



Tattva

GRI launches standards to combat

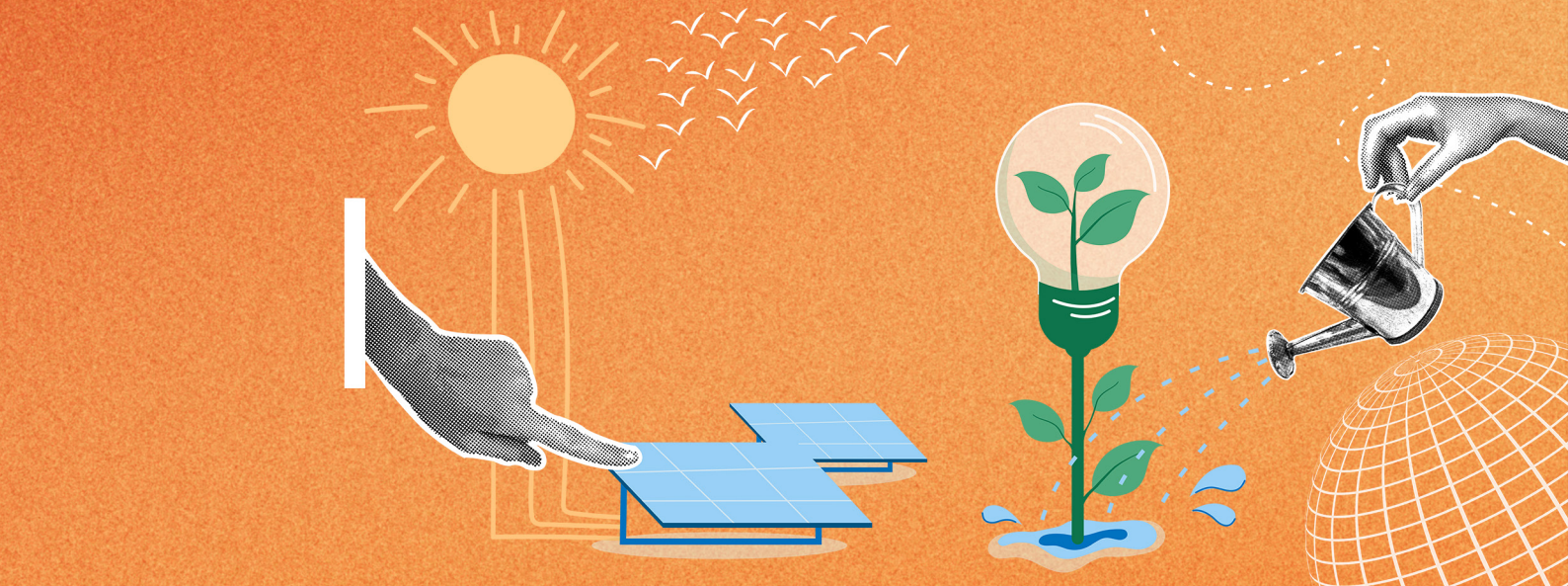
**discrimination
and protect
workers**



INTRODUCTION

In this 55th edition of Tattva, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) developments highlight accelerating investment in clean energy and nature-based solutions, alongside shifting corporate and regulatory dynamics. Australia expanded its Capacity Investment Scheme by 25% – supporting 8 GW of additional renewable and storage projects – to help meet its 2030 target of 82% renewables and attract USD13.7bn in investment. In the US, Chestnut Carbon secured a USD210mn facility led by J.P. Morgan and backed by a 25-year carbon credit offtake deal with Microsoft – the first large-scale financing of a voluntary afforestation project, which aims to restore 100,000 acres and remove 100 million tons of CO₂ by 2030. Meanwhile, HSBC's Head of Responsible Investment resigned following criticism over remarks minimizing climate risk, prompting the bank to reaffirm its sustainability commitments.

Elsewhere, Datamaran launched a comprehensive ESG strategy platform offering improved benchmarking, governance, and risk management tools, while NatWest committed USD268bn under a new Climate and Transition Finance Framework to support decarbonization across clean and high-emission sectors. On the regulatory front, the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) released guidance to combat greenwashing, emphasizing accurate, clear, and substantiated sustainability claims. In the US, political resistance to ESG intensified as 21 Republican-led states urged major asset managers – including J.P. Morgan and BlackRock – to abandon net-zero and ESG goals or risk losing state business. Together, these developments reflect both growing momentum and rising friction in the global ESG landscape.



