

SustainEdge

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India Highlights



Floating Solar Push

India plans incentives to scale floating solar on reservoirs and lakes, offering financial and administrative support to developers and states to expand renewables without land pressure. The scheme seeks to boost domestic manufacturing and harness benefits like higher panel efficiency and reduced evaporation, while requiring coordination with irrigation, fisheries and environmental agencies.



REC Carbon Finance

REC's subsidiary is entering India's nascent carbon market to offer project financing, carbon-credit structuring and off-take facilitation for emission-reduction projects. The move aims to unlock private capital, improve credit access for mitigation and removal projects, and help corporates meet compliance and voluntary offset needs while strengthening market liquidity.



Grid Storage Deal

NTPC awarded SPML Infra a large battery energy storage systems (BESS) contract to add grid flexibility and firm variable renewable generation. The project will support peak-shaving, frequency response and renewable integration, reduce curtailment risk, and demonstrate utility-scale storage operations that help stabilize India's growing solar and wind capacity.



EV Supply Boost

Tata and JSW announced stepped-up investments in domestic EV and battery R&D to build local supply chains, reduce import dependence, and accelerate vehicle electrification. Their funding targets cell chemistry, pack integration, and recycling technologies, aiming to cut costs, secure critical minerals, and support India's manufacturing and EV adoption goals.



Apple India Pledge

Apple committed ₹100 crore to support clean-energy projects and climate-tech start-ups in India, aiming to decarbonise its supply chain and help suppliers adopt renewables. The fund will back rooftop and captive renewables, storage pilots, and technology incubation, accelerating supplier emissions cuts while fostering local clean-energy innovation and jobs.



Transmission Curtailment

ReNew Energy reported significant solar generation curtailment due to grid constraints and limited evacuation capacity, underscoring transmission bottlenecks that prevent full utilization of installed solar capacity. Curtailment raises revenue losses for generators, stresses the need for accelerated transmission upgrades and grid-friendly solutions like storage, demand response, and improved scheduling to integrate more renewables.



Battery Recycling Plant

Kolkata-based NavPrakriti inaugurated a lithium-ion battery recycling facility to extract cobalt, nickel, lithium and other critical minerals from end-of-life EV and industrial batteries. The plant reduces reliance on imports, lowers environmental risks from informal disposal, and supports circular supply chains by supplying recovered materials to local cell and battery manufacturers.



Cooking Fuel Shift

Mongabay-India reported recent LPG shortages and supply disruptions prompting households and communities to revisit clean-cooking options like electric induction, biogas, improved biomass stoves, and subsidized piped natural gas connections. The shortages accelerate policy and market interest in resilient, low-emission cooking solutions while highlighting affordability and infrastructure barriers for rapid adoption.



Urban Spring Revival

Mongabay-India reported proposals to restore and protect urban springs in Himalayan foothill towns to bolster local water security, recharge aquifers, and reduce dependence on distant supplies. Restoration plans emphasize protecting catchments, community stewardship, and nature-based interventions like afforestation and erosion control to sustain perennial flow. These measures can

improve municipal water resilience against seasonal shortages but require coordinated policy support, monitoring, and integration with urban planning to avoid unintended impacts on downstream users.



Tiger Habitat Stress

Down To Earth reported rising pressure on tiger breeding sites from unregulated tourism, infrastructure development, and increased human presence near protected areas. This disturbance can reduce breeding success and alter tiger movement, so authorities and park managers must strengthen buffer-zone rules, control visitor numbers, and enhance community engagement to protect critical habitats.



Data-centre Water

Deccan Herald covered debates over AI data-centre water consumption and advanced cooling needs that strain local freshwater supplies, especially in water-stressed regions. Policymakers, companies, and utilities are weighing water-efficient cooling, wastewater reuse, and site selection rules to reduce impacts while balancing digital infrastructure growth and environmental safeguards.



