



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.



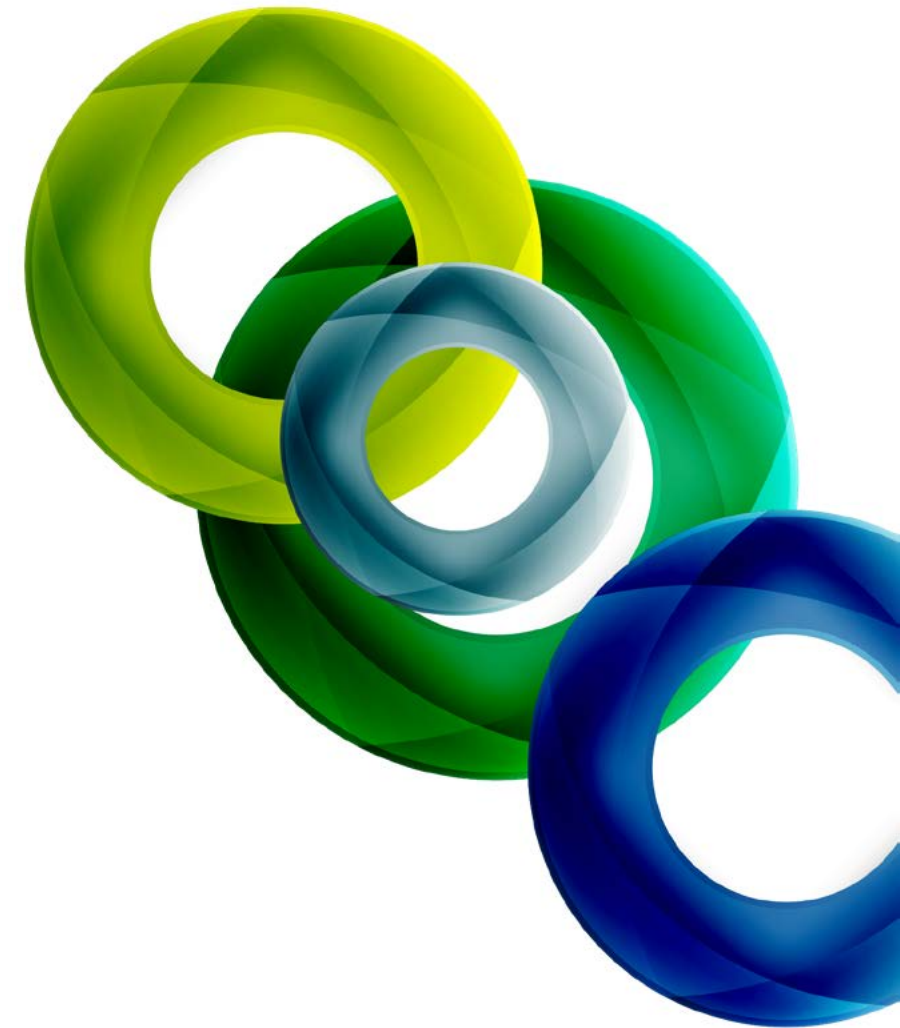
[Dispute Resolution and Enforcement Trends](#) **17**

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



[News and Market Trends](#) **27**

Tracks key ESG, climate and energy news and market developments in India and globally, with a focus on their practical implications for business.





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Regulatory and Policy Developments



Regulatory and Policy Developments

MNRE extends implementation timeline for Solar Systems, Devices and Components Goods Order, 2025; 03 July 2026

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (“**MNRE**”) has extended the implementation timeline of the Solar Systems, Devices and Components Goods Order, 2025 for solar photovoltaic (“**SPV**”) cells inverters having capacity above 200 kilowatt (“**kW**”) till 31 December 2026 or until further orders, whichever is earlier. The extension has been issued with the view to limited testing facilities and to provide additional time for compliance. The extended implementation is based on self-certification, subject to manufacturers holding valid Import-Export Code (“**IEC**”) certificates corresponding to the prescribed Indian Standards and test reports from accredited testing laboratories for the relevant inverter categories.

MNRE clarifies installation requirements for prototype wind turbine models; 14 July 2026

MNRE has issued clarification regarding the amended revised guidelines for installation of prototype wind turbine models. It has clarified that installation of prototype wind turbine models for commercial deployment may be undertaken only after inclusion of the relevant model in the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (“**ALMM**”)-Wind List. However, prototype models may continue to be installed and commissioned for testing before enlistment in ALMM-Wind, in accordance with Revised Guidelines issued on 12 June 2025, which specify that installation of prototype will not be allowed until the wind turbine model is included in the ALMM (Wind) list.

MNRE continues Renewable Energy Research and Technology Development Programme for 2026–27 to 2030–31; 17 July 2026

MNRE has accorded administrative approval for continuation of the Renewable Energy Research and Technology Development Programme (“**RE-RTD**”) in the 16th Financial Cycle (“**FC**”) from Financial Year (“**FY**”) 2026–27 to FY 2030–31, at a total cost of Rs. 436.93 crore. The programme seeks to scale up research and development in renewable energy and promote indigenous technology development and manufacturing for wider and cost-effective deployment of new and renewable energy technologies. It is intended to strengthen national research and innovation capacity. MNRE issues “Calls for Proposals” for research and technology development projects through advertisement in scientific and technological journals.

MNRE permits limited extension from ALMM List-II for select solar projects; 18 July 2026; 18 July 2026

MNRE has decided that there will be no blanket extension to projects to the ALMM List-II requirement for transition of the SPV cells. However, a limited window has been provided for Net-Metering and Open Access renewable energy projects, allowing such projects to be commissioned with exemption from ALMM List-II requirements for SPV cells till 31 December 2026. The dispensation extends the earlier limited window available to such projects and is intended to facilitate a smoother transition to the cell-level ALMM framework while supporting the domestic solar manufacturing ecosystem.

MNRE publishes Model Service Agreement for “*Electrolyser as a Service*”; 23 July 2026

MNRE has published a Model Service Agreement for “*Electrolyser as a Service*” (“**EaaS**”) to facilitate adoption of green hydrogen across industrial sectors. Under the EaaS model, technology providers may establish, own and operate electrolytic hydrogen generation plants at consumers’ premises, thereby reducing upfront capital expenditure for consumers. The Model Agreement sets out standard industry practices relating to allocation of responsibilities, performance guarantees, threshold energy consumption metrics and risk allocation. It is intended as a facilitative and reference document to reduce transaction costs and negotiation time, while permitting market participants to modify its provisions based on commercial and project-specific requirements.

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana introduces financing and subsidy measures for rooftop solar; 28 July 2026

MNRE has introduced measures under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (“**PMSG:MBY**”) to improve affordability of rooftop solar (“**RTS**”) systems for middle-income and economically weaker households. The measures include higher Central Financial Assistance for the first 2 KiloWatt-Peak (“**kWp**”) of RTS capacity, collateral-free loans from nationalised banks at a concessional interest rate of repo-rate plus 50 basis points, presently 5.75% per annum, with a 10-year tenure, and inclusion of Renewable Energy Service Company (“**RESCO**”)/Utility-Led Aggregation (“**ULA**”) models. As of 22 July 2026; 39,72,447 RTS systems covering 48,02,717 households had been installed under the scheme.



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MNRE implements New Solar Power Scheme for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (“PVTGs”) and tribal habitations; 29 July 2026

MNRE is implementing the New Solar Power Scheme for PGTV and tribal habitations/villages under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (“**PM-JANMAN**”) and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (“**DAJGUA**”). The Scheme provides 100% Central Financial Assistance for off-grid solar systems for un-electrified households, solar street lighting and lighting of Multi-Purpose Centres (“**MPCs**”) in PVTG areas, and solarisation of identified public institutions through off-grid solar systems. It provides Rs. 50,000 per un-electrified household for a 0.3 kW off-grid system, Rs. 1 lakh per MPC for solar street lighting and Rs. 1 lakh per kW for public institutions, subject to prescribed limits.

MNRE launches pilot projects for hydrogen-powered vehicles under National Green Hydrogen Mission; 29 July 2026

Under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (“**NGHM**”), the Government has awarded 12 pilot projects for deployment of 70 hydrogen-powered vehicles, comprising 27 buses and 43 trucks, including Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (“**FCEVs**”) and hydrogen internal combustion engine vehicles. The projects also provide 16 Hydrogen Refuelling Stations across 21 routes in different States. The total financial assistance allocated for the projects is approximately Rs. 410.77 crore, of which Rs. 41.582 crore has been released. Insights gained from these pilot projects help evaluate the technical and economic feasibility of hydrogen-based mobility solutions, paving the way for future policy support and the adoption of green hydrogen vehicles across India.

Cabinet approves Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana for floating solar projects with energy storage; 31 July 2026

The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (“**PM-SSY**”) for development of Floating Solar Photovoltaic (“**FSPV**”) projects with Energy Storage Systems (“**ESS**”), with a total outlay of Rs. 5,070 crore. The Scheme envisages development of 5,000 MW of FSPV projects with co-located ESS having minimum storage capacity of two hours, equivalent to 10,000 MWh. Projects will be sanctioned during FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31, with financial support disbursed up to FY 2032–33. The Scheme is based on an estimated floating solar potential of approximately 102.18 GWp across reservoirs and suitable inland water bodies and is intended to support renewable capacity addition, optimal utilisation of water resources and support the achievement of national energy and the climate objectives.

Compliance with inverter-level generation data requirements for rooftop solar systems; 17 August 2026

MNRE has issued an OM dated 17 August 2026 directing all inverter Original Equipment Manufacturers (“**OEMs**”) and manufacturers operating under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (“**PMSG: MBY**”) to comply with data residency and cybersecurity requirements for rooftop solar (“**RTS**”) systems. The OM mandates that all applications, monitoring and control servers, real-time data, and cloud-hosted information relating to RTS inverters must be stored in an encrypted, secure environment and reside exclusively within India. Inverter OEMs are required to furnish a written confirmation to REC Limited (with a copy to MNRE) within 30 days of issuance of the OM, affirming adherence to earlier guidelines on

secure communication of generation data including the use of Machine-to-Machine SIM-based communication protocols. In addition, all inverter OEMs must share daily cumulative energy generation data, mapped against the inverter serial number, with the National Portal through a uniform Application Programming Interface, for all installations under PMSG: MBY.

Advisory for extension of renewable energy project timelines due to Force Majeure; 21 August 2026

MNRE has issued an advisory to all Renewable Energy Implementing Agencies (“**REIAs**”) namely the Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (“**SECI**”), NTPC Limited, NHPC Limited, and SJVN Limited, as well as State and Union Territory Government departments, advising them to consider granting time-extensions for renewable energy (“**RE**”) power projects affected by disruptions arising from the West Asia situation. The advisory follows OM No. 1/3/2026-PPD dated 29 April 2026 issued by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, which clarified that the ongoing West Asia situation should be treated as war for the purposes of invoking Force Majeure under government contracts, and provided for an extension of registration and corresponding completion timelines of registered real estate projects whose completion date or revised completion date or the extended completion date falls on or after 28 February 2026, or for a time period of four months. REIAs and RE power procuring agencies are advised to grant up to four-month extensions to the Scheduled commencement of Supply Date/Scheduled Commissioning Date for RE projects falling due on or after 28 February 2026, in line with PPA Force Majeure provisions.



