SustainEdge

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India Highlights

Greener Finance and Regulation

SEBI Tightens Green Debt Rules

SEBI now requires independent, conflict-free ESG experts to review green debt securities. These experts must verify compliance with SEBI's NCS Regulations, 2021. Issuers are mandated to disclose reviewer identities and review scopes in offer documents. Reviews must adhere to globally aligned ESG disclosure standards to ensure transparency and prevent greenwashing practices.

Bank of Baroda's Green Bonds

Bank of Baroda raised ₹10,000 crore through 7-year AAA-rated green infrastructure bonds at 7.10%, marking India's first such bank issuance. Oversubscribed over 3x (₹16,415 crore), it reflected strong investor demand and a "greenium." Proceeds will fund renewable and sustainable projects under its Green Financing Framework, advancing India's climate goals.

SBI Green Loans

SBI aims to expand green advances from 1.56% to 7.5–10% of its loan portfolio by 2030. It launched CHAKRA, a Centre of Excellence financing renewable energy, e-mobility, and green hydrogen, with 25% via green credit lines. Its "Green Rupee Term Deposit" supports carbon-neutral operations by 2030 and Net Zero by 2055.

GIFT City Emerges as a Green-Finance Hub

GIFT City has become India's leading green finance hub, with ESG-labelled debt hitting a record $16.8 billion by January 2026—a 56% rise in two years. Offering full tax exemptions, concessional withholding, and a 5% green mandate, it attracts global investors. IFSCA regulation ensures credibility as total debt reached $69.7 billion.

Clean Energy and Technology Investments

L&T Vyoma Green AI Data Centre

The Gujarat and L&T Vyoma develop a 250 MW data centre at Dholera SIR, backed by ₹25,000 crore. Powered by renewable energy, it supports AI training, computing, services, and analytics. Signed at India AI Impact Summit 2026, phase one launches 2028, boosting jobs and positioning Dholera as a digital hub.

Tata Steel's Green Upgrade

Tata Steel and Tata Motors launched a ₹11,000 crore green initiative in Jamshedpur, featuring HISARNA 80% CO_2 reduction and EASyMelt 50% emission cuts. Tata Motors deploy hydrogen trucks for net zero logistics by 2045. A ₹1,500 crore Combi Mill expansion will boost low carbon steel production, supporting India's climate goals.

Eversource Capital's $700 Million Fund

Eversource Capital is raising $700 million for its second green infrastructure fund targeting renewables, e mobility, waste management, and energy efficiency in India and South Asia. After its $741 million GGEF, it backed Radiance Renewables and GreenCell Mobility, with a $2.3 billion Ayana Energy exit, supported by DFC and NIIF.

ADB's $1.2 Billion Commitment

In 2026, ADB will lend $1.2 billion to India's energy sector, matching last year's support. This includes $650 million for PM Surya Ghar and $200 million from the Green Climate Fund for hydrogen, grid, and BESS. Major projects include ReNew hybrid, Assam solar, and Fourth Partner, boosting investment and jobs.

INOXGFL–Wind World Acquisition

INOXGFL Group won the ₹2,800 crore bid for Wind World India through NCLT proceedings. INOX Neo Energies will take over 600 MW of projects worth ₹2,200 crore, while INOX Green acquires 4.5 GW O&M assets. The deal supports INOX targets of 10 GW IPP capacity and 11 GW solar expansion plans.

Electric Mobility and Sustainable Transport

Commercial EV Fleets Rising

Fleet operators drive India's EV transition as electric vehicles reach TCO parity in high-use cases costing ₹1.2–1.5/km versus ₹6–9/km for ICE vehicles, with 3–5-year payback. Companies like Amazon and Flipkart deploy EVs in bulk, while Evera plans 4,500 EV cabs and Revfin targets financing 20-lakh EVs future.

JSW Greentech's Electric Bus

In February 2026, JSW Greentech received ARAI CMVR Type Approval for its JSW 12M 51+D AC SDX electric bus, enabling production and sales. Built at its Aurangabad plant with 10,000 annual capacity, it targets urban and intercity transit, aiming to compete in PM-eBus Sewa tenders, strengthening JSW's EV commercial strategy.

OMC Power + Honda Partnership:

In February 2026, OMC Power and Honda launched India's first distributed renewable UPS in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh, using repurposed EV batteries from Honda Mobile Power Pack e. The system extends battery life from three to ten years and serves telecom, schools, and MSMEs, targeting one gigawatt peak clean energy capacity by 2030.

Himachal Pradesh Mandates EV Chargers

Himachal Pradesh mandates EV charging stations in all new public and commercial buildings, including hotels, hospitals, and malls, for planning approval. The amended Town and Country Planning Rules ensure EV-ready infrastructure, supporting six green corridors, HRTC electrification, 50% subsidies, single-window licensing, and boosting eco-tourism and sustainable transport across the state.

Bounce Raises $5 Million:

Bounce raised $5 million from Accel, B Capital, and Qualcomm to pivot toward B2B gig mobility. It plans 10,000 e-scooters, expansion to new cities, and 40,000 plus battery swaps. The Rajasthan based OEM offers rentals and rent to own options, reporting ₹64.2 crore revenue, reduced losses, and targeting EBITDA positivity this year.

