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# EXPLORING INDIA'S NEW EV POLICY: A STEP TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

**SONAL VERMA**, Partner - ESG Advisory  
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## INTRODUCTION:

India's Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy stands as a beacon of hope in the global quest for sustainability amid climate change challenges. This bold initiative aims to reshape India's transportation sector towards a cleaner, greener future. With ambitious targets for EV adoption, supported by incentives to boost demand, domestic manufacturing, and charging infrastructure, India is charting a course toward sustainability. The success of this policy relies on collective action, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to building a prosperous and environmentally sustainable future. India, a key player in the automotive sector, is poised for a monumental shift towards sustainable transportation. This visionary initiative not only aims to strengthen India's global manufacturing standing but also drives EV adoption to combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions.

The world's third-largest automobile market, India's automotive sector is integral to its economy, contributing significantly to GDP. With a market projected to exceed USD

300 billion by 2030, the industry's role is paramount. Recognizing the imperative for decarbonized transportation, India's EV Policy signals a paradigm shift towards a greener automotive landscape.<sup>1</sup>

### • **Government Policies and Incentives for Electric Vehicles in India**

The Government of India is continuously showing its support to develop India as a global leader in the EV sector. Several schemes and incentives have been launched by the government to boost the demand for electric vehicles as well as motivate manufacturers to invest in the R&D of electric vehicles and related infrastructure. The government of India has launched so far – FAME, PLI SCHEME, and Battery Swapping Policy, Special Electric Mobility Zone, Tax Reduction on EVs.<sup>2</sup>

#### **1. Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid & Electric Vehicles in India: FAME-India**

The FAME India initiative, launched in April 2015, aimed to reduce petrol and diesel vehicle usage and promote electric mobility in India. It incentivizes various types of vehicles, focusing on technology demand, pilot projects, technology development, and charging infrastructure. In April 2019, FAME II was introduced with a budget of Rs 10,000 Cr, targeting the incentivization of electric

three-wheelers, buses, passenger vehicles, and two-wheelers. Additionally, funds were allocated for setting up charging stations, with a proposal for slow and fast charging units for electric buses. Originally set to end in 2022, the scheme has been extended until March 31, 2024, to further drive EV adoption in India.

## **2. Production Linked Incentive Scheme: PLI**

In June 2021, the Department of Heavy Industry introduced the Production Linked Incentive for Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage (PLI-ACC Scheme) to attract both domestic and international investors to invest in Giga-scale ACC manufacturing facilities in India. With an overall payout of INR 18,100 crore, the scheme aims to incentivize manufacturers of advanced chemistry cells, contributing to the Prime Minister's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat." The scheme targets a local manufacturing capacity of 50 GWh, with 30 GWh already subscribed, to be paid out over five years post-operationalization. However, stringent selection criteria, including operationalizing facilities within two years and achieving 60% domestic value addition within five years, pose challenges for smaller businesses in the EV battery and car parts manufacturing sector to benefit from the scheme. Modifying or proposing alternatives to current standards could make the scheme more accessible and beneficial for smaller firms, ultimately aiding in addressing the demand-supply gap in the industry.

## **3. Battery Swapping Policy**

The finance minister stated that the government intends to introduce a Battery Swapping Policy. This scheme will regulate the standards of batteries to be used in EVs across India.<sup>3</sup> The legislation will help in promoting EVs in time-sensitive service sectors like deliveries and inter-city transportation as swapping a drained battery

for a fully charged one is a more practical option than on-the-spot recharging, which can take hours.

This makes interoperability easy. If all the batteries are of the same configuration for all the same categories of EV, buyers need not worry while swapping their batteries and be concerned about the configuration of new batteries being put in. If performed well, battery switching is expected to achieve acceptance in commercial applications such as 2W and 3W vehicles and will aid faster penetration in these segments. The Battery Swapping Policy will also benefit the manufacturers. Once the standards come into play, spare parts of machinery will also be more easily available.<sup>4</sup> This approach will assist battery producers in lowering costs.

## **4. Duty Reduction on Electric Vehicles**

The budget includes a proposal to lower customs duties on Nickel ore and concentrates from 5% to 0%, Nickel Oxide from 10% to 0%, and Ferro Nickel from 15% to 2.5 percent. Nickel Manganese Cobalt (NMC) is a vital part of lithium-ion batteries, which are utilized in electric vehicles (EVs).

