South Asia Forum For Infrastructure Regulation

Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs
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INFRA REGULATORY BULLETIN

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Inside this Issue

Message from CMD, Grid India

ग्रिड-इंडिया
GRID-INDIA

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अध्यक्ष एवं प्रबंध निदेशक

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Warm greetings to the readers!

It gives me immense pleasure to connect with you through the July-September 2024 issue of the SAFIR quarterly e-Newsletter *'Infra Regulatory Bulletin'*. The Newsletter is an information bridge, delivering infrastructure regulatory developments across the globe while also highlighting the milestones achieved by SAFIR Members.

Effective infrastructure regulation is the essence of progress and development in the emerging economies of the South Asian Region. SAFIR combines this core objective with an emphasis on regional cooperation to drive impactful regulatory reforms across various infrastructure sectors, including power. The interlinkages of the Indian grid with neighbour nations of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal underscore the importance of SAFIR as an orchestrator of regulatory cohesion and harmonization in the Region.

India, with the highest installed capacity (446 gigawatt) and the most extensive transmission network (more than 4.81 lakh circuit kilometers of transmission lines and 12.25 lakh megavolt-amperes transformation capacity) amongst SAFIR Nations, is pivotal for the stability, reliability and growth of the Region's Power Sector. **Grid Controller of India Limited (Grid-India)** is the institutional backbone of this network, ensuring its secure, smooth and integrated operation.

Grid-India has been at the forefront of Power Sector reform in India, playing a key role in the introduction of the **Real Time Market (RTM)** in 2020. The reformative step has led to a spurt in real-time electricity transactions on the power exchanges. Other Grid-India initiatives include implementation of Secondary & Tertiary Reserve Ancillary Services, Security Constrained Unit Commitment for cost optimization & enhancing grid security and reliability.

Global Power Sector trends indicate a clear priority towards **energy transition**, with the recently concluded **World Energy Congress 2024** centred around *'Redesigning Energy for People and Planet'*. Under the Presidency of Grid-India, **GO15** - the association of the very large power grid operators, is acting as a catalyst for this transition through its bilateral and multilateral dialogues and initiatives.

Extending my best wishes to all as we collectively rise to the challenge of fulfilling our regional aspirations towards socio-economic advancement.

Regards,

Narasimhan

S R Narasimhan

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From the Editor's Desk

Dear Readers,

The South Asian Region (SAR) finds itself at a pivotal juncture in its geopolitical journey, calling on leaders to navigate a fine balance between political & economic interests as nations remain steadfast on their journey towards inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development.

The past few months have been a remarkable demonstration of resilience and fortitude on the part of SAFIR Nations. While the flooding in Nepal and several regions of India owing to changing climatic patterns have continued to test human resolve, local & regional communities have displayed flexibility and resourcefulness in their response. Sri Lanka's prolonged economic woes have shown signs of softening as reflected by a positive projected growth rate of 2.6% for 2024. India's foreign policy continues to contribute to the peace and safety of the Indian Ocean Region, as reflected in the latest meeting of the **Quad Group**, wherein leaders reiterated their commitment to ***Free and Open Indo-Pacific***. Amidst shifting national, regional and international affiliations, SAFIR continues to advance towards its mission of reforming the infrastructure regulatory landscape of SAR. This Issue presents our readers with an array of latest infrastructure updates in SAR and beyond.

This quarter was instrumental in deepening India's bilateral relationships with Bhutan and Sri Lanka, with Indian companies entering into **infrastructure-augmenting partnerships** with their Bhutanese (for hydropower development) and Sri Lankan (for LNG infrastructure development) counterparts. The Electricity Regulatory Commission of Nepal released the **Draft Roadmap for 2024-29** aimed at consolidation of functions. India's Central and States Electricity Regulatory Commissions remain **focussed on energy transition, resource planning & adequacy**.

Global updates reveal the **future-oriented stance of policymakers** to facilitate informed and prudent decision-making. Events including International Telecommunication Union's **Global Symposium for Regulators 2024**, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis' **Energy Finance Conference** for promoting sustainable energy and International Civil Aviation Organization Asia Pacific (APAC) & Government of India's collaboration for **Ministerial Conference on growth of Aviation Sector in APAC** have been covered.

Prof Naveen Sirohi

Prof (Dr) Naveen Sirohi
Founding Head, Centre of Regulatory Governance
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News & Developments - SAFIR Members

BANGLADESH

Indian Power Companies facing Delayed Payments for Power Supply to Bangladesh

The Government-owned Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDP) has outstanding unpaid dues of around $1 billion. Five Indian companies operating in power generation (Adani Power Limited, SEIL Energy India Limited, NTPC Limited), transmission (Power Grid Corporation of India Limited), and trading (PTC India Limited) have expressed concerns over the situation, citing financial strain as they continue power supply.

