



DATE: 1 OCTOBER 2026

1 European Free Trade Association (EFTA) (Source: The Hindu)

- **What is it?:** It is an intergovernmental organization established in 1960 by the Stockholm Convention.
- **Secretariat:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Objective**
 - Promotes free trade and economic integration between its members within Europe and globally.
- **Members**
 - **Original Members:** Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.
 - **Later Members:** Iceland (1970), Finland (1986), Liechtenstein (1991).
 - **Current Members:** Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland

2 Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) Norms (Source: The Hindu)

- *Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency or CAFE norms were first introduced in 2017 under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, with aim to curb fossil fuel dependence and air pollution from road transport.*
- *Issued by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).*
- The regulations set limits on corporate average fuel consumption, measured in litres per 100 kilometres, based on the average weight of vehicles sold by an automaker during a financial year.
- The rules aim to reduce carbon intensity by pushing companies to improve the efficiency of their overall fleet.
- **Phases**
 - **CAFÉ 1:** implemented in 2017–18, capped average fuel consumption at 5.5 litres/100 km and emissions at <130 gm CO₂/km.
 - **CAFÉ 2:** in force since 2022–23, tightened this to 4.78 litres/100 km and <113 gm CO₂/km.
 - **CAFE 3 (or CAFE 2027):** Proposes to reduce permissible fuel consumption to a range of 3.72–3.01 litres/100 km, with emissions expected to fall below 91.7 gm CO₂/km.

3 Green Energy Corridor (Source: The Hindu)

Green Energy Corridor

Building a Stronger Grid for a Cleaner and Greener India

What is it?

 Green Energy Corridor (GEC) is a scheme to develop a dedicated transmission network for evacuation and integration of renewable energy (RE) into the national grid.

Key Components

-  **Transmission lines**
High voltage lines for power evacuation from RE-rich areas.
-  **Substations**
Establishment and augmentation of substations with modern systems.
-  **Energy storage systems**
Provision of battery energy storage systems (BESS) and reactive power compensation.
-  **Smart grid features**
Advanced monitoring, control and communication systems.

Implementing Agency

-  **Ministry of Power** – overall policy and coordination.
- Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID)** – main implementation agency.
- State Transmission Utilities** – implementation of intra-state projects.

Objective

-  Facilitate large-scale integration of renewable energy.
- Strengthen and augment intra-state transmission systems.
- Ensure reliable, secure and efficient power evacuation.
- Support India's clean energy transition and net zero goals.

Significance

-  Enables higher share of renewable energy.
- Reduces dependence on fossil fuels.
- Strengthens grid reliability and stability.
- Supports India's climate commitments (NDCs and net zero by 2070).
- Promotes green jobs and sustainable development.

Phases and Coverage

Phase-I

- Approved in 2015–16.
- Focus on intra-state transmission network in RE-rich states.
- Covers 8 states** with an evacuation capacity of about **24 GW** of renewable energy.
- Implemented with World Bank assistance.

Phase-II

- Approved in 2021.
- Focus on intra-state transmission network in RE-rich states.
- Covers 7 states** with an evacuation capacity of about **20 GW** of renewable energy.
- States covered:** Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- Implemented with support from KfW (German Development Bank).

Phase-III (Latest Update)

-  Strengthens intra-state transmission systems to evacuate up to **135 GW** of renewable energy across Indian states/UTs.
-  Includes **50 GWh** battery energy storage systems (BESS).
-  **Total project outlay: ₹1,86,405 crore**
-  Targeted completion: **FY 2032–33.**

 Approved on **30 September 2026**

- ₹1,36,378 crore** for intra-state transmission
- ₹50,000 crore** for BESS

Progress (as of 2026)

-  Government reported that **7 states** have completed projects under **Phase-I**.
- Works under **Phase-II** and **Phase-III** are ongoing as per approved timelines.

Way Forward

- Further expansion to accommodate higher renewable energy targets.
- Integration with energy storage and green hydrogen.
- Strengthening cross-border connectivity.
- Adoption of advanced grid technologies and digital solutions.
- Continued policy and financial support.