India has limited reserves of these ores and battery manufacturing is highly dependent on them. Hence, nickel alloys are mostly imported. The customs tax decrease will help local EV battery producers lower production costs.<sup>5</sup> There is also a proposal for a reduction in customs duty on motor parts from 10% to 7.5 percent which will help to lower the overall cost of EVs.

## **5. Special E-mobility Zone**

The government plans to establish dedicated mobility zones for electric vehicles. Only electric Vehicles or comparable vehicles will be permitted to operate in the zones identified by the administration. Such policies are prevalent in many European

countries and China. The Hidden Benefit of special Electric mobility zones is that they will help curb overcrowding due to private vehicles.<sup>6</sup> People moving through these zones need to travel in EVs of their own or take a public EV vehicle, thus increasing the market share of EVs.

## POLICY OBJECTIVES AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

### Policy Objectives:

India's Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars aims to capitalize on the nation's burgeoning automotive sector by fostering transition from traditional Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles to Electric Vehicles (EVs). The policy is crafted with several key objectives:

- **Global Leadership in EV Manufacturing:** By incentivizing investments from global EV manufacturers, the scheme seeks to position India as a prominent manufacturing hub for electric passenger cars. This aligns with the broader vision of establishing India as a global leader in clean energy technology.
- **Economic Growth and Employment Generation:** With the automotive sector contributing significantly to India's GDP and employment, the policy endeavors to stimulate economic growth by attracting investments worth Rs. 4.150 crore (USD 500 million) for setting up EV manufacturing facilities. This investment is expected to create numerous job opportunities across the value chain.
- **Promotion of "Make in India" Initiative:** By encouraging domestic manufacturing of electric passenger cars, the policy reinforces the government's flagship "Make in India" initiative. It emphasizes the importance

of indigenous production to reduce dependency on imports and bolster self-reliance in the automotive sector.

- **Acceleration of EV Adoption:** Through the provision of incentives such as reduced customs duty on imported Completely Built Units (CBUs) of electric passenger cars, the policy aims to expedite the adoption of EV's. By making electric vehicles more accessible and affordable, it seeks to drive consumer demand and expand the market share of EVs in India.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** One of the overarching goals of the scheme is to contribute to environmental sustainability by reducing carbon emissions and curbing air pollution. By transitioning to electric mobility, India can mitigate the environmental impact of transportation, thereby promoting cleaner air and a healthier environment for its citizens.

### Significance for Sustainable Transportation:

India's Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars holds immense significance for advancing sustainable transportation in the following ways:

- **Reduction of Carbon Emissions:** By facilitating the widespread adoption of electric passenger cars, the policy contributes to decarbonizing the transportation sector. EVs produce zero tailpipe emissions, thereby helping to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and reduce India's carbon footprint.
- **Improvement of Air Quality:** Electric vehicles produce fewer pollutants compared to their ICE counterparts, leading to improved air quality and public health outcomes. By encouraging the use of EVs, particularly in urban areas where air pollution levels are high, the policy supports efforts to create cleaner and healthier environments for citizens.

• **Energy Security and Independence:** With India's heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels for transportation, the transition to electric mobility enhances energy security and reduces dependency on volatile oil markets. By promoting the use of domestically manufactured electric passenger cars, the policy strengthens India's energy independence and resilience to global supply disruptions.

• **Technological Innovation and Leadership:** The scheme incentivizes investments in advanced technology and research and development in the EV sector. By fostering innovation and indigenous manufacturing capabilities, India can emerge as a front-runner in electric vehicle technology, driving technological advancements and promoting sustainable transportation solutions globally.

• **Inclusive Growth and Accessibility:** The policy's focus on domestic manufacturing and affordability of electric passenger cars ensures that the benefits of sustainable transportation are accessible to a broader segment of society. By democratizing access to EVs, the scheme promotes inclusive growth and equitable development, empowering individuals, and communities with cleaner and more sustainable mobility options.