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CERC proposes generic tariffs for specified renewable-energy technologies for FY 2026–27; 23 August 2026

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (“**CERC**”) issued a proposal for determination of levellised generic tariffs for the third year of the control period under the CERC (Terms and Conditions for Tariff Determination from Renewable Energy Sources) Regulations, 2024. The proposed tariffs would apply to eligible projects commissioned from 1 August 2026 to 31 March 2027 and cover Small Hydro Projects, biomass power projects with Rankine Cycle technology, non-fossil fuel-based cogeneration project, biomass gasifier based Power projects, biogas-based power projects and refuse-derived fuel-based municipal solid-waste projects power projects. CERC had further discussed the comments received from stakeholders on Capital cost, Capital cost of Small Hydro Projects, Return on equity, Interest on Loan, Interest on working capital, operation and Maintenance Expenses, Depreciation, Capacity Utilization factor, fuel cost for biomass, etc. CERC retained the existing normative capital-cost framework and proposed updates to operating and fuel-cost parameters in accordance with the 2024 Regulations.

CEA notifies Central Electricity Authority (Cyber Security in Power Sector) Regulations, 2026; 31 July 2026

CEA has notified the Central Electricity Authority (Cyber Security in Power Sector) Regulations, 2026. The regulations, which shall come into force with effect from 1 April 2027, establish a comprehensive cybersecurity framework for the power sector to ensure the safe and secure operation and maintenance of electrical plants and electrical lines. They apply to all entities, including generating companies, captive generating plants,

organisations with Energy Storage Systems, transmission licensees, distribution licensees, National, Regional and State Load Dispatch Centres, power exchanges, and over-the-counter platforms, that own, operate, or manage Operational Technology infrastructure associated with the interconnected power system, and their Information Technology infrastructure physically or logically connected thereto, provided that generating companies, captive generating plants, and ESS organisations are covered only where their installed capacity is 50 MW or more. Key requirements include the designation of a Chief Information Security Officer at senior management level and the establishment of a dedicated Information Security Division, Cyber Security Policy, Cyber Crisis Management Plan, Cyber Security requirements for Vendor, Cyber Security Audit, etc.

Joint Parliamentary Committee recommends retaining statutory control over CSR threshold under Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026; 03 August 2026

The Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 presented its report on 03 August 2026. The Bill proposes to increase the net profit threshold for applicability of the Corporate Social Responsibility (“**CSR**”) obligation under section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 from ₹5 crore to ₹10 crore and to exempt prescribed classes of companies from CSR requirements. The Committee recommended removing the proposed power of the Central Government to revise the net profit threshold and observed that the proposed exemption lacked sufficient statutory guidance. It also recommended examining the feasibility of permitting CSR contributions in kind. The recommendations

remain subject to legislative consideration and do not, by themselves, amend the existing CSR framework.

MCA amends Indian Accounting Standards to address sustainability-linked financing and nature-dependent electricity contracts; 12 August 2026

MCA notified the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Amendment Rules, 2026 vide G.S.R. 725(E). The amendments modify Ind AS 101, Ind AS 107 and Ind AS 109 and introduce specific accounting and disclosure requirements green-power contracts, ESG-linked loans and e-payment settlements. Ind AS 107 now requires disclosures enabling users of financial statements to assess the effects of such contracts on future cash flows and financial performance, including information on electricity purchases, unused electricity, related sales and contractual commitments. The amendments also address sustainability-linked lending arrangements, contingent contractual cash flows and electronic settlement of financial liabilities.

MCA advances ESG-led responsible business conduct through National Conference on Responsible Business Conduct; 18 July 2026

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (“**IICA**”), an autonomous institution under MCA, held the fourth edition of the National Conference on Responsible Business Conduct (“**NCRBC**”) 2026 under the theme “*ESG-led Transformation for Viksit Bharat*”. The conference brought together regulators, government representatives, industry and other stakeholders to examine responsible business conduct and Environment,



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Social and Governance (“**ESG**”) integration. The discussions emphasised environmental sustainability, inclusive growth, trusted markets and stronger board-level attention to responsible business practices.

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Act, 2026; 11 August 2026

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Act, 2026 received Parliament assent. The amendments, inter alia, provide for updated classification of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, mandatory settlement of receivables through the Trade Receivables Discounting System (“**TReDS**”) for specified entities, a revised framework for Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Councils (“**MSEFCs**”), strengthened dispute resolution mechanisms and decriminalisation of certain offences. The amendments also seek to reduce payment-related constraints, make dispute resolution more time-bound and simplify compliance. The amendment further states about Digital and Institutional support in the form of expanding formal recognition, improving access to financing, enabling Online Dispute Resolution and strengthening the MSEFC Network.

Allocation of ₹2,000 crore under PM E-DRIVE Scheme for nationwide electric-vehicle public charging stations; 4 August 2026

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (“**MHI**”) has reported that an allocation of ₹2,000 crore has been made under the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (“**PM E-DRIVE**”) Scheme for deployment of Electric Vehicle Public Charging Stations (“**EVPCS**”) on a pan-India

basis. The PM E-DRIVE Scheme, with a total outlay of ₹10,900 crore, has been implemented from 1 April 2024 and supports the incentivisation of approximately 28.30 lakh electric vehicles, including electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, trucks, buses, and ambulances, along with grants for EVPCS and upgradation of testing agencies. In addition, ₹4,391 crore has been allocated for deployment of 14,028 electric buses across seven cities with populations exceeding four million. The Government has also reduced the Goods and Services Tax on electric vehicles and chargers to 5%.

MHI advances domestic rare-earth permanent magnet manufacturing through revised global tender ; 29 July 2026

MHI issued Addendum-3 to the global tender for selection of manufacturers to establish integrated sintered NdFeB rare-earth permanent magnet manufacturing facilities under the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (“**REPM Scheme**”). The addendum was issued on 29 July 2026 and amended the tender conditions before the bid process closed.

Green Steel certification expands to 98 steel producers across 15 States; 25 August 2026

Under the Ministry of Steel’s Green Steel Initiative, 98 steel producers across 15 States received Green Steel Certificates by August 2026. The certification covers products including TMT bars, hot-rolled coils and cold-rolled coils, plates, wire rods and pipes, with most certified products achieving the highest five-star rating under the Green Steel Taxonomy. The certification framework uses plant-level carbon-emission intensity

to determine the applicable green rating and provides market-facing recognition for lower-emission steel. The development represents substantive implementation of India’s Green Steel Taxonomy and supports the emergence of a domestic market for lower-carbon steel products.

Ministry of Coal promotes clean-coal technologies and targets 100 MT coal-gasification capacity by 2030; 27 July 2026

The Ministry of Coal reiterated its National Coal Gasification Mission target of achieving 100 million tonnes (“**MT**”) of coal-gasification capacity by 2030. The Ministry linked the initiative with the development of clean-coal technologies . An interactive panel session was also conducted on various aspects of coal gasification, including project economics, processing and geological challenges, financial support required for wider adoption of technology and utilization of high-ash Indian coal.

Ministry of Coal notifies Colliery Control (Amendment) Rules, 2026; 10 August 2026

The Ministry of Coal notified the Colliery Control (Amendment) Rules, 2026 on 10 August 2026, following stakeholder consultation on proposed amendments. The amendment enunciated the requirement of prior approval to open a coal mine, seam or section of a stream. It states that without prior approval of the Board of the company or the Governing Authority, no owner shall open a coal mine or a seam or section of a seam. Such intimation shall be sent to the Coal Controller Organization within a period of 15 days of opening the coal mine or the seam or the section of the seam.



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Amendment to the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026; 04 July 2026

MoPNG had notified amendments to the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026 exercising its powers under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The amendments have been introduced in view of the easing of disruptions in Liquefied Natural Gas (“LNG”) shipments through the Strait of Hormuz following the commencement of ceasefire and resumption of sea traffic, thereby reducing the need for regulatory measures relating to allocation and diversion of natural gas supplies. The paragraphs of the Natural Gas (Supply regulation) Order, 2026 enunciating the Regulation of production, supply and distribution; Gas redistribution; Implementation mechanism of pooling of gas; Directions to gas producers, marketers and pipeline operators; overriding effect on existing arrangements were omitted.

MoPNG issues E20 Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme Q&A following technical and industry consultations; 4–10 July 2026

MoPNG issued an evidence-based Q&A on the Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme following continued concerns regarding E20 compatibility and performance. Various questions like why did India rush its ethanol blending when targets when countries like Brazil took decades; why don’t consumers have the choice of buying pure petrol, E10 or E20? And what about the older vehicles that are labelled as only E10 compatible?; if ethanol is blended with petrol, why isn’t E20 cheaper than E10 or pure petrol; there are concerns that E20 damages rubber components, affects engines in older vehicles, and many vehicles manuals specifically mention “E10 compatible”. Should owners of older vehicles be worried?.

Furthermore, the data with respect to ethanol blending in India and the key milestones from 2000 till 2026 were shared.

MoEFCC invites proposals for action research under National Mission on Himalayan Studies; 17 July 2026

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (“MoEFCC”) invited proposals for demand-driven action research projects for 2026–27 under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (“NMHS”) on 17 July 2026. The mission aims at supporting the preservation and enhancement of natural, cultural, ecological and socio-economic assets of the Indian Himalayan Region. The identified thrust areas were introduced with respect to their Broad Thematic Areas, including Water Resource Management, Biodiversity Conservation and Management, Physical Connectivity, Livelihood Options and Employment Generation, Skill Development and Capacity Building, and Handling of Waste. call The call remained open until 31 August 2026.

MoEFCC seeks third-party entities for monitoring and evaluation of CAMPA-funded activities; 19 August 2026

MoEFCC invited Expressions of Interest (“Eoi”) from eligible entities to undertake third-party monitoring and evaluation (“TPM&E”) of activities and schemes funded through the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (“CAMPA”). The amendment through corrigendum released had introduced changes in the sections concerning the institutional existence of the entity, number of minimum assignments in the past 5 years, the average annual turnover, the institutions or organizations which are directly under the control of the ministry, and the

last day for the submission of the documents and Eoi was extended to 04 September 2026.

MoEFCC amends the Environment Impact Assessment (“EIA”) Notification, 2006; 13 July 2026

The amendment has been introduced to address administrative delays in grant of Environmental Clearance (“EC”). The objective is to reduce approval delays caused by non-availability of state level authorities responsible for ECs. The major amendments include extension of the tenure of SEIAA and SEAC from three to four years and compulsory initiation of the reconstitution process before six months from the expiry of existing authorities. The amendment has introduced two new authorities including Standing Authority on EIA (“SAEIA”) for every state and Union Territory in India and Standing Committee on Environment Impact Appraisal (“SCEIA”) to discharge the responsibilities of State Expert Appraisal Committee (“SEAC”) whenever existing committee is not functional.

MoEFCC has revised the White Category Sector List; 08 July 2026

Central Government has revised the Schedule for the List of White Category Sectors in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 25(1) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 in consultation with Central Pollution Control Board (“CPCB”). The revised list contains total 87 sectors and substitutes the Schedule notified under G.S.R. 703(E) dated 12.11.2024. The revised Schedule includes several emerging industries, such as Bio fertilizers and bio-pesticides without using inorganic chemicals; Diesel pump repairing and servicing, Compressed Bio Gas (“CBG”) plants based on feedstock municipal solid waste, agro-residue,



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etc.; Solar photovoltaic and wind power generation; Medical oxygen production; Used Cooking Oil (“**UCO**”) collection centres; compressed oxygen gas from crude liquid oxygen; household bio-digesters or gobar gas; and mini hydel power plants with capacity up to 25 MegaWatt (“**MW**”).

MoEFCC reiterates implementation requirements under Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, including four-stream segregation and online tracking; 23 July 2026

MoEFCC reiterated the implementation requirements under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026. The aforementioned rules require segregation of solid waste at source into wet waste, dry waste, sanitary waste and special care waste and provide for online tracking of collection, transportation, processing and disposal through a Centralised Online Portal. The state wise allocation of funds for solid waste management was stated, in contrast to the funds allocated in 2024-25. This was a response to a parliamentary question raised in Rajya Sabha on Solid waste management at Mountain Tourist Sites.

