

Sustainable Development

Sep - Nov 2022



Sustainability

The deadline to meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to protect the planet, is less than a decade away. Thus, the next eight years will be critical in making the world more sustainable.

The current year has witnessed various extreme weather events worldwide - drought in Europe and Africa, flooding in Pakistan and Nigeria, and wildfires in Australia and the US. Recent estimates state that half of the global population is highly vulnerable to climate change, which is further exacerbated by the fact that most of the highly vulnerable regions tend to be less developed. The recently held COP27 in Egypt brought focus on the sluggish pace of progress - at the current rate, the world is expected to reach its 2030 promises by late 2078. Furthermore, the negotiations at COP27 were underlined by an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape enhancing global energy and food security worries.

The breakthrough on the loss and damage funding marks the success of COP27, though further details are awaited, which will determine how funding will be provided and disbursed. Organised under the theme 'Together for implementation', this year's discussions also brought focus to the Bridgetown Agenda to drive structural reform of the financial system and create innovative mechanisms to support nature and climate outcomes, especially for those living on the frontlines of climate breakdown.

Another aspect that needs urgent attention is the need to halt and reverse forest loss and degradation. We continue to be off track on this goal, wherein one gigaton of emissions reduction was expected to be achieved from forests by 2025 and yearly after that. This year the COP27 witnessed various private sector initiatives, including pledges from four Indian companies (ReNew Power, CSC Group, Vedanta, and Mahindra) under the 1t.org initiative.

Technology has significantly impacted every aspect of life; a transition accelerated considerably by the pandemic. The role of high-tech solutions for climate change, wherein supply chains can be made more transparent, and carbon markets can be strengthened, is of prime importance. India has an opportunity to invest in this space and leverage its leadership in innovating and implementing technology solutions.

Sustainable food systems will have to be developed amidst a dynamic geopolitical scenario to ensure food and nutrition security. Thus, ecologically sound practices such as precision farming, integrated nutrient supply, pest management, etc., will play a critical role. India can take the lead in sharing best practices with various nations, having undergone the journey of moving from a food-deficit country to a food-surplus nation.

India continues to be a lead sustainability performer. Besides the overall goal of becoming net-zero by 2070, the country has also set various targets for 2030 - reducing carbon emissions by 1 billion tons, meeting 50 per cent of energy requirements from renewable energy, etc. With the incoming G20 presidency, the country has a unique opportunity to promote inclusive development globally.

We at ASSOCHAM continue to work on sustainability as a key growth pillar. As official UNFCCC observers at COP27, we facilitated various interventions to pursue India's focus on just climate action. We strongly believe that the LiFE initiative will be a critical accelerator for climate action across all sections of society in the world.



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COP27 Updates

COP27 Says USD4 trillion renewable funding needed annually for net zero by 2050

The United Nations Climate Change Conference COP27 concluded with the decision to implement the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, highlighting the need for global investments of USD4 trillion per year in renewable energy until 2030 to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

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"In our LiFEtime" campaign launched by India at COP 27

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), jointly launched the "In Our LiFEtime" campaign at a side event of the COP 27 in Egypt on 14th November 2022.

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COP27 establishes 'Loss and Damages' fund for climate reparations

The announcement of the L&D fund was the highlight of the two-week long process that saw little agreement among countries on other issues, such as a call to eliminate all forms of fossil fuel or delivering on climate finance to developing countries. The conference saw nearly 45,000 participants, including indigenous peoples, local communities, cities and civil society, youth and children.

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Climate tech in focus at Israel's COP 27 stall

Israeli pavilion at the annual climate summit, being held at Sharm El Sheikh, to focus on climate innovation and solutions. Israeli innovators are pioneering solutions for harnessing clean hydrogen energy from algae, revolutionising pesticides for sustainability, keeping food fresher longer and much more.

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COP 27: Climate financing concerns of developing countries

Climate Financing as per the United Nations encompasses "Financial resources and sound investments are needed to address climate change, to both reduce emissions, promote adaptation to the impacts that are already occurring, and to build resilience.

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COP 27: India opposes efforts to extend scope of mitigation to agriculture

India has opposed the developed world's efforts to extend the scope of mitigation to agriculture at the ongoing UN climate summit in Egypt, saying rich nations do not want to reduce emissions by changing their lifestyles and are "searching for cheaper solutions abroad".

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Energy Sector (1/2)



ESA mulls Solaris plan to beam solar energy from space

The European Space Agency is under process of approving a three-year study to see if having huge solar farms in space could work and be cost effective. The eventual aim is to have giant satellites in orbit, each able to generate the same amount of electricity as a power station.