PLI Scheme Concerns

Euler Motors and Ather Energy seek changes to the EV PLI scheme. Current Champion OEM rules demand ₹10,000 crore revenue and ₹3,000 crore assets, sidelining startups despite ₹1,500–2,500 crore investments. They propose R&D inclusive, sales based, tiered criteria, while PMO considers adjustments or a startup PLI to avoid innovation tax concerns.

Policy and Environmental Cooperation

India-Finland-EU Green Partnership:

In March 2026, India and Finland renewed their Environmental MoU, upgrading it to a Strategic Partnership on circular economy, waste-to-energy, pollution control, water management, and hosting the World Circular Economy Forum. The India-EU FTA adds a Sustainable Food Systems chapter promoting eco-farming, reducing inputs, and advancing waste-to-hydrogen through TTC initiatives.

Green Ammonia & Methanol Standards

MNRE set 2026 standards for Green Ammonia and Green Methanol at ≤2.1 kg CO_2e per kg NH_3 and ≤2.0 kg CO_2e per kg CH_3OH. BEE will verify emissions under the National Green Hydrogen Mission and SIGHT programs, supporting use in shipping, fertilizers, and enabling exports to European Union markets.

Carbon Trading Expansion:

MoP and MoEFCC launched the Indian Carbon Market in March 2026. It includes mandatory GEI targets and CCC trading for steel aligned with Green Steel Policy and EU CBAM, plus voluntary. Phase I for cement, chloralkali, and refineries by converting ESCerts. BEE will manage it to establish domestic carbon pricing.

Hero Solar Energy Investment

IL&FS Mutual Fund invested ₹1.25 billion in Hero Solar Energy via secured debentures for refinancing and expansion in March 2026. This lifts renewable commitments to ₹15 billion, with holdings in CleanMax, Ayana, Radiance, and INOX Wind, delivering average returns above 9.5%. The fund is managed by IIAML and targets stable green yields.

Jobs and Social Impact

Clean-Energy Employment Boom

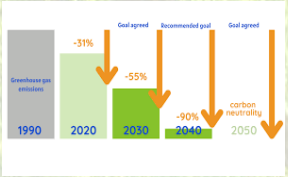
In 2026, India's energy jobs grew 24% year on year. Delhi NCR led policy and finance, while Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Indore, Nashik, and Aurangabad dominated engineering and operations roles. Demand surged for SCADA, BESS, EV powertrains, green hydrogen, and carbon auditing skills, with Suryamitra training 80,000 workers and salaries rising 15–20%.

Gender and Climate Impacts:

March 2026 reports show women face greater climate risks: 50% rise in gender-based violence during heatwaves, 34% higher income losses, and 150 million workdays/year spent on water collection. India is responding with $200 million from ADB/GCF, budget allocations, and UNDP support, while experts call for 50% funding to women-led projects.

Global Highlights

Green Policy and Market Trends



EU Developments

EU proposes a 90% GHG cut by 2040 versus 1990, bridging the 2030 55% target to 2050 neutrality through CCS, full power decarbonisation, and an 80% fossil fuel reduction. It shelves the green steel label, prioritizes CBAM, eases CSRD reporting for SMEs, and delays high-risk sectors by two years.

China's 15th Five-Year Plan

Unveiled on March 5, 2026, the plan outlines China's updated priorities for decarbonisation and commodity markets, reflecting a more cautious approach to climate action amid fluctuating global energy markets, while balancing energy security, economic growth, and emissions reduction targets across key industrial sectors and strategic resources nationwide.

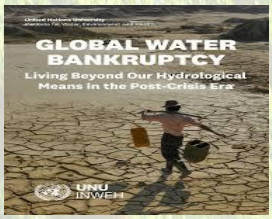
Brazil's Climate Investment Drive:

Brazil targets $48.4B sustainable investments by Lula's term end through its Ecological Transformation Plan spanning renewables, bioeconomy, industrial decarbonisation, circular economy, and green infrastructure. Key tools include the BIP platform, BNDES R$5B unlocking R$13B private capital, $4B green bonds, and a $1B+ GCF fund, ahead of hosting COP30.

UN's Paris-Accord Carbon Credits

UN issued first Article 6.4 carbon credits in February 2026 to a Myanmar clean cooking project, enabling Korea transfers, with 40% fewer credits than CDM. Pipeline includes 165 plus CDM transitions and a landfill methane methodology, with strict baselines, a 14-day appeals process, and safeguards addressing greenwashing concerns globally.

UN "Water Bankruptcy" Warning



UN scientists have declared a new era of global water bankruptcy, warning that freshwater demand is outpacing supply worldwide. Driven by climate change, overuse, and pollution, the crisis threatens food security, ecosystems, and economies, urging urgent action on conservation, efficient use, governance reforms, and investment in sustainable water management systems globally.