Of the aforementioned companies, Adani Power is owed the largest share, amounting to $800 million, for supply of power from its 1.6 gigawatts (GW) coal-fired power plant in Godda, Jharkhand (India). BPDP owes $150 million, $103 million, $84.5 million, and $20 million to SEIL Energy India, NTPC, PTC India, and Power Grid, respectively. Notably, the interim government of Bangladesh led by **Shri Muhammad Yunus** *(Chief Adviser, Government of Bangladesh)* is facing the prospect of financial instability amidst the political turmoil in Bangladesh which resulted in toppling of the government led by **Smt Sheikh Hasina** *(Former Prime Minister, Bangladesh)* in August 2024.
Read More (Date: August 27, 2024)

BHUTAN

Third Edition of the India Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks held in Thimphu, Bhutan

The Discussion, revolving around **Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan (FYP),** was co-chaired by **Shri Vikram Misri** *(Foreign Secretary, India)* and **Shri Aum Pema Choden** *(Foreign Secretary, Bhutan)* on the former's official visit to Bhutan from July 19-20, 2024. Some of the key focus areas during the meeting included development projects being supported by the Government of India, and project proposals worth Rs 4,958 crores to be implemented during the 13th FYP.

The projects, covering sectors such as connectivity, infrastructure, energy, education, health, digital economy, e-mobility, space etc, were approved by both sides. Further, India promised to consider Bhutan's request for extending the entire support amounting to Rs 1,500 Crores for the latter's **Economic Stimulus Programme** in coming one and a half years. The visit further deepened the friendly ties between the countries based on trust, mutual understanding, and close people-to-people contacts.
Read More (Date: July 19-20, 2024)

Bhutan and India enter into Partnership for Development of Hydropower Project

Bhutan's hydropower generation company Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) and the Indian Tata Power Company Limited (Tata Power) have entered into a partnership for the development of 600 megawatt (MW) Khorlochhu Hydropower Project in Bhutan. For implementation of the Rs 6,900 crore project over an estimated period of five years, Tata Power will acquire 40% stake amounting to Rs 830 crore in the special purpose vehicle namely Khorlochhu Hydro Power Limited.

While announcing the partnership, **Shri Praveer Sinha** *(CEO & MD, Tata Power)* highlighted the company's commitment to contribute to the development of renewable energy alternatives. In his public statement, **Mr Dasho Chhewang Rinzin** *(MD, DGPC)* noted the significance of the partnership for strengthening Bhutan's energy security and economic development.
Read more (Date: August 7, 2024)

NEPAL

Electricity Regulatory Commission Nepal (ERCN) released Draft Roadmap for the period 2024-2029

The draft roadmap, released in July 2024, has been notified with a view to create an environment of **regulatory stability and predictability** for facilitating orderly growth of the Power Sector, and to align ERCN's activities with national objectives. Accordingly, the draft lists institutional and regulatory priorities, some of the key ones being:

- Establish the Commission as an independent & competent institution in technical, financial, structural, and functional aspects.
- Implement methodologies to ensure transparency, accountability, and consumer confidence.
- Ensure safe and reliable power system operations through technical standards and Guidelines.
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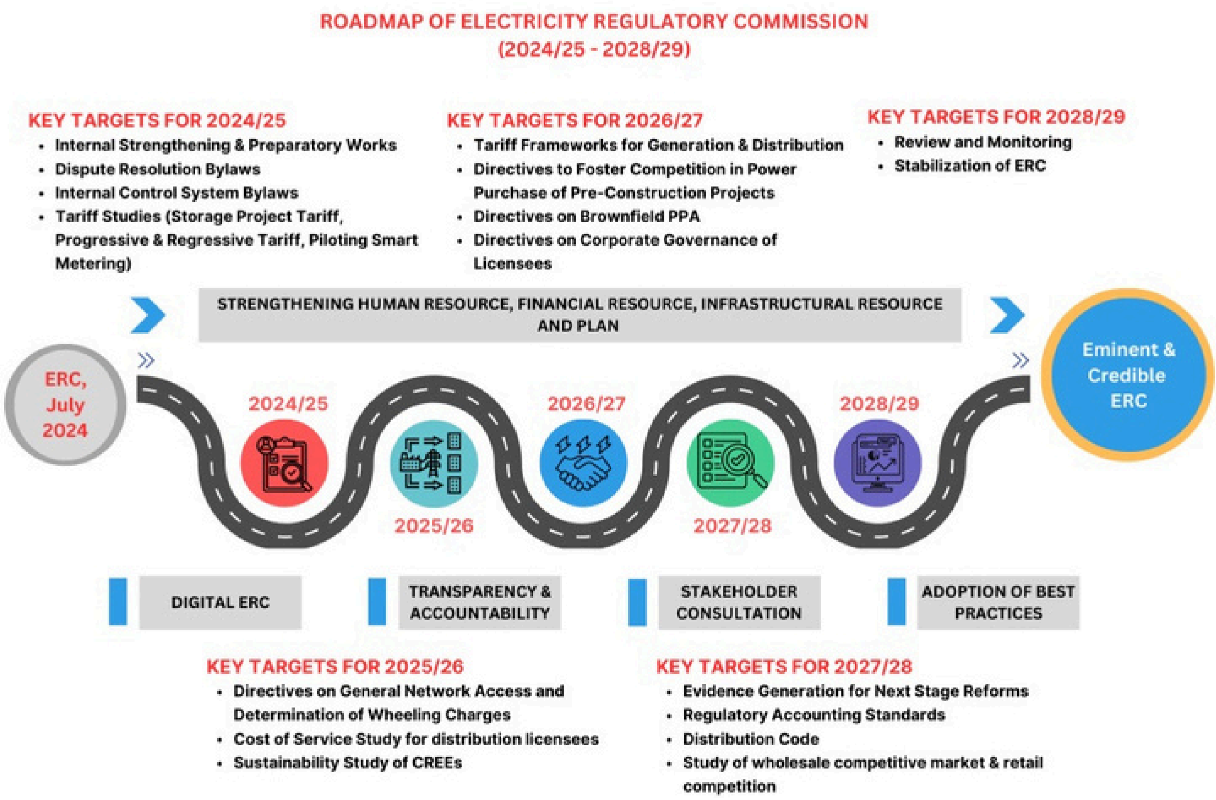
- Establish a transparent and systematic consumer tariff framework to ensure utilities' financial sustainability.