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MARKET TRENDS

Trends driving positive environmental and social change

Businesses, financial institutions, and regulatory bodies have realized the significance of addressing ESG risks and capitalizing on the underlying opportunities to adopt sustainability. Catch the latest developments across industries, from government mandates to revolutionary initiatives, in this section.

EU postpones deadline for streamlined CSRD reporting standards



The European Union (EU) has extended the deadline for the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) to revise the European Sustainability Reporting Standards

(ESRS) under the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) to November 30, 2025. The extension aims to improve the quality of public consultation and reduce the number of mandatory data points by 50%. The revision is intended to ease reporting burdens while maintaining alignment with the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) standards and emphasizing strategic disclosures.

► Source: ESG Today

EU eyes nature credits to boost biodiversity funding



The EU plans to develop 'nature credits' to financially reward farmers and foresters for protecting ecosystems, aiming to bridge a EUR37bn (USD42.5bn) biodiversity funding gap.

An expert group will help design the framework by 2027. Inspired by carbon credits, the initiative seeks to boost private investment in nature restoration and conservation.

► Source: Reuters

CARB issues FAQs on climate disclosure compliance



The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has released Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to guide companies on climate disclosure rules under Senate Bills 253 and 261.

The document outlines reporting timelines, assurance requirements, and regulatory developments. Scope 1 and 2 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reporting will begin in 2026, followed by Scope 3 reporting in 2027. Public submission of reports will open in December 2025.

► Source: Deloitte

Australia expands support for renewables to hit 2030 target



Australia will expand its Capacity Investment Scheme by 25%, underwriting an additional 8 GW of wind, solar, and storage projects.

The move aims to help meet its

2030 target of 82% renewable energy and stabilize the aging power grid. The expansion is expected to support USD13.7bn in clean energy investment.

► Source: Reuters



EU unveils voluntary ESG reporting standard for SMEs

The European Commission has adopted a Voluntary Standard for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (VSME). Designed for companies with fewer than 250 employees, it simplifies ESG disclosures to meet rising data demands from banks and large firms. The standard includes basic and comprehensive modules to support financing and value chain transparency.

► Source: ESG Today



COLLABORATIONS

Companies joining forces to shape sustainable solutions

ESG issues continue to grow in relevance, be it employee health & safety or climate change. The impact is multifold in current times. Investor groups and corporates are increasingly collaborating to address such issues and drive sustainability. The following are major coalitions in the ESG space:

Masdar's Emerge and Misk City forge 20-year solar energy partnership for clean power development



Emerge, a joint venture between Masdar and EDF, has signed a 20-year agreement with Misk City to install a 621 kWp rooftop solar Photovoltaic (PV) system, expected to cut over 600 tons of CO₂ emissions annually. The project supports Misk City's LEED and ParkSmart certifications and aligns with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. Emerge will handle financing, design, construction, and long-term operations, promoting sustainable urban development and clean energy adoption in Riyadh.

► Source: ESG News

PepsiCo and Cargill launch regenerative agriculture on 240,000 acres



PepsiCo and Cargill have partnered to promote regenerative agriculture across 240,000 acres of Iowa farmland by 2030, focusing on their shared corn supply chain. Implemented by nonprofit Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI), the program offers farmers technical support, incentive payments, and science-based measurement. This initiative supports both companies' goals to advance regenerative practices across 10 million acres, aiming to boost soil health, climate resilience, and supply chain sustainability.

► Source: ESG News

Ares and Savion unveil 496 MW US solar joint venture



Ares and Shell-backed Savion launched Tango, a joint venture managing 496 MW of solar projects across Ohio, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Indiana. Savion will lead project development, while Shell will oversee asset management. Tango holds stakes in five projects, including those in Martin County and Kiowa County, supporting Shell's renewable energy growth and divestment strategy.

► Source: ESG Today

J.P. Morgan and Microsoft support innovative financing model to accelerate nature-based carbon removal projects



Nature-based carbon removal startup Chestnut Carbon has secured a USD210mn project finance credit facility led by J.P. Morgan, backed by a 25-year offtake agreement with Microsoft for 7+ million tons of carbon credits. This marks the first US voluntary afforestation project financed at scale. Chestnut Carbon aims to restore 100,000 acres by 2030 and remove 100 million tons of CO₂, using native forests to deliver climate, biodiversity, and community benefits.

