



South Asia Forum For
Infrastructure Regulation



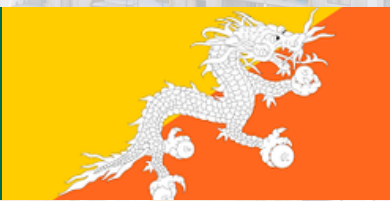
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INFRA REGULATORY BULLETIN

SAFIR E-NEWSLETTER | JANUARY-MARCH 2024

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Message from Chairperson, SAFIR



Jishnu Barua
Chairperson

केन्द्रीय विद्युत विनियामक आयोग CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION



Message from Chairperson, SAFIR



It brings me great pleasure to reach out to you through the South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) Newsletter for the quarter of January-March 2024. Amidst a rapidly evolving world, the Newsletter succinctly provides the latest updates on regional developments in the energy and infrastructure regulatory space, serves as a knowledge-sharing platform, and acknowledges our collective achievements.

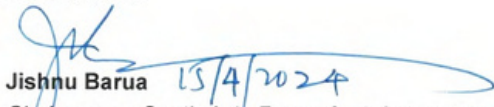
SAFIR, since its inception, has been instrumental in bringing together policymakers, regulators, and industry experts for a meaningful discourse on the development of energy and infrastructure sectors. Through a multitude of activities, such as webinars, conferences, and training courses, the Forum continues to facilitate collaboration and cooperation amongst Member States in designing effective and resilient regulatory frameworks.

The South Asian Region finds itself at an important juncture in its development journey, with a crucial role for energy and other infrastructure sectors. Be it energy security, infrastructure development, the provision of quality, affordable 24*7 power, or fulfilling the expectations of an aspirational population, regulators face an exciting but challenging road ahead. According to the World Bank forecast, the regional growth rate for 2023 will be 5.8%, which is higher than any other developing country region in the world. As demands on energy and infrastructure rise in tandem, more and more large infrastructure projects across sectors are implemented to meet these needs. Against this backdrop, governance norms and regulatory capacity assume an even greater significance.

Significant events marked the last quarter, notably the holding of the SAFIR Annual Conference on **“Cross Border Cooperation in Infrastructure Regulation” at Sri Lanka, organised by the SAFIR Secretariat in coordination with the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka** and the launch of the ongoing webinar series on **‘Energy Transition – Synergies towards Regional Energy Security’**.

I commend SAFIR's collaboration with the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) in myriad activities. Through discussions, webinars, and knowledge products, IICA aims to contribute significantly to SAFIR's mission with a promise to deepen bonds across governments, industry, and academia.

I extend my warm wishes to the editorial team, eagerly anticipating the fruits of our continued collaboration.


Jishnu Barua 15/4/2024

Chairperson, South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation &
Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, India



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From the Editorial Desk



Dear Readers,

It gives me immense joy to announce South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR)'s collaboration with the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) as its knowledge partner. Together, we hope to further the vision and mission of SAFIR to serve as the key regional forum for strengthening infrastructure regulation - a critical component in economic growth and prosperity. The SAFIR e-Newsletter '**Infra Regulatory Bulletin**' aims at keeping our readers abreast of the many regional developments in the energy and infrastructure space as the product of this partnership.

Updates from SAFIR Member Nations include Bangladesh's power and natural gas price increase, issuance of Bhutan's Electricity Grid Code, Nepal's agreement with India for power export, Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL)'s roadmap for power tariff reforms and updates from India's Central and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. Developments in SAFIR Member Organizations NTPC Limited, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, FSR Global, etc. are also covered.

Global developments also find a place in this issue, including Group of Seven (G7) countries' declaration on Industry, Technology, and Digital, Global System for Mobile Communications (GSMA)'s World Mobile Congress 2024, International Maritime Organization's steps towards net zero emissions in maritime industry, and Council of European Energy Regulators report on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) infrastructure and its impact on the European energy market.

This quarter witnessed the first of many collaborative endeavours that SAFIR and IICA hope to undertake. The Centre of Regulatory Governance at IICA and SAFIR organized a webinar centred on the theme "**Incentivising Green Energy through Regulation**" with expert speaker **Mr Shirish Garud** (*Former Director, The Energy and Resources Institute*), highlighting policy and regulatory levers for the growth of the Green Energy Sector.

Let's embark on this journey together, forging strong regional connections and building sustainable, resilient infrastructure for the 21st Century.

Prof Naveen Sirohi

Prof (Dr) Naveen Sirohi

Founding Head, Centre of Regulatory Governance

HoD, School of Finance & Management

Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs

News & Developments - SAFIR Members

BANGLADESH

Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR), Bangladesh raised Domestic Natural Gas and Electricity Prices

The government raised the prices of domestic natural gas supplied to power plants and electricity supply to all categories of consumers. The price hike will be effective from February 1, 2024. The domestic natural gas tariff was increased by 2.5% and 5.36% for independent power plants and captive power plants (run by industries for their internal consumption), respectively. Whereas, the electricity tariffs for both retail and bulk consumers were hiked by 8.50% and 5.0% respectively.

While announcing the hike, **Mr Nasrul Hamid** (*State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Government of Bangladesh*) stated that the price increase was aimed at easing the subsidy burden borne by the government. The prices of power and natural gas are regulated under the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) Act, 2003.