To give concrete shape to the priorities set out, the draft proposes a set of activities viz. technical management, rate determination, competition and consumer rights protection, organizational capacity development, and policy recommendations to the government. The draft will undergo amendments by ERCN annually, following evaluation of the implementation of provisions laid down in the document.
Read More (Date: July 2024)



Note: Nepal is a special invitee to SAFIR events/meetings and not an official member of the SAFIR Steering Committee

SRI LANKA

Public Utilities Commission Of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) reduced Electricity Tariff across all User Categories

The Sri Lankan electricity regulator has affected a substantial **22.5% reduction in electricity tariff** across all consumer categories in July 2024, with maximum benefits accruing to religious institutions (30% cut) and domestic consumers (27% cut). While announcing the tariff reduction, **Prof M A R M Fernando** *(Chairperson, PUCSL)* stated that the 25% rate cut for the industrial category is aimed at providing benefits to the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Sector & hotel establishments.

Besides the downward revision of tariffs, PUCSL imposed certain conditions on the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB), one of which requires CEB to enter into fuel purchase agreements with the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) for the purpose of electricity generation. Before the enactment of the Sri Lanka Electricity Act 2024, which provided for the division of CEB into several different companies, CEB was the largest electricity utility in the Nation, operating in all segments namely generation, transmission, & distribution.
Read More (Date: July 16, 2024)

Sri Lanka signed Agreement with India for Development of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) Infrastructure

Sri Lanka's engineering company LTL Holdings Limited (LTL) and India's largest LNG importer Petronet LNG Limited (Petronet) have entered into an agreement for **development of LNG infrastructure in Sri Lanka** on August 20, 2024. Under the terms of the agreement, Petronet will supply the LNG from its Kochi LNG Terminal to LTL's 230 megawatt (MW) gas turbines at Kerawalapitiya, Colombo. Additionally, LNG unloading, storage, and regasification facilities at the site will also be developed.

Shri Kanchana Wijesekara *(Minister of Power and Energy, Sri Lanka)* and **Dr Satyanjal Pandey** *(Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of India in Sri Lanka)* graced the occasion with their presence. The agreement marks a significant milestone for bilateral ties between the neighbouring countries, while contributing to Sri Lanka's efforts towards promoting reliable, cleaner and sustainable energy supplies.
Read More (Date: August 20, 2024)

INDIA

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) issued Regulations for Charges levied by Regional Load Despatch Centres (RLDCs)

CERC has notified the CERC (Fees and Charges of Regional Load Despatch Centre and other related matters) Regulations, 2024 for the control period April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2029. The Regulation governs the determination of fees & charges to be collected by RLDCs from generation & distribution companies, bulk consumers, inter-state transmission & trading licensees, Settlement Nodal Agency (SNA) and any other users.

Accordingly, the Regulation contains detailed provisions related to the functions of National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC) and RLDCs along with variables that constitute the basis of computation of annual charges including capital expenditure (capex) plans; capital cost & additional capex incurred by NLDC & RLDCs; return on equity; and interest on loan capital.
Read More (Date: August 1, 2024)

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) notified Deviation Settlement Mechanism (DSM) Regulations

CERC has issued the CERC (Deviation Settlement Mechanism and Related Matters) Regulations, 2024 aimed at regulating drawal or injection of electricity in the interest of reliability, security, and stability of the grid. The Regulation, to be effective from September 16, 2024, establishes a commercial mechanism to ensure adherence to the schedule of drawal and injection of electricity by grid users and penalize deviation therefrom.

Some of the key provisions of the DSM Regulation include computation of deviation for a given time block; normal rate of charges for deviations; charges for over & under injection for different user categories such as generating stations based on municipal solid waste, general sellers (suppliers of electricity to the grid), standalone Energy Storage System (ESS), etc; and schedule of payment of charges for deviation.
Read More (Date: August 21, 2024)

Tripura Electricity Regulatory Commission (TERC) released Regulations for Grid-interactive Solar Rooftop Photovoltaic (PV) Systems

TERC has issued the TERC (The Grid Interactive Solar Rooftop Photovoltaic Systems under Net/Gross Metering) Regulation 2024, aimed at promoting renewable generation through solar rooftop installations in the State and addressing stakeholder concerns regarding implementation of such installations. The Regulation, to be effective from July 5, 2024, governs the erection of solar rooftop PV systems by prosumers and the interconnection of such systems to the electricity grid. Accordingly, detailed provisions pertaining to eligibility for setting up the solar PV systems, limits for installed capacity, technical requirements for connection with the grid, and metering of such systems have been laid down in the regulations, among other things.
Read More (Date: July 5, 2024)

Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (AERC) released Regulations for Fuel and Power Purchase Price Adjustment

