

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

**I**n January, Andhra Pradesh-based AM Green signed a long-term agreement with Germany's Uniper for supply of up to 500,000 tonne of green ammonia annually by 2028. The deal gave a fresh momentum to Indian firms looking to produce and export green ammonia to Europe, Japan and South Korea.

More recently, L&T Energy GreenTech signed a long-term supply partnership with Japan's ITOCHU Corporation, reflecting growing confidence in India's low-cost renewable energy ecosystem.

A series of long-term agreements signed by Indian firms with European and Japanese companies has positioned India as one of the most competitive producers of green ammonia globally but stringent European Union rules defining what qualifies as "green" hydrogen now threaten to undercut India's cost advantage and delay its entry into the lucrative European market.

The European Union is expected to significantly increase its demand for green ammonia as it seeks to decarbonize heavy industry and transportation by transitioning to green hydrogen and moving away from fossil fuels. Reports indicate that the EU could represent one-third of the global green ammonia market, making Indian companies key players in providing economical supplies.

**India as global leader**

India aims to produce 5 million tonne of green ammonia by 2030 through state subsidies under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) to enhance self-reliance and reduce imports. The country has also signed agreements with local manufacturers for the production of 724 lakh metric tonne (mt) of green ammonia for domestic use. For India, ammonia is directly connected to country's food production as it is main ingredient for producing the fertilizer Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) which got disrupted due to Iran war.

Currently, over 70 per cent of the approximately 30 million mt of ammonia required in

India is imported, primarily in the form of grey ammonia sourced from fossil fuels like natural gas. Major suppliers include Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain but recent geopolitical events, particularly the West Asia crisis, have interrupted supply routes through the Strait of Hormuz. The production process of grey ammonia is highly carbon intensive. For every tonne of ammonia produced, about 1.9-2.6 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted. Currently, India emits approximately 25 to 43 million tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> per year in the production of grey ammonia that accounts for about 5-10 per cent of global carbon emissions of around 450 million tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> each year. In terms of the overall picture, this represents roughly 1.2 to 1.8 per cent of total global greenhouse gas emissions. Under the Paris Agreement, India is required to lower its emissions by transitioning to green ammonia which involves using electrolyzers and renewable hydrogen.

However, to access the EU market, Indian companies must comply with the stringent Renewable Fuels of Non-Biological Origin (RFNBO) regulations. A senior government official indicated that while India's policies are suitable towards the domestic market but compliance with RFNBO is necessary for accessing EU markets. He noted that the strictness of EU regulations may deter long-term investment in the sector but expressed hope that PM Modi's visit to EU countries this month could address these challenges.

**EU rules may derail India's ambition**

On January 27, the EU and India concluded a significant Free Trade Agreement, referred to as the 'mother of all deals'. Despite this, the EU will apply the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) to ammonia imports based on their CO<sub>2</sub> intensity, with green ammonia, characterized by zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, exempt from the tariff.

However, India faces structural challenges that hinder the development and export of green ammonia to the EU. EU Delegated Acts 2023/1184 and 2023/1185, adopted in 2023, established stringent criteria for classifying



**DEMAND FOR GREEN AMMONIA ON RISE IN EU**

Low production costs, vast renewable energy grid make Indian companies as key suppliers India's production costs range from \$478 to \$571 per tonne EU's 'green' hydrogen classification hinders access for Indian exporters PM Narendra Modi's visit to EU address the issues

**INDIA'S GREEN AMMONIA AMBITIONS FACE EU HURDLES**

'green' hydrogen, which must be produced from renewable fuels of RFNBOs. The regulations introduce three key requirements: additionality, temporal correlation and geographical correlation.