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Serentica partners Greenko for 1500 MWhr renewable energy storage capacity

Serentica Renewables, a decarbonization platform backed by PE fund KKR & Co, has entered into an agreement with Greenko Group for 1500 MWhr of storage capacity to deliver carbon-free power to industrial clients.

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Egypt close to deals on 1GW of solar and wind projects

Egypt is close to signing final agreements to build two wind and solar projects with combined capacity of a gigawatt (GW) to boost the country's lagging renewable power development.

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California commission overhauls rooftop solar proposal

The California Public Utilities Commission released its proposal to regulate rooftop solar installations, removing an unpopular new fee but reducing how much utilities would pay homeowners for supplying power to the grid.

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Rajasthan govt to lease barren land to power solar plants

The government of Rajasthan has started Saur Krishi Aajeevika Yojana (SKAY) scheme which will assist farmers to set up solar energy plants on their unusable or barren land. The farmers who wish to apply for this scheme can register their land to give on lease through an online portal.

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4 hydroelectric projects to come up in Chamba, Himachal Pradesh

As many as four hydroelectric projects will come up in Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. These include 15 MW Sai Kothi-I project, 18 MW Sai Kothi-II project, 16 MW Devi Kothi project and 18 MW Hail project.

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Uttar Pradesh govt unveils draft of Solar Energy Policy

The Uttar Pradesh government unveiled the draft of its Solar Energy Policy. The policy suggests the state to target on the generation of 16,000 megawatt (MW) of renewable power by 2026-27.

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Energy Sector (2/2)

Telangana secures fourth position in terms of solar energy production

Telangana has secured the fourth position across the country in terms of solar energy production. Currently, the state is producing 4,511.7 megawatts (MW) of solar energy and 128 MW of wind energy.

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Andhra Pradesh clears green power projects worth INR81,000 crore

The State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) of Andhra Pradesh has approved six renewable power projects with an aggregate capacity of 17,930 MW. These projects will entail an investment of INR81,000 crore. Among the projects approved, two belong to Indosol Solar.

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India commissions 7.2 GW of solar capacity during Jan-Jun 2022

Solar capacity installations rose by 59 per cent to a record 7.2 GW during the first half of 2022, according to Mercom India Research. From January-June 2021, a total of 4.5 GW of solar power generation capacity was commissioned.

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Uttar Pradesh CM asks officials to prepare biofuel policy

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath has emphasized the need to promote biofuel in the field of power & transport sectors and the use of biomass pellets in thermal plants.

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PLI scheme for manufacturing solar PV modules approved

The Cabinet has approved the proposal for implementation of production linked incentive (PLI) scheme on 'national programme on high efficiency solar PV modules'. Under the INR19,500 crore PLI scheme, about 65,000 mw per annum manufacturing capacity of fully and partially integrated solar PV modules would be installed.

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Amazon plans 3 solar farms and 23 solar rooftop projects in India

Amazon has announced its utility-scale renewable energy projects in India as it aims to use 100 per cent renewable energy across its business by 2025. It will develop three new solar farms in Rajasthan, with a combined energy capacity of 420 megawatts (MW).

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India to expand share of renewable power to 50 per cent by 2030

India submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) climate action targets to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 23 August 2022.

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Emission reduction

The EU is set to strengthen its emission reduction targets

The EU has agreed in principle to enact stronger emission reduction targets as the 27 member states look to slash carbon emissions in road and domestic maritime transport, buildings, agriculture, waste, and small industries.

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Gulf states are using tech to build net-zero

The industrial sector is especially important to the economies of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Example for Bahrain, the manufacturing sector is the 2nd largest non-oil sector in the country, and so is a crucial target in the country's efforts to cut its emissions by 30 per cent by 2035 and achieve net zero emissions by 2060.

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Turkey increases emission reduction target

Turkey has nearly doubled its emissions reduction target for 2030, the minister of environment, urbanization and climate change.

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JSW Steel to invest USD1.26 billion to cut down carbon emissions at plants

JSW Steel will collaborate with Germany's SMS group and invest USD1.26 billion to cut down carbon emissions at its plants.

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NTPC signs MoU with GE Gas Power to reduce CO2 emissions

NTPC and GE Gas Power signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to demonstrate the feasibility for hydrogen co-firing blended with natural gas in GE's 9E gas turbines installed at NTPC's Kawas power plant in Gujarat.