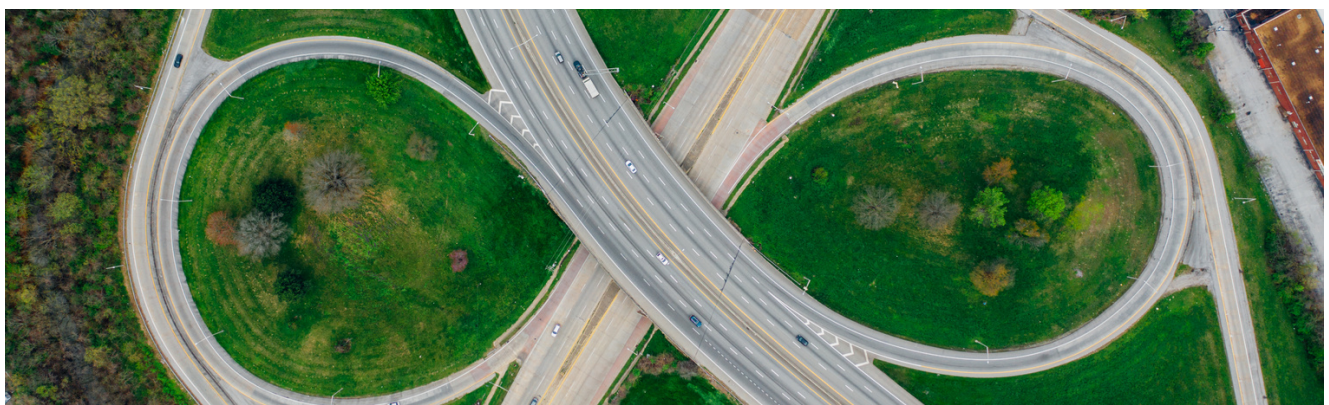
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Roads and Highways Department (RHD) of Bangladesh proposed Technical Assistance Program for Infrastructure Projects

The RHD of the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, Bangladesh is developing a strategic plan, to be finalized by 2027, to improve connectivity between economic zones and land ports through interconnected road corridors. For this, a technical assistance program (TAP) has been proposed by the RHD, which involves feasibility studies and preliminary designs for the projects.

The implementation of the plan will streamline trade logistics and reduce high transportation costs through execution of road corridor projects interconnecting land ports, railways, marine terminals, and international borders. The total cost of the TAP is 110.75 crore Bangladeshi Taka (Tk), of which Tk 76 cr will be provided by the World Bank.

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BHUTAN

Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) Bhutan issued the New Electricity Grid Code, 2024

The Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) of Bhutan recently notified the new Grid Code Regulation (GCR) 2024. The Code, effective from January 29, 2024, is aimed at ensuring safe, secure, reliable and efficient operation of the power system, through effective regulation of the transmission system.

The GCR 2024, applicable to the system operator, transmission licensees, generation licensees, and users, replaces the existing Bhutan Electricity Authority Grid Code Regulation 2008. It enumerates the responsibilities of system stakeholders, including the Ministry Of Energy And Natural Resources, ERA, and system users. Additionally, it contains detailed rules, standards and procedures regarding various aspects of the transmission system, such as minimum technical requirements for connection to the transmission system, the policy, criteria and procedures for maintaining operational reliability and efficiency of the power system, coordination protocols for generation dispatch and energy drawal, etc.

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Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) revised Compensation for Failure to meet Performance Standards

ERA Bhutan has recently approved the revision of compensation to consumers in case of failure to meet the standards of performance (SoPs) by distribution utilities, to be effective from March 1, 2024. The existing service standards and compensation rates are listed in the Distribution Code (Amendment) Regulation of 2022. SoPs with regards to several parameters, inter alia quality of supply (voltage variations), communication of applicable charge for connection, installation of supply, restoration of supply and reconnection have been enumerated.

In the latest revision, the ERA has approved the upward revision of compensation rates, whilst bifurcating the service standards as per urban and rural areas. Additionally, service standards for call centre operation and feeder-wise reliability standards (System Average Interruption Frequency Index, SAIFI, and System Average Interruption Duration Index, SAIDI) have also been included.

[Read More](#) (Notification Date: March 13, 2024)

NEPAL

Nepal signed MoU with India for Sale of 10,000 Megawatts (MW) Power

On the official visit of **Dr S Jaishankar** (*External Affairs Minister, India*) to Nepal from January 4-5, 2024 for the 7th meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Commission, the two nations signed an agreement for long term power purchase by India. The agreement was signed in the presence of **Dr S Jaishankar** and **Shri N P Saud** (*Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal*). As per the terms of the MoU, Nepal will supply 10,000 MW of power to India over the next 10 years.

Additionally, an MoU to support the growth & development of renewable energy (RE) in both the countries was also inked between India's power generation utility NTPC Limited and Nepal's largest power utility - Nepal Electricity Authority. The agreement provides a framework for cooperation between the companies for undertaking RE related activities.