Introduction of Single Window System in MoEFCC for receiving proposals of disciplinary proceedings/appeal/revision/review and sanction for prosecution cases of Indian Forest Service (“IFS”); 05 August 2026

A single window system was introduced by the ministry in 2018 for receiving the proposals for initiation or seeking advice of Union Public Service Commission (“**UPSC**”) in respect of disciplinary proceedings and sanction for prosecution under the Prevention of Corruption Act,

1988. Despite the single window system, all the proposals by the State Government, Union Territory (“**UT**”) Administration and Central Bureau of investigation (“**CBI**”), and other agencies were forwarded to the ministry via DAK, which may be avoided. The notification was released to reiterate the usage of Single-Window system and that the checklist for the proceedings shall be signed by an officer not below the level of Secretary in the State Government/Union Territory Administration or Joint Secretary or equivalent officer in CBI. UPSC has additionally directed that for facilitation of expeditious examination of such proposals, the disciplinary cases require a self-contained, exhaustive note by bringing out all stages of the case, which requires an exhaustive analysis of the evidence and examination of case records.

MoEFCC invites proposals for community grants under Eighth Operational Phase of the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP OP8); 21 August 2026

MoEFCC has invited proposals from Non-Governmental Organisations (“**NGOs**”), Civil Society Organisations (“**CSOs**”) and Community-Based Organisations (“**CBOs**”) for Community Grants under the Eighth Operational Phase of the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (“**GEF SGP OP8**”) in India. The programme, executed by MoEFCC, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (“**UNDP**”) and hosted by The Energy and Resources Institute (“**TERI**”), provides grants of up to US\$ 75,000 (maximum INR 67 lakh) for community-driven environmental and sustainable development projects. OP8 adopts a landscape-based approach covering the Aravallis, Western Ghats, Coastal regions, North-

East and Himalayas, supporting projects in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, sustainable agriculture and food security, low-carbon energy access, local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management, and chemicals and waste management.

SEBI has notified the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2026; 10 July 2026

The notification amends Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (“**LODR Regulations**”). The amendment substitutes Regulation 40(7) of LODR Regulations to require listed entities to comply with all procedural requirements with respect to transfer and transmission of securities as specified by the Board from time to time.

SEBI has extended the timeline for enrolment with Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (“PaRRVA”); 03 August 2026

The Investment Advisors (“**IAs**”) / Research Analysts (“**RAs**”) who wish to communicate certified past performance data to clients which is inclusive of the prospective clients must enroll with PaRRVA within three months of its operationalization, particularly from 04 May 2026. SEBI has however received a request for extension of the timeline for enrollment. The deadline was extended till 03 September 2026 for seamless implementation of the framework.



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SEBI issued Circular for Alignment of SEBI's Cyber Incident Reporting Portal with Format for Incident Reporting Exchange ("FIRE") Format; 24 August 2026

The Cybersecurity and Cyber Resilience Framework ("CSCRF") mandates all regulated entities to report cyber incidents via email within six hours and through the Incident Reporting Portal within twenty-four hours. The FIRE portal introduces structured incident reporting through common information fields, standardised definitions and consistent classification of incident attributes, promoting harmonisation across sectors and jurisdictions.

Reserve Bank brings new Integrated Ombudsman Scheme into force to strengthen customer grievance redress; 01 July 2026

RBI brought the Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2026 ("RB-IOS, 2026") into force with effect from 1 July 2026, replacing the Integrated Ombudsman scheme, 2021 scheme. The revised framework enunciates the Appointment and tenure of RBI ombudsman and RBI Deputy Ombudsman; Location of the office of the RBI Ombudsman; centralized receipt and processing centre; staffing of the offices of the RBI Ombudsman and centralized receipt and processing centre; power and functions of the RBI Ombudsman/RBI Deputy Ombudsman; Procedure for redressal of grievance under the scheme which includes the grounds for maintainability of a complaint, procure for filing a complaint, initial scrutiny, maintainability and registration of companies; power to call for information; resolution of complaints; award by RBI Ombudsman; rejection of a complaint; appeal before the appellate authority and regulated entity to display salient features of the scheme for Knowledge of the public.

RBI issues Cybersecurity, Fraud Risk Management, Digital Payment Security Control and Compliance Function Directions for regulated entities; 31 July 2026

The Reserve Bank of India ("RBI"), vide four separate sets of Directions each dated 31 July 2026 and with immediate effect, has issued a comprehensive suite of regulatory frameworks applicable to its regulated entities including Commercial Banks, Small Finance Banks, Payments Banks, Urban Co-operative Banks ("UCBs"), Local Area Banks, Rural Co-operative Banks, Regional Rural Banks, All India Financial Institutions ("AIFIs"), Non-Banking Financial Companies ("NBFCs") and Credit Information Companies ("CICs"). First, the Cybersecurity, Technology: Risk, Resilience and Assurance Framework Directions establish a structured framework covering IT Governance, Information Security, Cyber Risk Management, Baseline Cybersecurity and Resilience Requirements, Third-Party Risk Management and IS Audit. Second, the Fraud Risk Management Directions prescribe a framework for prevention, early detection and timely reporting of incidents of fraud to Law Enforcement Agencies, RBI and the National Housing Bank ("NHB"), along with requirements for fraud risk governance, internal controls, reporting mechanisms and remedial actions. Third, the Digital Payment Security Control Directions prescribe baseline security controls for digital payment products and services including internet banking, mobile payments, card payments and Unified Payments Interface ("UPI") covering authentication frameworks, fraud risk management, reconciliation mechanisms and customer protection measures. Fourth, the Compliance Function Directions aim to strengthen the compliance function within regulated entities, prescribing requirements for compliance governance, identification and management

of compliance risk, and reporting obligations.

RBI has released the Responsible Business Conduct, Fourth Amendment Directions, 2026 for Commercial Banks (other than Small Finance Banks, Local Area Banks, Payments Banks, Regional Rural Banks); 06 August 2026

RBI, vide Directions dated 6 August 2026, has issued the Responsible Business Conduct, Fourth Amendment Directions, 2026 applicable to Commercial Banks (other than Small Finance Banks, Payments Banks, Local Area Banks, Regional Rural Banks). The amendment has added the definition of Recovery Agency and Recovery Agent. Furthermore, various sections were added like on the conduct of banks in recovery of loan dues and engagement of recovery agencies; engagement of recovery agencies for recovery of loan dues; the responsibilities of a bank including disclosure of information on recovery agencies, fair treatment to borrowers during recovery process, taking possession of security, deployment of technology-based mechanism for recovery of loan dues, and Periodic review and monitoring; Conduct of bank's employees and recovery agents; complaints against bank's employees and its recovery agents; and adherence to other regulations issued by RBI or other authorities.

Finance Ministry advances accessibility of financial services for persons with disabilities; 20–21 August 2026

Department of Financial Services convened a two-day workshop with RBI, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, twelve public sector banks, seven public sector insurance companies and seven public financial



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institutions to address accessibility of financial services for persons with disabilities. Discussions covered practical challenges, expectations vs reality, deliberate on operational challenges and actionable measures to strengthen the institutional capacity to ensure accessibility and inclusivity across the financial services ecosystem.

CPCB issues guidelines for recycling of lead-acid and lithium-ion waste batteries; 17 July 2026

CPCB has issued guidelines for the recycling of waste batteries, covering lead-acid and lithium-ion, under Rule 11(17) of the Battery Waste Management (“BWM”) Rules, 2022. The guidelines enunciate the overall value chain of Battery Recycling, Waste Lead Acid Batteries Recycling, Standards for emissions/discharge of lead, steps to minimize the fugitive emissions of lead, Waste Lithium-ion Batteries Recycling, facility required for Shredding and Hydro-metallurgical processing of Waste Lithium-ion Batteries, steps involved in Hydro-metallurgical processing of Waste Lithium-ion batteries, guidelines for dismantling of waste lithium ion batteries, guidelines for processing of waste battery for recovery of metals or metal salts, emission standards, records and returns filing and actions in case of violation of guidelines.

CPCB revises pollution classification of hotels, restaurants, dhabas, eateries and standalone banquet halls; 20 July 2026

CPCB issued directions under Section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 requiring State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees to adopt revised pollution classifications for specified

hospitality and food-service establishments with immediate effect. In the revised classification, a new blue category has been added which has been introduced to distinguish the Essential Environmental Services required for the management of environmental concerns arising from anthropogenic pollution due to domestic/household activities which otherwise will have large littering potential. Restaurants and dhabas with more than 200 seats are classified as Orange, those with 101–200 seats as Green and those with up to 100 seats as White. Hotels/Motel/Resort above 300 rooms are classified as Red, above 300 rooms (based on cleaner/gaseous fuel in kitchen) are orange, 21 to 300 rooms is also orange and 21-100 rooms (based on cleaner/gaseous fuel in kitchen) are green.

National Highways Authority of India tightens Plantation Compliance Norms for issuance of Provisional Completion Certification for National Highway Projects; 09 September 2026

The National Highways Authority of India (“NHAI”) issued comprehensive guidelines mandating plantation and landscaping as integral components of National Highway project completion, aligned with the Green Highways Policy, 2015. Plantation works will be deemed compliant for issuance of the Provisional Certificate of Completion (“PCC”) or Provisional Commercial Operation Date only upon achieving a minimum 80% plantation coverage on the available Right of Way (“RoW”) with a 90% survival rate. Financial withholdings under the relevant contract or concession agreement will be enforced for any shortfall beyond the prescribed threshold. During the Operations and Maintenance (“O&M”) period, a minimum 90% survival rate must be maintained for the release of annuity payments and certification of maintenance compliance across Engineering, Procurement and

Construction, Hybrid Annuity Mode and Build-Operate-Transfer projects.

Civil Aviation Ministry reviews SAF blending roadmap, carbon accounting and CORSIA compliance framework; 29 July 2026

The Ministry of Civil Aviation reviewed India's preparedness for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (“SAF”) adoption and compliance with the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (“CORSIA”). The review covered SAF production, certification and supply-chain development, a proposed blending roadmap, roles of Oil Marketing Companies, airlines and airport operators, and development of a national SAF Registry with end-to-end traceability. The Ministry also reviewed accounting, monitoring and reporting systems and measures to facilitate certification and market access, with stakeholders directed to prepare for the mandatory CORSIA phase commencing on 1 January 2027. The development is directly relevant to aviation decarbonization and carbon-market governance.

National Jute Board develops jute-viscose apparel to demonstrate sustainable natural-fibre applications; 7 July 2026

The National Jute Board, under the Ministry of Textiles, developed jute-viscose blended apparel for the Indian contingent participating in the Commonwealth Games 2026. The initiative demonstrates value-added applications of jute and the potential of natural fibres in sustainable textile products. The Ministry highlighted the biodegradable characteristics of the jute-viscose blend and the scope for promoting innovative, value-added applications of jute. The development is relevant to the environmental dimension of ESG through diversification towards natural-fibre materials and development of lower-impact textile applications.



REGULATORY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Centre of Excellence for Handloom Technology at IIT Delhi launched to advance sustainable and technology-led handloom production; 3 August 2026

The Ministry of Textiles launched the Centre of Excellence for Handloom Technology (“CoE-HT”) at IIT Delhi. The Centre launched five flagship initiatives namely Handloom 4.0 Mobile App, Handloom e-Vidya, HandloomX, Kalagriha Hnadloom Studio (GenZ Design Studio) and Threads of Valour. The centre will develop a national repository of handloom knowledge, create AI-enabled tools, train atleast 1,000 weavers, facilitate technology transfer and strengthen the entire handloom ecosystem.