► Source: ESG Today

Google inks record-breaking corporate hydropower agreement with Brookfield



Google and Brookfield have launched a Hydro Framework Agreement to deliver up to 3,000 MW of carbon-free hydroelectric power across the US, marking the largest corporate clean power deal for hydro to date. Initial focus areas include Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection (PJM) and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) markets, with flexibility to expand. The first 20-year Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) cover two relicensed hydro plants in Pennsylvania. This supports Google's goal to operate entirely on 24/7 carbon-free energy by 2030.

► Source: ESG Today



PEOPLE MOVEMENTS

Thought leadership through key hires

Companies worldwide are demanding analysts, strategists, and knowledgeable professionals to understand and drive their ESG data, strategies, and solutions for a range of stakeholders. This section brings you the latest movements of such highly skilled professionals in the ESG sector.

Luiz Amaral steps down as CEO of SBTi; Susan Jenny Ehr named Interim CEO



Luiz Amaral has stepped down as CEO of the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), with Susan Jenny Ehr named Interim CEO. His resignation follows controversy over SBTi's plan to allow carbon offsets for Scope 3 emissions, raising concerns about the group's scientific credibility. Amaral expanded SBTi's global presence and improved governance during his tenure. The board thanked him and confirmed Ehr will ensure a smooth transition while a permanent CEO is sought.

► Source: ESG News

Nadia Nikolova to lead responsAbility as new CEO



Nadia Nikolova will become CEO of responsAbility Investments AG on September 1, 2025, pending regulatory approval. With over 10 years in impact credit, she formerly led Direct Lending at Allianz Global Investors, managing EUR11bn (USD12.65bn) in assets. Nikolova succeeds Rochus Mommartz, retiring after over 20 years. Her leadership supports responsAbility's focus on expanding impact investing in climate finance, sustainable food, and financial inclusion.

► Source: ESG News

HSBC Global Head of Responsible Investment resigns



Stuart Kirk has resigned as HSBC's Global Head of Responsible Investment following backlash over remarks downplaying climate risks at a public event. His comments were widely viewed as inconsistent with HSBC's climate commitments. The bank swiftly distanced itself from his views and reiterated its dedication to addressing climate change and advancing responsible investment practices.

► Source: ESG Today

Morningstar strengthens ESG leadership with Michelle Cameron appointment



Morningstar has named Michelle Cameron as the new Commercial Leader for Sustainalytics, its ESG research arm. With nearly two decades in sustainable finance, including roles at Thomson Reuters, Refinitiv, and LSEG, Cameron will lead expansion efforts in Australia and New Zealand. She will support clients in navigating mandatory climate disclosure rules. Morningstar emphasized her expertise in ESG regulations and sustainable investment as key to Sustainalytics' regional growth strategy.

► Source: ESG News

Petrobras appoints new Chief of Energy Transition and Sustainability



Petrobras has appointed Angélica Garcia Cobas Laureano as Executive Director of Energy Transition and Sustainability, effective July 11, 2025. She succeeds Mauricio Tolmasquim and brings 45 years of industry experience, including 37 at Petrobras and leadership roles at Gaspetro and TBG. Her appointment marks a milestone, giving Petrobras' Executive Board a female majority with five women among nine directors.

► Source: ESG Today



FINTECH

Innovation in sustainable investing

The fintech section captures various innovations in the data analytics, software solutioning, and technology space that benefit investors and data providers. Learn about the most groundbreaking technologies leading their way to ESG.

Jupiter Intelligence unveils new climate risk tools for financial sector



Jupiter Intelligence has launched new features on its ClimateScore Global platform to help banks and investors

assess physical climate risks and calculate returns on resilience investments. Key additions include the Jupiter Adaptation Hub, Entity Modeling, MetricEngine, and a Subsidence Peril Metric, addressing the growing demand for advanced climate risk analytics amid escalating climate-related financial impacts.