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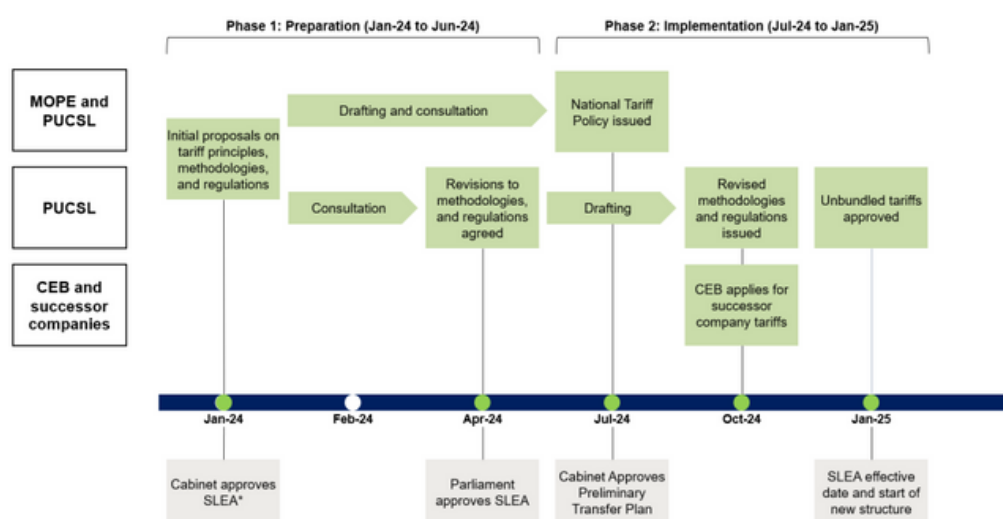
SRI LANKA

Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) released Roadmap for Power Tariff Reforms

PUCSL has released a roadmap for tariff reforms in the nation. A draft bill for restructuring the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) - the largest electricity company engaged in all three segments (generation, transmission, and distribution) - is under consideration of the Cabinet of Ministers.

The CEB is proposed to be divided into smaller corporate entities, such as distribution utilities, transmission utility, Independent System Operator, Generation companies, etc. Accordingly, the roadmap accounts for a comprehensive review of the existing tariff determination processes including benchmarking, methodologies, end-user tariff determination, cross-subsidies, etc. As per the document, the tariff reforms will be undertaken in three phases, from laying down principles for future tariff determination to implementation and monitoring of reforms.

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Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) and Ministry of Environment signed MoU for Technician Licensing Framework

PUCSL and the Air Resource Management and National Ozone Unit, Ministry of Environment signed an MoU on January 23, 2024 for establishing a comprehensive licensing system for refrigeration, air conditioning (RAC) and mobile air conditioning (MAC) technicians and providing free National Vocational Qualification (NVQ).

The overarching objective of the partnership is to promote environmental sustainability, and safeguard public well-being, whilst developing a skilled workforce. The focus of the collaboration will be on minimising the emission of ozone-depleting chemicals from the functioning of air conditioning units into the atmosphere, in adherence to the principles of the Montreal Alliance.

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INDIA

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) notified Tariff Regulations for Years 2024-25 to 2028-29

CERC has notified the CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2024 for the control period April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2029, detailing the process for tariff determination of generating stations and inter-state transmission systems.

The Regulation comprehensively lays down general and financial guiding principles underlying tariff determination, containing provisions related to tariff structure; capital structure; components of energy charge; norms of operation; scheduling, accounting and billing; sharing of benefits (between the licensee and the beneficiaries), among others. Additionally, computational methodologies for capital cost, annual fixed cost, input prices (e.g. coal and lignite), capacity charges and energy charges, etc. have also been specified. The Regulation serves as the foundational document for submission of tariff petitions by generation and transmission licensees.

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Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) notified Guidelines/Procedures for Communication Systems of Inter State Transmission of Power

In pursuance to the CERC (Communication System for inter-State transmission of electricity) Regulations of 2017, the Commission has notified procedures/guidelines related to communication systems deployed in Inter-State Transmission Systems.

Recognizing the critical role of communication systems as the backbone of the inter-State transmission of electricity ensuring smooth operation of the power system, the Principal Regulation (PR) of 2017 specified the rules, guidelines and standards for planning, implementation, operation & maintenance and up-gradation of reliable communication system for all communication requirements including exchange of data for integrated operation of National Grid. The recently released guidelines/procedures associated with the PR include guidelines on availability of communication system, guidelines on interfacing requirements, procedure on centralized supervision of quick fault detection & restoration, and procedures on maintenance & testing.

Read more: [Guidelines on Availability of Communication System](#)

[Guidelines on Interface Requirements](#)

[Procedure on Centralized Supervision for Quick Fault Detection and Restoration](#)

[Procedure on Maintenance and Testing of Communication System](#)

Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (UPERC) amended Regulations for Connectivity to Intra State Transmission System

UPERC has issued a first amendment to its Principal Regulation (PR) namely UPERC (Grant of Connectivity to Intra State Transmission System) Regulations 2010. The amendment will be effective from February 7, 2024.

The amendment makes changes to several regulations in the PR pertaining to the definition of applicants, application of connectivity by renewable power park developers & renewable energy (RE) generating stations with/without energy storage systems (ESS), signing of connection agreement with state transmission utility, treatment of connectivity bank guarantee, construction, operation & maintenance of committed transmission line, etc.