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NTPC begins capturing CO2 from flue gas stream at Vidhyachal thermal plant

NTPC announced that it has begun capturing carbon dioxide (CO2) from the flue gas stream at its Vindhyachal thermal plant. As part of its commitment to Net Zero by 2070, NTPC, captured its first CO2 on 15 August 2022 from the flue gas stream of a 500 MW coal-based power plant (Unit-13) at Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station (VSTPS).

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Centre sets target of 40 per cent reduction in particulate matter concentration by 2026

The Centre has set a new target of 40 per cent reduction in particulate matter (PM) concentration in cities covered under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) by 2026.

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Pollution and Waste Management

Biden-Harris administration announces USD53 million for 132 community air pollution

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that 132 air monitoring projects in 37 states will receive USD53.4 million from President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act and American Rescue Plan to enhance air quality monitoring in communities across the United States.

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Water chiefs blame UK government for failure to stop sewage pollution

Water company bosses have blamed UK government inaction for a lack of progress in stopping sewage pollution, newly revealed letters show. The sewage has been dumped into the seas and rivers around the UK more than 770,000 times over the course of 2020 and 2021.

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Australia joins call for global treaty to end plastic pollution

Australia has signed up for an international push for a global agreement to end plastic pollution by 2040, including binding targets to phase out plastic waste products by 2025.

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Uttar Pradesh plans to implement waste management model of Indore

The Uttar Pradesh government is planning to implement the solid waste management (SWM) model of Indore throughout the urban bodies of the State in its bid to ensure planned, cleaner and greener cities.

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Maharashtra's Latur admin aims to make Manjara river pollution free

Maharashtra's Latur administration launched an awareness and cleanliness drive to make the Manjara river pollution free.

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16 MW waste-to-energy plant to come up in Goa

The Goa Waste Management Corporation (GMWC) plans to set up a waste-to-energy plant at Verna at an estimated cost of INR500 crore.

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DJB approves projects worth INR570 crore for Yamuna

Delhi Jal Board (DJB) chairman Manish Sisodia has approved projects worth INR570 crore to make Yamuna river pollution-free by 2025.

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Punjab govt plans to use plastic waste in road construction

The Punjab chief secretary VK Janjua, in his action plan submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), stated that the government is planning to use plastic waste in construction of roads in a bid to properly utilise the material, which otherwise is not recycled.

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Transportation (1/2)

Sony and Honda Planning a 2025 EV That Could Have Gaming Built In

Honda and Sony, under the joint venture Sony Honda Mobility, are planning to go into the electric-vehicle business together. Sony's catalog of content, services and tech will become part of a future EV that's planned for a 2025 launch, leaving the door open for a PS5-capable car in only a few years.

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Carlyle sees big in Japan auto industry as EV shift shakes supply chains

Carlyle Group Inc (CG.O) aims to enlarge its footprint in the Japanese automotive sector as the global shift to electric vehicles (EVs) shakes the industry's supply chain.

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Vecmocon raises USD5.2 million from Tiger Global, Blume Ventures

Electric vehicle (EV) components manufacturer Vecmocon has raised USD 5.2 million from Tiger Global, Blume Ventures and other angel investors. The company plans to Cocoon utilise the latest funds to invest into team building, business expansion, scaling up of operations and further product innovation.

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Hero Electric partners with Spoctech Green to deploy 5,000 EVs in Chennai

Hero Electric will collaboratively work with Spoctech Green Ventures to introduce last-mile delivery solutions in Chennai. As a part of this partnership, Hero Electric will be deploying a fleet of over 5,000 electric two-wheelers in Chennai for the next two years.

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Centre to digitally monitor EV parts localisation

The Centre is working on an automated data transfer system to monitor localisation content of electric vehicles availing subsidies under the INR100 billion FAME-II policy to promote indigenous manufacturing.

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Toyota launches pilot project on flexi-fuel vehicles in India

Toyota has launched a pilot project on flexi-fuel strong hybrid electric vehicle (FFV-SHEV) technology in Delhi. This technology was introduced by Toyota Brazil which has the lowest Well-to-Wheel (W2W) carbon emissions for any technology available now.

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Transportation (2/2)

10,000 EV zones to come up across all states, UTs by 2024

Electric vehicle (EV) charging solutions provider Park+ has signed a pact with the Ease of Doing Business to set up 10,000 EV zones across all states and union territories (UT) by 2024. The Park+ aims to install 30 EV zones at Delhi's Connaught Place (CP) within the next eight months, each having four EV chargers.

