livelihoods, power, water, agriculture, pollution and wildlife fire risks. It flagged urban heat patterns, rural exposure, thermal mapping, remote sensing, forecasting,

open geospatial climate data and micro-planning. The matter is listed for 19 August 2026.

**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**NHRC takes suo motu cognizance of fatal blast at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant**

*In re: Reported death of workers in explosion at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited*<sup>34</sup>

The National Human Rights Commission (“NHRC”), India, on 11 June 2026, took *suo motu* cognizance of the reported death of eight workers and severe burn injuries to at least six others following an explosion at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (“RINL”) in Andhra Pradesh on 8 June 2026. The NHRC acted on a media report published on 9 June 2026 alleging that a ladle carrying approximately 150 tonnes of liquid steel at around 1600°C suddenly exploded in the Steel Melting Shop, causing molten steel to spill across the shop floor.

**NHRC has taken suo motu cognizance of the deaths in Surat’s septic tank at a jewellery unit; 10 June 2026**

*In re: Death of four workers while cleaning a septic tank at a jewellery manufacturing unit in Surat district, Gujarat*<sup>35</sup>

The National Human Rights Commission took suo motu cognisance of a media report on the death of four workers while cleaning a septic tank at a

jewellery manufacturing unit in Surat, Gujarat, on 7 June 2026. The workers allegedly entered the tank without safety protocol, were exposed to toxic fumes and were declared dead at hospital. NHRC observed that, if true, the facts raised serious human rights concerns regarding unsafe working conditions and hazardous cleaning safeguards. It issued notices to Gujarat’s Chief Secretary and Surat Commissioner of Police seeking a report within two weeks on investigation status and compensation.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

**GLOBAL DISPUTES**  
**BHP denied permission to appeal High Court’s liability ruling over 2015 Fundão dam disaster**

*Município Mariana v BHP Group Ltd Município Mariana v BHP Group Ltd*<sup>36</sup>

On 6 May 2026, the Court of Appeal rejected BHP’s bid for permission to appeal the High Court’s liability judgment in Municipio de Mariana & Ors vs. BHP Plc & BHP Ltd [2025] EWHC 3001, a claim by more than 600,000 claimants arising from the 2015 Fundão dam collapse in southeast Brazil. After the Stage 1 trial on threshold liability in November 2025, the High Court found BHP strictly liable under Article 3(IV) of Brazilian Environmental Law. Having been refused permission by the High Court in January 2026, BHP applied to the Court of Appeal in February 2026, arguing the strict

33 In Re: News Item titled “48 Degree Heat 360 Degree Plan” appearing in The Times of India dated 22 May 2026, O.A. 337/2026, PB, NGT  
34 In re: Reported death of workers in explosion at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, PIB Notification dated 11 June 2026  
35 In re: Death of four workers while cleaning a septic tank at a jewellery manufacturing unit in Surat district, Gujarat, National Human Rights Commission, India, suo motu cognizance / press release dated 10.06.2026.  
36 Município Mariana v BHP Group Ltd [2026] EWCA Civ 502



## DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

and fault-based liability findings were wrong or unjust owing to procedural irregularity. The Court of Appeal, following a 12 March 2026 hearing, held none of the grounds had a reasonable prospect of success. Stage 2, addressing causation and quantum, runs April 2027 to March 2028.

**France: French Court Orders TotalEnergies to Include Scope 3 Emissions in Vigilance Plan*****Notre Affaire à Tous et al. vs. TotalEnergies SE*<sup>37</sup>**

On 28 January 2020, several French NGOs and local governments sued TotalEnergies before the Nanterre Judicial Court under France's Duty of Vigilance Law, alleging that its vigilance plan failed to address climate risks, including Scope 3 emissions from use of its oil and gas products. On 25 June 2026, the Paris Judicial Court issued its first merits decision, holding the plan incomplete because it mapped Scope 1 and 2 emissions but excluded Scope 3, which the court found form part of the climate risks arising from the group's activities. It ordered TotalEnergies to supplement the plan within six months. The court declined to impose specific reduction targets, a 1.5°C-aligned strategy, or a halt to new hydrocarbon projects, finding this exceeded its powers. It awarded €20,000 to each remaining claimant and referred the case for further proceedings in January 2027.

