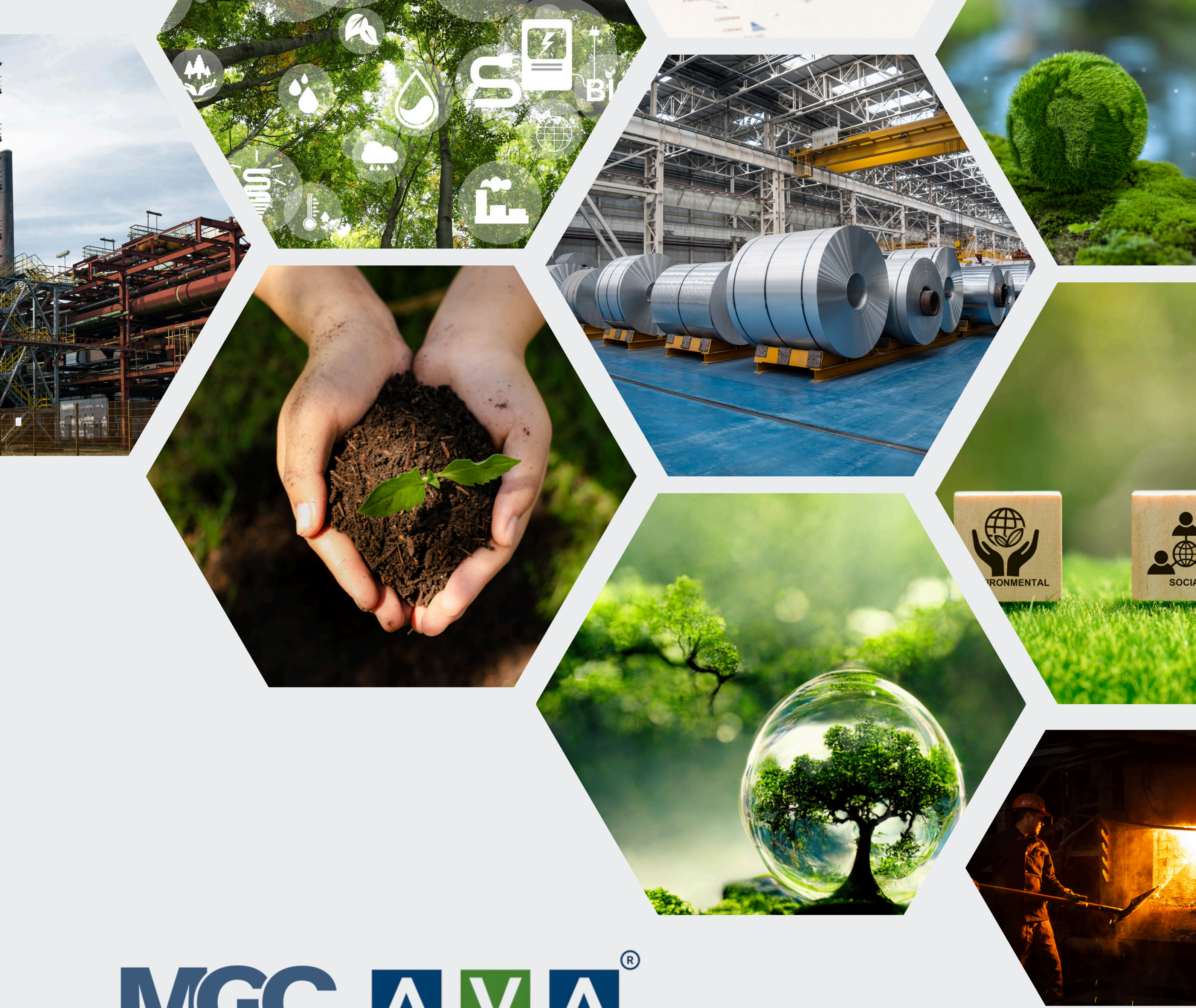

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ESG NEWSLETTER

August 2026 edition

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India’s common EPR portal:
One platform, one ledger, one version of the truth

In a nutshell: On 1 July 2026, India operationalised the **common EPR portal** – a single digital platform that unifies Extended Producer Responsibility compliance for plastics, e-waste, batteries, tyres and used oil. It replaces fragmented paperwork with real-time, auditable accountability.

Old system vs. common EPR portal

Old system

- Separate portals per waste stream
- Multiple registrations for each role
- Manual credit management, siloed data
- Limited transparency, reconciliation gaps

Common EPR portal

- One unified platform
- One-time single registration
- Automated credit ledger with full traceability
- Real-time dashboards and auditable trail

What the portal requires

Unify your identity: A single registration for producers, importers, brand owners and recyclers across all waste streams.

