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Activities

India- Netherlands Country Session at India Energy Week, 2026

The India–Netherlands Country Session was convened on 29 January 2026 during India Energy Week in Goa. The roundtable was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in collaboration with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

The session, co-chaired by Dr Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, and Mr Michel Heijdra, Vice Minister of Climate & Green Growth, Kingdom of the Netherlands, built upon the outcomes of the India–Netherlands roundtable held on the sidelines of India Energy Week 2025 and sought to translate strategic intent into actionable partnerships.

Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation across green hydrogen, ammonia, bioenergy, port and logistics infrastructure, and industrial decarbonisation. India's competitive renewable energy tariffs, strong engineering capabilities, established ammonia infrastructure, and emerging electrolyser manufacturing capacity were highlighted as key enablers of a scalable and mutually beneficial partnership. Both India and the Netherlands view the global energy transition as a strategic opportunity to enhance energy security, economic competitiveness, and long-term resilience.

The session brought together senior representatives from the Government of India, the Kingdom of Netherlands, Indian public sector undertakings (PSUs), industry leaders, technology firms, and academic institutions from both countries.



Union Petroleum Secretary Dr Neeraj Mittal and Vice Minister of Climate & Green Growth, Kingdom of the Netherlands H.E. Michel Heijdra with delegates at the India-Netherlands Country Session at India Energy Week, 2026

The dialogue reaffirmed a commitment to institutionalising India–Netherlands clean energy cooperation through a whole-of-ecosystem approach spanning government, industry, research, and finance.

Priority areas include electrolysers, fuel cells, biogas, hydrogen infrastructure, green chemicals, decarbonized refining, and manufacturing of electrolysers and Battery Energy Storage Systems in India.

Innovative and affordable financing, particularly risk-sharing mechanisms, was identified as critical to scaling early-stage e-fuel and export-oriented projects.

Future collaboration will advance hydrogen corridors, port and logistics integration, pilot projects, certification alignment, long-term offtake arrangements, and policy predictability. Leveraging India's scale and manufacturing strengths with the Netherlands' technology and European market access offers a strong foundation for commercially viable clean energy value chains.

Engineering India's Nuclear Future

A closed-door industry interaction on India's nuclear energy trajectory was convened by CII in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro on the sidelines of India Energy Week 2026 at ONGC ATI, Goa. The session brought together senior government representatives, industry leaders, and international experts to exchange perspectives on technology pathways, localisation, supply chain preparedness and regulatory frameworks. The discussion also featured leadership from the World Nuclear Association.

The enactment of the SHANTI Act was acknowledged as a pivotal reform, enabling commercial use of nuclear energy and opening participation avenues for private sector players.

Participants emphasised the importance of sustained policy support, industry-government coordination and a forward-looking approach to technology deployment. The dialogue highlighted the need for strengthened domestic capabilities aligned with global benchmarks, enhanced manufacturing readiness, supportive financing structures, and continued investment in skills and institutional capacity. The interaction provided a constructive platform to align on broad strategic priorities as India advances its long-term nuclear energy ambitions and explores opportunities to deepen its role in the global nuclear value chain.



Participants at CII-L&T session on Engineering India's Nuclear Future on the sidelines of India Energy Week, 2026

The discussion also touched upon longer-term pathways, including advanced reactors and fusion, with recognition that sustained R&D investment and industry participation will be critical.

Bringing Businesses Closer

The Confederation of Indian Industry, in partnership with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the British High Commission, facilitated over 100 B2B meetings between international delegations and Indian industry stakeholders. The meetings were held from 27 to 29 January 2026 at ONGC – Advanced Training Institute, Goa, on the sidelines of India Energy Week, 2026 with the objective of fostering collaboration across the clean energy and energy transition ecosystem and strengthening cross-border industry partnerships. The B2B engagements brought together companies and institutions from the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, representing a wide spectrum of technologies, services, and project development capabilities relevant to India's energy transition goals.