AERC has notified the AERC (Fuel and Power Purchase Price Adjustment) Regulations, 2024 to amend and replace its 2010 regulations for fuel and power purchase price adjustment (FPPPA) formula and associated amendments. The 2024 Regulation, to be effective from July 19, 2024, gives the FPPPA surcharge formula which reflects fluctuations in cost of power supplied to consumers due to changes in fuel cost, power purchase cost and transmission charges. Further, the FPPPA surcharge, determined in adherence to these Regulations, can be billed directly to the consumer without the need for prior regulatory approval.
Read More (Date: July 19, 2024)

Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC) amended its 2021 Regulations related to Charging Infrastructure for Electric Vehicles

HERC has issued a first amendment to its Principal Regulations namely HERC (Terms and Conditions for setting up Charging Infrastructure, Tariff and other Regulatory issues for Electric Vehicles) Regulations, 2021. The amendment, notified on July 19, 2024, changes the load threshold of high tension (HT) connection for EV charging stations to (up to) 200 kilowatts (kW) from the earlier 50 kW (and above). A clause related to HT metering has also been inserted.

The PR of 2021 governs the setting up of charging infrastructure and tariff for EV charging in the State for promoting adoption of EVs and hybrid vehicles. This is in line with Government of India's 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric and Hybrid Vehicle in India' (FAME) scheme of 2015, aimed at facilitating manufacturing & growth of electric and hybrid vehicle technology with a view to enhance national fuel security and provide affordable, environment-friendly transportation to the population.
Read More (Date: July 19, 2024)

Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) amended Net Metering Regulations for Renewable Energy

DERC has issued a first amendment to its Principal Regulation (PR) namely DERC (Net Metering for Renewable Energy) Regulations, 2014. The amendment, to be effective from August 2, 2024, exempt RE capacity installations of up to 10 kilowatt (kW) from grid interconnection technical feasibility studies. Additionally, the infrastructure upgradation expenses undertaken by distribution licensees (DL) to facilitate installation of RE systems up to 10 kW are allowed to be included in the Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) on a pass-through basis.

The PR of 2014 governs the distribution of electricity from RE systems and the connection of such systems to the DL's assets. Accordingly, the responsibilities of consumers and DLs are laid down in the regulations, along with provisions related to interconnectivity standards and metering arrangements, among other things.
Read More (Date: August 2, 2024)

Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (GERC) notified Multi Year Tariff (MYT) Regulations for the Period 2025-2030

GERC has issued the MYT Regulations, 2024 for determination of Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR), tariff, fees & charges of Power utilities and the State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC). The Regulations lay down the general & financial principles and procedure for tariff determination of generation, transmission, distribution licensees for a period of 5 years, from FY 2025-26 to FY 2029-30.

In the 2024 MYT Regulations, which supersede the 2016 MYT Regulations, GERC has incorporated changes in several chapters including generation, intra-state transmission, SLDC, distribution - wire business and retail supply business. This has been done keeping in view ongoing developments in the Power Sector, current and perceived challenges, the need for sustainable market development, and data requirements by GERC (based on past experiences of tariff regulation).
Read More (Date: August 6, 2024)

Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission (KSERC) amended its Regulations for Renewable Energy and Net Metering

KSERC has issued a second amendment to its Principal Regulations (PR) of 2020 pertaining to renewable energy and net metering. The amendment, to be effective from April 1, 2024, incorporates the definition of Energy Storage Systems (ESS) and sets Energy Storage Obligation (ESO) targets for the period FY 2024-25 to FY 2029-30, in addition to the renewable purchase obligation (RPO) targets specified in the PR.

The 2020 PR gives detailed provisions regarding the determination of tariff of renewable energy, RPO, net metering, banking, generation based incentives etc. RPO targets (categorized as solar and non-solar) for FY 2019-20 to FY 2021-22 have been specified in the PR.
Read More (Date: August 7, 2024)

Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission (CSERC) amended its Electricity Supply Code Regulations of 2011

CSERC has issued a fourth amendment to its 2011 principal regulations (PR) namely the CSERC Electricity Supply Code 2011. The Amendment, to be effective from April 1, 2024, has incorporated provisions for concepts & technology such as advanced metering infrastructure, prepaid/prepayment meter, prosumers etc. Additionally, the amendment has modified several provisions pertaining to supply-related infrastructure for clarity of procedure and implementation.

The 2011 Code governs distribution and supply of electricity in Chhattisgarh and specifies the set of practices to be adopted by licensees for providing efficient, cost effective and consumer friendly services. Key provisions include systems of billing; modality of payment of bills; the powers, functions and obligations of the distribution licensees; and the rights & obligations of consumers.
Read More (Date: August 8, 2024)

Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) amended the 2023 Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) Regulations

TNERC has notified a first amendment to its principal regulation (PR) namely the TNERC (Renewable Energy Purchase Obligation) Regulations, 2023 on August 12, 2024. The amendment has revised the definition of average pooled cost of power purchase (APPC) incurred by a distribution licensee (DL) with a view to set a cap on APPC which has been increasing owing to the escalating cost of conventional fuels. With the amendment, the upper limit of APPC to be payable by the DL is set at 75% of preferential tariff rates for renewable energy (RE) set by TNERC (in case the APPC exceeds preferential tariff rates).