### **Key Scheme Highlights:**

- Approved applicants are required to set up manufacturing facilities in India with a minimum investment of Rs. 4,150 crores for manufacturing electric passenger cars (e-4W).
- The manufacturing facilities must become operational within three years from the date of issuance of the approval letter by MHI and achieve a minimum Domestic Value Addition (DVA) of 25% within the same period.<sup>7</sup>
- As per the scheme, the approved applicant

will be required to achieve minimum DVA of 50% within a period of 5 years from the date of issuance of approval letter by MHI.

- The scheme allows for the import of Completely Built Units (CBUs) of e-4W at a reduced customs duty of 15% for a period of five years, subject to certain conditions.

- The scheme allows for the initial import of the EV passenger cars (e-4w) with a minimum CIF value of USD 35,000, at a duty rate of 15% for a period of 5 years from the date of issuance of approval letter by the Ministry of Heavy Industries. The maximum number of e-4W allowed to be imported at the reduced duty rate shall be capped at 8,000 nos. per year. The carryover of unused annual import limits would be permitted.

- The maximum number of EVs to be imported under this Scheme shall be such that the total duty foregone will be limited to the lower of the following:

- i. The maximum duty foregone per applicant (limited to Rs. 6,484 crore), or

- ii. committed investment of the applicant (in Rs. crore)

- Under the scheme the lower customs duty of 15% would be applicable for a total period of 5 years (from the date of issuance of approval letter by MHI) subject to setting up of a manufacturing facility in India within 3 years (involving a minimum investment of Rs.4,150 crore (~USD 500 million)).

- As per the scheme, the applicant will be required to achieve a domestic value addition (DVA) of a minimum of 25% by the end of the third year and a minimum of 50% by the end of the fifth year (from the date of issuance of approval letter by MHI) for the e4W manufactured in its facility(ies).

- According to the scheme, the applicant's commitment to set up a manufacturing

facility and achievement of DVA shall be backed by a bank guarantee from a scheduled commercial bank in India equivalent to the total duty to be forgone, or Rs 4150 crore, whichever is higher, during the scheme period.

- According to the scheme, cases in which the Bank Guarantee will be invoked if the following criteria are not fulfilled:

i. Investment of minimum Rs. 4,150 crores by the applicant within a period of 3 years.

ii. EV passenger cars manufactured by the applicant at its manufacturing facility(ies) will be required to achieve a DVA of minimum 25% within a period of 3 years.

iii. Investment made by the applicant within a period of 5 years should be at least equivalent to duty foregone, or USD 500 million, whichever is more.

iv. EV passenger cars manufactured by the applicant at its manufacturing facility(ies) will be required to achieve a DVA of minimum 50% within a period of 5 years.

v. The bank guarantee will be returned once achieving 50% DVA and investing at least Rs 4,150 crore, or the amount of duty foregone in 5 years, whichever is higher.

### **Key Provisions:**

India's Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy presents a significant opportunity to reshape the transportation sector towards sustainability while fostering economic growth. To qualify for benefits under the scheme, companies must meet specific criteria, including substantial global revenue and investment thresholds. The scheme aims to boost domestic manufacturing, promote EV adoption, and develop charging infrastructure.

### **- Domestic Value Addition Targets:**

Mandating minimum Domestic Value Addition (DVA) aims to promote local manufacturing and reduce import dependency.

**- Customs Duty Reduction:** Lowering customs duty incentivizes local production and market entry while maintaining flexibility.

**- Bank Guarantee Requirement:** Requiring bank guarantees ensures accountability and timely investment to meet DVA targets.

### **Potential Impact:**

**- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction:** EV adoption will mitigate emissions, address climate change, and improve public health.

**- Transformation of Energy Landscape:** EVs will drive demand for renewable energy sources, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and optimizing energy distribution.

**- Economic Growth:** The policy will stimulate economic growth, attract investments, and create job opportunities across various sectors.

## CONCLUSION:

India's acceleration towards electric mobility signifies a transformative shift with multifaceted benefits. The scheme not only targets emission reduction and cleaner air but also aims at bolstering energy security and inclusive economic growth. Through incentivizing investments in electric passenger car manufacturing and driving technological innovation, India's EV policy sets a pioneering example for sustainable development, reaffirming its commitment to long-term sustainability goals.

This bold initiative is poised to position India as a global leader in electric mobility, fostering innovation, prosperity, and

environmental stewardship. By promoting indigenous manufacturing and attracting global EV manufacturers, the scheme drives economic growth and job creation while reinforcing India's manufacturing capabilities in the electric vehicle sector. At its core, the scheme emphasizes indigenous manufacturing, technological innovation, and value addition, fostering a robust ecosystem for electric mobility. With stringent performance criteria and investment thresholds, it incentivizes companies

to invest in cutting-edge technology and infrastructure, paving the way for a competitive and sustainable automotive industry. Aligned with broader policies like the FAME India scheme and production-linked incentives, this initiative underscores India's commitment to decarbonizing the transportation sector and mitigating vehicular emissions' environmental impact. Together, these measures chart a strategic course towards a cleaner, greener automotive future.

<sup>1</sup><https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2024/mar/doc2024315324901.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Government Policies and Incentives for EVs in India - E-Vehicleinfo, <https://e-vehicleinfo.com/government-policies-and-incentives-for-electric-vehicles-in-india/>.

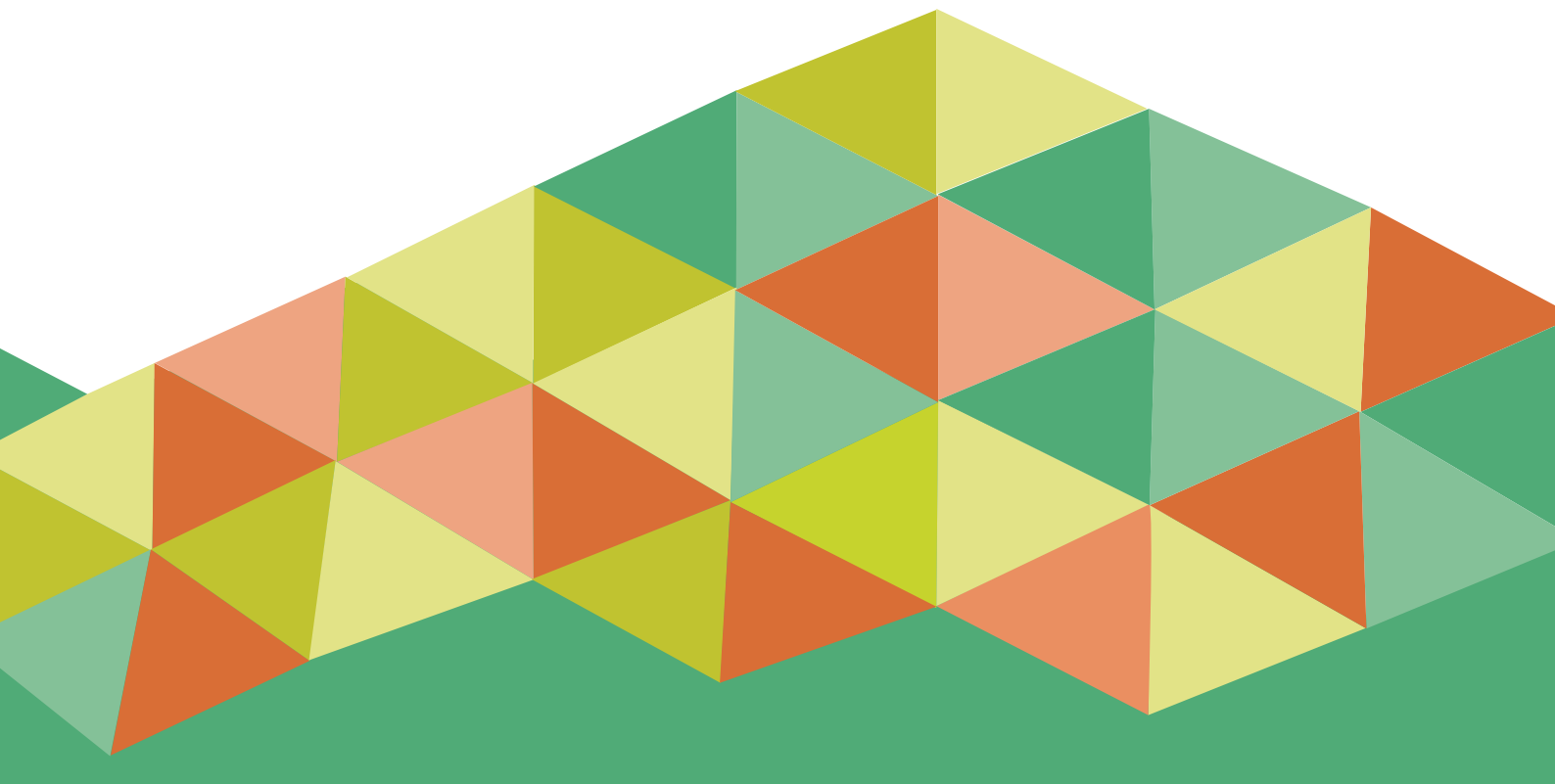
<sup>3</sup>Government Policies and Incentives for EVs in India - E-Vehicleinfo, <https://e-vehicleinfo.com/government-policies-and-incentives-for-electric-vehicles-in-india/>.

<sup>4</sup><https://e-vehicleinfo.com/government-policies-and-incentives-for-electric-vehicles-in-india/>

<sup>5</sup>Government Policies and Incentives for EVs in India - E-Vehicleinfo, <https://e-vehicleinfo.com/government-policies-and-incentives-for-electric-vehicles-in-india/>.

<sup>6</sup>Government Policies and Incentives for EVs in India - E-Vehicleinfo, <https://e-vehicleinfo.com/government-policies-and-incentives-for-electric-vehicles-in-india/>.

<sup>7</sup>New Electric Vehicle Policy 2024 - दृष्टि आईएस, <https://www.drishtias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/new-electric-vehicle-policy-2024>.



# FIRM IN THE NEWS



NEW DELHI | FRIDAY | MARCH 29, 2024

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## Navigating the legal and ethical implications of AI

In a world increasingly shaped by Artificial Intelligence, the discourse shifts from its capabilities to the imperative question of its ethical boundaries

In an era increasingly defined by Artificial Intelligence (AI), the pivotal question shifts from what AI is capable of to what it should be allowed to do. This reflection critically examines AI's potential to reshape our lives within ethical and legal frameworks. As we explore the vast landscapes carved by AI, we must ensure that our technological advancements are matched with an equally profound commitment to ethical responsibility. The advent of AI is a testament to human ingenuity, offering transformative possibilities in virtually every aspect of our existence. Yet, alongside its potential, AI introduces a spectrum of legal complexities that require careful consideration. The evolution of legal



MANEESHA DHIR

jurisprudence in the face of AI's rapid development is a topic of paramount importance, dealing with issues ranging from privacy and data protection to intellectual property and employment. The Indian Government's embrace of AI through initiatives like "Digital India" and a National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence reflects a visionary stance on harnessing technology for societal benefit.

However, the journey toward realising AI's full promise is fraught with challenges that demand vigilant oversight and a principled approach to regulation and ethics. On a global scale, AI raises questions that transcend national boundaries, presenting legal and ethical dilemmas that must be addressed comprehensively. The capacity of AI to analyse and utilise vast amounts of personal data has challenged existing privacy laws, sparking a worldwide reassessment of how we protect individual rights in the digital age. Countries are adopting comprehensive data protection regulations, such as the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation and India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023, to



safeguard personal information while fostering digital innovation. The implications of AI on the job market also warrant serious consideration. The potential for automation to displace jobs creates a pressing need for legal frameworks that can mitigate adverse effects and prepare the workforce for an AI-driven future. Similarly, the intersection of AI with intellectual property rights challenges

conventional notions of creativity and authorship, calling for legal innovations that recognise and protect the contributions of all stakeholders, including those of AI. The issues of bias and discrimination in AI highlight the critical need for our technological systems to be as impartial and inclusive as possible. The development and deployment of AI must be guided by anti-discrimination laws adapted to

the digital age, ensuring fairness and equity in the application of AI. Internationally, the regulatory approach to AI varies significantly, with entities like the European Union adopting comprehensive frameworks while others pursue more sector-specific guidelines. This diversity reflects the complex interplay of legal, cultural, and societal factors that influence AI governance, emphasising the need for a globally coordinated dialogue on AI ethics and regulation. Integrating AI into the legal profession offers a glimpse into the future, showcasing AI's potential to enhance legal analysis, predict outcomes, and even assist in judicial decision-making. However, these advancements under-

score the imperative for stringent ethical standards to uphold the integrity of the legal system. As AI continues to evolve rapidly, it becomes crucial for societies, especially within the diverse context of India, to engage in proactive discourse. We must anticipate future developments and craft legal frameworks that are flexible enough to adapt to the unpredictable technological landscape. This includes ensuring that the benefits of AI extend to all and democratising access to services like healthcare and education. In conclusion, as we chart the course of AI within the legal domain, our focus must steadfastly remain on enacting and refining laws that protect human rights and dignity. Achieving harmony between emerging technology and legal norms requires a culture of continuous learning and adaptation, where laws are designed not just to respond to the challenges posed by AI but to foresee and embrace its vast possibilities. With India at the forefront of AI innovation, buoyed by progressive policies and a wealth of intellectual capital, we stand on the brink of leading the global conversation on ethical AI. As we venture deeper into this new frontier, our collective aim should be a future where technology amplifies the noblest goals of law and justice, and in return, legal frameworks foster the responsible growth of Artificial Intelligence. *(The author is a legal expert. Views expressed are personal)*

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### Navigating the Legal Labyrinth: Unpacking the Supreme Court's Verdict in Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority Vs Prabhjit Singh Soni

BRAND CONNECT | MARCH 20, 2024 | 12:38 PM IST

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Maneesha Dhir, Managing Partner, Dhir & Dhir Associates

In a groundbreaking decision that is set to reshape the contours of India's insolvency proceedings, the Supreme Court recently pronounced a landmark judgment on 12th February 2024 in the case of Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority Vs Prabhjit Singh Soni & Anr. This judgment is expected to have far-reaching implications for insolvency proceedings in India, particularly in terms of how claims are handled during the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP).

**Background of the Case**

The case revolved around the treatment of the claim submitted by the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) in the insolvency proceedings of M/s. JNC Construction (P) Ltd (the Corporate Debtor). GNIDA, which had allocated a plot to the Corporate Debtor for a residential project through a 90-year lease, found itself at odds with the resolution process when its substantial claim was significantly reduced in the resolution plan. This treatment of GNIDA's claim underscored the procedural ambiguities and the necessity for a judicious interpretation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, and its accompanying regulations.

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INDIA NETWORK

### Quarterly E-Newsletter (January- March 2024)

Ms. Maneesha Dhir appointed as Asia Networks Director of IWIRC International

Ms. Maneesha Dhir, Managing Partner at Dhir & Dhir Associates has been appointed as Asia Networks Director of IWIRC International for 2024. With this appointment, she is now a member of the Management Committee of the Board of Directors of IWIRC and shall generally be responsible to support and mentor the existing Asia networks. Ms. Dhir's role as the Co-Chair of IWIRC India Network since 2017 has been pivotal in establishing IWIRC's presence in India, contributing significantly to its growth and influence. We congratulate her on this achievement and wish her the best in this new role.



Dilemma Surrounding The Resolution Of Go Air by Varsha Banerjee <https://www.outlookindia.com/hub4business/dilemma-surrounding-the-resolution-of-go-air>

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Decoding BRSR Disclosures For FY 23-24 Onwards by Sonal Verma, Partner and Anshita Agarwal, Associate <https://www.mondaq.com/india/human-rights/1461460/decoding-brsr-disclosures-for-fy-23-24-onwards>

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Ms. Maneesha Dhir receives the Managing Partner of the Year (Female) by The Economic Times <https://legal.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/winners-of-the-1st-edition-of-et-legal-awards-2023/105726384>

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Our Founder & Managing Partner Alok Dhir shared his views with MINT HT Media Ltd. in a story titled New hope for bankrupt Go Air as Ajay Singh, Sky One submit bids for the airline. Have an interesting read through: <https://lnkd.in/gV3BF6ar>

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Dhir & Dhir's Partner Varsha Banerjee's views on Dilemma Surrounding The Resolution Of Go Air is published in Outlook India <https://www.outlookindia.com/business-spotlight/supreme-court-upholds-nclat-order-wrt-counting-of-votes-of-real-estate-allottees>

Supreme Court Upholds NCLAT Order wrt counting of Votes of Real Estate Allottees <https://www.republicworld.com/initiatives/supreme-court-upholds-nclat-order-wrt-counting-of-votes-of-real-estate-allottees/>

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Navigating the Legal Labyrinth: Unpacking the Supreme Court's Verdict in Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority Vs Prabhjit Singh Soni <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/brand-connect/navigating-the-legal-labyrinth-unpacking-the-supreme-courts-verdict-in-greater-noida-industrial-development-authority-vs-prabhjit-singh-soni-12489401.html>

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Navigating the legal and ethical implications of AI <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2024/columnists/navigating-the-legal-and-ethical-implications-of-ai.html#:~:text=The%20issues%20of%20bias%20and,in%20the%20application%20of%20AI>

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"AI For Good: India And Beyond" - A Book Navigating The Legal Landscape Of AI by Maneesha Dhir and Sonal Verma <https://www.outlookindia.com/hub4business/ai-for-good-india-and-beyond-a-book-navigating-the-legal-landscape-of-ai>

<https://www.livelaw.in/book-reviews/ai-intellectual-property-rights-rmlnlu-eu-ai-act-258379>



# AWARDS & ACCOLADES

4th May, 2024 - Maneesha Dhir, Managing Partner, has been honoured with the Lawyer of the Year Award for Insolvency & Restructuring at the **13th Annual Legal Era Awards 2023-2024!**



12th May, 2024 - Dhir & Dhir Associates won ESG Law Firm of the Year at the **5th Annual BW Legal Leader Awards**



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**BEST ESG LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR**

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Amy Chatterjee, Justice Dipak Misra, Former Chief Justice of India, Jury Co-Chair; Dr. Lalit Bhasin, Managing Partner, Bhasin & Co. InterGlobe Enterprises; Geeta Luthra, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India; K Satish Kumar, Group Chief Legal Officer, Intellic Design Arena; Mayer Vasani, Legal Director, Southern Rail; Komal Pooji Sahgal Mahant, General Counsel, Adia Service Centers & Company Secretaries; Sun Life; Pranav Mehta, Director, Legal, Freshfields; Roop Loomba, Legal Head- India, Alconobol; Shagorfa Rashid Khan, Group General Counsel & Head Corporate Affairs, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund; Sharayu Jadhav, General Counsel, Acko; Noor Fatima Warsa, Group Editorial Director, BW BusinessWorld; Ashima Ohi, Managing Editor, BW Legal World

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**MAY 12, 2024**

Ms. Maneesha Dhir, has been honored with the prestigious The Economic Times Legal Award for Managing Partner of the Year 2023 (Female). This esteemed accolade was bestowed at the Economic Times 'Global Legal Conventional' in Mumbai. <https://legal.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/winners-of-the-1st-edition-of-et-legal-awards-2023/105726384>



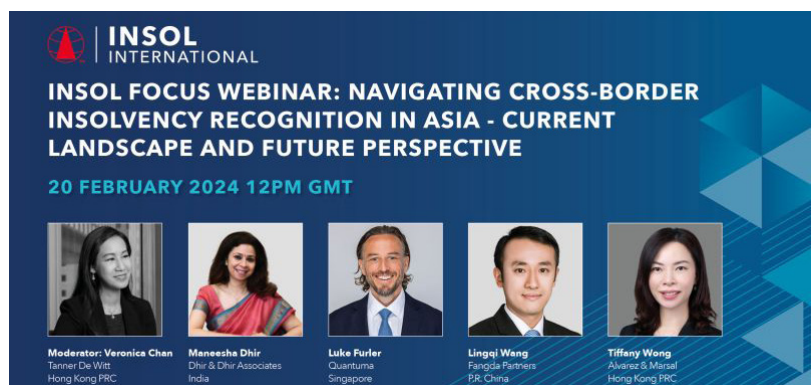
# THE PODIUM

23rd March, 2024 - Sonal Verma, BA, LL.M (UK), Partner & Global Leader (Markets & Strategy) Dhir & Dhir Associates graced the prestigious G20 Conclave, jointly organized by the American Bar Association, Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession and Jindal Global Law School (JGLS) & Jindal Global Centre for G20 Studies on the theme "Role of Lawyers and the Legal Profession in the Economic Development of G20 Countries".