The UK side included firms engaged in energy infrastructure, carbon capture, energy storage, waste-to-energy and waste-to-product solutions, advanced electrolysis technologies, distributed renewables, and transition-focused consultancy services. The Netherlands delegation represented strengths in hydrogen storage and transport, fuel cells, electrolyser technologies and project development. It also included stakeholders from ports, logistics, waste solutions, ancillary services, and research institutions. Together, the delegations reflected integrated capabilities across hydrogen, low-carbon technologies, and broader energy transition solutions.



L-R: Abhay Bakre, Mission Director, National Green Hydrogen Mission; Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Secretary, MNRE; H.E. Michel Heijdra, Vice Minister of Climate & Green Growth, Kingdom of the Netherlands and Bernd Scholtz, Head of Economic Department, The Embassy of The Kingdom of the Netherlands in India

Sectoral News

INDIA

Centre offers 11 deep-seated mineral blocks for exploration

ET Energy World | Feb 13, 2026

India is offering 11 deep-seated mineral blocks across eight states for exploration. Speaking at the launch of the second round of exploration license (EL) auctions, he said the mineral mix includes five Rare Earth Element (REE) blocks, two vanadium-titanium, two diamond, one lead-zinc and one zirconium, with exploration areas averaging around 187 square kilometres.

Read more at:

https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/coal/centre-offers-11-deep-seated-mineral-blocks-for-exploration/128284768?utm_source=most_read&utm_medium=sectionListing

India gets ready for sustainable aviation fuel adoption ahead of mandatory global implementation

ET Energy World | Feb 15, 2026

Ahead of the implementation of the commercial aviation industry-focused carbon aviation industry-focused carbon emission reduction norms from January 2027, India is preparing to meet the internationally mandated obligations. While the final modalities are being streamlined, the requisite feedstock and infrastructure is ready, say stakeholders.

Read more at:

https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/india-gears-up-for-sustainable-aviation-fuel-implementation-ahead-of-2027-corsia-deadlines/128372282?utm_source=most_read&utm_medium=sectionListing

India records lowest-ever price for green hydrogen in tender

ET Energy World | Feb 16, 2026

Green hydrogen has been widely touted as a solution for hard-to-abate heavy industries. e steel and cement, but demand and usage remain low, leading many investors to back out of projects.

Read more at:

https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/india-records-lowest-ever-price-for-green-hydrogen-in-tender/128418713?utm_source=most_read&utm_medium=sectionListing

Budget 2026 reorients clean energy push towards manufacturing and decarbonisation: Wood Mackenzie report

ET Energy World | Feb 16, 2026

The Union Budget 2026-2027 marks a clear pivot in the country's energy transition, shifting emphasis from rapid renewable deployment towards domestic manufacturing, industrial decarbonisation and supply chain security, according to a report released by Wood Mackenzie. Under the Budget, clean energy spending is set to rise 40 per cent year-on-year. in FY27 to around \$5 billion, with allocations directed towards carbon capture, battery storage, domestic manufacturing and critical mineral supply chains.

Read more at:

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/budget-2026-india-strengthens-clean-energy-manufacturing-and-decarbonisation-efforts/128424425>

Centre sets up high-level panel to steer merger of Power Finance Corporation and REC

ET Energy World | Feb 22, 2026

The government has formed a high-level committee along with a working group that will study the modalities and monitor the merger of Power Finance Corporation and REC. This move aims to enhance scale and efficiency in public sector NBFCs

Read more at:

https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/power/centre-sets-up-high-level-panel-to-steer-merger-of-power-finance-corporation-rec/128588036?utm_source=category_listing&utm_medium=sectionListing

Excise waiver for biogas blending, clear policy line can unlock ₹1 lakh crore investment IBA

ET Energy World | Feb 22, 2026

The proposed excise duty waiver on biogas blended in compressed natural gas, coupled led with a clear policy line, can unlock potential investment of ₹1 lakh crore in the country, notes Indian Biogas Association. Union Budget 2026, provided an excise duty waiver on Compressed Biogas (CBG) blended with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), which is an important step forward in India's energy transition of net zero of 2070.