The PR of 2023 lays down the RPO targets to be mandatorily fulfilled by obligated entities viz. DLs, consumers owning captive power plants, and open access consumers (including short term open access consumers) for the period 2023-24 to 2029-30. Additionally, targets for energy consumed through storage-based RE have also been specified.
Read More (Date: August 12, 2024)

Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (MPERC) launched e-Filing Portal

MPERC has launched the portal for e-filing of petitions on August 15, 2024. The portal, located on the official website of MPERC, is aimed at reducing compliance costs incurred by petitioners, respondents, advocates and other stakeholders, simultaneously streamlining the petition-hearing function of the Commission. The launch is accompanied by supplementary resources that aid transition to e-filing such as:

- Operational Procedure and Protocol to be followed for e-filing of the petition before MPERC
- E-Filing General Instructions
- User Registration Manual
- E-File Petition Manual

Notably, MPERC has announced that the current process of physical submission of petitions will be continued till further notice with the purpose of facilitating a smooth transition to the electronic filing system.
Read More (Date: August 15, 2024)

Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission (JSERC) issued Regulations for Appointment of Consultants

JSERC has issued the JSERC (Terms and Conditions for Appointment of Consultants) Regulations, 2024 for engagement of personnel for various functions including:

- Conducting a study of best practices, analysis and interpretation of data, developing benchmarks
- Assisting the Commission in preparation of Tariff Orders pertaining to Tariff Petitions filed
- Scrutiny and analysis of Review Petitions / Appeals filed before the Commission

The Regulations, notified on August 27, 2024, also specify the period of engagement, Categorization of consultants (corporate/institutional consultants & staff consultants) among other things.
Read More (Date: August 27, 2024)

Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the State of Goa and Union Territories (JERC) released Regulations for Consumer Grievances Redressal

JERC has notified the JERC (Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum and Ombudsman) Regulations, 2024 to strengthen the grievance redressal machinery in the States and Union Territories under its jurisdiction. The Regulations, to be effective from August 27, 2024, mandate the establishment of CGR Forums (CGRF) by distribution licensees operating in the jurisdiction, specifying, inter alia, conditions related to appointment & removal of Chairperson and Members, remuneration, and constitution of CGRF secretariat. Additionally, the process for submission and redressal of grievances and the conditions pertaining to appointment and powers of the Ombudsman have also been detailed in the Regulations.
Read More (Date: August 27, 2024)

Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) amended its 2004 Regulations for Distribution Licensees' Standards of Performance

APERC issued a fifth amendment to its APERC (Licensees' Standards of Performance) Regulation, 2004. The amendment, which comes into effect on August 28, 2024, is aimed at aligning APERC's regulations for granting new connections to consumers with the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Amendment Rules, 2024 issued by the Government of India (GoI) on February 22, 2024.

Through the amendment, the timelines for releasing new connections have been modified with the purpose to improve the ease of living. Additionally, compensation payable in case of violation of standards pertaining to release of new connection/additional load and network expansion/enhancement required for release of supply have also been modified.
Read More (Date: August 28, 2024)

Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (HPERC) amended its 2011 Regulations for Charges levied by the State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC)

9HPERC has issued a third amendment to the 2011 Principal Regulations (PR) namely the HPERC (Levy and Collection of Fees and Charges by State Load Despatch Centre) Regulations, 2011. The amendment, notified on August 30, 2024, decreases the return on equity allowed to the SLDC from 15.5% (pre-tax) to 14.5%. Whereas, the one-time registration fees levied on entities whose scheduling, metering and energy accounting is coordinated by the SLDC has been increased to Rs 3 lakhs from the previous Rs 1 lakh. The Depreciation Schedule in the PR has also been substituted with a new one in the amendment.

The PR governs the levy & collection of fees / charges by the (SLDC) from generating companies and licensees engaged in intra-state transmission of electricity. Additionally, norms for determination of aggregate revenue requirement of the SLDC are also specified in the PR.
Read More (Date: August 30, 2024)

Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commission (UERC) issued Multi Year Tariff (MYT) Regulations for the Period 2025-2028

UERC has notified the UERC (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Multi Year Tariff) Regulations, 2024. The MYT Regulation, to remain in force from April 1, 2025 till March 31, 2028, covers general and financial principles of tariff determination for power supply by generating companies, intra-state transmission, State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC) charges, and retail supply of electricity in the State. The Regulation contains detailed provisions pertaining to accounts & finances, business plan, tariff income, costs & returns, operational & technical parameters etc. of the tariff petitioner, which form the basis of tariff determination.
Read More (Date: September 17, 2024)

Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) issued Resource Adequacy Framework (RAF) Regulations

KERC has notified the KERC (Framework for Resource Adequacy) Regulations, 2024 aimed at ensuring sufficient generation capacity essential for continued socio-economic growth of the State. The Regulations, to be effective from September 24, 2024, specify a mechanism for electricity demand assessment and forecasting; generation resource planning; power procurement planning; and monitoring & compliance with the RAF laid down in the regulations. The RAF regulations are applicable to all the stakeholders operating within the State viz. generating companies, distribution & transmission licensees, State Load Despatch Centre, State Transmission Utility, and other grid connected entities.
Read More (Date: September 24, 2024)


Power Grid Corporation of India (POWERGRID) participated in the CIGRE Paris Exhibition 2024