Trace every credit: Generation, transfer, sale and retirement are recorded on a transparent digital ledger.

Report in real time: Recyclers log inputs and outputs; producers track waste from collection to final processing.

Stay audit-ready: Automated compliance dashboards and non-compliance alerts replace last-minute firefighting.

Core principles

1. Polluter pays: responsibility sits squarely with the producer.

2. Full lifecycle accountability: from design to end-of-life.

3. Uncompromising traceability: every tonne must be matched with verifiable recycling.

4. Formalisation push: easier credit market access for genuine recyclers, pressure on the unorganised sector.

What it means for the recycling industry and producers

For recyclers, the portal is a market-leveller: a single verified identity, direct visibility of credit demand and real-time reporting make genuine capacity the only currency. For producers, it collapses multiple compliance tracks into one command centre, slashes administrative burden, and turns EPR compliance into a verifiable asset for ESG reporting and green claims.

What to do now

Migrate immediately	Audit your EPR position	Integrate digitally
Complete unified registration now; legacy credits are being mapped.	Ensure credit portfolios and recycling data can withstand automated scrutiny.	Connect your ERP or compliance software to the portal's APIs for live, frictionless reporting.

Positive impact

This is not just an IT upgrade. It's the digital backbone that finally makes Extended Producer Responsibility deliver – more waste collected, more recycling, and nowhere left for greenwashing to hide.

CCTS · Steel notification:
India's largest emitter, now in the carbon market

In a nutshell: On 26 June 2026, MoEFCC proposed the Third Schedule to the GHG Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025, bringing 255 iron and steel units—including sponge iron and ferro-alloy plants—under India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme ('CCTS'). This is the single largest expansion of India's compliance carbon market, covering a sector that contributes 10–12% of national CO_2 emissions.

What's the difference between the 2025 draft and the 2026 notification?

	2025 draft	2026 notification
What it does	Proposed targets in principle	Sets plant-wise emission intensity targets
Compliance year	FY 2025–26 & 2026–27	FY 2026–27 only (first year omitted)
Coverage	Steel sector broadly	255 specific obligated entities with individual baselines

What the third schedule requires from steel manufacturers

1. **Benchmark against 2023–24 baseline:**
Each plant gets a baseline emission intensity (tCO_2e per tonne of product) based on its 2023–24 performance.

2. **Meet 2026–27 compliance targets:**
Required reductions range from 2.1% to 9.3%, with a median of ~5.5%. Higher-emitting plants face steeper cuts.

3. **Generate or buy credits:**
Outperformers earn carbon credits; laggards must purchase them. Non-compliance triggers environmental compensation at twice the average credit price.

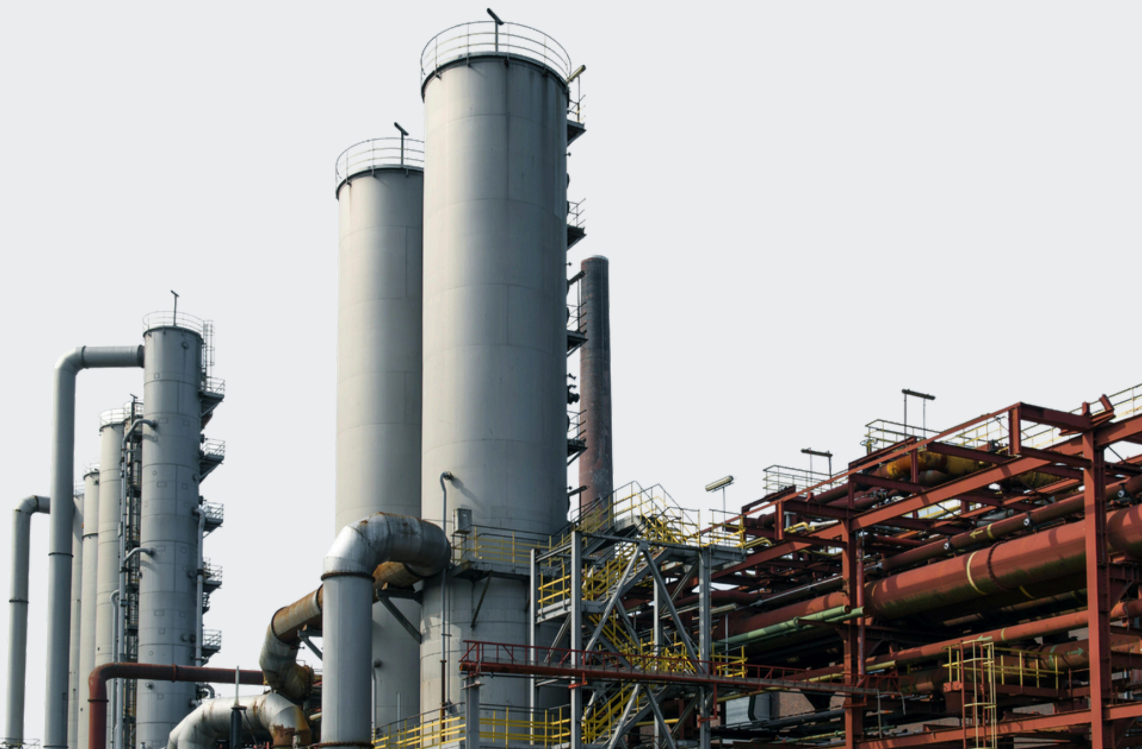
4. **Set up audit-grade MRV from day one:**
Baselines, monitoring plans, and verified evidence are mandatory.

