

GENERAL UPDATES ON ENVIRONMENT SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE



ESMA sets out its long-term vision on the functioning of the Sustainable Finance Framework



- ESMA has published an Opinion suggesting long-term improvements to the EU Sustainable Finance Framework, including making the EU Taxonomy the central reference for sustainability assessments and expanding it to cover all relevant activities, as well as developing a social taxonomy.
- Key recommendations for the European Commission include defining transition investments, mandating basic sustainability disclosures for all financial products, introducing a product categorization system for sustainability and transition, regulating ESG data products, and conducting consumer and industry testing before policy implementation.

Green Impact Exchange Files With S.E.C. to Become the First Green Securities Exchange in the U.S.



- The Green Impact Exchange (GIX) has filed for SEC approval to become the first U.S. stock market dedicated to the global green economy, aiming to list companies committed to sustainability and offering transparency on their progress, with the option for dual-listing.
- GIX will enforce accountability through listing standards that require companies to have governance structures supporting their sustainability promises, and will feature advanced trading technology, competitive liquidity programs, and a "Return to Green" program to fund sustainability efforts.

Sustainability initiatives in Union Budget 2024-25



- The Union budget 2024-25 focuses on sustainable development with financial support for small industries to adopt cleaner energy, enhanced MSME financing, a climate finance taxonomy, a policy on energy transition, R&D partnerships for nuclear energy, and incentives for environmentally friendly agriculture and natural farming.
- Additional measures include increased customs duty on non-biodegradable PVC banners, employment-linked incentives, socio-economic initiatives for tribal areas, a Critical Mineral Mission, development of Digital Public Infrastructure, and regulations for transitioning industries to a carbon market model.