The additionality rule mandates that hydrogen production must either use or create new renewable electricity capacity rather than diverting from existing sources. This means a green hydrogen facility must operate on its own renewable energy supply, and plants must be active for 36 months before production begins. For example, if a renewable grid is set up in 2026, green hydrogen production cannot commence until 2029. India asserts

that its vast renewable energy capacity can meet these requirements. However, the temporal correlation rule, often referred to as the 'sunset clause,' implies that renewable energy used for hydrogen production must be generated and consumed simultaneously. Indian experts argue that this is impractical, as consistent renewable energy supply is necessary for economic viability. As Sanjay Sharma, director of SECI, points out, categorising stored renewable energy as 'non-green' after certain hours undermines the potential of battery storage. The geographical correlation rule specifies that the RE source and hydrogen production must ideally be within the same elec-

tric market area, referred to as a single bidding zone. Critics argue this regulation is EU-centric, as the EU consists of 27 member states with differing bidding zones, while India operates on a unified grid system. Sharma notes that in India, power can be transmitted seamlessly across states without loss.

Currently, India's grid comprises over 0.47 million km of transmission lines (220 KV and above) with a transformation capacity of 1.3 mega volt-amperes, boasting of a transmission availability of 99.84 per cent and minimal congestion (0.02 pc) in 2023-24.

**Emerging dissent voice in EU**

The strict rules of EU are not just creating challenges to India but even prominent members of EU have also raised the concern related to 'practicality' of the implementation amid energy crisis.

An internal report indicated that senior government officials from Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Poland and Austria have called for specific revisions to the EU's RFNBO rules in a joint letter to the European Commission, claiming that the Delegated Act setting out the regulations 'does not align with the economic realities of the hydrogen market development in the EU and worldwide.' A senior Indian officer close to the development said France government has also conveyed to European Commission to change the rule in face of practicality.

(This article is part of the India-Germany Climate and Energy Journalism Programme by Clean Energy Wire and The Migration Story. The author acknowledges his journalistic partner in Germany, Stephen B. Harrison.)

**TOBACCO VIOLATIONS CONSTITUTE 80% OF ENVIRONMENT OFFENCES**

USHA PERI @ Visakhapatnam

**F**rom disappearing forests and polluted rivers to poaching, illegal hunting and wildlife trafficking, environmental offences continue to unfold quietly across the country, often far away from public attention.

Yet, the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data shows a sharp decline in environment-related crimes in India during 2024, raising an important question.

India recorded 57,670 environment-related offences in 2024, a decline from 68,994 cases reported in 2023, according to the latest NCRB data. While the numbers suggest a downward trend, environmentalists and conservation experts warn the statistics

reveal more about gaps in reporting and enforcement than the actual scale of ecological and wildlife crimes taking place across the country.

The NCRB data, compiled under various laws including the Wildlife Protection Act, Forest Conservation Act, Environment Protection Act and Noise Pollution Rules, paints a mixed picture of environmental governance in India.

Tamil Nadu reported the highest number of environment-related offences in the country with 26,475 cases in 2024; the state had recorded a much higher 41,304 cases the previous year. Rajasthan followed with 10,824 cases, while Kerala registered 9,143 and Maharashtra 6,735 cases.

Several States, however, reported extremely low figures. Odisha, Nagaland and Sikkim reported zero environment-related offences during 2024, while Tripura reported only one case. Arunachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh registered just two cases each. According to NCRB, the national crime rate for environment-related offences stood at 4.1 cases per one

lakh population in 2024. Tamil Nadu recorded the highest rate at 34.3, followed by Kerala at 25.4 and Rajasthan at 13.2.

A category-wise breakup shows that offences registered under the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act constituted the majority of cases. Out of the total 57,670 offences nationwide, 46,333 cases fell under the tobacco-related law alone. Noise pollution violations formed another major chunk, with 8,639 cases recorded across India. Rajasthan alone accounted for 8,264 of these cases, emerging as the highest contributor under the category.