► Source: ESG Today

Datamaran introduces ESG strategy management platform



Datamaran has launched the Datamaran Suite, a new ESG strategy platform designed to help companies benchmark

sustainability disclosures, set evidence-based targets, and manage ESG risks and opportunities. Built on Datamaran Core, the Suite adds governance tools, peer comparison through Impacts, Risks, and Opportunities (IROs) benchmarking, multi-reviewer assessments, and access to Harbor+ for ESG networking and collaboration.

► Source: ESG Today

Schneider Electric brings Zeigo™ Hub to drive supply chain decarbonization



Schneider Electric has unveiled Zeigo™ Hub, a new digital platform aimed at accelerating supply chain

decarbonization and helping companies meet their Scope 3 emissions goals. Built for scalability, Zeigo Hub facilitates multi-tier supplier engagement through interactive tools, educational resources, and expert guidance. The platform fosters collaboration and transparency, promoting continuous improvement while enhancing supply chain resilience and advancing global net-zero commitments.

► Source: Schneider Electric



PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Industry demands met with sustainable investment products and ESG data & services

As businesses work toward getting ESG-compliant and investors channel their funds into ESG products, the market is gearing up to facilitate all forms of products and services. In this section, you will find news on key products and services, including the launch of climate change-targeted funds as well as ESG data and services.

Australia releases first sustainable finance taxonomy



Australia has introduced its first sustainable finance taxonomy, a voluntary framework to direct investments toward green and transition-aligned activities supporting net-zero goals. Covering sectors such as energy, mining, transport, and agriculture, it aims to curb greenwashing, boost investor confidence, and accelerate capital flows for decarbonization, with major banks and funds piloting its implementation.

► Source: ESG Broadcast

Boomitra announces its first BiCRS project in Botswana



Boomitra has launched its first Biomass Carbon Removal and Storage (BiCRS) project in Botswana, targeting 10,000 hectares of degraded savanna over the next decade to sequester more than 200,000 tons of CO₂. The initiative removes invasive woody biomass and buries it underground, restoring ecosystems, supporting rural livelihoods, and offering a scalable, durable climate solution in Southern Africa.

► Source: ESG News

Gold Standard releases a new framework for engineered carbon removals



Gold Standard has introduced its Engineered Removals Activity Requirements, a new framework setting robust standards for high-integrity Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) projects, including rules on reversal risk mitigation, buffer contributions, and social safeguards. Certified projects must support at least three Sustainable Development Goals and align with international protocols such as the European Union Carbon Removals Certification Framework (EU CRCF) and the International Civil Aviation Organization Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (ICAO CORSIA).

► Source: ESG News

NatWest commits USD268bn via new CTF framework



NatWest Group has unveiled a bold new Climate and Transition Finance (CTF) Framework, committing to mobilize USD268bn between July 2025 and December 2030 to support decarbonization across both traditional clean industries and high-emitting, hard-to-abate sectors. The expanded strategy includes financing for sectors such as iron & steel, cement, aviation, and cleaner power generation.

► Source: Sustainability Magazine

Arup & ESG360° launches Integrated GHG emission and ESG reporting service



Arup and ESG360° have launched a joint GHG emission and ESG reporting service, combining ESG360°'s digital platform with Arup's technical expertise to help companies streamline emissions tracking and Scope 3 reporting. This subscription-based offering supports data collection, calculations, insight generation, and strategy development to embed sustainability into operations and decarbonize supply chains.

► Source: ESG 360°



LAWS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS

Major policies that pave the way to disclosure in the industry

Policy reformation and amendments in the ESG reporting space are at an all-time high. What started as a voluntary disclosure is now making its way to becoming a mandate. Be it sustainable investments, standards, or climate change reporting mandates and transparency in governance practices, we bring you the latest regulatory updates in this section.

ESMA sets new guidance to combat greenwashing



The ESMA published a thematic note on making clear, fair, and non-misleading sustainability-related claims to address greenwashing risks. The note emphasizes the importance of sustainability information in investor choice and warns that financial market participants may misinterpret claims, leading to misled investors. The four principles include accuracy, accessibility, substantiation, and up-to-date information.

► Source: Regulatory and Compliance

EU adopts voluntary sustainability reporting standard



The Commission adopted a voluntary standard for SMEs to respond to sustainability information requests from large financial institutions and companies. The voluntary standard, developed by the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG), aims to improve access to sustainable finance and sustainability performance. The adoption of this voluntary standard is an interim solution until formal adoption.