Read more at:

https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/excise-waiver-for-biogas-blending-clear-policy-line-can-unlock-1-lakh-crore-investment-iba/128673430?utm_source=top_news&utm_medium=sectionListing

Sectoral News

WORLD

The future is renewables, Indian energy minister tells World Economic Forum

Arab News | Jan 22, 2026

The future is renewables," India's minister of new and renewable energy told the World Economic Forum in Davos. "In India, I can very confidently say, affordability (of renewables) is better than fossil fuel energy," Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi said during a panel discussion titled "Unstoppable March of Renewables?"

Read more at:

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2630172/business-economy>

Dead EV Battery doesn't mark end of its utility, UN official

ET Energy World | Feb 11, 2026

While safety is the primary challenge for retired EV batteries, required diagnostic checks, proper screening and monitoring of second-life LFP (Lithium Ferro Phosphate) batteries can extend their life by seven to 10 years while reducing environmental risk, a United Nations (UN) official, said.

Read more at:

https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/power/un-official-highlights-reuse-potential-of-dead-ev-batteries-to-combat-waste-crisis/128193065?utm_source=category_listing&utm_medium=sectionListing

India eases curbs on Chinese equipment imports for power, coals as projects delayed

Reuters | Feb 18, 2026

India has begun easing its restrictions on buying Chinese equipment allowing state-run power and coal companies to start limited imports as shortages and project delays mount.

Read more at:

https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/power/india-eases-curbs-on-chinese-equipment-imports-for-power-coal-as-projects-delayed-sources-say/128503775?utm_source=category_listing&utm_medium=sectionListing

Indo-UK offshore wind task force launched, India crosses 272 GW non-fossil fuel power capacity

ET Energy World | Feb 18, 2026

This milestone supports India's ambitious renewable energy and net-zero emission targets. The launch of the India-UK Offshore Wind Taskforce aims to accelerate the development of offshore wind energy, a crucial component for India's energy transition.

Read more at:

https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/indo-uk-offshore-wind-task-force-launched-india-crosses-272-gw-non-fossil-fuel-power-capacity/128502153?utm_source=category_listing&utm_medium=sectionListing

US to West's energy watchdog: scrap net zero focus or we'll quit

Reuters | Feb 19, 2026

U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright gave the International Energy Agency on Thursday a one-year deadline to scrap its support of goals to reduce energy emissions to net zero or risk losing the United States as a member.

Read more at:

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/us-energy-secretary-wright-pressures-iea-quit-net-zero-agenda-2026-02-19/>

India rebalances crude slate as Saudi gains, Russian flows ease under sanctions pressure

ET Energy World | Feb 22, 2026

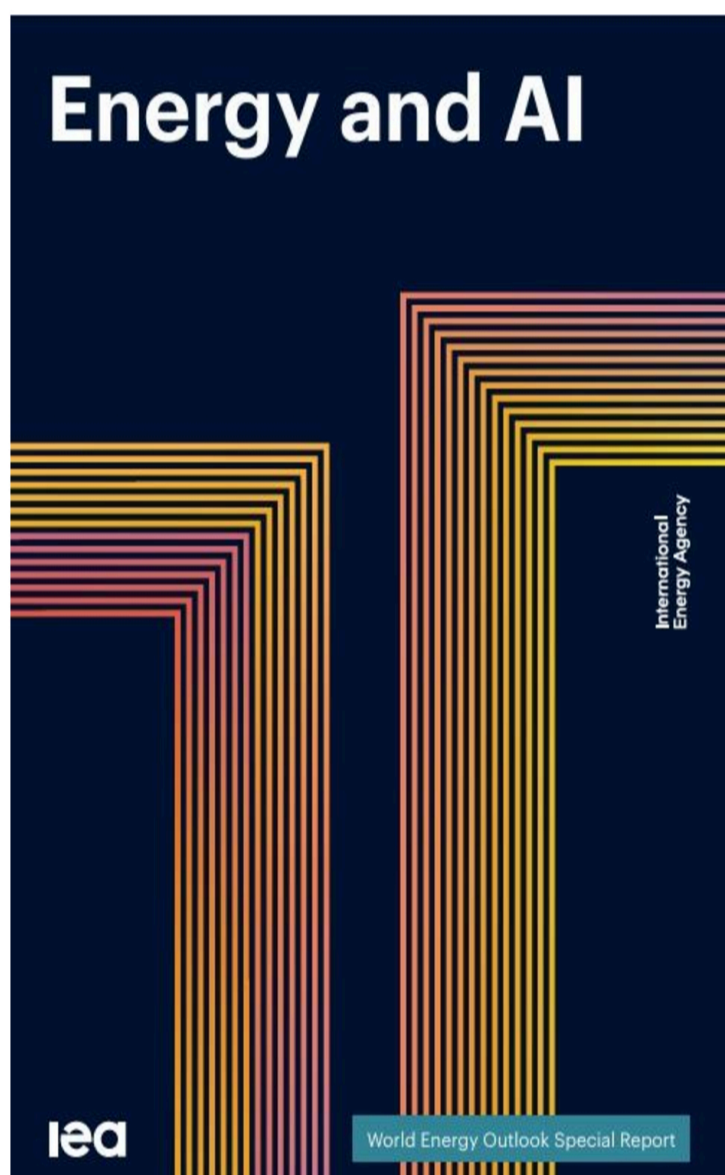
India's crude import strategy is shifting towards a gradual rebalancing, with Middle Eastern suppliers, especially Saudi Arabia, regaining market share as Russian imports decline amid sanctions and geopolitical pressures.