The India pavilion at the CIGRE Exhibition - aimed at sharing knowledge & expertise on contemporary issues, technology trends in the power system, included display by POWERGRID. **Shri Pankaj Agarwal** *(Secretary, Ministry of Power - Government of India)* inaugurated the pavilion in the presence of **Mr Michel Augonnet** *(President, CIGRE)*. **Shri R K Tyagi** *(Chairman and Managing Director, POWERGRID)* was also present for the event. During the exhibition, POWERGRID CIGRE and upcoming GRIDCON-2025 brochures were released, in addition to the presentation of 40 technical research papers and case studies by POWERGRID officials.
Read More (Date: September 6, 2024)

Grid Controller of India (Grid-India) released the Operating Procedure for National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC)

Grid India has developed the NLDC Operating Procedure 2024 in compliance with the Indian Electricity Grid Code (IEGC) Regulations, 2023 issued by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission. The document, aimed at ensuring secure, reliable, efficient, and economic operation of India's national/regional power system, details the roles and responsibilities of agencies connected with the grid. Accordingly, comprehensive provisions pertaining to demand assessment, operational planning for generation resource adequacy, transmission outage coordination, network security, grid disturbance & revival procedures, etc. have been laid down in the document.
Read More (Date: August 2024)

NHPC granted 'Navratna Status' by the Government of India (GoI)

NHPC was accorded with the Navratna Status - a categorization of Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) that allows them greater financial and operational autonomy on account of good performance, on August 30, 2024. **Shri R K Chaudhary** *(Chairman and Managing Director, NHPC)* addressed NHPC officials on the momentous occasion, recalling some of NHPC's major achievements over its five decade journey, among them India's first concrete face rockfill dam, and the world's longest inclined pressure shaft. Emphasizing NHPC's contribution to India's energy transition story, Mr Chaudhary outlined the PSU's future plans which involve completion of hydropower projects (HEPs) with a cumulative capacity of 2800 megawatt (MW) and initiatives in the areas of pumped storage, solar energy and green hydrogen.
Read More (Date: September 6, 2024)

Government of India (GoI) granted Approval to NTPC Joint Venture (JV) for Nuclear Power Generation

The JV namely Anushakti Vidhyut Nigam Limited (ASHVINI), is a partnership between NTPC Limited (49%) and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited - NPCIL (51%) for undertaking nuclear power projects in India. This marks another important step towards achieving India's Net Zero target by 2070. In order to facilitate the development of nuclear power projects by ASHVINI and facilitate access to financial and technological resources, GoI has taken several key steps. Some of these are exemptions to NPCIL and NTPC to invest more than Rs 500 crore & Rs 5000 crore, respectively, in a single JV/subsidiary company; and transfer of 2800 megawatts electric (MWe) capacity Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project to ASHVINI.
Read More (Date: September 11, 2024)

News & Developments - International

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) organized the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR 24) in Uganda

The Symposium, held from July 1-4, 2024 in Kampala, Uganda, explored various themes covering the development and regulation of the digital world including digital infrastructure development, technologies of the future (Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Advanced 5G, 6G technology etc), space economy, and safe & inclusive digital financial services. Additionally, the ***GSR-24 Best Practice Guidelines*** aimed at maximizing the benefits of transformative information and communication technologies were endorsed by regulators.

The event featured addresses by high level dignitaries such as **Her Excellency Major (rtd) Jessica Alupo** *(Vice President, Republic of Uganda)* and **Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin** *(Secretary-General, ITU).* Policy and regulatory dialogues focussing on accelerating sustainable digital transformation through common approaches to collaborative digital policy, regulation and governance across economic sectors and across borders were an important part of the program. Chief among these were the Digital Regulation Network meeting of Regional Regulatory Associations (on development of harmonized broadband mapping systems) and an interactive conversation amongst ministers, regulators & digital stakeholders on maximizing digital opportunities for impact.
Read More (Date: July 1-4, 2024)

The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA)'s Energy Finance Conference organized in Malaysia

The Conference, held on September 2-4 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was centred around the theme ***"Accelerating the Energy Transition in Asia".*** Discussions and workshops spanning various sub themes such as Asia's decarbonization path, private capital for energy transition, credit and forex risks associated with clean energy investments in South Asia, the role of green hydrogen, solar, wind & storage technologies in aiding energy transition, and fostering a carbon market in Asia were an integral part of the event.

The program witnessed participation from over 415 delegates, bringing together energy and financial experts, policy makers, and other stakeholders for deliberations on effective solutions to accelerate the transition in Asian energy markets. **Ms Paige Nguyen** *(Director for Asia, IEEFA)* delivered the welcome address, highlighting the ability of Asian economies to substitute fossil fuels with domestically produced, stable, and clean energy.
Read More (Date: September 2-4, 2024)

International Transport Forum (ITF) released Policy Analysis Report on Urban Logistics

The publication namely ***'The Final Frontier of Urban Logistics: Tackling the Last Metres'***, is a type of case-specific policy analysis released by ITF - an intergovernmental body of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), on September 10. The document assesses the issues and challenges surrounding last mile deliveries in urban areas in the backdrop of rapidly increasing e-commerce deliveries, presenting a set of policy recommendations to facilitate last mile logistics in a sustainable and socially acceptable manner.