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Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (GERC) released Green Energy Open Access Regulations

GERC has released the GERC (Terms and Conditions for Green Energy Open Access) Regulations, 2024, to be effective from February 21, 2024. The Regulations lay down a framework for non-discriminatory open access (OA) to green/renewable energy generators and consumers (capacity 100 kilowatts or more) for use of the State's transmission and/or distribution systems.

The Regulation contains provisions regarding criteria for allowing green energy open access (GEOA); categorization of GEOA consumers; application procedure; allotment and curtailment priority; energy accounting; energy banking facility and charges, OA charges, renewable energy deviation settlement charges, etc; mechanism and relinquishment of OA rights; metering; information system for GEOA. The comprehensive framework provides a structural base for facilitating the uptake of green energy.

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Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) issued Regulations for Grid Interactive Solar Rooftop Systems

The State Commission has notified the APERC (Grid Interactive Solar Rooftop Photovoltaic System under Gross/Net Metering) Regulation, 2023, which shall come into force on February 24, 2024. The APERC, with the aim to promote distributed renewable energy generation in the State, released the final regulation after taking into consideration issues highlighted by consumers and distribution utilities (Discom) regarding solar rooftop implementation.

The Regulation provides a comprehensive framework for purchase and supply of power generated through rooftop solar installations. Accordingly, it contains detailed provisions covering various aspects such as capacity that can be availed (with respect to metering or voltage), commissioning of the installations, interconnection with the grid, energy settlement and billing, feed-in tariff, and transmission & distribution charges.

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Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission (KSERC) amended its 2021 Tariff Regulations

KSERC has issued a second amendment to its principal regulations (PR) of 2021 regarding terms and conditions for determination of tariff. The amendment, to be effective from February 27, 2024, gives clarification on Regulation 34 (iv) of the PR dealing with the repayment of the principal and interest of the Kerala State Electricity Board Limited (KSEBL) bonds issued to the Master Trust constituted for meeting the pension liabilities of the pensioners of KSEBL.

As per the amendment, amounts required for the payment of both the principal and interest on the bonds issued to the Master Trust which are serviced by KSEBL will be considered for computation of aggregate revenue requirement (ARR) and for truing up of accounts of KSEBL. Earlier, only interest payments were considered for ARR calculation.

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Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) issued Pre-paid Smart Metering Regulations

KERC has notified the KERC (Pre-paid Smart Metering) Regulations, 2024, to be effective from April 1, 2024. The Regulation is aimed at providing a framework for installation and use of smart meters by consumers at their installations encouraged through advancement in metering technology and introduction of smart meters (with remote disconnection/reconnection facility). As per the Regulation, a 'pre-paid/pre-payment meter' means a smart meter conforming to relevant Indian standards, which facilitates use of electricity only after advance payment.

The Regulation contain detailed provisions related to applicability and procedure for availing power supply through pre-paid meters; metering, recharge and communication; billing of electricity charges; migration of the existing post-paid consumers to prepaid smart meter; electricity taxes/duties payable to the Government; conditions for disconnection of supply; and replacement of meters.

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Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (PSERC) amended 2021 Regulations for Grid Interactive Solar Rooftop Systems

PSERC has issued a first amendment to its Principal Regulations (PR) of 2021 pertaining to grid interactive rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. The amendment, to be effective from March 11, 2024, makes clarifications regarding provisions related to the settlement period of rooftop solar PV systems set up by seasonal industrial consumers. The PR of 2021 detailed rules and regulations for installing rooftop solar PV systems and connecting them to the grid, containing provisions such as eligibility conditions (e.g. maximum capacity), standards & safety for interconnection with the grid, metering and billing, eligibility to participate under Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) mechanism, etc.

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Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (HPERC) notified Transmission Tariff Regulations for Control Period 2024-25 to 2028-29

HPERC has notified the HPERC (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Transmission Tariff) Regulations, 2023. The Regulations, applicable to transmission licensees for determination of aggregate revenue requirement (ARR) and tariff, will be effective from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2029. The Regulations lay down the guiding principles and framework to be followed for determination of ARR and tariff for transmission business. The parameters to be considered for ARR include Operation and Maintenance Expenses; Return on Equity Capital; Tax on Return on Equity; Interest on Loan Capital; Interest on Working Capital; Depreciation; Non-Tariff Income; Short-term Open Access Charges; and Income from other business. Notably, the Regulations also provide a model for sharing of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) benefits (carbon credit) from an approved CDM transmission project.

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Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) amended Group, Virtual Net Metering Guidelines

DERC has issued a fifth amendment to its Principal Guidelines (PG) of 2019 related to group net metering (GNM) and virtual net metering (VNM) for renewable energy (RE), to be effective from April 1, 2024. The PG contains various provisions regarding GNM & VNM, including procedure for application to GNM & VNM; procedures for billing and energy accounting under GNM & VNM; and Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) Mechanism. The latest amendment gives further clarification with regards to guidelines about definition of GNM & VNM, capital expenditure on account of Service Line cum Development (SLD) and network augmentation, capacity of the RE system under GNM & VNM framework, and applicability of charges (e.g. wheeling, banking, cross subsidy surcharge).