Ministry of Textiles constitutes ESG Task Force and advances textile-waste mapping, chemical management and circularity measures; 11 August 2026

The Ministry of Textiles stated that an ESG Task Force has been constituted to deliberate on sustainable production, certification and exports. The Ministry also highlighted its ‘Mapping of Textile Waste Value Chain in India’ study and initiatives including the UNIDO–Global Environment Facility project on eliminating hazardous chemicals from the textile fashion supply chain, the UNEP-supported In-Tex India project, environmentally sustainable R&D under the National Technical Textiles Mission, a sustainability framework for PM MITRA Parks and promotion of upcycled products through Government procurement amongst various others.

All seven PM MITRA Parks receive environmental clearances and incorporate common wastewater-treatment infrastructure; 11 August 2026

The Ministry of Textiles reported that all seven approved PM MITRA Parks had received environmental clearances, with 100% of identified land acquired. An amount of Rs.4,445 crore invested from 2021-22 to 2027-28 has been invested in the project which spans across seven sites namely Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra for setting up PM MITRA Parks. Each park is expected to generate employment of around 3 lakh people.

Textiles Committee and Refibre develop digital circular-textile infrastructure for waste traceability and impact measurement; 23 August 2026

The Textiles Committee, a statutory body under the Ministry of Textiles, signed a Letter of Intent with Refibre to develop a digital circular-textile infrastructure platform for collection, traceability and impact measurement. The initiative forms part of the Textile Recovery Facility in Navi Mumbai, which undertakes automated sorting, fibre identification, shredding and secondary material recovery and is designed to divert pre-consumer and post-consumer textile waste from municipal landfills. The platform is intended to strengthen data-backed traceability and circularity across textile waste flows.

NITI Aayog launches ten-year roadmap to build India into a leading bioeconomy powerhouse by 2035; 16 July 2026

NITI Aayog launched the ‘Roadmap for Building India as a Leading Bioeconomy Powerhouse by 2035’, proposing a mission-mode strategy to scale India’s bioeconomy from \$195.3 billion in 2025 towards \$691 billion by 2035 and \$2.6 trillion by 2047. The roadmap proposes certain key strategic

interventions of India’s Bioeconomy covering areas like National Bio-Missions including GenIndia, AgriBio 2.0, BioX Foundry, One Health Grid, Marine Biotechnology, BioPharmaNext; Empowered Committees on National BioMissions, National Biodata Council, BioEconomy Investment Forum, BioIP & Innovation Evaluation Agency; Regulatory Reforms like Regulatory Sandbox, Streamlines Approval Framework, CDSCO Modernization, AI-led Regulatory System; Bioscience LLeadership and Talent; and Rs. 50,000 crore fund (2026-2035) for BioEconomy Growth Fund.

NITI Aayog identifies solar photovoltaic (“SPV”) and other clean-tech manufacturing as priority sectors for India’s global manufacturing strategy; 13 August 2026

NITI Aayog released Key Sectors to Position India as a Global Manufacturing Hub, identifying SPV manufacturing among priority sectors and recommending deeper domestic value addition, technology partnerships, Research & Development, integrated clean-tech clusters and industry-led skilling. The report analyzes four sectors namely, Chemicals, Telecom & Networking equipment, Textiles and SPV manufacturing. The report has been structured into four phases namely Shortlisting sectors based on relative attractiveness; Comprehensive Assessment of shortlisted sectors; Benchmarking International Best practices; and Developing actionable recommendations and way forward.



REGULATORY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

NITI Aayog proposes integrated care-economy reforms to strengthen caregiver recognition, social protection and gender-responsive support; 30 July 2026

NITI Aayog has released Reimagining Care: Strategies for Empowering Caregivers in Viksit Bharat@2047, a report that examines India's formal and informal caregiving ecosystem for older persons, persons with disabilities and individuals with chronic or terminal illnesses. The report notes that India's elderly population, estimated at 149 million in 2022, is projected to reach 347 million by 2050, while the domestic care-services market, valued at approximately USD 29.62 billion in 2023, is expected to grow at a 13.76% annual rate. The recommendations of report includes establishing a National Caregiver Council as an apex regulatory and coordinating body and creating a National Caregiver Registry and digital portal, develop National Policy on caregiving, develop a standardized training and certification system aligned with nation standards, amongst others.

NITI Aayog launches Platform for Aggregating Clean Transport ("PAC") and the Zero Emission Truck ("ZET") Marketplace at the 5th e-FAST India Summit 2026

NITI Aayog launched PACT and the ZET Marketplace at the 5th e-FAST India Summit 2026 in New Delhi. PACT is designed to aggregate freight demand from shippers, Logistics Service Providers ("LSPs") and other ecosystem stakeholders to support scaled deployment of electric medium- and heavy-duty vehicles ("e-MHDVs") across identified freight corridors, while the ZET Marketplace connects e-truck manufacturers, LSPs, charge point operators ("CPOs") and financiers. E-freight vehicle deployments

increased more than fourfold, from 201 vehicles in FY25 to 826 in FY26, with over 3,000 e-MHD trucks currently in operation across India. Heavy-duty trucks, while constituting only 3–4% of the vehicle fleet, contribute over one-third of transport-sector carbon emissions, with 70% of India's freight moving by road.

Union Cabinet has approved revised Captive Policy 2026 for Waterfront and Associated Land Allotment at Ports; 31 July 2026

The Union Cabinet, on 31 July 2026, approved a revised Policy for Award of Waterfront and Associated Land to Port Dependent Industries, referred to as the Captive Policy 2026. The policy provides the framework for allotment of waterfront and associated land at major ports to industries dependent on port infrastructure, and is aimed at enhancing industrial investment, strengthening port-led development and promoting efficient land use within port areas.

MoPSW has approved Rs. 334.89 Crore Flyover at Visakhapatnam Port to ease Cargo Movement; 11 August 2026

MoPSW has approved a Rs. 334.89 crore internal flyover at Visakhapatnam Port Authority to improve cargo evacuation, reduce traffic congestion and streamline movement within the port premises. The 3.584-km elevated corridor from Convent Junction to Dock Area will separate road and rail traffic and remove bottlenecks at nine level crossings. The project was approved by Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal and appraised by the Delegated Investment Board chaired by the Secretary, MoPSW. By improving last-mile connectivity within the port and facilitating faster cargo evacuation, the elevated corridor is expected

to strengthen Visakhapatnam Port's role in India's maritime logistics and trade network. The project is scheduled for completion within 30 months.

New Merchant Shipping (Carriage of Cargoes and Oil Fuels) Rules, 2026, including mandatory verified gross mass for containers; 02 September 2026

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways ("MoPWS") notified these rules under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025. The Gazette masthead is dated 02 September 2026, and the rules take effect on publication. The rules replace the Merchant Shipping (Carriage of Cargo) Rules, 1995. These rules apply to cargoes, other than bulk liquids and gases, that pose special risks. They cover Indian ships and foreign ships in Indian waters. Masters must ensure that containers carry valid CSC safety approval plates and are secured in line with an approved Cargo Securing Manual. Shippers must verify each container's gross mass, either by weighing the packed container or by weighing all its contents and adding the tare mass. The second method requires approval from the Administration. The verified gross mass must be submitted with a digital signature, and a container without one must not be loaded. Solid bulk cargoes must comply with SOLAS Chapter VI and the IMSBC Code, and grain must be carried in line with the International Grain Code. Breaches attract penalties under the Act. Exporters, weighbridge operators, terminals and verified gross mass web platforms are directly affected. Those platforms must keep their servers in India and retain data for three years.



REGULATORY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

New Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Oil from Vessels) Rules, 2026 replace the 2010 rules; 03 September 2026

MoPWS issued G.S.R. 778(E) on 02 September 2026, and it was published on 03 September 2026. It was made under section 143 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 and took effect on publication. The rules replace the 2010 rules on oil pollution from ships and bring MARPOL Annex I into Indian law. Oil tankers of 150 gross tonnage and above, and other vessels of 400 gross tonnage and above, need initial, annual, intermediate and five-yearly renewal surveys. Vessels on international voyages receive an International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate, and vessels operating in Indian coastal waters receive an Indian Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate. Every port must provide reception facilities, and vessels in Indian ports are subject to Port State Control inspection of operational requirements. Oil Record Books may be kept electronically, and an approved Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan is mandatory. Vessels operating in polar waters must also comply with the Polar Code. Tanker and vessel owners, ports and offshore terminals should check their certification and record-keeping against the new rules.

New Merchant Shipping (Carriage of Dangerous Goods) Rules, 2026; 07 September 2026

MoPWS issued G.S.R. 783(E) on 07 September 2026 under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, and the rules took effect on publication. They replace the Merchant Shipping (Carriage of Cargo) Rules, 1995, apart from things already done or omitted under those rules. The rules apply to all Indian ships carrying dangerous cargo anywhere, except ships covered by Part XIII of the Act. They also apply to foreign ships carrying such cargo while

in India, including Indian coastal waters and ports, and to ships loading or unloading dangerous cargo at Indian ports. “Dangerous goods” covers packaged and solid bulk dangerous cargo, including marine pollutants identified under the IMDG Code. The rules also cover INF cargo (*irradiated nuclear fuel, plutonium and high-level radioactive waste*). Ships carrying INF cargo must be surveyed and certified, and are subject to Port State Control under the Port State Control and Flag State Implementation Rules, 2026. Surveyors may board ships to check compliance. An owner, company, master, shipper or other service provider who breaches the rules is liable to penalties under the Act. Shipowners, operators, shippers and port service providers that handle hazardous cargo should therefore review their documentation and compliance processes against the new framework.

GHG Emission Intensity Target (Amendment) Rules, 2026: new targets for refinery and textile entities; 07 September 2026

MoEFCC issued G.S.R. 794(E) on 07 September 2026, and it was published in the Gazette on 09 September 2026. It was made under sections 3, 6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and took effect on publication. The amendment operates within the CCTS, 2023. It replaces the Second Schedule entries for the Petroleum Refinery and Textile sectors that were notified by G.S.R. 25(E) of 13 January 2026. Each named refinery now has a revised baseline (2023-24) and targets. For example, BPCL Bina has a baseline of 6.6553 and a 2026-27 target of 6.3846 tCO₂e/MBBLS/NRGF. Reliance's Jamnagar SEZ refinery has a baseline of 4.7830 and a target of 4.7079. The textile tables, covering the spinning, processing, fibre and composite sub-sectors, have also been

restated. They name obligated entities such as Grasim, Arvind, Vardhman, Trident and Reliance units. Obligated entities should check their restated baselines and targets, because these figures determine whether they earn carbon credit certificates or must surrender them under the scheme.

New Merchant Shipping (Control of Discharge of Noxious Liquid Substances) Rules, 2026 replace the 2010 rules; 09 September 2026

MoPSW issued G.S.R. 798(E) on 09 September 2026 under section 143 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, and the rules took effect on publication. They replace the 2010 rules on pollution by noxious liquid substances in bulk. They bring MARPOL Annex II into Indian law, including the Category X, Y and Z classification of noxious liquid substances. Vessels must keep a cargo record book for three years, and may keep it electronically if the system is type-approved under MEPC.312(74). Every vessel of 150 gross tonnage and above certified to carry noxious liquid substances in bulk must carry an approved shipboard marine pollution emergency plan. Tanks that carried Category X substances must be prewashed, and the operation must be recorded and endorsed. Port State Control inspections follow IMO Resolution A.1206(34). Chemical and NLS tanker operators, recognised organisations and Indian port reception facilities are the parties most directly affected.