► Source: European Commission

UK carbon market to include direct air capture by 2029



The UK will integrate carbon removals, such as direct air capture, into its carbon market by 2029, creating a regulated demand for removal credits. This move could unlock major investment, boost local projects, and make carbon removal a core part of climate policy.

► Source: Forbes

EU proposes 90% emissions reduction target by 2040



The European Commission (EC) has proposed amending the EU Climate Law to set a 2040 target of a 90% reduction in net GHG emissions from 1990 levels.

The plan aims to provide certainty for investors, support industry competitiveness, and ensure a fair, cost-effective transition.

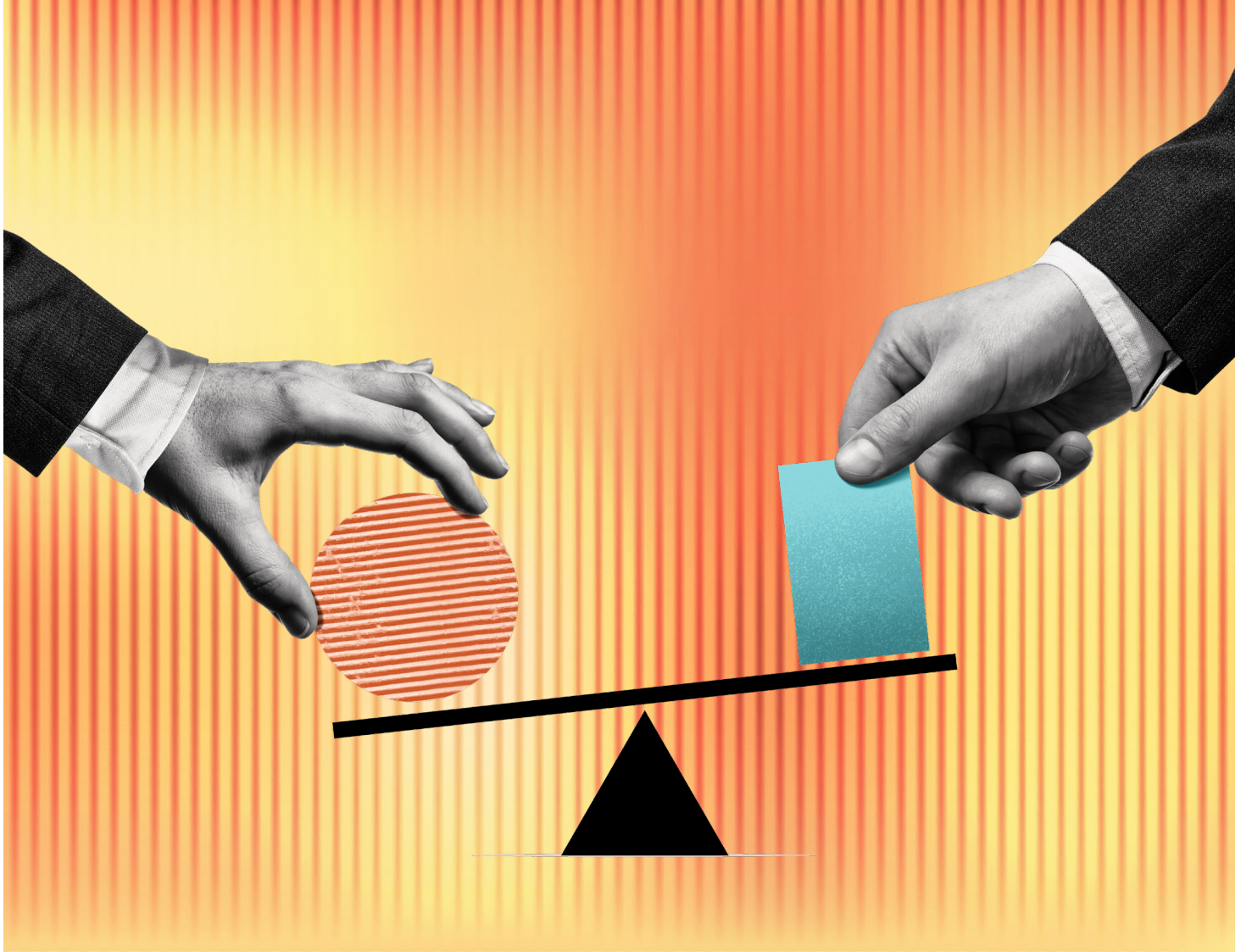
► Source: European Commission

GRI launches standards to combat discrimination and protect workers



The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) has released two draft standards for companies to report on labor issues, including measures to tackle discrimination and protect workers' rights. These standards are part of a wider review of GRI's labor-related disclosures, aiming to revise eight standards by mid-2026.