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Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission (JSERC) amended Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO) Regulations

JSERC has issued a second amendment to its Principal Regulation (PR) of 2016 regarding renewable energy purchase obligation (RPO), to be effective from April 1, 2024. The PR fixed the responsibility of distribution licensees, captive users, and open access consumers to procure a minimum percentage of electricity out of their total consumption from renewable energy (RE) sources. Accordingly, RPO targets for 4 years (2016-17 to 2019-20) were specified, with a target of 11.55% of electricity purchase (in kWh) from RE sources by 2019-20. The latest amendment, aimed at further promoting renewable energy generation in the State of Jharkhand, specifies the RPO targets for years 2024-25 up to 2029-30, progressively increasing from 29.91% in 2024-25 to 43.33% in 2029-30.

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Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (MPERC) notified the State's Electricity Grid Code

MPERC has notified the Madhya Pradesh (MP) Electricity Grid Code (Revision-III), 2024, aimed at establishing guidelines and procedures for entities connected with the Intra State Transmission System (InSTS) for safety and reliability of the Power System. The Code, which comes into force on March 15, 2024, is applicable to the State Load Despatch Centre of MP, users connected to the InSTS, State Transmission Utility (STU), and Transmission Licensees.

The Grid Code is structurally divided into 7 sub-codes, each of which specifies the standards, procedures and guidelines for entities associated with the given sub-code. These sub-codes are management of code, planning code, load despatch & system operation code, protection code, metering code, cyber security code, and data registration code.

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Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission (TSERC) released Open Access Regulations

TSERC has notified the TSERC (Terms and Conditions of Open Access) Regulation, 2024, to be effective from the date of publication in the State Gazette. The Commission has notified the regulation with an objective to align the State's open access (OA) regulations with the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022 of the Ministry of Power, Government of India.

The regulation details provisions pertaining to long, medium and short term open access (OA) in the State, including general provisions of OA, categorization of OA users, criteria for allowing OA and allotment/reservation of capacity for OA, procedure of application including grant of green energy OA, meter reading, energy accounting and settlement, banking of renewable energy generation, etc.

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NHPC Limited (NHPC) signed Agreement with Gujarat Power Corporation Limited (GPCL) for Investment in 750 Megawatts (MW) Hydro Storage Project

NHPC has agreed to invest an estimated Rs 4000 cr in the proposed 750 MW Kuppa Pumped Hydro Storage (PHS) Project in Gujarat, through the MoU signed with GPCL, Government of Gujarat on January 3, 2024. The MoU was signed by **Shri Arun Mahesh Babu** (*Managing Director, GPCL*) and **Shri V R Srivastava** (*Executive Director, Renewable Energy and Green Hydrogen, NHPC*) in the presence of **Shri Bhupendra Patel** (*Hon'ble Chief Minister, Gujarat*) and **Shri Kanubhai Desai** (*Hon'ble Energy Minister, Gujarat*).

The MoU will aid development and utilization of PHS projects as an effective solution for energy storage, also contributing to the overarching national objective of reaching 500 Gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and 'Net Zero' greenhouse gas emissions target by 2070.

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NTPC Limited (NTPC) organised the Indian Power Stations Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Conference in Raipur, India

NTPC organized the Indian Power Stations O&M Conference (IPS 2024) on February 13, 2024 in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India covering the theme '**Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Practices for Safe, Reliable & Cost-Effective Power Generation**'. The conference brought together multiple stakeholders including government and industry experts for a discussion on pertinent topics such as sustainable O&M practices, safety protocols, AI-driven applications for cost-effective solutions, etc.

Shri R K Singh (*Hon'ble Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India GoI*) virtually inaugurated the conference, commending NTPC's critical role in driving economic growth through power generation projects. Emphasizing the necessity for energy transition, he stated that there is scope for coexistence of both thermal/conventional and renewable energy sources for meeting demand.

Other distinguished guests present for the event included **Shri Ghanshyam Prasad** (*Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority*), **Shri Pankaj Agarwal** (*Secretary - Power, GoI*), and **Shri Gurdeep Singh** (*Chairman and Managing Director, NTPC*).