read more at:

https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/india-rebalances-crude-slate-as-saudi-gains-russian-flows-ease-under-sanctions-pressure/128669949?utm_source=top_story&utm_medium=homepage

Global Report Watch

World Energy Outlook Special Report IEA



The rapid advancement and large-scale deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) in recent years have brought renewed attention to its profound implications for the global energy landscape. As AI systems become increasingly embedded in industry, governance, finance, and everyday life, the critical question that emerges is what the widespread adoption of AI mean for the energy sector.

AI is fundamentally dependent on energy-particularly electricity. The computational power required to train and run advanced AI models relies heavily on energy-intensive data centres and digital infrastructure. There is, quite literally, no AI without electricity. As demand for AI-enabled services expands, so too does the need for reliable, scalable, and sustainable power systems to support this growth.

At the same time, AI holds transformative potential for the energy industry itself. If deployed at scale, AI can optimise grid management, enhance demand forecasting, improve asset maintenance, accelerate renewable energy integration, strengthen energy trading systems, and drive efficiency gains across the value chain. In other words, AI is not only a new source of electricity demand-it is also a powerful tool that could reshape how energy systems are planned, operated, and decarbonised.

Despite the magnitude of these dual impacts, policymakers and stakeholders have until recently lacked comprehensive analytical tools and datasets to fully assess both dimensions of the AI-energy nexus. Fragmented information, limited transparency around data centre consumption, and rapidly evolving technological trajectories have made it difficult to develop evidence-based strategies.

This report by the International Energy Agency (IEA) seeks to address this gap. Drawing on new global and regional modelling, original datasets, and extensive consultations with governments, regulators, the technology sector, energy companies, and international experts, the report provides a structured and data-driven assessment of AI's energy implications.

It presents forward-looking projections of AI-related electricity demand over the coming decade, identifies the energy sources likely to meet this demand, and evaluates the potential impacts on energy security, emissions trajectories, innovation pathways, and system affordability. By offering a comprehensive analytical foundation, the report equips decision-makers with the insights needed to balance the opportunities and risks associated with the accelerating convergence of AI and energy systems.

Read more at:

<https://www.iea.org/reports/energy-and-ai>

Policy Advocacy

Recommendations for Enhancing Domestic Exploration and Production of Hydrocarbons

To unlock investments and improve the viability of domestic upstream projects, CII has recommended a set of targeted regulatory and fiscal interventions. These include:

- Enabling flexibility in the Mandatory Drill Stem Test (DST) requirement for Declaration of Commerciality (DOC) by allowing the use of advanced testing technologies, particularly for deepwater projects.
- Withdrawal of the sunset clause on customs duty exemptions for petroleum operations.
- An interim compensation mechanism to offset the increase in IGST until natural gas is brought under GST.
- Removal of administered price ceilings for gas produced from Deep Water (DW), Ultra-Deep Water (UDW) and High Pressure-High Temperature (HPHT) discoveries to improve project economics and investor confidence.
- Removal of the cap on the sale of domestic gas volumes through gas exchanges to enable producers to better align production profiles with market dynamics.
- To facilitate the development of sub-economic discoveries, establish Government-supported Common Hub Infrastructure (CHI) on the East and West Coasts, enabling shared infrastructure, cost optimization and faster monetization.