2025 SDG Rankings

In March 2026, Finland ranked first globally in the Sustainable Development Goals Index, followed by Sweden and Denmark. The Nordic nations continue to lead due to strong sustainability policies, social welfare systems, environmental protection, and effective governance, consistently outperforming other countries in achieving UN SDG targets across multiple development indicators worldwide.

Corporate and Infrastructure Updates

World's Largest CAES Station:

China commissioned a record breaking 600 MW, 2,400 MWh compressed air energy storage station on March 4, 2026, marking a major step in grid scale energy storage. The project enhances renewable integration, improves grid stability, and supports peak demand management, reinforcing China’s leadership in large-scale energy storage deployment globally.

Offshore Wind Milestones

In Denmark, RWE installed the first turbine at the 1.1 GW Thor offshore wind site on March 4, 2026. In Japan, Vestas signed a Memorandum of Understanding on March 9, 2026, to establish a nacelle assembly facility for offshore wind, supporting industry growth, local manufacturing, and accelerating global renewable energy deployment.

South African Solar

Lyra Energy achieved financial close for a major 255 MW solar project in South Africa on March 9, 2026, marking a significant step in advancing renewable energy capacity. The project supports grid decarbonisation, strengthens energy security, attracts investment,

and contributes to the country’s transition toward sustainable and reliable power generation systems.

Tech Sector Energy Pledge

On March 4, 2026, tech giants Google, Microsoft, Meta, and Amazon signed a White House pledge to fund and develop new electricity generation dedicated to powering their data centres, aiming to meet rising energy demand, support clean energy expansion, reduce emissions, and ensure reliable, sustainable infrastructure for growing digital and AI workloads.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)

Global sustainable aviation fuel capacity is projected to grow by one third in 2026, driven mainly by expansion in Asia. The increase supports aviation decarbonisation, reduces lifecycle emissions, and reflects rising airline demand, policy incentives, and investments in biofuels and synthetic fuels to meet international climate targets and net zero commitments globally.

Scientific Research & Environmental Alerts

Boreal Wildfire "Carbon Leak"

New research published on March 4, 2026, warns that wildfires in boreal forests may be releasing far more ancient carbon from peat soils than climate models estimate. This overlooked source could accelerate warming, highlighting the need to refine models, improve monitoring, and strengthen forest management and fire mitigation strategies globally.

Biodegradable Materials

Scientists at Flinders University announced on February 28, 2026, a biodegradable packaging film made from milk protein that disappears within 13 weeks. The innovation offers a sustainable alternative to plastics, reducing waste and pollution, supporting circular economy goals, and advancing eco-friendly packaging solutions for food, retail, and industrial applications globally.

World Bank Insights

At the World Sustainable Summit 2026 in New Delhi, the World Bank framed climate as an opportunity agenda for growth and jobs. Ajay Banga linked poverty reduction to resilient infrastructure and private capital, while Valerie Hickey highlighted AI for efficiency and resilience, with the World Development Report 2026 examining AI risks and benefits.

Acceleration of Warming

A March 9, 2026 analysis by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research found global warming has nearly doubled in pace over the last decade. After adjusting for factors like El Niño and volcanic activity, researchers confirmed this acceleration with a 98% confidence level, underscoring urgent climate action.

Glacial Collapse

Scientists recorded the fastest glacier collapse at Antarctica's Hektoria Glacier, which retreated eight kilometres in two months due to a flat underwater bedrock surface. The rapid change highlights climate-driven ice loss, accelerating sea level rise risks, and underscores the urgency of monitoring polar regions and strengthening global climate mitigation efforts.

Methane Surge

Research published in February 2026 found methane levels spiked unexpectedly in the early 2020s due to complex atmospheric chemistry and climate driven slowdowns in natural removal processes. The findings highlight uncertainties in methane sinks, raising concerns about faster warming and the need for stronger monitoring and emissions reduction efforts globally.

Planetary Boundaries

The State of India's Environment 2026 report warns that seven of nine planetary boundaries have now been breached, with ocean acidification becoming the seventh. This signals escalating ecological stress, threatening climate stability, biodiversity, and human systems, and underscores the urgent need for stronger environmental governance, conservation efforts, and sustainable development pathways worldwide.

Migratory Species Decline

An interim global update in March 2026 raised alarm for migratory wildlife, noting nearly half of these populations are in decline due to habitat destruction and climate change. The findings highlight threats to biodiversity, ecosystems, and food chains, underscoring the need for stronger conservation measures, habitat protection, and international cooperation to safeguard migratory species globally.

Insect Heat Stress

A March 5, 2026 study of over 2,000 species found that half of Amazonian insects face dangerous heat stress, as tropical species lack flexibility to adapt to rising temperatures. The findings warn of ecosystem disruption, affecting pollination, food chains, and biodiversity, and highlight urgent need for climate mitigation and conservation efforts globally.

Forever Chemical Surge

A February 2026 study revealed that chemicals replacing ozone-depleting CFCs are driving a global surge in “forever chemicals,” now detected in rainfall worldwide. These persistent pollutants pose risks to ecosystems and human health, highlighting unintended consequences of substitutes and the urgent need for stricter regulation, monitoring, and safer chemical alternatives globally.


THANK YOU.