► Source: ESG Today



CONTROVERSIES

Global sustainability watchdogs chasing wrongdoers

Do companies follow their ESG commitments? Tracking corporate controversies helps in investment decisions and enables stakeholders to determine whether companies are being fair to their commitments or merely greenwashing. We bring you the top controversies in this section.

Glass Lewis, ISS sue Texas over law limiting DEI, ESG proxy advice



Glass Lewis, ISS challenge Texas law limiting DEI, ESG proxy advice

Proxy advisory firms Glass Lewis and Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS) have filed lawsuits challenging a newly enacted Texas law – Senate Bill 2337 – that restricts their ability to offer recommendations based on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI), and ESG factors. The firms argue the law, which mandates financial justifications and disclosure that advice is not solely in shareholders' financial interest, violates their First Amendment rights and could harm their businesses.

► Source: Reuters



Trump Hotel agrees to USD4.8mn settlement over fish kills in Chicago River

Chicago's Trump International Hotel & Tower will pay USD4.8mn to settle allegations that its cooling system, drawing up to 21 million gallons of water daily, illegally killed thousands of fish in the Chicago River. The settlement – approved in July 2025 – includes USD3mn for river habitat restoration and the remainder for fines and legal costs. A 2024 court ruling had deemed the tower a 'public nuisance'.

► Source: Bloomberg



J.P. Morgan, BlackRock receives warning to scrap 'woke' environmental goals or lose business

On July 29, a coalition of financial officers from 21 Republican-led states sent letters to top executives at asset managers – including J.P. Morgan, BlackRock, Vanguard, State Street, and Bank of America – demanding that they abandon ESG and net-zero climate policies. The officials warned that firms must drop such commitments or risk losing business and urged a return to traditional fiduciary duties. A response was requested by September 1.

► Source: NY Post



France fines Shein EUR40mn for greenwash and misleading discounts

France's antitrust agency, the Directorate-General for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs (DGCCRF), imposed a EUR40mn (USD46mn) penalty on Shein's French operations (Infinite Style E-Commerce) after a year-long probe revealed deceptive promotional pricing – 57% of deals offered no real discount, 19% were smaller than advertised, and 11% were outright price hikes. Investigators also found the company could not substantiate environmental claims, including a supposed 25% reduction in GHG emissions.