Forest and wildlife offences continued to remain comparatively lower in official records. The country registered 1,425 cases under the Forest Act and Forest Conservation Act, while only 497 cases were recorded under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of forest-related offences with 896 cases, followed by Rajasthan with 133 and Himachal Pradesh with 126. Rajasthan topped wildlife-related offences

with 205 cases, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 118 and West Bengal with 45 cases. Meanwhile, Haryana reported the highest number of offences under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 with 320 cases, closely followed by Maharashtra with 303. However, experts say these figures barely scratch the surface. Vivek Rathod, environmentalist and member of Visakhapatnam-based NGO Wildlife Conservation Through Research and Education (WCTRE), terms the data "100 per cent underreporting."

Echoing similar concerns, another expert who requested anonymity said NCRB data does not provide a complete picture of wildlife crime in India. "We are seeing only a small portion of India's wildlife crime reality through NCRB data," he said.

S V KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

**T**he Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region witnessed a sharp escalation in disaster risks in 2025, with repeated floods, landslides and extreme weather events affecting millions across South and East Asia, according to an analysis by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) based on EM-DAT global disaster data.

The analysis found that four of the eight HKH countries experienced more than 10 major disasters during the year, underlining the growing vulnerability of mountain communities to climate-linked hazards.

Economic losses across HKH countries exceeded USD 6 billion in 2024 alone, largely due to floods, storms and landslides, while 2025 continued the trend with intense monsoon-related destruction across Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

Globally, the EM-DAT database recorded 358

**4 countries in Hindu Kush Himalaya region faced over 10 disasters in 2025**

natural hazard-related disasters in 2025, causing 16,607 deaths, affecting 110.2 million people and resulting in economic losses of nearly USD 169.7 billion. Asia accounted for the largest share of both deaths and affected populations.

According to the report, floods and storms dominated disaster patterns globally, with 119 flood events and 156 storm events recorded in 2025. In the HKH region, monsoon-driven disasters emerged as a recurring threat.

Pakistan alone experienced a series of devastating floods from June to September, resulting in more than 1,000 deaths and affecting nearly 6.9 million people. ICIMOD pointed to early warning systems as one reason behind declining mortality trends in some flood-prone regions.

Analysts say reducing future losses in the HKH will require risk-informed investments that integrate hazard mapping and climate projections into development planning.

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**Dr. Shukla Bose** SOME PEOPLE CHANGE JOBS; CHANGES LIVES. LEAVING BEHIND A CORPORATE CAREER, SHE BUILT FREE SCHOOLS FOR OVER 2,000 STREET, SLUM, AND ORPHANED CHILDREN. SHE SHARES WHAT TRUE POVERTY MEANS, WHY HUMILITY IS STRENGTH, AND WHY EVERY CHILD CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

IN A CONVERSATION WITH **Meera**

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These statistics mainly reflect policing and criminal justice performance, not the actual state of wildlife conservation. Since most wildlife offences fall under the jurisdiction of forest departments, many cases never enter NCRB records - Experts

with 205 cases, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 118 and West Bengal with 45 cases. Meanwhile, Haryana reported the highest number of offences under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 with 320 cases, closely followed by Maharashtra with 303. However, experts say these figures barely scratch the surface. Vivek Rathod, environmentalist and member of Visakhapatnam-based NGO Wildlife Conservation Through Research and Education (WCTRE), terms the data "100 per cent underreporting."

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**Indian Skimmers find a 2<sup>nd</sup> breeding home in MP's Tawa Reservoir**

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

**G**OOD news for conservationists and bird watchers in Madhya Pradesh. The serene Tawa Reservoir, located within the Satpura Tiger Reserve in central MP's Narmadapuram district, has emerged as the second breeding site for

the Indian Skimmer after the National Chambal Sanctuary.

A year after two Indian Skimmers were sighted by the park staff, Tawa, a designated Ramsar site, has turned into a breeding site with at least 15 Skimmers spotted since April 2026. The endan-

gered water bird species was sighted by the Satpura staff during boat patrolling.

With the Skimmers breeding on the sandbars, the Satpura chowkidars have now donned the role of Nest Guardians - guarding the nests and eggs.

**Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Science, Lucknow Aurawan, Daroga Kheda, P.O. Banthra, Lucknow - 226401**

**CORRIGENDUM**

Advt. No.01/26, Dated: 13-01-2026

UPSIFS, Lucknow (Established in 2021) functioning under the aegis of the Home Department, Govt. of U.P. & affiliated with the National Forensic Science University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. UPSIFS, Lucknow invites applications for temporary contractual posts of Associate Professor For online application & other details please visit website [www.upsifs.ac.in](http://www.upsifs.ac.in).

Sd/- Assistant Registrar (Academics) UPSIFS, Lucknow

RO No: 251280 RO Date: 15/05/2026 Website: [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in)

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Pushpangalam Estate, NH Bye Pass Road, Edappally, Cochin - 682024

**PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**

Notice for sale of immovable asset(s)

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
1.	Mrs. Sobhana Thondiyil (Borrower) Mr. Arun T (Co-Borrower) Mr. Akshay Thondiyil (Guarantor) Loan Account No. LBPGT0004905829	2 BHK House With Land Area 3013 Sq.Ft And Built-Up Area of 740 Sq.Ft in 2.8 Ares (9 Cents) in Re Survey No.103/25 in Ambalappara Panchayath, Ottapalam Taluk, Palakkad District - 679511 Bounded On The North: Hollow Brick Company, South: Property of Jayaprakash And Panchayath Road, East: Property of Yoursur West: Property of Subaidha	Rs. 25,69,685/- (As on May 11, 2026).	Rs. 12,50,000/- (As on May 11, 2026).	June 04, 2026 From 01:00 PM To 03:00 PM	June 11, 2026 From 10:30 AM To 11:30 AM
2.	Mr. Varghese (Borrower) Mrs. Bini (Co-Borrower) Loan Account No. LBCHV0005984646/LBTHR00005429150	4 BHK House With Land Area 5606 Sq. Ft And Built-Up Area 2000 Sq. Ft in 5.21 Ares (1.287 Cents) in Re Sy No. 219/11, Tholur Village, Thrissur Taluk, Thrissur District, Pin- 680522. Bounded On The North: Road, South: Private Property, East: Private Property, West: Private Property	Rs. 72,35,580/- (As on May 11, 2026).	Rs. 15,75,000/- (As on May 11, 2026).	June 05, 2026 From 10:00 AM To 12:00 PM	June 11, 2026 From 10:30 AM To 11:30 AM
3.	Mr. Narayanan Nambathri N (Borrower) Mrs. Mayya (Co-Borrowers) Loan Account No. LBTHR00004783937	A Small House With Land Area 4035 Sq. Ft Built-up Area 950 Sq.Ft in 3.75 Ares (9.27 Cents) Sy No. 74/F in Vellur Village, Kunnamkulam Taluk, Thrissur District - 680601. Bounded On The North: Property of Pradeep And Ajitha South: Property of Rajesh East: Property of Shankara West: Access. There is Non-Encumbrance Available	Rs. 44,52,508/- (As on May 11, 2026)	Rs. 15,50,000/- (As on May 11, 2026)	June 05, 2026. From 12:00 PM To 02:00 PM	June 11, 2026 From 10:30 AM To 11:30 AM

The online auction will be conducted on the website ([assets.matexauctions.com](http://assets.matexauctions.com)) of our auction agency M/s Matex Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgage/ Notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by June 10, 2026, before 05:00 P.M., else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule. The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank, Pushpangalam Estate, NH Bye pass road, Edappally, Cochin - 682024 Branch on or before June 10, 2026, before 05:00 P.M. Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before June 10, 2026, before 05:00 P.M. along with the scanned image of the Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case the prospective bidder(s) is/ are unable to submit his/ her/ their offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank, Pushpangalam Estate, NH Bye pass road, Edappally, Cochin - 682024 Branch on or before June 10, 2026, before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of 'ICICI Bank Limited' payable at Cochin.

For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employee Phone No. 965522532/8129501439. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed Terms and Conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

Date: May 16, 2026 Place: Thrissur & Palakkad

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited