

# VANTAGE 2026

Navigating the ESG Reset

**June 2026**

# The ESG Reset Continues. What Should You Do Now?

The first edition of Vantage, published in June 2025, was launched in the midst of a global ESG reset. Since then, trade tensions, geopolitical conflicts, and supply chain disruptions have continued to reshape business priorities and operating environments.

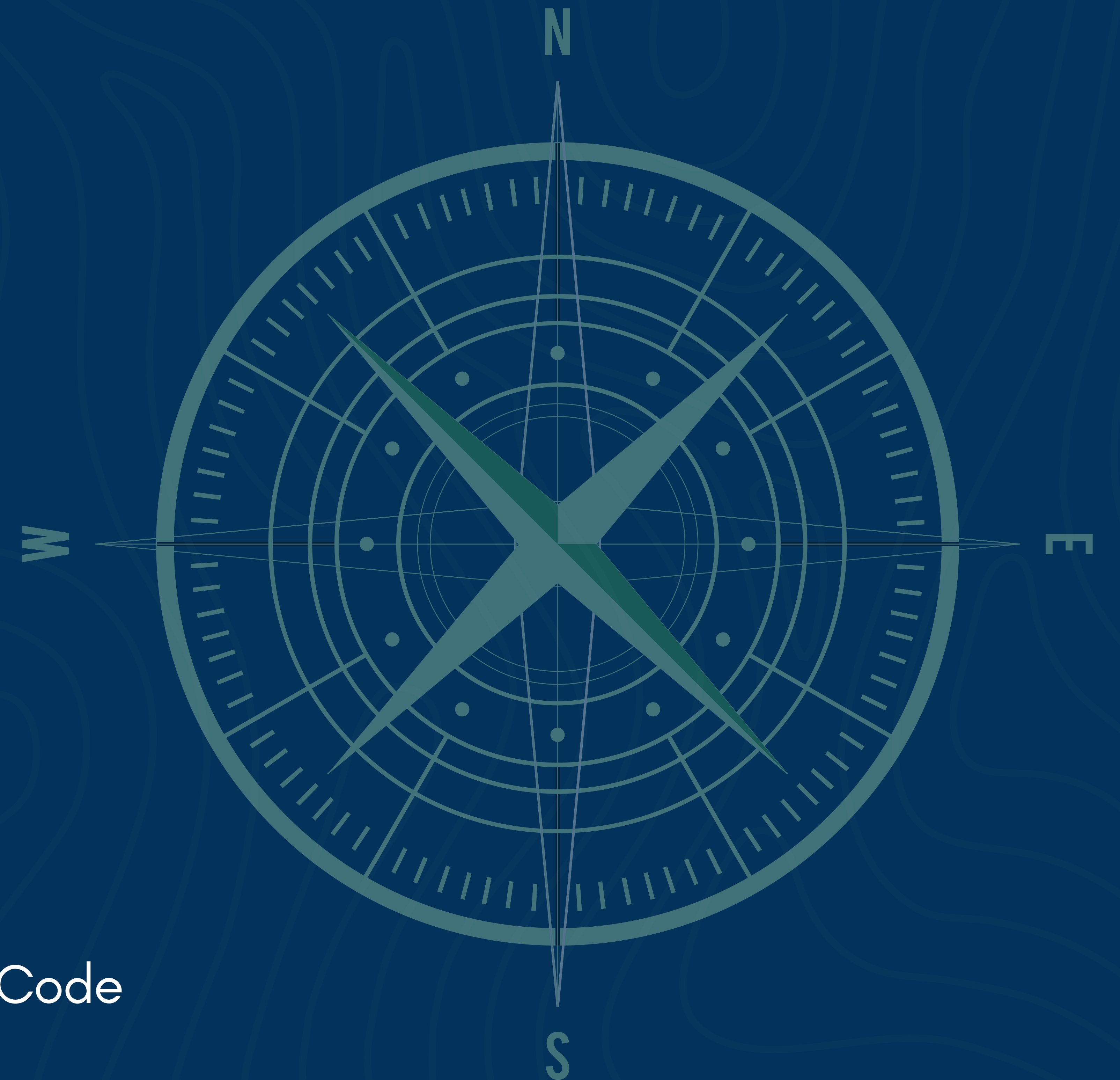
Against this backdrop, sustainability in India has continued to show traction, creating a structural tension for businesses. Consequently, ESG is increasingly being viewed through a value lens. Organizations are now seeking to meet ESG expectations while building competitiveness and resilience.

