

SustainEdge

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India Highlights

National & Policy Highlights



Renewable Energy Milestones

India has reached 50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, five years ahead of its 2030 Paris Agreement target. This milestone reflects rapid growth in solar and wind power, strong policy support, and large-scale investments, positioning India as a major global renewable-energy hub and reinforcing its commitment to decarbonising the power sector while sustaining economic growth.



Climate Negotiation Withdrawal

India has recently withdrawn its bid to host the UN climate conference COP33 in 2028, after earlier proposing to do so. The government has not publicly detailed the reasons but has cited a “review of its commitments for 2028” and indicated it is unable to host the summit that year. Multiple media and official sources confirm that the decision has been formally communicated to the UN climate body.



Reforestation Record

In early April 2026, Varanasi set a Guinness World Record by planting over 2.51 lakh saplings in a single hour, surpassing China's earlier record. The mega drive took place in the Sujabad-Domari area and was part of the nationwide “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” campaign, which links tree plantation with a tribute to mothers while promoting large-scale afforestation and ecological restoration across India.



Agricultural Diversification

The Finance Ministry has issued an advisory to states on their crop-bonus policies, urging them to align incentives with pulses, oilseeds, millets, and other diversified crops rather than primarily rewarding paddy and wheat. This move aims to encourage farmers to shift from water-intensive monocultures toward more sustainable, climate-resilient, and nutrition-sensitive crop cycles while reducing import dependence and easing pressure on water and soil resources.

Sustainability Finance & Business



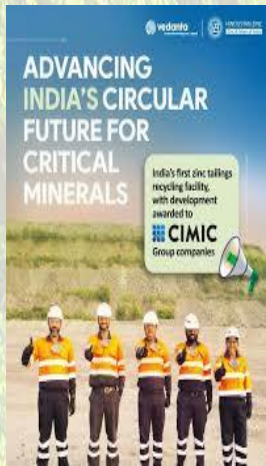
Green Infrastructure Funding

The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) extended ₹1,787 crore to BluPine Energy to repower solar assets and ₹4,800 crore to Greenko for refinancing and scaling up renewable projects. These agreements were signed at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, with phase one set to launch in 2028. The move is expected to create jobs and position Dholera as a major digital and industrial hub in India.



Women-Focused Investment

Satin Growth Alternatives has received SEBI approval for a ₹200 crore Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) focused exclusively on women-led businesses. The Category II AIF aims to promote inclusive growth, financial inclusion, and sustainability by investing in grassroots enterprises with ticket sizes typically between ₹4–5 crore, extendable up to ₹10 crore, leveraging the parent Satin Creditcare's extensive rural network for deal sourcing.



Circular Economy Deals

Hindustan Zinc has partnered with CIMIC Group to establish India's first zinc tailings recycling facility at its Rampura Agucha Mines in Rajasthan, using advanced processing to recover residual metals such as zinc and silver from legacy waste and promote circular-economy practices in mining.

Antony Waste Handling has teamed up with Japan's JFE Engineering to build two waste-to-energy plants in Andhra Pradesh's Kadapa and Kurnool districts, converting municipal solid waste into renewable power and marking Japan's first FDI in India's waste-to-energy sector.



Regenerative Cotton

The Indian textile industry is speeding up the adoption of regenerative cotton, which improves soil health, biodiversity, and water retention while reducing chemical inputs. Firms and farmer platforms are pairing this shift with stronger digital traceability systems—such as farm-to-garment tracking and blockchain-based platforms—so brands can verify origin, sustainability claims, and compliance with stringent global standards and regulations.

Clean Mobility & Tech



E-Bus Exports

India's Switch Mobility has completed the delivery of 100 electric buses to Mauritius, marking the country's largest e-bus export to date. The Switch EiV12 buses, supplied under a government-to-government arrangement, will modernize and decarbonize public transport in Mauritius while strengthening India's footprint in the global clean-mobility market.



Ethanol Advancements

TVS Motor Company has confirmed that its ethanol-powered two- and three-wheeler models are ready for phased rollouts across India. This move aligns with the national achievement of the E20 ethanol-blending milestone in petrol, which provides the fuel infrastructure and policy support needed to scale ethanol-based mobility as a cost-effective, low-carbon alternative in the country's clean-energy transition.



Innovative Waste Management

Students from Pune's Gokhale Institute helped local fishermen in Ratnagiri implement an oil-collection system that has kept about 2,800 litres of toxic engine oil out of the sea by channelling it into recycling and reuse. Separately, a Bengaluru start-up has launched a doorstep pickup service for old clothes, enabling households to declutter while diverting textile waste from landfills and supporting circular-economy solutions.

Grassroots & Community Success



Net-Zero Village

A sarpanch in Maharashtra's Bela Gram, Sharada Gaydhane, led her village to net-zero carbon emissions by mobilising the community to plant around 90,000 trees and by transitioning homes and public buildings to solar power. The initiative also shifted families to cleaner cooking fuels and improved waste management, turning Bela into India's first net-zero panchayat and a model for grassroots climate action.



Water Conservation

In Ladakh, Project Him Sarovar has been launched to build a network of storage ponds that capture melting snow and glacial runoff, ensuring year-round water security for the region. The project will create around 50 small water bodies across Leh and Kargil, designed to store snowmelt that would otherwise flow away, so it can be used for irrigation, rural water supply, and climate-resilient water management in this high-altitude cold desert.