Climate Disclosure Gap

A recent review found only about 213 of India's top 500 listed firms publicly disclosed net-zero or formal climate targets, revealing significant reporting and ambition gaps among large corporations. This shortfall limits investor visibility into transition risk, hinders market-level emissions tracking, and suggests urgent need for stronger disclosure rules, capacity building, and standardized reporting frameworks to drive corporate decarbonisation.



Water Conservation

The Centre for Science and Environment's 2026 report warns of escalating climate risks, more intense heatwaves, erratic monsoons, and frequent floods and droughts, straining agriculture, water, and cities. It documents biodiversity loss, pollution, and resource depletion, highlights disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities, and urges stronger adaptation, ecosystem restoration, and coordinated policy action.



Urban Greening Push

Several Indian outlets reported planned large-scale tree-planting drives across Mumbai and other cities to increase urban canopy, cool neighbourhoods, and improve air quality. Initiatives combine municipal planting, citizen volunteering, and corporate CSR support, but success depends on species selection, long-term maintenance, and protecting young trees from vandalism and development pressures.

Global Highlights



GCC Carbon Standard

The Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market approved a Global Carbon Credit (GCC) standard and tightened integrity rules to ensure credits represent real, additional, and verifiable emissions reductions or removals. New requirements raise transparency, governance, and monitoring standards, aiming to restore market trust, reduce greenwashing, and channel high-integrity credits to corporate buyers.



EU Industry Relief

The EU proposed €4.3–4.4 billion (about \$4.7 billion) in temporary CO₂ cost relief by reallocating free emissions permits and adjusting carbon pricing support to help energy-intensive industries transition. The package aims to reduce sudden competitiveness shocks, fund low-carbon investments, and smooth sectoral decarbonisation while linking relief to green investment and modernization commitments.



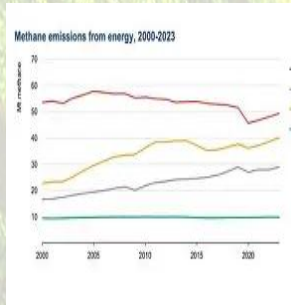
Trilateral Carbon Pact

The EU, China and Brazil launched a coalition to harmonize carbon market rules, align pricing methodologies, and promote interoperable standards for credits and trading, aiming to reduce fragmentation in global voluntary and compliance markets. The pact seeks to improve market confidence, facilitate cross-border credit recognition, and drive larger, more consistent carbon finance flows to credible mitigation and restoration projects.



Adaptation Finance Shortfall

New UNEP reporting warns that global adaptation ambitions far outpace dedicated climate finance, leaving vulnerable countries underfunded for resilience measures. The report highlights persistent funding gaps, limited access to concessional finance, and insufficient private-sector engagement, calling for scaled grants, better financial instruments, and policy reforms to channel resources into adaptation priorities.



Methane Emissions Alarm

The IEA reported that methane emissions from fossil-fuel extraction and use remain stubbornly high, undermining near-term climate goals because methane is a potent short-lived climate forcer. Rapid detection, leak repair, and stricter regulation are needed alongside fossil-sector transitions to achieve meaningful short-term warming reductions and protect air quality.



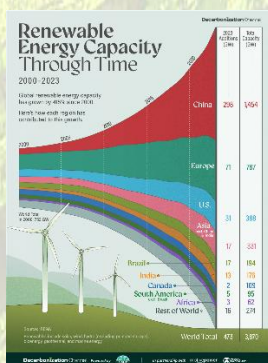
Climate Finance Plan

Finance ministers from major economies discussed mobilizing a \$1.3 trillion-per-year package to scale global climate finance ahead of COP30, combining public concessional funds, blended finance facilities, and incentives to unlock private capital. The proposal focuses on boosting adaptation and mitigation investments in emerging markets, improving access to concessional lending, and creating risk-sharing instruments to lower barriers for large infrastructure and resilience projects while ensuring transparency and measurable outcomes.