20th Feb, 2024 - Managing Partner, Maneesha Dhir spoke at a Webinar titled INSOL Focus Webinar: Navigating cross-border insolvency recognition in Asia - Current Landscape and Future perspective organized by INSOL International

The webinar was Moderated by Veronica Chan, Tanner De Witt, Hong Kong PRC and other esteemed panellists including Meiyen Tan, Ascendant Legal/Norton Rose Fulbright, Singapore, Lingqi Wang, Fangda Partners, PRC and Tiffany Wong, Alvarez & Marsal, Hong Kong PRC.



19th March, 2024 - Guest lecture by Ms. Maneesha Dhir, on Artificial Intelligence at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University campus, Lucknow



19th Feb, 2024 - Sonal Verma, Partner - ESG Advisory shared his views with other eminent speakers over an enriching and insightful round table discussion hosted at the prestigious Hotel Taj Mahal, New Delhi, marking a significant milestone in the dialogue around Corporate and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) practices. This event was a collaborative effort between OP Jindal University and Pace University, USA, bringing together the brightest minds from academia, law, and business sectors.



17th Feb, 2024 - At Dhir & Dhir Associates Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) remains a major commitment. Sonal Verma, Partner - ESG Advisory addressed The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, Navi Mumbai Chapter of WIRC audience recently.



9th Feb, 2024 - Ms. Naveli Reshamwalla, Associate Partner at Dhir & Dhir Associates, graced the stage as a panellist at the prestigious MANTHAN 9.0. This annual event was organized by the Internship and Placement Committee (IPC) of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow.



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Corporate and M&A



**The LEGAL 500**  
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INDIA CITY FOCUS  
2024 (TIER 2)  
Banking and Finance  
NCR Region

**Dhir & Dhir**  
Advocates & Solicitors  
30 YEARS

**GURANPREET SINGH SARNA**  
Partner

**The LEGAL 500**  
ASIA PACIFIC  
NEXT GENERATION PARTNER  
2024  
Real Estate and Construction

**Dhir & Dhir**  
Advocates & Solicitors  
30 YEARS



**SHIKHA SINGH**  
Principal Associate

**The LEGAL 500**  
ASIA PACIFIC  
RISING STAR  
2024  
Banking and Finance

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# PODCASTS - ESG DECIBELS



**ESG Decibels  
Season 3 Ep 3**

## **EU Leading the ESG Policy Landscape**

Welcome back to another engaging episode of the ESG Decibel Podcast Series! In this installment, we are thrilled to host Mr. Richard Howitt, a distinguished Strategic Advisor on Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability, as well as Business and Human Rights. With a wealth of experience as a former Member of the European Parliament for an impressive 22 years, Mr. Howitt brings unparalleled insights into the realm of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) issues. Currently serving as a member of various advisory councils and boards, including Amfori and EIRIS Foundation, Mr. Howitt continues to be a prominent voice in driving responsible business practices and advocating for sustainability across diverse sectors. Join us as we delve into his extensive expertise and glean valuable insights into the ever-evolving landscape of ESG and corporate sustainability.



**RICHARD HOWITT**  
Strategic Advisor on Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability, Business and Human Rights  
(Former Member of European Parliament and Former CEO of International Integrated Reporting Council)



**SONAL VERMA**  
Partner  
ESG Advisory



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**ESG Decibels  
Season 3 Ep 2**

## **Amplifying ESG: Navigating the Global Landscape for Sustainable Impact**

Welcome back yet again to another episode of the ESG Decibel series! This time, get ready for something big and different as we welcome a true leader in the field, Ms. Mardi McBrien. With an impressive portfolio, Mardi currently serves as the Chief of Strategic Affairs & Capacity Building at the IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards) Foundation. As a member of the xBRL International Board of Directors and the Sustainability Committee at the ICAEW (Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales), Mardi brings a wealth of expertise to the table. She is also a trusted executive and Board Member at the Trusted Executive Fellowship (TEFB3) and contributes to the RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce). Join us as Mardi shares insights and perspectives on ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) and sustainability, navigating the complexities and driving positive change in the global landscape.



**MARDI MCBRIAN**  
Chief of Strategic Affairs & Capacity Building  
International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation



**SONAL VERMA**  
Partner  
ESG Advisory



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