What it means for the Indian steel industry

- **A deeper, more liquid market:** Adding 255 plants with combined baseline emissions of ~358 $MtCO_2e$ massively expands trading depth, creating genuine supply and demand.

- **A strategic pivot from energy efficiency to emissions intensity:** The old PAT scheme focused on energy use; CCTS targets carbon footprint directly. A plant can be energy-efficient but still emissions-intensive if it relies on coal-based routes—this changes the calculus entirely.

- **The compliance clock starts now:** With the first compliance year (2025–26) already missed, the only window is FY 2026–27. Early movers on data infrastructure and monitoring systems will be best positioned to generate credits rather than buy them.



What steel manufacturers should do now

1. **Participate in the 60-day consultation:** Silence means accepting the rules as written**.**

2. **Audit your 2023-24 baseline :** Verify your baseline intensity data immediately.

3. **Build MRV infrastructure:** Audit-grade systems cannot be retrofitted overnight; start now.

4. **Integrate CCTS with broader strategy:** Align with the green steel taxonomy and low-carbon subsidy programme—one robust system serves compliance, export readiness, and green finance.

Positive impact

The accountability era is here for Indian steel. The question is no longer if you have a decarbonisation target—it's whether you can prove you are meeting it, plant by plant. The CCTS Third Schedule gives India the domestic, verifiable framework to do exactly that. The 60-day consultation is open; the compliance year is 2026–27. The time to act is now.

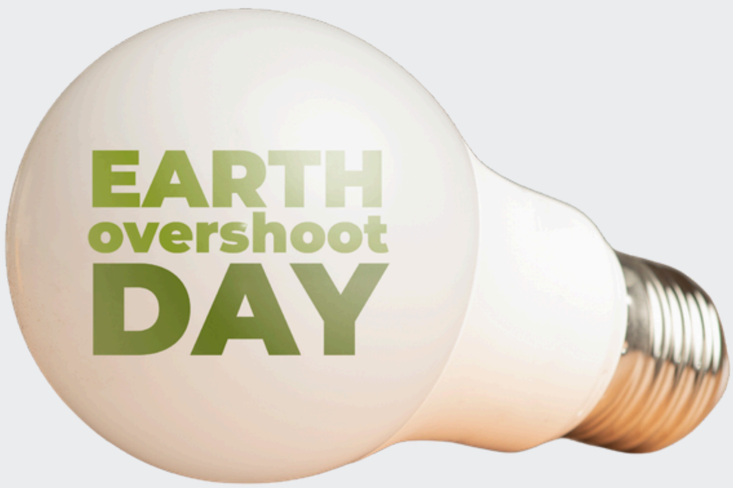
DID YOU KNOW?

Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity has used all the biological resources that Earth can regenerate in a given year.

In 2026, that date falls on 30 July — meaning that from that day until 31 December, we are living on "credit," at the expense of future generations.

We've been in the red since the early 1970s, when humanity first began consuming more than the planet could renew. Since then, our cumulative ecological debt has only grown — fuelling biodiversity loss, deforestation, land degradation, and rising greenhouse gas concentrations.

But there's good news: we can all help #MoveTheDate. Simple actions in energy use, food choices, urban living, and ecosystem protection can reduce our global resource demand.



THE MOMENTUM OF CHANGE

The Ripple Effect: Your Actions Matter

To ***#MoveTheDate*** and shrink your carbon footprint, focus on these impactful, small everyday actions. **Small switches add up to big savings—for your wallet and the planet.**

Unplug and power down. Electronics on standby still draw power—this "vampire energy" accounts for up to 10% of your electricity bill. Unplug chargers, laptops, and devices when not in use. Use a power strip to switch off multiple devices at once with a single click.

Wash cold, hang dry. Switching to cold-water washes (30°C) uses up to 40% less electricity and is gentler on your clothes, making them last longer. Skip the tumble dryer—air-dry your laundry instead. It saves energy, reduces wear and tear, and keeps your clothes looking new for years.

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