Environmental Clearance for ports and harbours now valid for 20 years, extendable up to 30; 21 September 2026

MoEFCC issued S.O. 5189(E) on 21 September 2026, amending paragraph 9 of the Environment Impact Assessment (“EIA”) Notification, 2006.



REGULATORY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Environmental Clearance for ports and harbours was previously valid for ten years, with an extension of one further year. A new paragraph 9(ivA) now makes Environmental Clearance for ports, harbours, breakwaters and dredging valid for 20 years. It may be extended by a further five years once the relevant Expert Appraisal Committee or State Expert Appraisal Committee has reviewed whether the existing safeguards are adequate. Any additional measures it considers necessary are then added to the Environmental Management Plan. In deserving cases where the project has still not become operational, an additional five years may be granted on the same conditions. The change reflects the long gestation and phased development of port projects. Port developers and concessionaires gain much greater regulatory certainty. Lenders and counterparties should update their assumptions about clearance validity in concession and financing documents.

Coastal Regulation Zone (“CRZ”): three petroleum feedstocks may now be received and stored in CRZ areas; 22 September 2026

MoEFCC issued Notification S.O. 5227(E) on 22 September 2026. It amends the Island Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2019 under section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Entry (xxiii) of Annexure-II, which lists the products that may be received and stored in CRZ areas, has been replaced. The list now includes Bitumen, Linear Alkyl Benzene, N-Paraffin and Carbon Black Feedstock. The amendment followed requests from State Coastal Zone Management Authorities. The National Coastal Zone Management Authority recommended it because these products are comparatively less hazardous than those already permitted. Port-based storage operators, petrochemical and detergent-

feedstock suppliers, and carbon black manufacturers in island coastal areas can now seek approval to receive and store these products in CRZ areas other than CRZ-IA. Ecologically sensitive CRZ-IA areas remain off-limits for such storage.

Corporate Average Fuel Economy (“CAFÉ”) norms and energy consumption standards for M1 passenger vehicles (FY 2027-28 to FY 2031-32); 29 September 2026

The Ministry of Power, in consultation with BEE issued S.O. 5346(E) on 29 September 2026 under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. CAFE norms apply from 01 April 2027 to 31 March 2032. Each manufacturer's annual average fuel consumption standard depends on the average mass of its fleet. It is calculated as $a \times (W - b) + c$ on the Modified Indian Driving Cycle, and the constant "a" tightens from 0.00158 to 0.00131 over the period. Manufacturers may claim a derogation of 1 g CO₂/km for each eligible fuel-saving technology, up to a cap of 9 g CO₂/km. Carbon neutrality factors also apply: 8% for E20 vehicles, 22.3% for flex-fuel ethanol vehicles, and the higher of 5% or the notified CBG blend for CNG vehicles. Super-credit multipliers are 3.0 for battery electric vehicles and 1.6 for strong hybrids. Credits and debits are recorded in a passbook and may be pooled or traded between manufacturers. Debits may also be offset by buying credits from BEE, priced at INR 2,500 per g CO₂/km in FY 2027-28 and rising to INR 4,500 in FY 2031-32. Offsetting is allowed only during a trading window from 1 to 31 October. Compliance is assessed at the end of each compliance block: three years from 2027-28, then two years from 2030-31. Contraventions are dealt with under sections 26 to 28 of the Act. Manufacturers producing fewer than 1,000 units in a

reporting period are exempt from the targets but must continue to report. Vehicle manufacturers and importers should start planning their fleet mix, WLTP reporting and credit strategy now.

Implementation Guidelines for National Coastal Mission 2.0 issued; September 2026; 30 September 2026

MoEFCC has issued Implementation Guidelines for National Coastal Mission 2.0 (“NCM 2.0”). NCM 2.0 is a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Centre, with an approved outlay of ₹767 crore for 2025–26 to 2030–31. It replaces the earlier National Coastal Mission from 16 May 2025. The Mission covers nine coastal States and four Union Territories. Its five components include climate-resilient Blue Economy growth and coastal vulnerability and risk reduction. Planned outcomes include Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans (“ICZMPs”) and Coastal and Marine Spatial Plans (“CMSPs”) for 1,000 km of priority coastline. A Project Steering Committee chaired by the Secretary, MoEFCC will approve projects. The Central Pollution Control Board will act as Central Nodal Agency.

Guidelines for certification of Environment Auditors through Recognition of Prior Learning; 30 September 2026

Guidelines have been issued under rules 7, 8 and 18 of the Environment Audit Rules, 2025. They cover certification and registration of environment auditors through Recognition of Prior Learning (“RPL”) for Environmental Clearance, CRZ, ICRZ and IPZ clearance audits. Applicants must be Indian citizens under 70 with relevant degrees. They also need 8 to 12 years' post-qualification experience, including at least five years in the field. Eligible



REGULATORY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

individuals are certified as Certified Environment Auditors (“CEAs”) and may register as Registered Environment Auditors (“REAs”). Firms with at least two CEAs may register as REA Firms. Certification and registration are valid for five years. Individual REAs may audit Category B projects, while REA Firms may audit Category A and B projects.

CPCB Guidelines on RO reject water and discarded purifier elements

The Central Pollution Control Board (“CPCB”), under MoEFCC, issued these guidelines in September 2026. They implement CPCB’s responsibilities under the Water Purification System (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2023 and apply to domestic and commercial RO-based water purification systems. RO reject water should be reused for non-potable purposes such as cleaning floors, washing vehicles, flushing toilets, construction and landscaping. Users must arrange storage for it, and any reject water that is not reused must be discharged into sewerage systems leading to terminal sewage treatment plants. The guidelines note that IS 16240:2023 requires a minimum recovery rate of 40%. Manufacturers must obtain the BIS Standard Mark under IS 16240 and explain how to reuse reject water in their product manuals. They must also maximise the use of highly recyclable raw materials and avoid halogenated plastics. Discarded elements must be managed under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 and the Hazardous and Other Wastes Rules, 2016. Purifier manufacturers will therefore need to update their product manuals, sourcing and end-of-life arrangements. Commercial users such as hotels and institutions face practical expectations to reuse reject water.

Operational Manual (v1.0) for the India–Japan Joint Crediting Mechanism

MoEFCC issued Version 1.0 of the Operational Manual in September 2026. It builds on the Memorandum of Cooperation signed on 7 August 2025 and the Rule of Implementation adopted on 8 June 2026. The Joint Crediting Mechanism (“JCM”) is a cooperative approach under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement, designed to support the transfer of decarbonisation technology from Japan to India. Only activities on India’s Article 6.2 list are eligible, and operations must not have started before 7 August 2025. Credits are calculated as reference emissions minus project emissions, with reference emissions set below business-as-usual levels. The crediting period may not exceed ten years, including renewals. The Joint Committee decides how credits are shared, based on each side’s financial and in-kind contributions. Projects move through a Project Idea Note, a methodology and a Project Design Document validated by a third-party entity. They also require a Sustainable Development Implementation Plan, followed by registration, monitoring, verification and issuance. India issues all credits in its Article 6 Registry. Japan’s share is then authorised, notionally cancelled in India’s registry and issued in Japan’s registry, with corresponding adjustments made to avoid double counting. Credits issued under the JCM cannot also be issued under any other crediting mechanism. Indian project developers, Japanese investors, validators and verifiers now have a working route to projects that generate internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (“ITMOs”). Credit allocation and the terms of authorisation are likely to be the central commercial points in negotiations.

MNRE SOP requires country-coded model numbers for Solar PV modules in BIS registration; 01 October 2026

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (“MNRE”), through its Standards and Quality Control Division, issued this Standard Operating Procedure dated 1 October 2026. It was made under the Solar Systems, Devices and Components Goods Order, 2025. Every module model number must now carry a four-character suffix in the format “-MMCC”. “MM” is the ISO code of the country where the module is manufactured, and “CC” is the ISO code of the country where the cells are manufactured. A single suffixed model number cannot cover cells from different countries. Cells from more than one manufacturer may be used only if all of those manufacturers are in the same country. Models already registered with BIS need additional country-coded model numbers. Where the bill of materials is only being restricted, no fresh testing or testing fee is required, and a supplementary test report is enough. Manufacturers must comply within 180 days of the MNRE office memorandum, after which BIS will not process non-compliant new registrations. The coded model number must be used consistently on labels, test reports, BIS certificates and data sheets. Module manufacturers, importers, BIS and test laboratories are affected. The change makes cell origin traceable, which is likely to matter for domestic content and procurement compliance.



Dispute Resolution and Enforcement Trends





Dispute Resolution and Enforcement Trends

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Supreme Court upholds State's statutory power to enhance mining royalty and dead rent even absent an express clause in the lease deed; 13 July 2026

*The State of Haryana & Ors. v. M/s Faridabad Gurgaon Minerals & Anr.*¹

The Hon'ble Supreme Court ("SC"), in a Division Bench of Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma, JJ., allowed civil appeals challenging the Punjab and Haryana High Court's ("PHHC") quashing of a notification enhancing royalty and dead rent by 50% for minor mineral mining leases by State in exercise of its powers under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) ("MMDR") Act, 1957 and MMDR Rules. Three entities instituted writ petition with respect to the rent and royalty, which were heard together and allowed *vide* common impugned judgment and order of PHHC on grounds that the increase of rate was by 50% which was arbitrary. The applications were disposed of. The questions raised before the Hon'ble SC was on the premise that the annual dead rent and royalty are two stipulations which are ordinarily present in a mining lease deed, the state had enhanced the rates in the present matter. Therefore, the issue before the court was whether the state has the power to enhance the royalty in a lease deed where there has been no stipulation subjecting the lease to statutory rules was valid, and secondly, was it arbitrary and unsustainable. The Hon'ble Court answer in favour of the state for both

the raised issues. The appeals were allowed, and the impugned judgment was set aside, along with interest on arrears of dead rent or royalty, if imposed was limited to 12% per annum ("p.a.").

Supreme Court issues comprehensive institutional directions to combat illegal sand mining in the National Chambal Sanctuary; 22 July 2026

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

The Supreme Court, comprising Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, JJ., passed a detailed order in *suo motu* proceedings concerning rampant illegal sand mining within the National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary and its devastating impact on the fragile riverine ecosystem. The Hon'ble court had issued a comprehensive set of directions aimed at strengthening the surveillance mechanisms, ensuring institutional accountability, and enhancing enforcement measures. The directions were issued due to persistent ecological degradation, destruction of critical wildlife habitats, deficiencies in the enforcement machinery, and the threat posed to vital public infrastructure warranted immediate judicial intervention. The Hon'ble court had directed the states of Rajasthan, MP, UP to undertake certain actions. Additionally, directions were issued to National Highway Authority of India ("NHAI") to undertake necessary protective and monitoring measures. The authorities namely States of Rajasthan, MP, UP and NHAI had placed on record their compliance affidavits, detailing

the measures taken in furtherance of court directions. Thereafter, the attention of the Hon'ble court was drawn to the measures taken by the states in establishing surveillance and monitoring infrastructure pursuant to court directions. Based on the compliance reports, field inspections and material placed before it, CEC has made eighteen recommendations, 17 out of which deal with the present proceedings. However, the 18th recommendation is a suggestion to consider enlarging the scope of the present *suo motu* proceedings and evolve a uniform national framework for protection of riverine protected areas against illegal mining and allied activities. The question of enlarging the scope of the present proceedings will be considered on the next date of hearing. The next hearing of the matter took place on 23 September 2026, wherein the matter has been now listed for 06 October 2026.

