

SustainEdge

Stories, Stats & Steps towards a greener tomorrow

*Issue 2
January 2026*

Publisher

Office of Sustainability
Institute of Engineering & Management
School of University of Engineering and Management, Kolkata
Management House, D-1, Sector - V, Salt Lake,
Electronics Complex, Kolkata, West Bengal, India PIN- 700091

Editor-In chief

Prof. (Dr.) Rahul Baidya
Email: rahul.baidya@iem.edu.in

Associate Editors

Dr. Somdipta Bagchi
Email: somdipta.bagchi@iem.edu.in
Mr. Anirban Mukherjee
Email: anirban.mukherjee@iem.edu.in

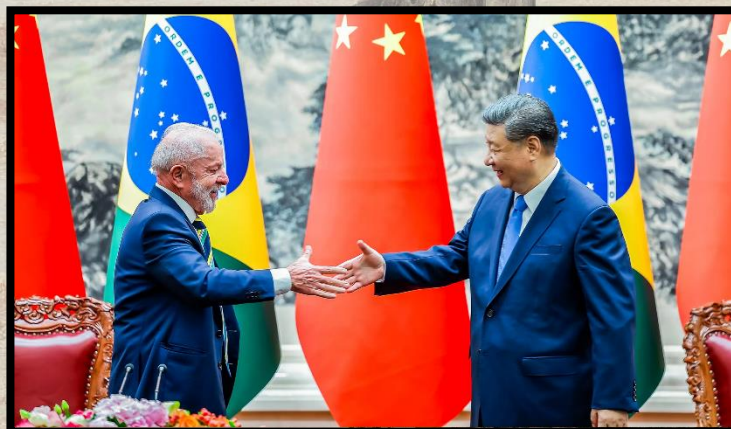
U.S. withdrawal from global climate groups

On January 6-8, 2026, U.S. President Donald Trump signed a White House memorandum directing withdrawal from 66 international organizations, including 31 UN bodies like UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change), IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), UN Water, and non-UN ones such as International Solar Alliance (India-France-led), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA, UAE-based), and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature, Switzerland). The "America First" policy ends U.S. funding and participation, claiming these promote "globalist agendas" over national interests. Experts warn it weakens global climate science and diplomacy.



Calls for green action despite divides

From Dec 2025 to Jan 2026, leaders at UN forums in New York (USA), Geneva (Switzerland), and Nairobi (Kenya) urged climate unity amid U.S.-China-EU tensions and economic hurdles. UNEP and IPCC reports stressed climate justice, sustainable finance like \$100B+ pledges, and energy equity for developing nations. Despite divides, commitments to SDGs and Paris Agreement hold firm, showing resilience in global green efforts.



UNESCO solar push at Villa Ocampo

UNESCO advanced solar energy in late 2025 by installing panels at Villa Ocampo, a 19th-century mansion in San Isidro, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina (Victoria Ocampo donation, UNESCO-listed heritage). The project, part of cultural site greening, cuts CO₂ emissions and powers operations renewably. It inspires similar efforts at UNESCO sites worldwide, blending heritage with clean tech.



Chilika Bird Festival in Odisha

India's 6th National Chilika Bird Festival (Bihanga Utsav), organized by Odisha Tourism, Forests Department, and Chilika Development Authority, during January 6-8, 2026, at Chilika Lake, Asia's largest brackish lagoon in Odisha. Held during peak migrant season (Dec 1-Feb 28), events at Mangalajodi birding camp and Nalabana Island Sanctuary drew 100+ birdwatchers for eco-tours, boat safaris, and conservation talks, promoting wetland protection and local livelihoods.



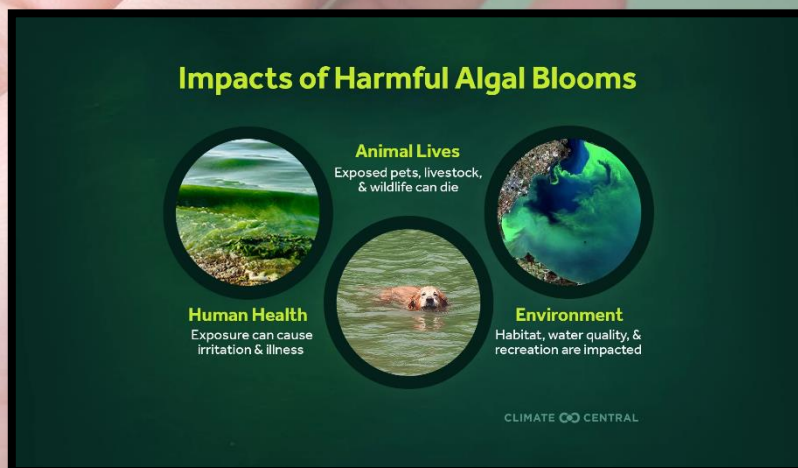
Green Formula E in Mexico City

The Hankook Mexico City E-Prix (ABB FIA Formula E World Championship) on Jan 9-10, 2026, at Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez used 100% renewable HVO fuel (90% emission cut), zero-waste systems, and initiatives like Better Futures Fund (supports El Caracol NGO), FIA Girls on Track (STEM for girls), and community outreach. Formula E and Mexico organizers aim to speed EV adoption and sustainability in Latin America.



Toxic algal blooms rise globally

Global reports in Dec 2025-Jan 2026 from UNEP, Crisis24, and NOAA highlighted surging harmful algal blooms (HABs) in East Asia coasts, South America (e.g., Patagonia), Gulf (Saudi/UAE), and U.S. lakes due to climate warming, heavy rains, and agricultural runoff. They threaten fish stocks, tourism, desalination plants in Israel/UAE, and health via toxins. Urgent calls for monitoring and nutrient curbs.