Recommendations for Strengthening the Future Biofuels Ecosystem in India

- Based on extensive consultations with industry stakeholders across the biofuels value chain, CII has consolidated a set of recommendations to address key technical, financial, regulatory, and market-related challenges affecting the scale-up of future biofuels in India. These are focused on unlocking the potential of diverse waste-based feedstocks, accelerating investment in commercial-scale SAF projects, and creating a predictable and globally aligned policy framework.
- To improve project viability and enhance investor confidence in India's bioenergy ecosystem, the industry also seeks clarity on carbon credit ownership while establishing robust certification and sustainability benchmarking frameworks that are aligned with international standards.

- A comprehensive Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) policy that adopts an ecosystem approach encompassing producers, off takers, airlines, and end consumers, to accelerate the adoption of SAF, is necessary for India to achieve its blending targets.

Recommendations on Building Feedstock Supply Chain Resilience

- India's bioenergy sector faces critical challenges, including diversion of usable waste to polluting end uses, fragmented and inefficient collection systems, limited access to appropriate biomass handling machinery, weak demand for biomass-based fuels, and the absence of national standards for agricultural residue management.
- To address these challenges, CII recommends promoting village-level biomass collection centres and FPO-led biomass banks, enforcing mandatory wet dry waste segregation through municipal bylaws, and facilitating long-term arrangements between urban local bodies and biofuel or CBG producers. It also recommends stricter enforcement of existing restrictions by State Governments, expansion of Biomass Agricultural Machinery (BAM) subsidies to cover non-agricultural feedstocks and energy crops such as Napier grass, effective implementation of state-level biomass co-firing policies and regulatory oversight by State Pollution Control Boards. These measures will support India's broader objectives of decarbonization and leadership in the bioenergy sector.

Mapping India's Energy Transition

CII Dashboard on Energy Transition Investment Monitor (ETIM)

Your Gateway to India's Clean Energy Future!

Launched by Shri R.K. Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy and Power, the CII Energy Transition Investment Monitor (ETIM) is a dynamic analytics platform tracking 900+ renewable energy projects across India.

With nearly **5,000 registered members**, ETIM offers a one-stop view of India's renewable energy pipeline, from project investments to technology supply chains. The data is publicly sourced, company-validated and regularly updated, empowering policymakers, investors, and industry leaders with credible, real-time insights.

As India races toward clean energy leadership, ETIM strengthens domestic supply chains, drives local manufacturing, and enables transparent, data-driven decision-making.

Explore ETIM and see how India's energy transition is unfolding - project by project.

To read more please visit:

<https://etim-india.com/>

Portfolio of Services

The Energy Department at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) plays a pivotal role in engaging with both government and industry stakeholders across diverse segments of the energy ecosystem, including power, renewables, hydrocarbons, biofuels, green hydrogen, and sustainable mobility. Through a structured network of committees, sub-committees, and task forces, the department identifies sector-specific challenges and drives focused interventions to address them effectively.

CII's Energy Department fosters strong national and international collaboration, serving as a platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and strategic partnerships. It regularly develops reports, theme papers, and policy representations that contribute to thought leadership and informed decision-making in the sector.

To keep pace with the rapidly evolving energy landscape, the department organizes high-impact conferences, summits, and seminars, facilitating strategic discussions and on-ground stakeholder engagement. In alignment with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat, the department also supports international cooperation by coordinating with parent ministries and accompanying official delegations.

Through its initiatives, the Energy Department at CII acts as a catalyst in advancing India's energy agenda and strengthening the Indian industry's role in the global economy.

To read more about our work please visit:

<https://www.cirre.in/index.php>

<https://www.cii.in>

ENERGY DIARY JANUARY 2026



Confederation of Indian Industry

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Confederation of Indian Industry



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