The findings of the study suggest that transferring last-metre parcel delivery operations to recipients can be an effective solution in crowded urban areas. At the governmental level, establishing effective policy frameworks for management of freight operations while allowing innovation, anticipating risks of potential logistics interventions, and recognizing legal complexities and responsibilities of urban automated deliveries have been highlighted as action areas for consideration.
Read More (Date: September 10, 2024)

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) – APAC and Government of India organized Ministerial Conference in India

The second edition of the Asia & Pacific (APAC) Ministerial Conference was held on September 11-12, 2024 in New Delhi, India aimed at furthering the growth of the Aviation Sector in the Asia Pacific Region. The program brought together multiple stakeholders including policymakers, regulators and global aviation organisations to deliberate on safe, secure and sustainable civil aviation policies for the APAC Region. One of the key agendas of the event was ministerial discussions on the ***'Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi)'.***

The curtain raiser event, held on July 15, 2024, featured addresses by **Mr Salvatore Sciacchitano** *(President, ICAO Council)* and **Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu** *(Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India),* emphasizing the growing size of the global aviation market and proactive policies to make aviation more accessible and affordable in India, respectively.
Read More (Date: September 11-12, 2024)

International Maritime Organization (IMO) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) hosted a Symposium on Extreme Maritime Weather

The second WMO-IMO Symposium was hosted from September 23-26, 2024 at the IMO headquarters in London, United Kingdom. The symposium was centred on dialogue towards ensuring maritime safety amidst the challenge of climate change and extreme weather. The link between improved weather forecasting and maritime safety was highlighted during discussions, emphasizing the need for a stronger collaboration between the two United Nations agencies.

Mr Arsenio Dominguez *(Secretary-General, IMO)* and **Ms Ko Barrett** *(Deputy Secretary-General, WMO)* addressed the meeting, pointing to the positive role of maritime safety in serving IMO's environment regulation goals and the risks posed by climate change & extreme intensity weather phenomenon (like cyclones), respectively. The event also featured panel discussions on focus areas identified in the 1st symposium (2019) including knowledge opportunities for seafarers and forecasters, observations & data collection, and dissemination of early warnings and forecasts.
Read More (September 23-26, 2024)

Article: Green Energy Open Access Rules – an Initiative to accelerate India's Renewable Energy Programs

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The Ministry of Power, Govt. of India had notified the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022 on 6 th June, 2022 for promoting green energy through open access.

The first amendment of the Rules i.e. Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Amendment Rules, 2023 came into force on 27 th January, 2023.

On 23th May, 2023, the Ministry of Power notified the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2023 to amend the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022. The provisions came into force on 23 rd May, 2023.

The major objectives of this Green Energy Open Access Rules

- To make green energy affordable, reliable and sustainable for all.
- To promote generation, purchase and consumption of Green Energy including Waste-To-Energy Plants.
- To accelerate the penetration of Renewable Energy Across India.
- To meet the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to reduce emission intensity of India's gross domestic product by 45 percent.

Salient Features of this Green Energy Open Access Rules

1) **Uniform Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO)** - The primary objective of the Rules is to establish uniformity in the Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO) for all obligated entities Viz. Distribution Company, Open Access Consumers and Captive Consumers operating in a distribution licensee's jurisdiction. To accomplish the requirements, entities may follow the following methods as specified in the said Rules: -

a) By own Renewable Energy Generation
b) Purchasing Renewable Energy through Open Access
c) By requisition from Distribution Licensee
d) By consuming Green Energy from captive power plant
e) By purchasing of Renewable Energy Certificates

2) **Reduction in the load limit to participate in open access** - In the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022, the Green Open Access was allowed to any consumer and the limit of Open Access Transaction had been reduced to 100 kilowatt (kW) from 1 megawatt (MW) for green energy, to enable even small consumers to procure renewable power through open access. In the Second Amendment, the definition expands to include those consumers with 100 kW or more, achieved through either single or multiple connections in the same electricity division of a distribution licensee. Accordingly , first proviso of the Sub-rule(2) of the Rule 5 has been updated in the Second Amendment to grant all entities, whether through a single connection or multiple connections totaling 100 kW or more located in same electricity division of a distribution licensee. There shall be no limit of supply of power for the captive consumers taking power under Green Energy Open Access.

3) **Establishment of Nodal Agency** - This Rule has proposed that a Central Nodal Agency (CNA) shall be notified by the Central Government to set up and operate a single window green energy open access system for renewable energy. Subsequently, Ministry of Power in a notifaction dated 13th July, 2022 had declared Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) [Now known as Grid Controller of India Ltd. (Grid-India)] as the nodal agency to set up and operate a single window green energy open access system for renewable energy under Rule 6 (1) of the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022.
Grid India had come up with a initial version of detailed procedure on 14th September, 2022 and then a revised version on 17th November, 2022 after consultation with Forum of Regulators. The latest version of detailed procedure has been published by Grid India on 8th July, 2024 which shall apply for registration and applications made for grant of Green Energy Open Access by availing General Network Access (GNA), Temporary General Network Access (T-GNA) or Long Term Access (LTA), Medium Term Open Access (MTOA), and Short Term Open Access (STOA), at interstate and intrastate level, as the case may be for the use of the transmission lines or associated facilities with such lines.

4) **No limit for Captive Consumers** - there shall be no limit of supply of power for the captive consumers taking power under Green Energy Open Access.

5) **Fast and Easy Approval Process** - Approval of the application for Green Open Access is to be granted in 15 days or else it will be deemed to have been granted subject to the fulfillment of the technical requirements.

6) **Reward for going Green** - Green Certificate will be given to the consumers as a reward for consuming green power beyond their renewable purchase obligation. This will encourage the consumers for going green and helping the environment.