Tech Trends 2026

S&P Global highlighted AI-driven sustainability reporting, advanced analytics for emissions tracking, and digital tools to automate disclosure and assurance processes. It also flagged scale-up of cleantech (long-duration storage, green hydrogen), carbontech commercialization, and circular-economy platforms that reduce material waste while improving corporate decision-making and investment flows.



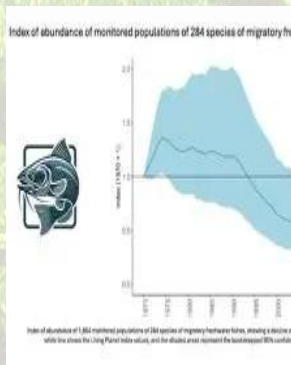
Renewables Supply Growth

Global renewable energy capacity kept expanding through 2025 and into 2026, with new wind, solar and other clean generation meeting all net growth in electricity demand; this means additional demand was supplied without increasing fossil-fuel generation. Rapid deployment lowered system carbon intensity, but integration challenges, grid upgrades, storage and flexible operations, remain essential to sustain the transition and avoid curtailment or reliability issues.



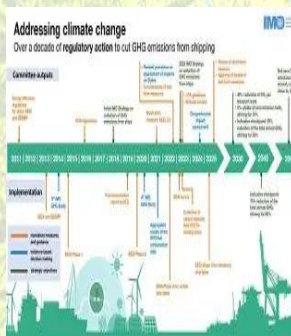
SAF Scale-Up

Several countries announced expanded targets and financing to scale sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) production through 2030, promoting feedstock diversification (waste oils, agricultural residues, e-Fuels) and industrial build-out. Policies combine blending mandates, incentives, public-private investment, and offtake guarantees to lower costs and attract refinery conversion, aiming to cut aviation lifecycle emissions while managing feedstock sustainability and supply-chain impacts.



Freshwater Fish Decline

New research shows migratory freshwater fish populations have plunged sharply since 1970, driven by damming, habitat fragmentation, pollution, overfishing and altered flow regimes. Declines threaten riverine food security, fisheries livelihoods and ecosystem services like nutrient transport, requiring river-connectivity restoration, dam mitigation (fish passages, managed flows), pollution controls and targeted conservation programs to reverse trends.



Shipping Emissions Pricing

New international negotiations and regulatory proposals aim to price greenhouse-gas emissions from global shipping through market-based measures, levies or a sectoral carbon fund to drive fuel switch and efficiency. The rules would generate revenue for decarbonisation, incentivize low-carbon fuels and technology adoption, and address emissions leakage across trade routes while requiring robust MRV and equitable cost allocation.



Reforestation Pledge

Indonesia announced a plan to restore about 12 million hectares through reforestation and peatland rehabilitation, linking efforts to carbon-credit schemes and restoration financing to attract investment. The program emphasizes native species, community participation, and biodiversity, but requires clear tenure, robust MRV, and safeguards to ensure permanence and social co-benefits.



Legal Shield Debate

New Zealand considered proposals to limit corporate exposure to private climate litigation by adjusting legal protections or standing rules for climate suits, aiming to balance investor certainty with accountability. The debate raises concerns about access to justice for affected communities and could affect corporate climate governance incentives, legal risk management, and reputational accountability.



Climate Diplomacy Tension

The US and several nations debated attendance and negotiating positions at recent UN climate fora, reflecting broader geopolitical tensions that shape commitments and multilateral cooperation. These disagreements affect agenda priorities, finance pledges, and loss-and-damage discussions, potentially slowing consensus on ambitious outcomes while prompting coalitions of willing states and non-state actors to pursue parallel climate action.



ESG Platforms Rise

Global reporting and ESG platforms continued to drive private-sector sustainability action by improving disclosure tools, standardized metrics, and assurance services that help firms meet investor and regulatory expectations. As mandatory reporting laws expand, these platforms blend tech (data automation, AI analytics) with advisory services to translate ESG data into risk management, capital allocation, and measurable decarbonisation pathways.