

Monthly Newsletter

September, 2025



Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come!

Welcome to the first edition of SageBridge Legal's Monthly Newsletter! We are excited to share with you the latest legal and regulatory developments shaping the sectors we closely work with - energy, infrastructure, ESG, and climate finance.

In this edition, we cover significant updates from the past month and offer a glimpse of what's ahead - from policy shifts to market trends - providing you with a concise yet impactful perspective to stay informed and prepared.

This month has been particularly dynamic with major policy shifts, including the scrapping of central renewable pricing pools to unlock stalled projects, fast-tracking of hydro pumped storage approvals, a strong push for indigenous BESS manufacturing, and the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission's new regulations to accelerate renewable energy procurement. Notably, the Supreme Court upheld GERC's wind tariff orders, reinforcing that statutory tariff determinations prevail over contractual terms.

Looking ahead, we will continue to track these transformative changes and their impact on stakeholders across the energy value chain. Thank you for joining us as we embark on this journey of providing concise, actionable insights each month.

In this newsletter you can expect:

Policy Updates

Regulatory Changes

Key Court Rulings

Market Insights

Emerging Trends

Future Outlook



Central Renewable Pricing Pools Scrapped

In a major policy recalibration, the Ministry of Power scrapped central pricing pools for renewable energy projects, including solar and solar-wind hybrids established in February 2024. The move aims to expedite power sale agreements stuck in tariff disputes, potentially unlocking stranded projects that have doubled in the past nine months. By retaining existing bids and letters of award, the government signals continuity for developers while clearing a path for nearly 5–7 GW of delayed capacity. This policy is expected to improve investor sentiment and accelerate the momentum towards India's 500 GW non-fossil target.

Draft Rules to Enforce Energy Efficiency

The Ministry of Power has issued draft Energy Conservation (Compliance Enforcement) Rules, 2025, to strengthen the enforcement of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. Released on August 4, 2025, and open for public comments until September 4, 2025, the draft rules aim to streamline penalties for non-compliance with energy efficiency norms and non-fossil fuel mandates.

The rules cover energy-intensive industries, designated consumers, and manufacturers/importers of specified appliances and equipment, with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) as the central compliance authority. Adjudication will be handled by State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, with jurisdiction based on the location of the establishment or head office. Penalties will be credited to the Central Energy Conservation Fund, with 90% allocated to the concerned State and 10% retained by the Centre.

Hydro Pumped Storage Projects Get Fast-Track

Hydro pumped storage - considered a cornerstone of India's flexible grid architecture - will now bypass the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) approval process. The August 2025 exemption aims to cut 6-12 months of procedural delay per project, improving the financial viability of these large-scale assets. Expect increased private participation in states such as Maharashtra,

Push for Indigenous BESS Manufacturing

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) are moving towards full domestic integration. August's tender amendments mandate that Energy Management Systems (EMS) be manufactured and installed locally, with a roadmap to localize all non-lithium components within 12 months. This aligns with India's self-reliance agenda while reducing exposure to volatile global supply chains. The move could catalyze new manufacturing clusters and boost jobs in the energy storage ecosystem.

Digital Push in Coal Mining

The Ministry of Coal introduced a suite of IT and digitalisation tools - including Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs), Operator Independent Truck Dispatch Systems, e-billing portals, drone monitoring, GPS-based tracking, and the Khanan Prahari App - to enhance operational efficiency, transparency, and safety. These tools enable real-time monitoring and stricter environmental compliance across Coal India, SCCL, and NLC operations.



Gujarat Renewable Procurement Regulations, 2025

The Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (GERC) has notified new regulations, effective August 12, 2025, to accelerate renewable energy adoption. Obligated entities must raise renewable procurement from 29.91% in 2024–25 to 43.33% by 2029–30, including sub-targets for wind, hydro, and distributed projects under 10 MW. An energy storage obligation has also been introduced, starting at 1% and rising to 3.5%. Non-compliance will attract penalties of approximately ₹3.72/kWh, with monitoring by GEDA and enforcement by GERC.

Patenting Push: NCMM and CMLMP Join Forces to Boost Critical Mineral Innovation

The Ministry of Mines has signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM) and the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks (CGPDTM) under the Comprehensive Critical Mineral Licensing & Mapping Programme (CMLMP). This collaboration, aligned with the National Critical Mineral Mission's mandate, aims to enhance patent filings and protect intellectual property arising from innovation across the critical minerals value chain. By streamlining patent processes and fostering innovation in exploration, processing, and deployment, this initiative seeks to strengthen India's position in the global clean energy and strategic materials landscape.

Draft Energy Conservation (Compliance Enforcement) Rules, 2025

Issued by the Ministry of Power on August 4, 2025, for public consultation, these draft rules aim to strengthen compliance under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. They cover large buildings, designated industries, and manufacturers/importers of notified appliances and equipment. Entities must report compliance to the BEE, with verification via audits and inspections. Penalties will be adjudicated by State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.

India and Japan Sign MoC on Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement

On 29 August 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the Government of Japan to operationalise the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement. This collaboration strengthens Indo-Japan cooperation on climate change mitigation and supports India's long-term low carbon development strategy to achieve Net Zero by 2070. The JCM will facilitate investment flow, technology transfer, and capacity-building support for projects deploying low-carbon technologies approved by the National Designated Authority for Implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (NDAIAPA). It also provides a framework for international trading of carbon credits generated from such projects, while safeguarding India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).



Supreme Court Upholds GERC's Wind Tariff

In a ruling dated August 4, 2025, the Supreme Court reaffirmed that statutory tariff determinations prevail over contractual Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) terms. Developers who did not opt for accelerated depreciation are entitled to seek revised tariffs under GERC's 2010 order, despite initial PPAs fixing tariffs at ₹3.56/kWh. This ruling strengthens regulatory authority and clarifies the interplay between tax incentives and tariff commitments.

Maharashtra Exempts NA License and Tax for Renewables

The Government of Maharashtra, via a circular dated August 7, 2025, has exempted solar and wind projects under the Mukhyamantri Saur Krushi Vahini Yojana, Non-Conventional Energy Policy 2020, and Green Hydrogen Policy 2023 from obtaining NA licenses/sanads and from non-agricultural tax. The move is temporary, pending amendments to the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966, and aims to accelerate renewable deployment. Developers must submit approved plans to local revenue officers for land record updates.

India Secures Record Low Green Ammonia Price at ₹55.75/kg in SECI's First Auction

In a landmark achievement under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has conducted its first-ever auction for the procurement of Green Ammonia under the SIGHT Scheme (Mode-2A), discovering a record low price of ₹55.75/kg, a significant reduction from the ₹100.28/kg price discovered in the 2024 H2Global auction. This auction covers 75,000 metric tonnes per annum of Green Ammonia supply to Paradeep Phosphates Limited, Odisha, and is the first in a series of 13 planned auctions over the coming month, aggregating a total procurement capacity of 7.24 lakh MT/year. The discovered price, equivalent to USD 641/MT, provides strong economic incentives for offtakers.

National Designated Authority for Article 6

On 22 August 2025, the MoEFCC constituted the National Designated Authority (NDA) to oversee Article 6 implementation under the Paris Agreement. This new framework replaces the 2022 structure and includes representatives from 21 ministries, with powers to authorise emission reduction projects, manage registries, transition pre-2020 CDM credits, and align trading mechanisms with India's NDCs and sustainable development goals.

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