7) **Surcharge Exemption** - Cross subsidy surcharge and additional surcharge shall not be applicable in case power produced from a non-fossil fuel based Waste-to-Energy plant is supplied to the Open Access Consumer.

The Second amendment of the rules stretches the waiver of surcharge to electricity generated from offshore wind farms commissioned from 2025 to 2032 to encourage the potential of the offshore wind energy sector.

8) Energy Banking - Banking of Energy involves depositing surplus energy generated by renewable energy sources with distribution licensees and take it back as per their requirement within the same banking cycle. In the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022, open access users will have the option to engage in energy banking on a monthly basis. The distribution licensee is mandated to provide banking service to open access users for maximum of 30% of their total monthly energy consumption from that particular distribution licensee. Specific fees for banking of energy will be decided by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. Below are the Banking Charges determined by different State Electricity Regulatory Commissions of India.

Banking Charges determined by various State Regulatory Commissions

SL #	State	Banking Charges	Notification Date
1	Haryana	8% of the energy banked.	24.04.2023
2	Andhra Pradesh	In kind shall be 8% of the banked energy at the consumer end.	02.05.2024
3	Odisha	In kind at a rate of 8% for solar generation and 5% for wind or solar-wind hybrid generation.	27.12.2023
4	Uttarakhand	in kind at 8% of the energy banked.	18.10.2023
5	Gujarat	Rs. 1.50 per unit from the notification date until September 30, 2024. Thereafter, the banking charge for the period starting from 1st October 2024 and onwards as decided by the Commission and separately notified by the Regulation, shall be applicable.	21.02.2024
6	Tripura	in kind at 8% of the energy banked.	15.03.2023
7	Madhya Pradesh	in kind at 8% of the energy banked.	09.03.2023
8	Sikkim	in kind at 8% of the energy banked.	11.05.2023
9	Jharkhand	8% of the energy banked.	09.05.2024
10	Meghalaya	in kind at 8% of the energy banked.	09.05.2024

9) **Open Access Charges** - By specifying associated charges to be levied on the consumers, this rule has provided economic benefits to consumers. Following are the charges to be levied on Green Energy Open Access Consumers: -

- Transmission Charges
- Wheeling Charges

- Cross Subsidy Charges
- Standby Charges wherever applicable
- Banking Charges
- other fees and charges such as Load Despatch Centre fees and scheduling charges, deviation settlement charges as per the relevant regulations of the Commission.

With this Rules and other initiatives related to Green Energy Transition like Green Energy Corridor, Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA), PM- KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri-Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) and many others India is firmly progressing towards achieving 500 gigawatt (GW) of non-fossil fuel energy by 2030. This Rules will also encourage large domestic buildings, commercial consumers, small industries to move towards green energy.

Disclaimer:- Views expressed in this article are personal just for information and do not reflect those of SAFIR, WBERC or other ERCs.

About SAFIR

The South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) was established in May 1999. SAFIR aims at providing high quality capacity building and training on infrastructure regulation & related topics, in South Asia and to stimulate research on the subject by building a network of regional and international institutions & individuals that are active in the field. It also aims at facilitating effective and efficient regulation of Utility and infrastructure industries, initiate beneficial exchange of knowledge and expertise, and set the trend of rapid implementation of global best practices.

About IICA

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) is a leading think tank and capacity building institution under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India. IICA is committed to delivering opportunities for research, education and advocacy while simultaneously creating a repository of data and knowledge for policy makers, regulators as well as other stakeholders with a focus on contemporary business and regulatory issues in the domain of newly emerging discipline of 'Corporate Affairs'.

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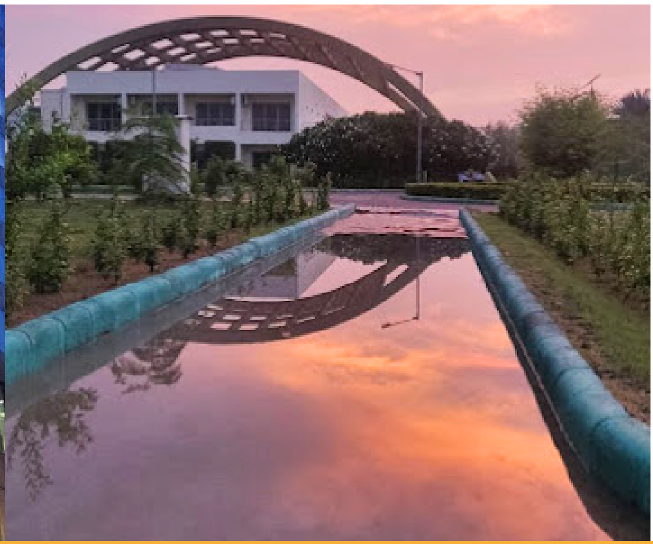
The Centre of Regulatory Governance (CRG) at IICA was established with the primary objective of forging a deeper understanding of regulatory governance and its far-reaching implications. By bringing together experts, scholars, policymakers, and industry leaders, CRG, IICA is committed to nurturing a space where the intricate dynamics of regulation and governance are explored, studied, and put into practice. CRG aims to conduct cutting-edge research on regulatory governance, facilitate knowledge dissemination, provide capacity-building programs, offer a platform for collaborative research, and influence policy decisions.



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