International Mountain Day

UN-designated International Mountain Day on Dec 11, 2025, featured events at Palais des Nations (Geneva, Switzerland) and UNEP HQ (Nairobi, Kenya), hosted by Kyrgyzstan/Peru with FAO/Mountain Partnership. Focus: glacier melt in Himalayas/Andes, water security for 2B people, snow leopard habitats. Outcomes push resilient policies for mountains covering 27% of land.



UN Decade of Sustainable Transport

UN launched the International Decade of Sustainable Transport (2026-2035) on Dec 10, 2025, at ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters (New York, USA), with UNECE, WHO, ITF (International Transport Forum). Multi-stakeholder talks covered EV infra, clean fuels, urban planning to cut 7% of global emissions. Targets: decarbonize mobility in Asia/Africa megacities.



United Nations
Decade of
Sustainable Transport
2026-2035

International Day of Clean Energy

Jan 26, 2026, marks UN's International Day of Clean Energy (proclaimed 2024, UAE/Panama initiative) worldwide, focusing SDG 7 via IAEA/IRENA events. Spotlights renewables in 17 Pacific islands (low access now), pushes \$500B investments, tech transfers for equitable shift from fossils.



COP30 in Brazil on fossils

UNFCCC's COP30 (Nov 10-21, 2025) in Belém, Pará, Brazil (Amazon region), under Brazil's Lula, reaffirmed UAE Consensus with 83+ countries (EU, UK, islands) backing voluntary fossil phase-out roadmaps, Belém 4x Pledge (quadruple sustainable fuels by 2035), and \$125B climate finance boost (Brazil \$1B first). No binding deal, but sets 2026 agenda despite U.S./OPEC pushback.



UNEA-7 in Nairobi

UN Environment Assembly's 7th session (UNEA-7, Dec 8-12, 2025) at UNEP HQ, Nairobi, Kenya, adopted 11 resolutions and Ministerial Declaration on "resilient planet": critical minerals taskforce, coral reefs, chemicals/waste, and pollution cuts. 193 nations addressed biodiversity/climate; Africa led on green transition amid criticisms of dropped deep-sea proposals.



Miami climate-agri conference

The International Conference on Climate Change, Agriculture and Biodiversity Resilience convened Jan 12, 2026, in Miami, Florida, USA, organized by WRF (World Research Forum?). Experts from U.S./Latin America discussed regenerative agriculture, soil carbon sequestration, biodiversity for food security amid hurricanes/droughts. Key: policy-research links for resilient farms.



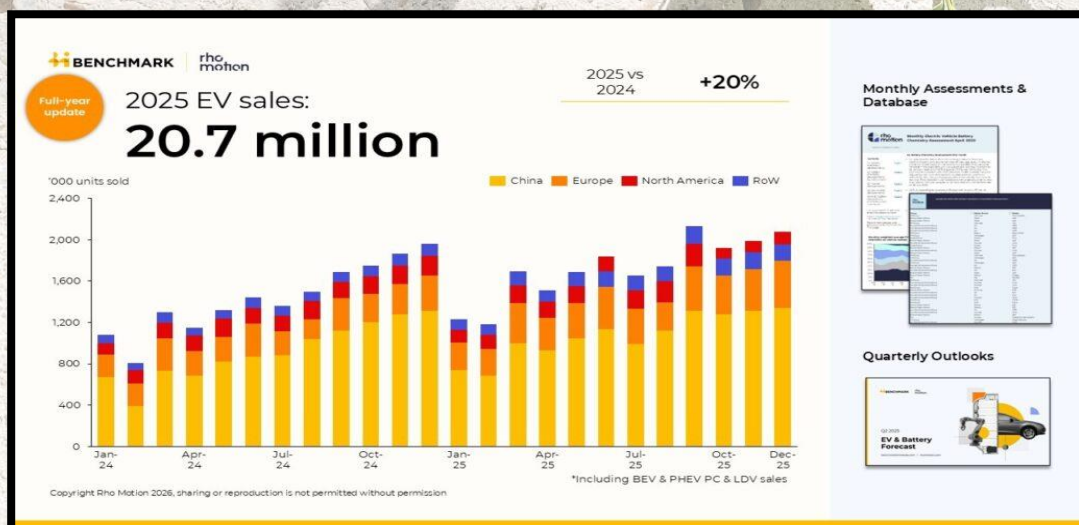
Japan Cuts Clothing Waste

Japan's environment ministry is preparing a new action plan to cut clothing waste, after estimating that households bought about 770,000 tons of clothes in 2024 and incinerated or landfilled around 510,000 tons, aiming to promote reuse, recycling and more sustainable fashion consumption nationwide.



EV sales and coal peak

2025 IEA/Global EV Outlook reported EVs at 25%+ global new passenger sales (~17M units), led by China (60% share), Europe (25%), with batteries cheaper than ICE. Coal peaked in China/India/EU/U.S.; consumption fell amid renewables boom, signalling fossil demand crest.



UCL's 28 Days of Sustainability

UCL (University College London, UK) announced "28 Days of Sustainability 2026" for Feb 16-Mar 16 at Bloomsbury/Gower Street campuses. Sustainable UCL invites staff/students for 100+ events across 6 themes: Positive Climate (talks/cycling), The Loop (swaps), Wild UCL (biodiversity walks), Inspires Action (exhibits), Shapes Future (research), Run Sustainably (Green Impact workshops). Builds on past years for community impact.



THANK YOU

TH