Conservation Wins

For the first time in nearly a decade, a Great Indian Bustard chick has hatched in Gujarat's Kutch region, marking a major conservation milestone for the critically endangered species. The chick emerged from a fertile egg transported from a breeding center in Rajasthan and placed into a wild nest under a novel "jumpstart" conservation approach, raising hope for population recovery in a landscape where local males had long disappeared.

Global Highlights

Climate Policy & Global Governance



Renewable Energy Milestone

Data from IRENA's Renewable Capacity Statistics 2026 shows that renewable energy reached nearly 49% of global power capacity by the end of 2025, with total installed renewables crossing about 5,149 gigawatts. Solar power alone drove around 75% of new capacity additions last year, accounting for roughly 511 GW of the 692 GW of global renewable growth, firmly cementing its role as the dominant driver of the energy transition.

Jet fuel flow from the Middle East, thousand barrels per day



Energy Security Reversals

The ongoing war in the Middle East has triggered a global energy crisis, with major disruptions to oil and gas flows through chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz pushing prices up and exposing import-dependent economies to supply risks. In response, Italy has voted to delay the shutdown of its remaining coal-fired power plants until 2038, extending operations by 13 years from the original 2025 deadline, as the government cites energy-security concerns amid the geopolitical shock.



U.S. Environmental Rollbacks

The Trump administration has granted a rare Endangered Species Act exemption allowing expanded oil and gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, invoking “national security” as the justification. The six-member Endangered Species Committee, convening for the first time in over 30 years, approved the waiver on the grounds that domestic energy production must be shielded from litigation-driven delays amid global supply shocks linked to the U.S.–Iran war. Environmental groups strongly oppose the move, warning it undermines protections for several endangered marine species, including whales, sea turtles, and whale sharks.



CBAM Implementation

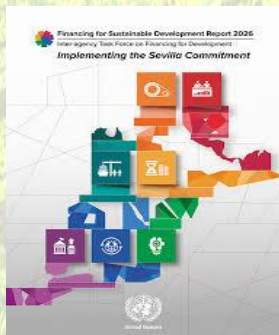
The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) officially entered its definitive phase on January 1, 2026, moving beyond the earlier reporting-only transitional period. Under the full regime, exporters of carbon-intensive goods such as steel, cement, aluminium, fertilisers, electricity, and hydrogen must now align their production with EU-style carbon pricing or face levies calculated from the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) allowance price, effectively raising the cost of higher-emission imports into the bloc.

Sustainability Finance & IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings



Climate Finance Under Pressure

At the IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings (April 13–18, 2026) in Washington, reports indicate that several developing nations are being urged by powerful borrowers and fossil-fuel-friendly donors to sideline climate-focused dialogue in favor of tackling immediate debt distress and surging energy-inflation pressures. With the war-linked energy crisis driving up import bills and debt-service costs, many low-income governments now face pressure to prioritize short-term fiscal stability over long-term climate-finance and decarbonisation plans.



Financing Gap Warnings

A new UN report on financing for sustainable development warns that global funding for development is under “growing pressure,” threatening the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The 2026 Financing for Sustainable Development Report highlights shrinking official aid, rising debt-service burdens, and falling foreign investment, especially for the poorest countries, which now face a widening annual financing gap estimated at around \$4 trillion.

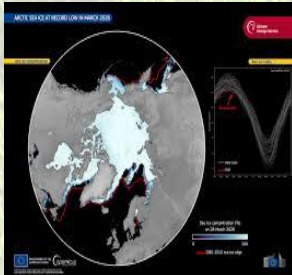


EU Carbon Tax Shift

In a major policy pivot, Britain has announced plans to scrap its carbon tax on electricity generation, known as the Carbon Price Support, from April 2028 to ease the burden of rising energy bills on households and businesses. The tax currently adds about £7 per megawatt-hour to electricity prices, removing it, is expected to

lower power costs for consumers, although it raises concerns about weaker carbon-price signals for decarbonising the power sector.

Scientific Research & Environmental Alerts



Arctic Ice Record Lows

Between March 15 and 28, 2026, Arctic sea ice extent remained at the lowest levels ever recorded for that period, according to satellite data from EUMETSAT's OSI SAF and the Copernicus Climate Change Service. The 2026 trajectory lies well below the 1981–2010 median, underscoring a continued, accelerating decline in winter sea ice driven by persistent warming in the region.



Biodiversity Crisis

A global report released in late March 2026 found that migratory freshwater fish populations have plummeted by about 81% since 1970, one of the steepest declines recorded for any major vertebrate group. The assessment, led by the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species and partners, attributes the crash mainly to dams and other barriers that block migration routes, along with habitat loss, pollution, overfishing, and climate change.



African Forest Reversal

New research shows that Africa's forests have flipped from being a net carbon sink to a net carbon source since 2010, largely due to rapid deforestation and forest degradation. Between 2010 and 2017, the continent lost roughly 106 billion kilograms of forest biomass annually, equivalent to about 200 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions, mainly in tropical moist-broadleaf forests such as the Congo Basin and parts of West Africa and Madagascar.