Vantage 2026 makes the case for a pragmatic approach to navigate the reset, with a rethink of your ESG strategy and execution.



# Navigating the Ocean of ESG Acronyms

BHR	—	Business and Human Rights
BRSR	—	Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting
BTA	—	Bilateral Trade Agreement
C&D	—	Construction and Demolition
CCTS	—	Carbon Credit Trading Scheme
CCUS	—	Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage
CPI	—	Consumer Price Index
DEI	—	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
EPR	—	Extended Producer Responsibility
GHG	—	Greenhouse Gas
NDC	—	Nationally Determined Contribution
OSH	—	Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code
SEC	—	Securities and Exchange Commission
SR	—	Sustainability Report



# The Global ESG Retreat: Rollbacks and Shifting Priorities

*The reset that started in 2025 has intensified since then.*

## US SEC

proposes rescinding climate-disclosure requirements for public companies.<sup>1</sup>

## EU Omnibus

proposals significantly dilute the scope of mandatory sustainability reporting.<sup>2</sup>

## UK's Green Taxonomy

plan dropped, removing a key green investment framework.<sup>3</sup>

## US Sustainability Report

filings by Russell 3000 companies dropped 48% in H1 2025 vs. 2024.<sup>4</sup>

## Net-Zero Banking Alliance

ceased operations following widespread member withdrawals.<sup>5</sup>

# India's ESG Agenda, However, Has Shown Traction

*Policy and regulatory momentum across select sustainability goals.*



## Disclosures and Ratings

Mandatory assurance of BRSR Core metrics. ESG ratings now influencing investor decisions.



## New Labour Codes

29 laws unified under 4 codes – Wages, Industrial Relations, Social Security, & OSH Code.<sup>6</sup>



## Carbon Markets

GHG emission intensity targets extended under the CCTS, covering ~500 entities across 7 sectors.<sup>7</sup>



## Waste Management

EPR in plastics, electronics, batteries in place. C&D waste entering EPR scope.<sup>8</sup>



## Decarbonization

~\$4.5 bn USD Union Budget 2026 push for rooftop solar and CCUS.<sup>9,10</sup>



## Government's Directional Signal

Staying the course on climate agenda with the updated NDCs.

# ...But Headwinds Have Started to Bite

*Recent macroeconomic shocks are impacting growth and hurting margins.*



## US Tariff Escalation — Export Uncertainty

Tariff on Indian exports changed 4 times in 12 months.<sup>11</sup>

10% baseline rate expires ~ July 2026 — BTA still unresolved.<sup>12</sup>

## Iran War — Energy & Supply Chain Shock

~70% of India's LNG imports and ~40% of crude oil imports face disruptions.<sup>13, 14</sup>

Chemical shortages ripple through downstream domestic manufacturing.<sup>14</sup>

## Rupee Depreciation and Inflation Risk

INR weakened by ~6% against USD in last 4 months.<sup>15</sup>

RBI projects CPI inflation to rise, with upside risks.<sup>16</sup>

# ESG in India Is Shifting Toward Value Creation

*With compliance as base, ESG is likely to address a broader set of business objectives.*



# An Approach to Navigate This Reset

*Indian companies need to rethink their ESG roadmap & execution.*



# Define Your ESG Goals in the New Context

*Evaluate your ESG maturity stage and decide on relevant objectives.*



**Context**

**Regulatory bar has risen**

**Data veracity gaining importance**

**ESG to drive value**

**Goals**

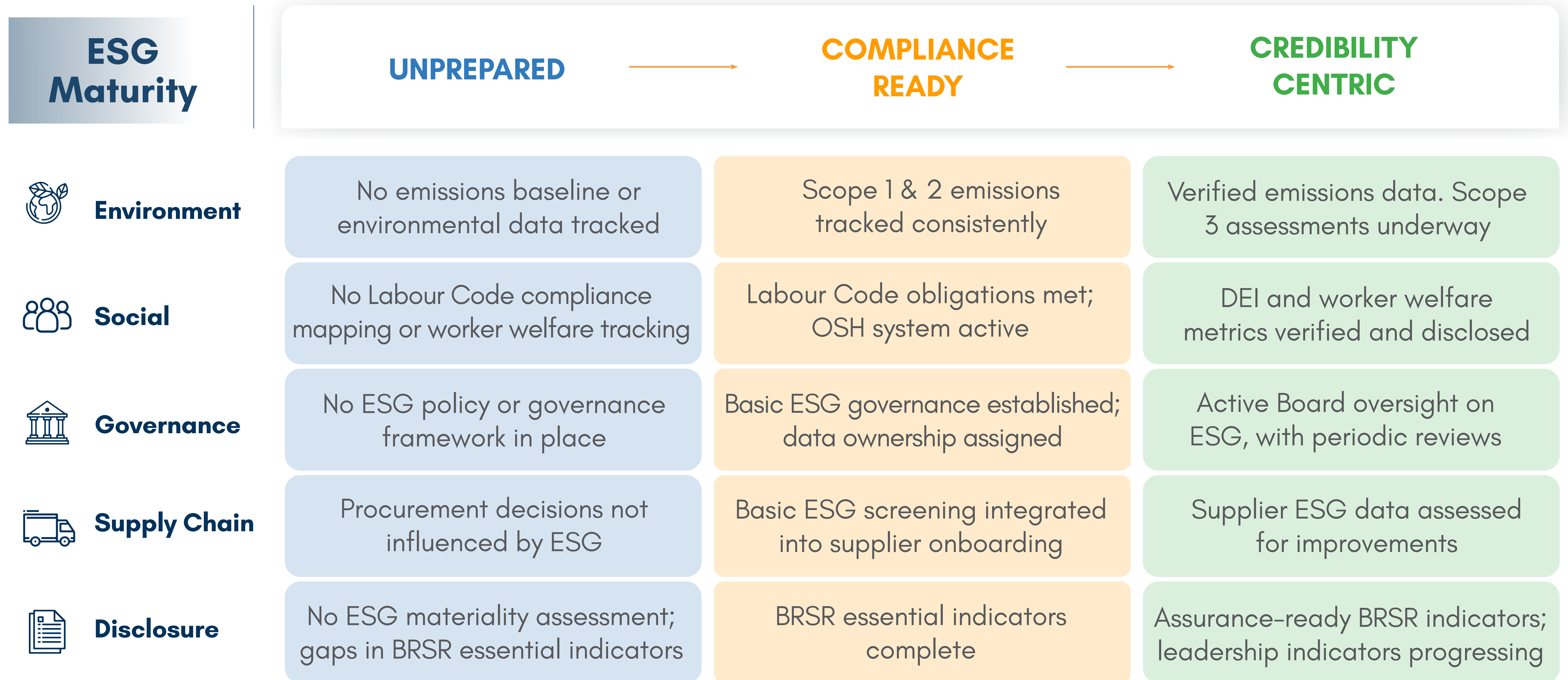
- Measure and disclose emissions
- Adhere to pollution control norms
- Meet new Labour Code compliances

- Build an ESG data culture
- ESG governance system & process
- Publish an externally assured SR

- Increase renewable energy
- Embed ESG in Board KPIs
- Integrate value chain ESG data

# Assess Readiness for Delivery

*Diagnose where you stand on your ESG baseline, gaps, and capabilities.*



# Build a Pragmatic ESG Action Plan



*From goals and assessment to tangible tasks and timelines.*

FOCUS AREAS	KEY ACTIONS	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Environment</b>	Build Scope 1 & 2 emissions baseline by facility and product				
	Third-party GHG verification process. Identify relevant Scope 3 categories				
<b>Social</b>	Map Labour Code compliance gaps; activate health and safety systems				
	Verify and disclose social metrics; track DEI and worker welfare outcomes				
<b>Governance</b>	Establish ESG governance framework; assign data ownership across functions				
	Activate board ESG oversight; implement periodic governance review cycle				
<b>Supply Chain</b>	Integrate ESG into supplier onboarding questionnaires				
	Engage with critical suppliers to collect ESG metrics				
<b>Disclosure</b>	Complete BRSR essential indicators; Select relevant leadership indicators				
	Achieve assurance-ready BRSR Core; progress on leadership indicators				

L0 → L1
 L1 → L2
 Planned

# Why This Is Not the Time to Pause...

*India Inc's ESG obligations are not pausing. Three realities to plan for now.*



01

## India's regulatory floor will keep rising

---

- ☑ Active ESG regulatory obligations on multiple fronts.
- ☑ Companies that slow down now may face compounding catch-up costs.



02

## Credibility now determines market access

---

- ☑ Stakeholders prefer third-party assured ESG data.
- ☑ Verified data leads to differentiation and better ratings.



03

## Future-proofing depends on staying the course

---

- ☑ Tariffs, war, and rupee pressure have reduced business headroom.
- ☑ Companies continuing to invest in ESG for value creation will progress.

# ...And Focus on What Really Matters

*Deliberate choices for navigating the ESG reset.*



## REEVALUATE AND RATIONALIZE



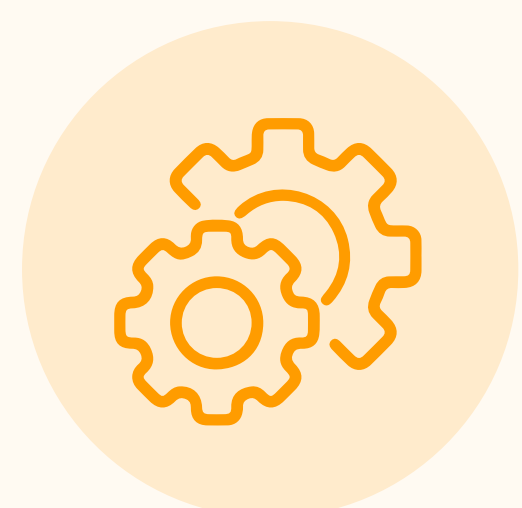
### Expanding ESG commitments

Making new pledges and targets before you have the capability or data to back them up.



### Reporting beyond material requirements

Publishing frameworks and disclosures that go beyond what key stakeholders need.



### Large-scale ESG transformation programs

Multi-year overhauls without a clear link to business value, compliance, or near-term risk.



## STREAMLINE AND STRENGTHEN



### Compliance Readiness

Know exactly what ESG regulations require of you in the next 12 months – and close those gaps first.



### Data Credibility

Auditable, verified ESG data is an asset. Prioritize quality over coverage.

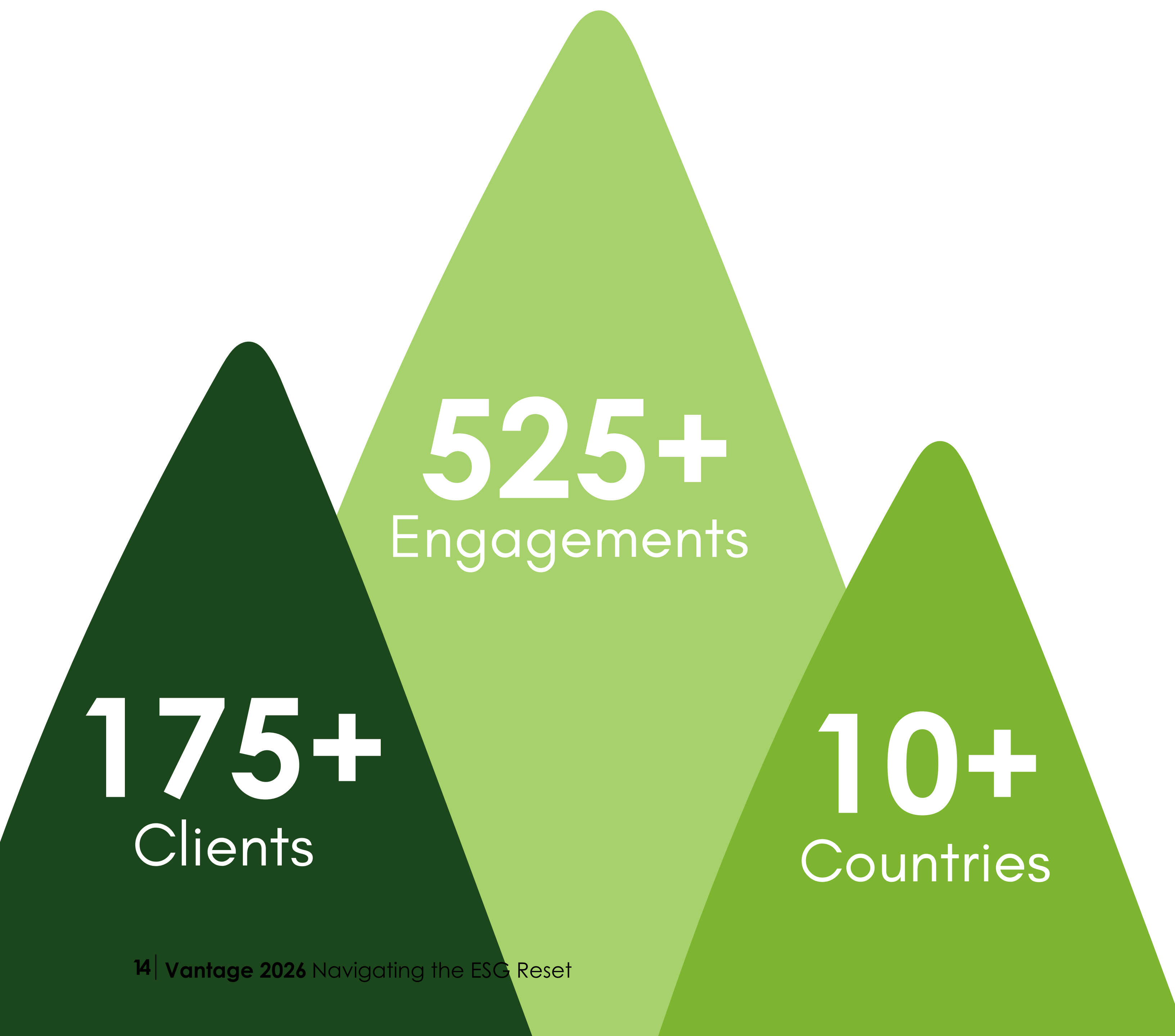


### Business Value

Embed ESG into operational decisions where it can build competitiveness and resilience.

# We Help Businesses Progress on Sustainability

*Challenges and opportunities in sustainability are unique, emerging and complex. Our tiered capability model brings together service lines, sector and thematic expertise, and proprietary tools for effective delivery.*



## Our Capability Model

Services	Sustainability Integration	Climate Action	Responsible Investment
Sectors	Infra & Real Estate	BFSI	Manufacturing
	Healthcare	Technology	Energy
Themes	Disclosures	Decarbonization	Supply Chain
	Circular Economy	Water	BHR & DEI
Tools	CapitalLens/EnvSaGe (ESG Data)	Biodiversity	Impact
		EmCal (GHG Assessment)	ADD (Automated DD)
			MapSense (Ecosystem Scan)

# Better Is Possible, and Worth Building

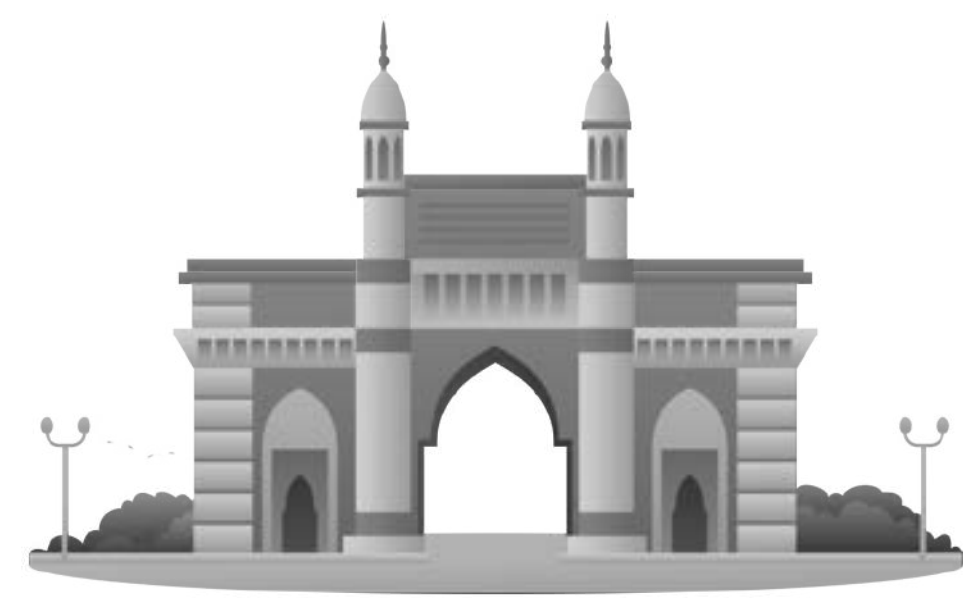
Our purpose is to shape a more liveable planet for the coming generations

Our mission is to drive sustainability into mainstream thought and action, with the belief that

**"Green makes sense beyond conscience"**



# Let's Stay Connected



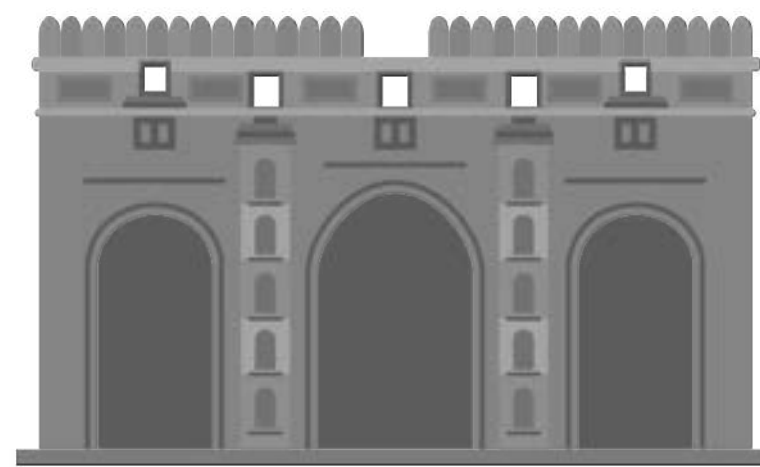
Mumbai



Delhi NCR



Bengaluru



Pune



Kolkata



Hyderabad

*The continuing ESG Reset raises difficult questions for Indian businesses operating in this environment.*

*Which ESG issues deserve attention? Where do we stand with respect to peers? How do we track progress?*

*These questions, and more, are shaping management discussions and business decisions today.*

*If you'd like to explore them further, let's connect.*

 [www.envintglobal.com](http://www.envintglobal.com)

 [connect@envintglobal.com](mailto:connect@envintglobal.com)

 [envintglobal](https://www.linkedin.com/company/envintglobal)



# References

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) – Fact Sheet: Rescission of Climate-Related Disclosure Rules

<sup>2</sup>European Parliament. First Omnibus Package on Sustainability (Proposal amending CSRD and CSDDD).

<sup>3</sup>Furness, V. (2025, July 15). Britain scraps 'taxonomy' plan for green investments. Reuters.

<sup>4</sup>Why Fewer Companies are publishing sustainability reports in 2025. (n.d.). The Conference Board.

<sup>5</sup>Jessop, S., & Furness, V. (2025, October 3). Net-Zero Banking Alliance to stop operations after member vote. Reuters.

<sup>6</sup>Government Makes the Four Labour Codes effective to Simplify and Streamline Labour Laws. (n.d.).

<sup>7</sup>Soren, N., Mishra, J., Government of India, & Ministry of Power. (2026). Production of Energy Through Various Sources. In Lok Sabha.

<sup>8</sup>Parliament Question: Circular Economy Framework and extended producer responsibility. (n.d.).

<sup>9</sup>Cnbc-Tv. (2026, February 1). Union Budget 2026: FM Nirmala Sitharaman allocates 22,000 crore to PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. CNBCTV18.

<sup>10</sup>Government of India, & Sitharaman, N. (2026). Summary of Union Budget 2026-27 [Press release]. Press Information Bureau.

<sup>11</sup>Press Trust of India. (2026, May 8). Chronology of US tariffs and penalties on Indian goods since April 2025. Business Standard.

<sup>12</sup>Jha, S., & Jha, S. (2026, May 21). “Drop-Dead date is end of July” for India-US trade deal, warns USISPF Trade advisor Mark Linscott. Republic World.

<sup>13</sup>Elara Securities (India) Private Limited, Dixit, G., Associates, Deshpande, A., & Bhandari, K. (2026). Diet Report LNG: Steering through the Hormuz bottleneck.

<sup>14</sup>Reuters. (2026, March 3). India eyes alternative energy supplies amid Strait of Hormuz disruption. Business Standard.

<sup>15</sup>Reserve Bank of India – Reference Rate Archive. (n.d.).

<sup>16</sup>Research, E., & Etcfo. (2026, April 8). RBI projects FY27 inflation at 4.6%, flags El Nino and conflict risks. ETCFO.





**Disclaimer:** This document is intended for informational purposes only. The content herein reflects Envint’s current understanding, perspectives, and analyses based on data available as of the date of publication. Certain data presented in this document may be derived from third-party sources or estimates and are provided “as is” without warranty of any kind, express or implied.

While reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information, Envint does not make any representation or warranty regarding the reliability, accuracy, or completeness of such information.

Envint disclaims any liability for any direct, indirect, incidental, or consequential loss or damage arising from the use of, or reliance on, this document or its contents.