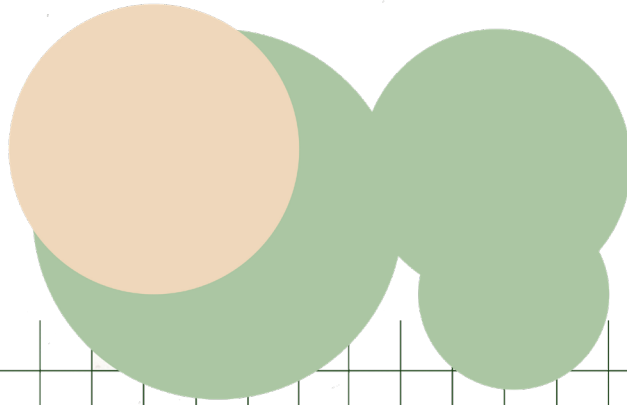
► Source: Reuters

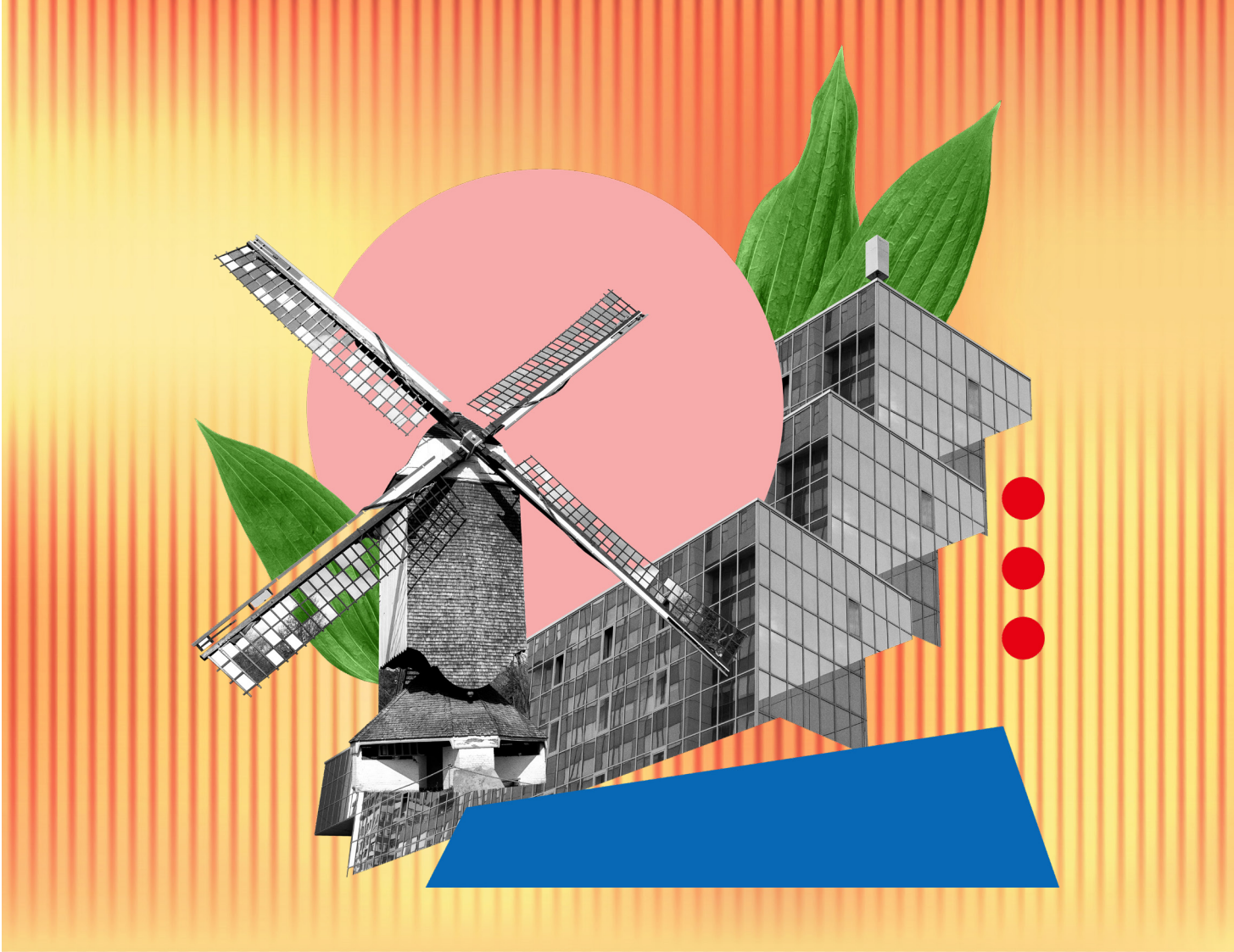


NGT takes cognizance of illegal commercial activity at Jaipur ropeway station

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) initiated suo motu action over unauthorized commercial operations at Jaipur's ropeway site on diverted forest land. Following a Times of India exposé, the tribunal flagged fish spas, massage centers, eateries, and a zip-cycle ride operating beyond the approved 0.8735 hectares. Notices were issued to Rajasthan pollution and forest authorities, with the case now transferred to the NGT's Bhopal bench for further proceedings.

► Source: TOI





SGA ESG DATA INSIGHTS REPORT

How are top financial institutions leveraging ESG data to make smarter investments and stay ahead of evolving regulations? In this special **55th edition of Tattva**, we're excited to unveil our latest report, "**Bridging ESG and Finance | ESG Data Insights Report.**" It explores cutting-edge trends in AI-driven ESG analytics, risk assessment strategies, and regulatory shifts shaping the future of sustainable finance.

Unlock exclusive insights—read the full report now! [Read More...](#)



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