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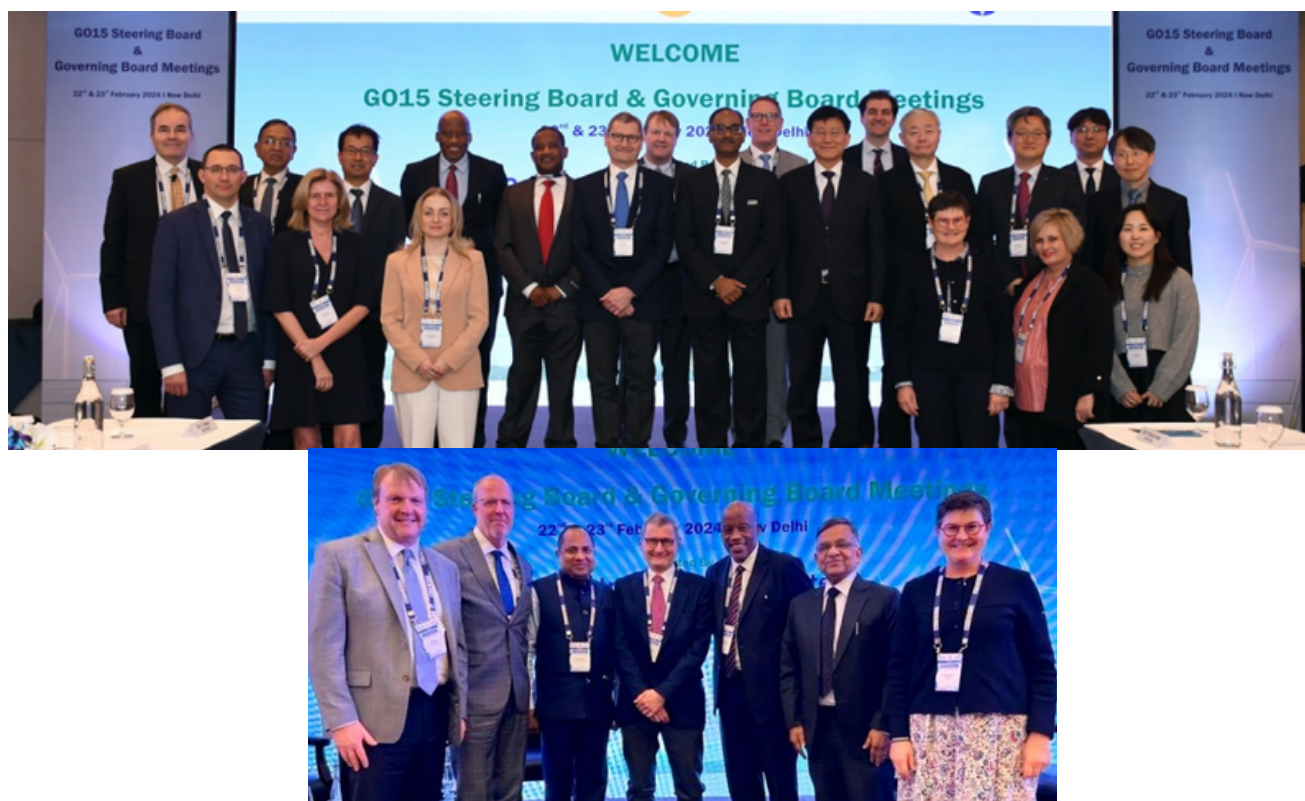
Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) hosted Board Meetings for GO15 Association of Power Grid Operators

The Governing Board and Steering Board Meetings of GO15 - a multinational association of the very large power grid operators, were held in New Delhi on February 22 & 23, 2024. Under the current presidency of GRID-INDIA, the GO15 meetings took forward the spirit of “वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्” - **World Is One Family**, for collectively building robust power grids and finding solutions to challenges together.

26 industry leaders from 10 global power grid operators participated in the event, including **Shri S R Narasimhan** (*President, GO15 & Chairman & Managing Director, Grid-India*), **Dr Bruno Meyer** (*Secretary General, GO15*), **Mr Fedor Opadchiy** (*Chairman, System Operator of the United Power System Russia*), **Mr Elliot Mainzer** (*Chief Executive Officer CEO, California Independent System Operator USA*), **Mr John Bear** (*CEO, Midcontinent Independent System Operator MISO USA*), **Mr Kazuhiko Shiba** (*Board Member & Managing Executive Officer, TEPCO Power Grid Japan*), **Mr Dong Hee Jung** (*CEO, Korea Power Exchange South Korea*) and **Mr Segomoco Scheppers** (*Managing Director, Eskom South Africa*).

Deliberations on relevant topics such as resource adequacy- risk & reliability in Power Systems, new technologies impacting the end consumers, etc. were part of the meetings. Additionally, a panel discussion was held on “**The Triple Bottom Line for Sustainable Grids: Adequacy, Reliability & Affordability**”, with panelists **Shri Arun Goyal** (*Member, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission India*), **Shri Ghanshyam Prasad** (*Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority India*), **Mr Elliot Mainzer** (*CEO California ISO USA*), **Mr Segomoco Scheppers** (*CEO, Eskom Grid South Africa*), **Mr John Bear** (*CEO, MISO USA*), and **Ms Claire Lajoie-Mazenc** (*Scientific Advisor, RTE France*).

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Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) signed Agreement with Rajasthan Government for Development of Intra State Transmission System

POWERGRID signed an MoU with Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited (RVPNL) under the Rajasthan Government in March, 2024 to further develop the power transmission infrastructure within the state via incorporation of a Joint Venture Company (JVC). The agreement was signed in the presence of **Shri R K Singh** (*Hon'ble Union Minister of Power, New & Renewable Energy, Government of India*) and **Shri Bhajanlal Sharma** (*Hon'ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan*). Other dignitaries that were present for the occasion included **Shri Pralhad Joshi** (*Hon'ble Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal & Mines*) and **Smt Diya Kumari** (*Hon'ble Deputy CM, Rajasthan*). As per the MoU, POWERGRID and RVPNL will hold 74% and 26% equity, respectively in the JVC, which will undertake transmission projects up to Rs 10,000 crore in a phased manner.

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FSR Global organized Webinars on 'Resource Adequacy' and 'Interoperability'

FSR Global conducted webinars covering the themes '**Interoperability**' and '**Resource Adequacy**', as part of the ongoing 6th edition of European Union (EU)-India Regulatory Workshop Series. The EU-India Regulatory Workshop Series is an initiative under the EU-India Clean Energy and Climate Partnership, in collaboration with FSR Global, with an objective to promote dialogue around issues in the Indian Power Sector.