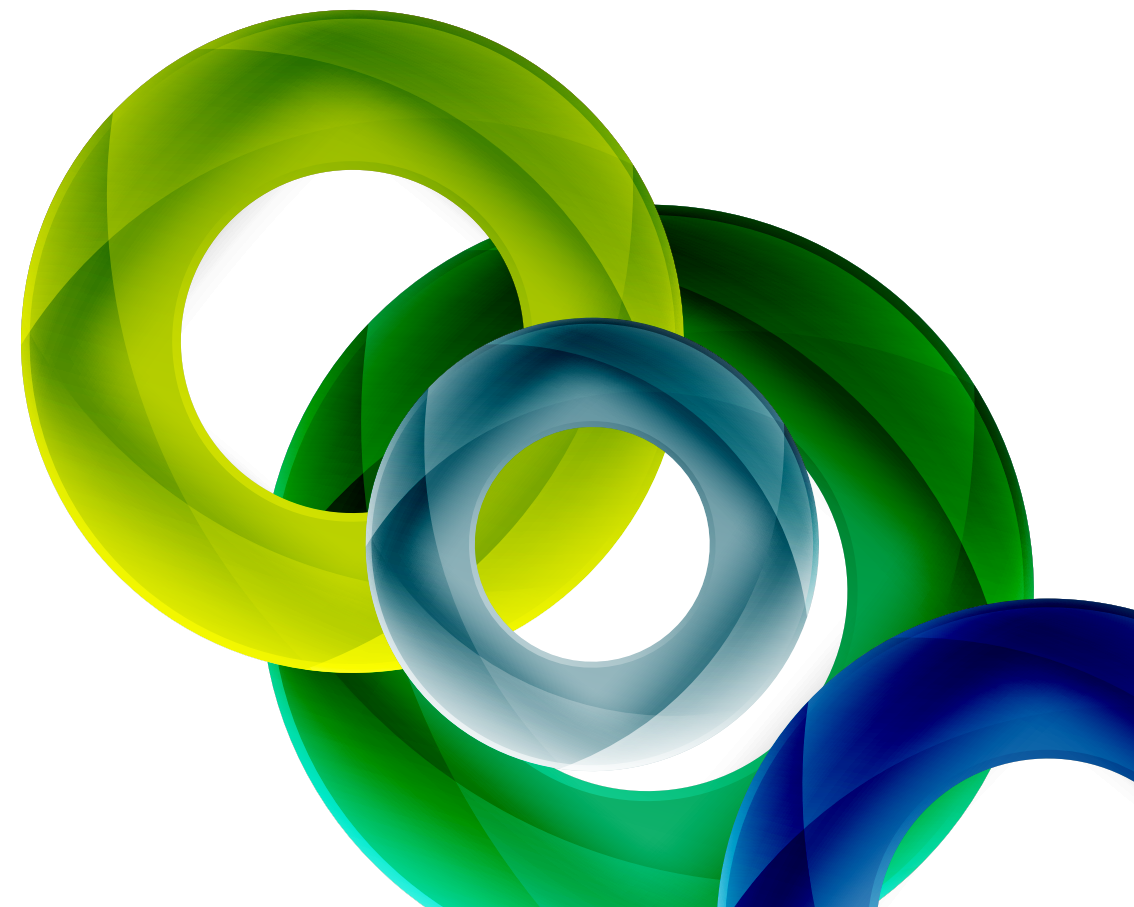
**Brazil: Federal prosecutors secure R\$15 million judgment against Volkswagen for NOx emissions fraud, appeal for full R\$30 million award citing climate emergency*****Federal Public Prosecutor's Office vs. Volkswagen do Brasil Indústria Ltda*<sup>38</sup>**

In August 2020, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office ("MPF") brought a Public Civil Action against Volkswagen do Brasil over software that defeats diesel emissions tests, concealing real NOx emissions in "Amarok" vehicles. The MPF alleged 17,057 vehicles from the 2011 and part of the 2012 fleet carried the device, part of the global "dieselgate" scandal, producing pollutants roughly 31% above the legal limit and releasing 2,737.2 tons of NOx between 2011 and 2016. Volkswagen denied fraud, relying on a counter report. In April 2026, the court ordered Volkswagen to pay R\$15 million in collective environmental and moral damages, finding only the 90kW models exceeded limits and treating the partial recall and prior IBAMA fine as mitigating. The MPF appealed for the full R\$30 million, invoking the climate emergency and arguing the licensing fraud rendered all sales illegal.

**Milieudefensie launches a second round of climate litigation against Shell*****Milieudefensie et al. vs. Shell Plc (No New Oil and Gas Fields Case)***

On 21 April 2026, Vereniging Milieudefensie ("Milieudefensie") brought a second civil action against Shell plc ("Shell") in the District Court of Amsterdam. This case is wholly distinct from the original proceedings, which led to the Hague Court of Appeal's November 2024 judgment and are now pending before the Dutch Supreme Court (see below). Milieudefensie now seeks considerably broader relief. In particular, it argues that Shell must cut its absolute Scope 1, 2 and 3 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 70% for oil and 78% for gas by 2035 (measured against 2022 levels), and by 98% for both by 2050. It also asks the court to bar Shell from using divestment or carbon credits

to satisfy any reduction duty, and to require Shell and the Shell Group to stop developing and producing in new oil and gas fields, including by trading products from such fields. Shell has been summoned to appear on 29 July 2026. Although still at an early stage, the case marks a significant expansion in the relief sought against major energy companies under Dutch law.



<sup>37</sup> Notre Affaire à Tous et al. vs. TotalEnergies SE (France, Paris Judicial Court). 26 June 2026

<sup>38</sup> Federal Public Prosecutor's Office vs. Volkswagen do Brasil Indústria Ltda (Brazil, São Paulo Federal Court). 07 May 2026



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