SC passed directions with respect to processing of applications in the Taj Trapezium Zone; 23 July 2026

*In Re: Regulation of Industries in the Taj Trapezium Zone*³

The Hon'ble Court, comprising of Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India ("CJI"), Justice Joymala Bagchi and Justice V. Mohana passed an order on 23 July 2026 in the matter of In Re: Regulation of Industries in the Taj Trapezium Zone ("TTZ"). An application I.A. No. 22551/2025 was filed in the Hon'ble Court at the instance of the TTZ Authority for seeking recalling or modification of 'Paragraph 27' of the order dated 14 October 2024 passed by the Hon'ble Court in M.C. Mehta vs. Union of

¹ The State of Haryana & Ors. v. M/s Faridabad Gurgaon Minerals & Anr., 2026 INSC 690

² In Re: Illegal Sand Mining in the National Chambal Sanctuary and Threat to Endangered Aquatic Wildlife, 2026 INSC 745

³ In Re: Regulation of Industries in the Taj Trapezium Zone, Suo Moto Writ Petition (Civil) No. 09/2026



DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

India & Ors.⁴, which explicitly states that until further orders have been passed, TTZ Authority shall not permit the setting up of new industries or expansion of the existing, without the leave of the Hon’ble Court. Now, post almost a timespan of two years, TTZ seeks to recall the paragraph on the ground that there are 410 applications pending before the authority for establishment/expansion/relocation of mostly medium scale or small-scale industries. The Hon’ble Court on 23 July 2026 has passed an order stating that TTZ Authority may continue the processing of the application, but in every meeting an expert from NNERI and CEC shall be present. In an event where one of the expert objects to the nature of industry, that is classifying it to be a non-polluting body, such application should not be allowed without the permission of the Hon’ble court. In case both the authorities have no objection then such application can be processed with due procedure of law and without the leave of this Hon’ble Court. Furthermore, such decisions shall be uploaded on the website of CEC so that any objections-cum-suggestions from the public can be considered by TTZ Authority in consultation of experts from NEERI and CEC. The application was therefore allowed and paragraph 27 the order dated 14 October 2024 stands modified.

SC cancels the mining lease and NOC to a company whose land was lying within the Aravalli Project Area

⁴ M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India & Ors., W.P. (C) No. 13381/1984; 2026 INSC 381
⁵ Sunder Singh & Anr. v. M/s Satish Kumar Garg & Company & Ors. 2026 INSC 855.
⁶ M.C. Mehta v. Union of India, (2004) 12 SCC 118
⁷ Vanashakti v. Union of India, 2026 INSC 761
⁸ Vanashakti vs. Union of India, 2025 INSC 718
⁹ Confederation of Real Estate Developers of India vs. Vanashakti, 2025 INSC 1326

Sunder Singh & Anr. v. M/s Satish Kumar Garg & Company & Ors.⁵

The Supreme Court, comprising Surya Kant, C.J.I., Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, JJ., allowed civil appeals challenging a 26 April 2018 order of the PHHC which had directed grant of No Objection Certificate (“**NOC**”) for undertaking mining activities on land earmarked for Aravalli plantation. M/s Satish Kumar Garg & Company (“**Mining Lessee**”) was granted a 20-year mining lease on 29 April 2002 for quartz, felspar and barytes over 79.32 hectares in Village Musnota, District Mahendergarh, Haryana. An NOC was initially granted in 2002, but a fresh NOC was refused in October 2016 as the subject land fell within the Aravalli Plantation list identified in the Deputy Commissioner's Report of 2007, pursuant to directions passed in *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India*⁶. The High Court had set aside the order of the Forest Department for refusing to grant NOC and permitting the Mining Lessee to mine in accordance with the mining lease, while directed to pay dead rent once the mining rights are operationalized. Meanwhile, the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (“**SEIAA**”) granted Environmental Clearance (“**EC**”) on 08 August 2023, which has been quashed by the court. The High Court's judgment was set aside; the 2002 NOC and the 2023 Environmental Clearance were quashed; the mining lease was directed to be cancelled. The State was directed to survey all Aravalli plantation areas, identify and cancel all subsisting mining leases therein, and file a compliance report before this Court in *Suo Moto Writ*

Petition (Civil) No. 10/2025. States of Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and NCT of Delhi were directed to strictly comply.

SC resolves the validity of the 2017 Notification but quashes 2021 Office Memorandum relating to EC; 29 July 2026

Vanashakti v. Union of India⁷

The Supreme Court, comprising Surya Kant, C.J.I., Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi, JJ., resolved long-standing uncertainty regarding the validity of two instruments permitting *ex post facto* EC for projects commenced without prior clearance under the Environment Impact Notification (“**EIA**”) Notification, 2006. The 2017 Notification (S.O. 804(E)) was a one-time amnesty permitting projects already in violation as of that date to apply for EC within a foxed six-month window. The 2021 OM was an administrative Standard Operating Procedure (“**SOP**”) permitting projects to be appraised “as if new” and granted EC effective from the date of grant. In *Vanashakti vs. Union of India*⁸ (16 May 2025), a two-judge bench struck down both the abovementioned instruments; on review in the matter *Confederation of Real Estate Developers of India vs. Vanashakti*⁹(18 November 2025), the *Vanashakti vs. Union of India* (16 May 2025) judgement was recalled as per incuriam. In the judgment dated 29 July 2026, the Hon’ble Court has held that the 2017 Notification was upheld as valid and time-bound delegated legislation satisfying



DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

Article 14 and constitutional proportionality. The 2021 OM was quashed prospectively, since being an administrative instruction it could not amend or supplant the 2006 Notification. ECs already granted under the 2017 notification, or the 2021 OM remains valid, unless challenged on merit; pending applications shall be concluded; and no fresh applications shall be entertained.

Supreme Court directs to formulate guidelines to be issued under Rule 17(2) of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026; 4 August 2026***Amravati Municipal Corporation v. Ganesh Dadarao Anasane & Ors.*¹⁰**

The Supreme Court, comprising P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe, JJ., undertook to institutionalise the process of solid waste management, directing formulation of guidelines for environmental compensation under Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 (“**SWM Rules**”). The Hon’ble Court formulated eight guiding principles: environmental compensation is restitutionary (not a replacement for penalties); the polluter's liability continues until damage is reversed; both tangible and intangible damage must be considered; even if actual harm is not caused but is imminent or the actions of the polluter have potential to cause harm, the liability to pay comes into place; the polluter's financial capacity is relevant; compensation must be proportional with rational nexus to pollution caused; and courts must record reasons listing factors, valuation standards and formulae applied. MoEFCC was directed to formulate and issue guidelines for environmental compensation under Rule 17(2) of the SWM Rules, 2026,

¹⁰ Amravati Municipal Corporation v. Ganesh Dadrao Anasane & Ors., 2026 INSC 796

¹¹ Saraswati Apartments Residents Welfare Association v. Delhi Development Authority & Ors., W.P. (C) 17333/2025

¹² Dabur India Limited v. Union of India & Ors., W.P. (C) 11282/2026

taking into account the judicially evolved principles and existing regulatory frameworks. The matter was then listed for 29 September 2026.

HIGH COURTS

DELHI HIGH COURT

Delhi High Court dismisses the challenge to DDA development works on land informally used as biodiversity park, holds temporary community use cannot override sanctioned layout plan; 17 August 2026***Saraswati Apartments Residents Welfare Association v. Delhi Development Authority & Ors.*¹¹**

The Delhi High Court (“**DHC**”), comprising Anil Kshetarpal and Amit Mahajan, JJ., dismissed a batch of writ petitions filed by the Residents Welfare Associations (“**RWAs**”) of Saraswati, Narmada, Yamuna and Ganga Apartments challenging Delhi Development Authority’s (“**DDA’s**”) Notice Inviting Tender dated 27 June 2025 and consequential allotment dated 18 October 2025 for construction of a two-level deck parking facility and local commercial amenities within the Mega Housing Complex. The Mega Housing Scheme was introduced by DDA around 2010; the approved layout plan earmarked specific parcels for parking and neighbourhood commercial facilities. Certain parcels remained vacant for years and came

to be informally used as a biodiversity park and open gym in coordination with local authorities. The petitioners contended that the preservation of the existing green area, which did not find favour. Then the work was allotted to M/s Bansal Construction Co. on 18 October 2026, resulting in the present proceedings. The Court held that no material demonstrated redesignation of the land through any modification of the MPD or Zonal Development Plan. Mere passage of time or interim community utilisation cannot confer enforceable rights contrary to sanctioned planning approval; residents accepted allotment subject to the government layout plan and cannot insist upon freezing development. Environmental principles protect legally designated ecological or open spaces. The writ petitions were dismissed; the tender and allotment were found in conformity with the sanctioned planning framework; interim orders were vacated.

Delhi High Court stays prohibitory order against Dabur products for not granting an opportunity of hearing; 07 August 2026 and 24 August 2026***Dabur India Limited v. Union of India & Ors.*¹²**

The Hon’ble Delhi High Court, before Amit Mahajan, J., stayed a Prohibitory Order dated 03 August 2026 passed by the Designated Officer under Section 36 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, (“**FSSAI**”) which prohibited the sale of certain Dabur products and directed compliance within 15 days. The petitioner, Dabur India Limited, challenged the order contending the products had been sold for decades and the prohibitory



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order has been passed without any Show Cause Notice (“SCN”) and without affording an opportunity of hearing; it was not an emergency prohibition, and therefore, the principles of natural justice applied. The Court held prima facie that a prohibitory order of such nature ought not to have been passed without affording an opportunity to the petitioner. The impugned order was stayed till the next date of hearing; notice was issued; the matter is listed for 24 August 2026. On 28 August 2026, the matter was heard by Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma and it was observed that Counter affidavit has not been filed, two weeks were granted to file and the matter has been now listed for 16 December 2026.

BOMBAY HIGH COURT

Bombay High Court ordered to pay compensation for deaths while cleaning septic tank, even where workers are privately engaged; 06 July 2026

***Sharda Maroti Chopwad and Another v. State of Maharashtra and Others*¹³**

The Bombay High Court, Division Bench comprising Nitin B. Suryawanshi and Vaishali Patil Jadhav, JJ., allowed a writ petition seeking compensation for the deaths of two persons while cleaning a septic tank without protective gear. The Court noted that Section 7 of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 prohibits the employment of any person for hazardous cleaning of a sewer

or septic tank. The two persons were privately engaged to clean the tank. The Court directed ₹30 lakh each to the petitioners and the writ petition was disposed of.

Bombay High Court (Nagpur Bench) quashes rejection of tree felling application for non-constitution of Competent Tree Authority, directs fresh consideration; 27 July 2026

***Shri Rajendra s/o Gopikisan Jaipuria v. The State of Maharashtra & Anr.*¹⁴**

The Hon’ble Bombay High Court BHC (Nagpur Bench), comprising Anil S. Kilor and Raj D. Wakode, JJ., disposed of a writ petition challenging the Municipal Council, Yavatmal's rejection of the petitioner's application dated 09 February 2026 seeking permission to fell 33 trees on his property. The Chief Officer of Municipal Council, Yavatmal rejected the application on the ground that there is no Competent Tree Authority established for Yavatmal under the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1975. The Municipal Council was directed to consider the application afresh, on merits and in accordance with law.