The webinar on 'Interoperability', held on January 30, 2024, focused on the need for developing common standards to facilitate interoperability between various smart appliances, which is crucial for integration of distributed resources and enhanced participation in the electricity market. Whereas, in the webinar on 'Resource Adequacy' held on February 19, 2024, discussion revolved around ensuring the continuity of reliable power supply in the backdrop of grid integration of the highly variable renewable energy.

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News & Developments - International

The Department of Commerce (DoC), United States of America (USA) released Draft Rules for Regulation of Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS)

The draft rules, placed in public domain on January 29, 2024, are aimed at preventing malicious use of services (e.g. cloud infrastructure) of USA IaaS providers by foreign entities. To this end, the DoC has proposed due diligence and reporting requirements by IaaS providers and their foreign resellers.

Specifically, the IaaS providers are required to implement a customer identification program and report instances of abuse of technologies like artificial intelligence models for cyber attacks. Additionally, the DoC is empowered to prohibit/curtail access to USA IaaS products by suspicious foreign entities.

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The International Association of Transportation Regulators (IATR) released Report on “Modernizing Taxi Regulations: An Innovative Governance Framework for the Future”

The IATR report, released in January, 2024, is aimed at developing a facilitative regulatory framework (by streamlining regulations and increasing the efficiency of approval processes) that benefits customers, operators, and drivers.

The report explores various regulatory aspects related to the mobility subsegment including market entry restrictions, driver standards & licensing, fare control, service and vehicle quality, safety standards, with a view to identify best practices and develop a master plan for creating taxi regulations that are adaptable to innovative changes in the market. Notably, incorporation of Electric Vehicles (EV) in the market is suggested through policy support measures such as purchase incentives.

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The Council of European Energy Regulators (CEEW) released Report on ‘The Influence of New Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminals on the Future European Union (EU) Energy Market’

The objective of the report, released on February 16, 2024, is to contribute to the discourse regarding LNG infrastructure and its role in enhancing the security of supply and competitiveness of the energy markets in the EU. The report is targeted at various energy sector stakeholders, including national regulatory authorities, EU Member States, energy suppliers, traders, gas industry, LNG terminals, and consumers

Factors such as LNG imports, existing storage and regasification capacities, capacity increases in existing terminals and new LNG projects have been included for conducting a thorough market analysis. Notably, the report recommends adequate supervisory powers to regulators, given the criticality of the sector.

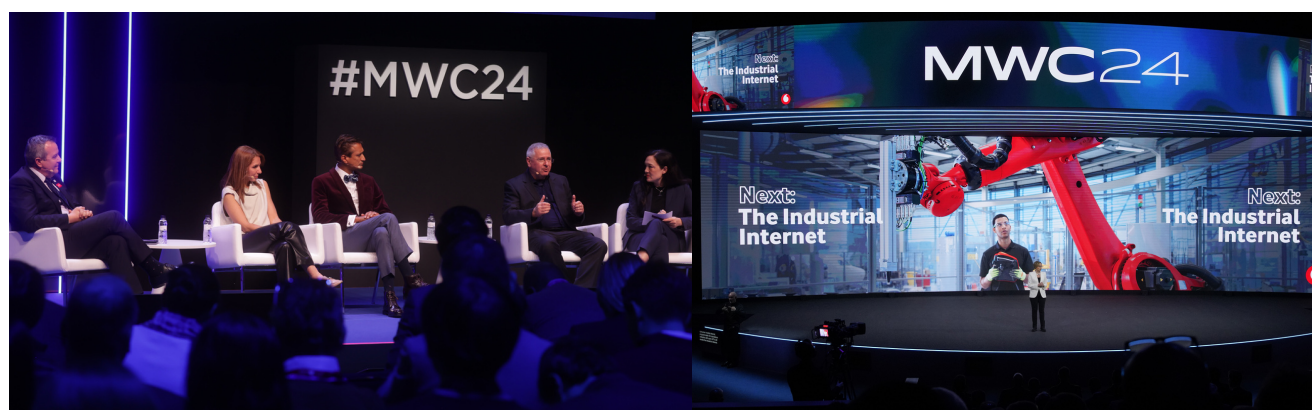
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Global System for Mobile Communications (GSMA) organised the World Mobile Congress (WMC), 2024 in Spain

The 4-days World Mobile Congress (WMC) was organized by GSMA from February 26-29, 2024 in Barcelona, Spain, covering multiple communications and technology themes like 5G, artificial intelligence (AI), manufacturing, etc. More than 1 lakh participants attended the event, representing various stakeholders in the market ecosystem such as industry experts, policymakers, device & network equipment manufacturers.

Notably, the GSMA Ministerial Programme was part of the event, bringing together delegations from 140 countries including heads of state, ministers, heads of regulatory authorities and intergovernmental organisations. Discussions on important policy issues such as growth of 5G technology, ethical use of AI, mobile payments, device affordability, digital economy and data laws, infrastructure investment frameworks took place during the program.