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EV sales in India to touch 17 million units per annum by 2030

India's electric vehicle (EV) sales are expected to touch 17 million units per annum by 2030 growing at a compounded annual growth rate of 49 per cent between 2021-2030, according to a report by India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA).

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Hydrogen fuel cell based bus launched in India

Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched an indigenously developed hydrogen fuel cell bus developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and private firm KPIT in Pune. The fuel cell utilises hydrogen and air to generate electricity to power the bus, whose only effluent is water, thereby making it possibly the most environment-friendly mode of transportation.

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Rajasthan Electric Vehicle Policy comes into force

The Rajasthan Electric Vehicle Policy (REVP) has come into force with effect from today. The state government has approved an additional budget provision of INR40 crore for reimbursement of State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) on the purchase of electric vehicles (EV).

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West Bengal govt to introduce 1,180 e-buses

With an aim to reduce pollution, the West Bengal government has initiated a number of development programmes. The state government will soon introduce as many as 1,180 electric buses (e-buses).

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Centre plans billion dollar fund for EV financing

The Centre in collaboration with the World Bank and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) plans to launch a USD1 billion fund to provide guarantees against loan default to lenders financing purchase of electric two and three wheelers.

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Other climate action initiatives (1/2)

Saudi Arabia commits USD2.5 billion to Middle East green initiative

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said on Monday the kingdom would contribute USD2.5 billion to a green initiative in the Middle East over the next 10 years, and host its headquarters.

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Deutsche Bank expands support for Egypt's sustainability ambitions

Deutsche Bank is expanding its support for the Government of Egypt's ambitious plans for energy transition by becoming a founding member of a dedicated private sector finance working group.

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In Australia, firms plan 'super hub' to produce green hydrogen using wind and solar

Adani group-AAI operated Mumbai Plans for an Australian "super hub" focused on the generation of wind, solar and green hydrogen are taking shape, with those involved hoping it will start producing power by 2027.

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ReNew Power has signed a framework agreement with Egypt

ReNew Power has signed a framework agreement with Egypt to set up a green hydrogen plant in the Suez Canal Economic Zone with an investment of USD8 billion.

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Govt releases Green Bond framework – proceeds to be used to fund green projects

The Finance Ministry has released the framework to issue sovereign green bonds in line with global standards. The framework will be used to fund green projects falling under 'Eligible Categories' such as renewable energy, clean transportation, sustainable water and waste management, pollution prevention and control, green buildings.

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Mumbai airport switches to green energy sources

Adani group-AAI operated Mumbai airport said that it has switched to green energy sources. The airport is fulfilling 95 per cent of its requirement from hydro and wind and the rest five per cent from solar power.

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Madhya Pradesh govt to invest INR150 billion in renewable energy by 2024

The Madhya Pradesh government is considering to invest a sum of INR150 billion for the production of renewable energy by 2024. Meanwhile, an investment of INR500 billion has been set aside for the same till 2027.

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Other climate action initiatives (2/2)

Odisha govt approves setting up of 10 eco-tourism spots

The Odisha Government, on Friday, approved 10 new spots for development as eco-retreats with night stay facilities.

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Green Industrial Park to be fully operational by end of next year

In a big boost to industrialisation and entrepreneurship in the State, all MSMEs units in Green Industrial Park would be made fully operational by December, 2022.

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KKR keen on investing USD400 million in Hero Future Energies

KKR and Co. is in advanced talks to acquire a stake in Hero Future Energies (HFE) for a sum of USD400 million.

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Himachal Pradesh govt rolls out 'Trees for Wealth' programme

The Himachal Pradesh government has rolled out the 'Trees for Wealth' programme. The aim is to take up the plantation of fruit trees in barren land of the Shivalik range in Una district.

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Punjab govt to solarise 100,000 existing electric agriculture tubewells

The Punjab government has decided to solarise around 100,000 existing electric agriculture tubewells in the state.

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US and India launches task force on energy storage technologies

The US Department of Energy and India's Ministry of Power launched the Energy Storage Task Force to facilitate meaningful dialogue among government officials, industry representatives, and stakeholders from both countries.

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Betolar rolls out its first Geoprime product

Betolar has launched its first low-carbon concrete product made with Geoprime in the Indian construction market.

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Avaada collaborates with Airtouch Solar for robotic cleaning of modules

Avaada Group has signed a long-term contract with Israel-based Airtouch Solar for the maintenance of its solar modules using robotic cleaning solutions.

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Uttar Pradesh govt to organise 'Investment Bazar' in Lucknow

The state government is planning to organise an 'Investment Bazar' in Lucknow to facilitate the financing of energy efficiency projects and technology.

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