Hon'ble Bombay High Court issues comprehensive directions on solid waste management in Mumbai, directs MCGM to ensure garbage-free wards and prevent plastic dumping into sea; 15 July 2026

***Kannamwar Co-op. Hsg. Soc. Association Ltd. & Ors. v. Union of India & Ors.*¹⁵**

The Hon’ble Bombay High Court comprising G.S. Kulkarni and Aarti Sathe, JJ., passed extensive directions to the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (“MCGM”) on solid waste management, addressing garbage disposal, plastic pollution of beaches and water bodies, and systematic storage and collection of garbage. The proceedings arose from a writ petition concerning solid waste management; MCGM placed on record its implementation of the Solid Waste (Management & Handling) Cleanliness and Sanitation Bye-Laws, 2025. The Court took serious note of plastic/garbage washed ashore during monsoons, open nalas where public waste and garbage is being dumped, and discipline of citizens in waste disposal. The Municipal Commissioner was directed to ensure every ward is garbage-free; deploy CCTV surveillance and vigilance booths; install nets/barriers where nalas meet the sea; close all open nalas and convert them into piped drains; MCGM to publish and give publicity to those wards that have achieved a status of clean, give publicity to no-garbage wards, with streets, public lanes, market surroundings and other public places from dumping the waste and garbage. The next date of hearing in the matter was 12 August 2026.

MADRAS HIGH COURT

Madras High Court disposed of a writ petition concerning the encroachment by the petitioner; 23 July 2026

***Sivanupandian v. The District Collector, Tirunelveli District & Ors.*¹⁶**

¹³ Sharda Maroti Chopwad and Another v. State of Maharashtra and Others., 2026 SCC OnLine Bom 6550

¹⁴ Rajendra s/o Gopikisan Jaipuria v. State of Maharashtra & Anr., Writ Petition No. 5571 of 2026, Nagpur Bench of Bombay High Court

¹⁵ Kannamwar Co-op. Hsg. Soc. Association Ltd. & Ors. v. Union of India & Ors., Writ Petition No. 790 of 2018

¹⁶ Sivanupandian v. The District Collector, Tirunelveli & Ors., WP (MD) No. 18560 of 2026



DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

The Madras High Court (Madurai Bench), comprising G.R. Swaminathan and B. Pugalendhi, JJ., upheld an eviction notice against an encroachment on the Tamirabarani riverbank. The Court held that river banks must be kept free of encroachment. Waste collected from the river between 7 and 28 May 2026 included 86–90 tonnes of clothes. The Court recognised the river as a juristic person because it is worshipped as a deity. That status is limited to the river's right not to be polluted. The Court held that regulating these rituals does not breach Article 25. Dumping clothes and other articles in the river is now banned, and violations will be treated as contempt of court. The direction is a continuing mandamus. Ashes may still be immersed, but only in unfired earthen pots.

Madras High Court allows writ, continuing halt on quarrying operations; 29 July 2026***Aatrakkal Neerpasana Sangam v. The District Collector, Sivagangai & Ors.*¹⁷**

The Hon'ble Madras High Court (Madurai Bench), comprising C.V. Karthikeyan and R. Sakthivel, JJ., allowed a Public Interest Litigation (“PIL”) filed by the President of a Sangam, called the Aatrakkal Neerpasana Sangam, Vetriyur, Karaikudi Taluk, Sivagangai District, regarding the permission dated 09 August 2024 granted by the Deputy Director, Mines and Geology, Sivagangai for quarrying gravel over 2.47 hectares at Malaikandan Revenue Village, Karaikudi Taluk in Shivangangi District. The petitioner contended that the quarry was within prohibited distance

of a water supply channel, a residential house, and a Government Higher Secondary School. Rule 36(1) of the Tamil Nadu Minor Minerals Concession Rules, 1959 prohibits quarrying within 500 metres of any water supply system; Rule 36(1-A) prohibits quarrying within 300 metres of any inhabited site. The Court discussed the measurements as provided in the status report of Deputy Director, Geology and Mining at Sivagangai. The Court was of the opinion that because of the proximity of water body close to the quarry, thereby exposed harm to the activities in the quarry, the licence granted to the quarry operation was struck down. The quarrying operations were stopped owing to order of the court previously, and the stoppage was ordered to continue. The writ was therefore allowed.

KARNATAKA HIGH COURT**Karnataka High Court sets aside refusal of quarrying NOC based on ESZ around Kali Tiger Reserve (“KTR”); 07 August 2026*****Abhishek v. State of Karnataka & Ors.*¹⁸**

The Karnataka High Court, at Bengaluru comprising Vibhu Bakhru, C.J. and C.M. Poonacha, J., set aside an endorsement dated 05 January 2023 by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (“DCF”), refusing a NOC for a clay quarrying lease over one acre at Ramnagar Village, Joida Taluk, Uttara Kannada, on the ground that the land was 9.5 km from the Kali Protected Area. The impugned endorsement was issued on the premise that the area fell within 10 kms of

the KTR constitutes its ESZ, and therefore, commercial mining in that zone is impermissible. The only question to be addressed was that whether the ESZ of KTR extends to 10 kms from the boundary of KTR; furthermore, if commercial mining is prohibited in the zone or not. It was discussed that the default ESZ of 10 kms is not applicable for KTR, and therefore, the impugned endorsement has been issued on an ex- facie erroneous premise that there is a default ESZ of 10 kms from the boundaries of KTR. The impugned endorsement was set aside; respondents were directed to examine the petitioner's application afresh.

Karnataka High Court passes order restraining Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (“KSPCB”) from retrospectively recovering enhanced consent fees from industries granted consent prior to rule amendment; 13 August 2026***M/s Kittur Chennamma Poultry Farm v. Karnataka State Pollution Control Board & Anr.*¹⁹**

The Karnataka High Court, at Bengaluru comprising Vibhu Bakhru, C.J. and K.S. Hemalekha, J., allowed a writ petition by a poultry farm challenging the KSPCB's demand for enhanced consent fees. The petitioner, a poultry farm, was granted combined consent under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (“**Water Act, 1974**”) and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (“**Air Act, 1981**”) on 09 July 2021, by paying the applicable fees. The concerned fee rules were amended on 22 October 2021 enhancing the fee; thereafter, KSPCB issued a circular

¹⁷ Aatrakkal Neerpasana Sangam v. The District Collector, Sivagangai & Ors., W.P. (MD) No. 24081 of 2024

¹⁸ Abhishek v. State of Karnataka & Ors., Writ Petition No. 2481 of 2025

¹⁹ M/s Kittur Chennamma Poultry Farm v. Karnataka State Pollution Control Board & Anr., Writ Petition No. 17296 of 2024



DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

dated 14 December 2021 permitting retrospective collection of the enhanced fee from industries granted consent prior to the amendment. The Court held that it is unable to accept that KSPCB has the jurisdiction to retrospectively enhance fees by merely issuing a circular. Respondents were restrained from recovering the enhanced fee from the petitioner for consents granted prior to 22 October 2021, pending disposal of the petitioner's appeal before the Karnataka State Appellate Authority.

RAJASTHAN HIGH COURT

Rajasthan High Court passed directions with respect to obstruction of natural flow of water bodies; 02 July 2026 and 20 August 2026
Govindram S/o Shri Habu Ram v. State of Rajasthan and Others²⁰

The Rajasthan High Court , Jaipur Bench, comprising Sanjeev Prakash Sharma, Acting C.J. and Maneesh Sharma, J., directed immediate removal of encroachments and obstructions which may have been made on the *nalas* and the catchment areas, thereby affecting natural water flow of water bodies. The proceedings concerned construction of *pakka* boundary walls and filling of *nalas* to the natural waterways, resulting in disturbance in flow if water bodies towards its natural course. The encroachments are in village Khatwada in Tehsil Sanganer from where water flows towards Nevta Dam. The Court emphasized that water bodies are critical for groundwater recharge in Rajasthan's desert region, thereby extended directions to the entire catchment areas of Ramgarh Lake and Kukas Dam,

apart from the area as mentioned in the present petition and directed removal. The matter was called up for 20 August 2026 where four weeks have been granted to respondents to file a reply to the writ petition. The next date of hearing in the matter is 26 October 2026.

GUJARAT HIGH COURT

Gujarat High Court directed to remove illegal encroachments from Aslali Lake periphery; 02 September 2026

People Union for Civil Liberties thro General Secretary & Ors. v. State of Gujarat thro Secretary & Ors.²¹

Gujarat High Court at Ahmedabad, comprising Sunita Agarwal, C.J., and D.N. Ray, J., dismissed a PIL concerning 164 persons occupying land recorded as Kharaba Talav on the periphery of Aslali Lake, Ahmedabad. It was submitted that the occupants cannot seek rehabilitation as they were encroachers on public water bodies and that none of the housing schemes would be available to them as they do not satisfy the eligibility criteria prescribed. It was discussed that encroachments in the periphery of the lake have been impeding the process of drainage for more than a decade. It was discussed that this has adversely affected the lake's ecology, and it would be for these illegal occupants to be a cause for waterlogging in the surrounding areas preventing effective drainage. And the consequence of the waterlogging would be the spreading of parasite-borne and other diseases which disrupt the life for thousands of residents in the vicinity of

the said water body. The Court directed Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority to remove all encroachments with police assistance and file a compliance affidavit.

HIMACHAL PRADESH HIGH COURT

Himachal Pradesh High Court directs source segregation SOP and identification of compliant waste-processing site to prevent pollution of the Beas River; 08 July 2026

Court on its Own Motion v. State of H.P. & Ors.²²

Himachal Pradesh High Court , Division Bench of G.S. Sandhawalia, C.J., and Bipin C. Negi, J., in proceedings reviewed waste-processing facilities. A report filed by the respondent states that a Material Recovery Facility Shed was completed on 27 March 2025 and the next day requisite machinery installation was commenced. The installation process ended on 17 June 2025 and M/s Suntan Life Pvt. Ltd. was engaged as the new solid waste management vendor for the site. Various steps and initiatives were taken by M/s Suntan Life Pvt. Ltd. for installation of weighbridges, construction of retaining wall and wire mesh fencing to prevent spillage into the Beas River and the adjoining highway, deployment of a mobile power screen, etc. An amount of Rs.15.30 lakh had been levied as environmental compensation for discharge of untreated leachate into the Beas River. Furthermore, the waste generated from the Tourism Development Council area comprising of 11 panchayats, as also from the area under

²⁰ Govindram S/o Shri Habu Ram v. State of Rajasthan and Others, W.P (C). No 7507 of 2026
²¹ People Union for Civil Liberties thro General Secretary & Ors. v. State of Gujarat thro Secretary & Ors., W.P (PIL) No. 35 of 2013
²² Court on its Own Motion v. State of H.P. & Ors., CWPIL No.92 of 2024



DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

the Special Area Development Authority, Manali does not have a source of segregation. Noting that approximately 85% of waste was reaching the facility in mixed form, the Court directed effective steps and a standard operating procedure (“SOP”) for segregation at source.

JHARKHAND HIGH COURT

Jharkhand High Court discussion on State Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Board (“Board”); 20 July 2026
Court on its Own Motion v. The State of Jharkhand & Ors.²³

Jharkhand High Court at Ranchi, comprising Sujit Narayan Prasad and Sanjay Prasad, JJ., in proceedings on occupational safety, it was submitted that draft rule has been prepared in pursuance to the conferment of power under Section 135 of the Section 17 of the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. Furthermore, it was submitted that the process of getting the approval of the State Cabinet approval is going on. The Learned counsel appearing for the State had sought some time to file affidavit stating therein by which time the Cabinet is expected to accord approval to the draft rules for the purpose to have the Board. The matter was further listed for 06 August 2026, which was adjourned to 25 August 2026. On 25 August 2026, for the issue to accord approval to the draft rule for the purpose to have the Board, the State counsel has stated that by next date of hearing, the further affidavit on the issue will be filed. The next date of hearing was fixed for 17 September 2026.

23 Court on its Own Motion v. The State of Jharkhand & Ors., W.P. (PIL) No. 1073 of 2014

24 Saurabh Tiwari v. Union of India & Ors., E.A. No. 15/2026 in O.A. No. 928/2024; Principal Bench, NGT

25 Compliance of Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Other Environmental Issues, O.A. No. 606/2018/PB, Principal Bench, New Delhi, NGT

26 Almitra H. Patel v. Union of India & Ors., Writ Petition No. 888/1996

NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

National Green Tribunal (“NGT”) ordered compensation and plantation of trees as against illegal felling of trees; 07 July 2026
Saurabh Tiwari v. Union of India & Ors.²⁴

NGT, Principal Bench, comprising of Justice Prakash Shrivastava, Chairperson, and Dr. Afroz Ahmad, Expert Member reviewed compliance with its order of 11 August 2025. That order dealt with the illegal felling of 33 trees on the Banaras Hindu University campus. It directed the University to plant 20 trees for each tree felled. It also directed the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (“UPPCB”) to assess and recover environmental compensation within three months. A Joint Committee found that the University had planted 978 trees in 2025, of which 859 survived. The Tribunal accepted that compensatory plantation had been carried out. UPPCB assessed environmental compensation at ₹2,65,26,877.08. UPPCB had missed the original deadline, but the Tribunal extended the time to complete the levy proceedings.

NGT issued directions for solid and liquid waste management for various states; 22 July 2026

Compliance of Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Other Environmental Issues²⁵

NGT Principal Bench, comprising Justice Prakash Shrivastava, Chairperson, and Dr. Afroz Ahmad, Expert Member, considered the issue of solid as well as liquid waste management as per orders of the Hon’ble Supreme Court dated 02 September 2014 in *Almitra H. Patel vs. Union of India & Ors.*²⁶, with regard to solid waste management and order dated 22 February 2017 in W.P. No. 375/2012, reported in (2017) 5 SCC 326, *Paryavaran Suraksha vs. Union of India*, with regard to liquid waste management (sewage). This is a suo moto monitoring proceeding through which the Tribunal monitors implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 State by State. On 22 July 2026, the matter was taken up in respect of compliance by the State of West Bengal, and directions were passed for Solid Waste Management and Liquid Waste Management in the state. Thereafter, the matter was taken up on 12 August 2026 wherein the matter was taken up in respect of compliance for the state of Madhya Pradesh. The matter was then taken up for hearing on 24 August 2026 and 25 August 2026 for the states of Assam and Kerela respectively. The matter is now listed for 19 November 2026.



DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

SOUTHERN ZONE

NGT passes various directions for resolving the issue of processing and disposal of municipal solid waste; 21 July 2026

Md. Naheem Pasha v. Mancherial District Collector & Ors.27

NGT, Southern Zone Bench, comprising Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, Judicial Member, and Dr. Prashanth Gargava, Expert Member, disposed of an application concerning facilities for the scientific processing and disposal of municipal solid waste. Due to failure of the Mancherial Municipal Corporation (“MMC”) to identify a suitable alternative site, the District Resource Collection Centre at Andalamma Colony was being used as a dumping yard for the municipal solid waste. Furthermore, it was alleged that the waste caught fire, particularly during summers and resulted in emission of smoke, and thereafter, causing serious nuisance for the residents of the surrounding areas. The inability of the MMC and the District collector to secure an alternative site, on account of local opposition, was noted. However, it was stated that the absence of an alternative site cannot justify unscientific dumping or non-compliance with Solid Waste Management Rules. Thereafter, the tribunal passed various directions; MMC to ensure 100% door-to-door source segregated solid waste, and not mixing the same during transportation; MMC shall

complete the establishment and operation of the proposed Dry Resource Collect Centre; MMC to complete the proposed enhancement of the wet waste composting capacity and installing the requisite machinery to process the existing unsegregated waste at the earliest; MMC shall complete bio-mining and remediation of the remaining legacy waste; periodic monitoring of groundwater, Telangana Pollution Control Board (“TPCB”) to conduct inspections at site at least once every quarter and verify quantity of fresh waste received and processed, etc.

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

National Human Rights Commission (“NHRC”) took suo motu cognizance of death and injury caused to labourers due to collapse of under-construction building; 02 July 202628

NHRC took suo motu cognizance of the reported death of at least five labourers and injuries to twenty others in an under- construction building which collapsed in Kolkata, West Bengal on 24 June 2026. Notices have been issued to the West Bengal Chief Secretary, Kolkata Police Commissioner and Municipal Commissioner, calling for a detailed report on the matter.

NHRC took suo motu cognizance of death and injury of migrant labourers at Bengaluru quarry; 06 July 202629

NHRC took suo motu cognizance of the reported death of seven migrant labourers and injuries to five others after a massive granite rock fell on workers at a quarry in Bengaluru. The Commission noted that the incident; reportedly, indicated negligence by the quarry owner, and sought a detailed report from the Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka.

NHRC took suo motu cognizance of death of a worker after inhaling toxic gases while cleaning a sewage treatment plant; 17 July 2026

NHRC took suo motu cognizance of death of a worker and injuries to another after inhaling toxic gases while cleaning a sewage treatment plant tank in the district of Hisar, Haryana. Notice was issued to the Haryana Chief Secretary and Hisar Superintendent of Police calling for a detailed report in 2 weeks. As per the media report, the workers were engaged by a contractor to clear a blocked pipeline. The workers entered the tank without any safety gear. The injured worker is undergoing treatment at a hospital.

27 Md. Naheem Pasha v. Mancherial District Collector & Ors., O.A. No. 75/2024/SZ, Southern Zone at Chennai, NGT

28 NHRC Press Release; NHRC, India takes suo motu cognizance of the reported death of at least five labourers and injuries to twenty others in an under-construction building collapse in Kolkata, West Bengal; 02 July 2026; URL - <https://nhrc.nic.in/media/press-release/nhrc,-india-takes-suo-motu-cognizance-of-the-reported-death-of-at-least-five-labourers-and-injuries-to-twenty-others-in-an-under-construction-building-collapse-in-kolkata,-west-bengal>

29 NHRC Press Release, NHRC, India takes suo motu cognizance of the reported death of 7 migrant labourers and injuries to 5 others when a massive granite rock fell on them at a quarry in Bengaluru, Karnataka, URL - <https://nhrc.nic.in/media/press-release/nhrc,-india-takes-suo-motu-cognizance-of-the-reported-death-of-7-migrant-labourers-and-injuries-to-5-others-when-a-massive-granite-rock-fell-on-them-at-a-quarry-in-bengaluru,-karnataka>



DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

NHRC took *suo motu* cognizance of the reported death of three children due to drowning in the ‘Ash Dyke Lagoon’; 16 July 2026³⁰

NHRC took *suo motu* cognizance of a media report which has reported the death of three children who drowned in an ‘Ash Dyke Lagoon’ constructed by National Thermal Power Corporation (“**NTPC**”) in Kanti area, Muzaffarpur District, Bihar. A huge amount of coal ash is stored by the NTPC in these ponds, and reportedly, no warning boards were installed in the area. Notices have been issued to NTPC’s Chairman and Managing Director and the Senior Superintendent of Police, Muzaffarpur, Bihar, seeking a detailed report.

³⁰ NHRC Press Release - NHRC, India has taken suo motu cognizance of the reported death of three children due to drowning in the ‘Ash Dyke Lagoon’ constructed by the NTPC in the Muzaffarpur district, Bihar, URL- <https://nhrc.nic.in/media/press-release/nhrc-india-has-taken-suo-motu-cognizance-of-the-reported-death-of-three-children-due-to-drowning-in-the-ash-dyke-lagoon-constructed-by-the-ntpc-in-the-muzaffarpur-district-bihar>



News and Market Trends





News and Market Trends

Basel Convention has advanced work on e-waste, hazardous waste and textiles; 1 July 2026

More than 580 participants, including representatives of 147 Parties have attended the 15th meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention in Geneva from 23 to 26 June 2026. Delegates agreed to strengthen the Prior Informed Consent system and reached consensus on refined guidelines for e-waste, textiles and hazardous waste. The deferring key debates and compromise decisions are deferred to the conference in Panama in April 2027.

Chhattisgarh notifies Compressed Biogas Policy 2026; 16 July 2026

The Chhattisgarh Compressed Biogas Policy 2026 was notified on 10 July 2026 and runs until 31 March 2030. It aims to convert farm waste, cattle dung, city garbage and factory by-products into compressed biogas. It treats each district as a feedstock catchment and caps registrable capacity at 80% of district supply. It also facilitates 25-year waste supply agreements with urban local bodies for supply of sorted city waste.

Cabinet approves ₹5,070 crore Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana; 3 August 2026

On 31 July 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana, a INR 5,070 crore floating solar plants scheme for reservoirs and ponds. It targets 5,000 MW of floating solar capacity paired with at least two hours of battery storage. Developers will receive INR 1 crore per MW on commissioning. Up to ₹50 lakh per project is also available for feasibility and environmental studies.

National Institute of Technology (“NIT”) Rourkela has patented hybrid

energy storage system for extending the battery life of EVs; 3 September 2026

NIT Rourkela has patented a hybrid energy storage system that pairs a battery pack with a supercapacitor. It reduces battery stress during sudden acceleration, braking and speed changes. It is optimised for 24V–60V direct current range, including e-scooters and e-rickshaws.

BRICS backs the Carbon Markets Partnership and opposed the unilateral CBAM; 12 September 2026

The New Delhi Declaration, adopted at the 18th BRICS Summit on 12 September 2026, supported implementing the Memorandum of Understanding on the BRICS Carbon Markets Partnership for sharing the expertise and capacity building, and thereafter, link carbon markets with climate finance. It opposed unilateral, punitive and protectionist measures, explicitly naming CBAMs. India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme is on the UK's list of qualifying overseas carbon pricing schemes, ahead of the UK CBAM taking effect on 1 January 2027.

BRICS has adopted Photovoltaic Industry Action Plan and has called for value addition in critical minerals; 12 September 2026

On 12 September 2026, BRICS leaders adopted a Terms of Reference and Action Plan for the BRICS Photovoltaic Industry Working Group and called for “value addition and economic diversification”. The plan includes national knowledge portals and a BRICS Solar Photovoltaic Cooperation Roadmap, which covers finance, technology and skills. The Declaration has also called for fair competition in the sphere of renewable energy, and has furthermore linked clean technology manufacturing with efforts in order to make supply chain more resilient.

Germany unveils roadmap to transition away from fossil fuels by 2045; 25 September 2026

Germany has presented a roadmap to transition from the use of fossil fuels by 2045, and to become the third country after France and Netherlands to publish a plan after the COP28 commitment. Around 65% of Germany's energy still accounts for fossil fuels as per the year 2024, with the share of coal as 5%, natural gas as 24% and oil making up to 36%. The roadmap was presented at UNGA on 23 September 2026. Germany plans to phase out coal by 2038, possibly 2035.

UN General Assembly adopts first declaration on sea level rise; 28 September 2026

On 24 September 2026, the UN General Assembly adopted its first declaration on sea level rise, agreed by member states including the US. It affirms that losing territory to rising seas does not automatically mean losing statehood. It supports the stability of established maritime zones despite coastline changes which are caused by sea level rise. It also calls for early warning systems, adaptation finance and coastal protection.

GOBARDhan scheme and Unified Portal launched; 5 October 2026

On 1 October 2026, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched the GOBARDhan scheme, the Unified GOBARDhan Portal and the GOBARDhan Handbook. Registration on the portal is mandatory. The administered CBG price is ₹2,110 per MMBtu until 31 March 2036, and capital assistance of ₹1.25 crore per TPD is linked to performance. A INR 500 crore CBG Ecosystem Challenge Fund rewards districts.



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