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Group of Seven (G7) Countries adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Industry, Technology, and Digital in Italy

The ministerial meeting of the G7 countries held on March 14-15, 2024 in Italy, adopted the Declaration on March 15, 2024, aimed at securing the well-being of societies and economies in the backdrop of rapid technological advancements such as Artificial Intelligence (AI). The meeting was chaired by **Mr Adolfo Urso** (*Minister, Enterprises and Made in Italy, Government of Italy*) and **Mr Alessio Butti** (*Undersecretary of State, Technological Innovation, Government of Italy*) on March 14 & 15, respectively.

Focused on the governance and ethical & responsible use of AI, the Declaration on Industry, Technology, and Digital covers various topics surrounding digital infrastructure, including principles underlying AI use in the public sector, digital public services and their accessibility, and the international code of conduct for organizations developing advanced AI systems.

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International Maritime Organization (IMO) agreed on a Draft Framework for achieving Net Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions in International Shipping

At the 81st session of the Maritime Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), held in London from March 18-22, 2024, the IMO agreed on the draft outline for reducing GHG emissions of the Shipping Sector by 2050. The opening remarks for the session were delivered by **Mr Arsenio Dominguez** (*Secretary-General, IMO*), who reiterated the importance of decarbonization of the maritime industry.

The draft framework contains measures/steps such as regulation of marine fuel standards and economic mechanisms incentivizing emissions reduction by vessels in order to take forward the IMO strategy on the reduction of GHG emissions from ships, adopted in July 2023. Marine litter, ship recycling, and energy efficiency of ships were amongst some of the other topics discussed during the MEPC session.

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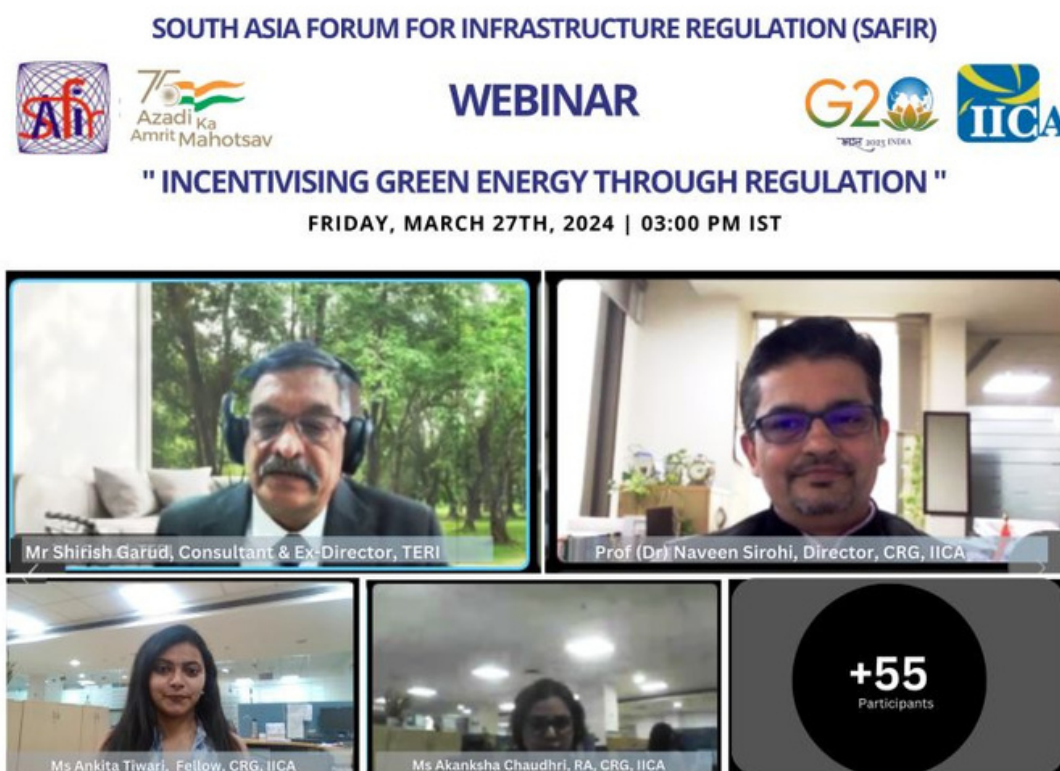
SAFIR Events for Year 2023-24

South Asia Forum For Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) and the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) organized Webinar on 'Incentivising Green Energy through Regulation'

IICA, in association with SAFIR, organised a webinar covering the theme '**Incentivising Green Energy through Regulation**' for officials of SAFIR Member Organisations on March 27, 2024.

A total of 55 participants joined the webinar, representing regulatory bodies, utilities, academic institutions and private sector entities such as Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) Bhutan, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Indian State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERCs), Grid Controller of India Limited, FSR Global Council, etc.

The expert speaker for the webinar, **Mr Shirish S Garud** (*Former Director, The Energy and Resources Institute, TERI*) shared his experience and insights on the policy and regulatory initiatives for the growth of green energy in the South Asian Region, with a specific focus on the Indian energy landscape. He shed light on important topics including renewable purchase obligations (RPOs), role of renewables in climate action plans and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, barriers and solutions for a smoother energy transition. The webinar was moderated by **Prof (Dr) Naveen Sirohi** (*Founding Head, Centre of Regulatory Governance, IICA*), who focused on recent developments in the green energy space and measures for accelerating sector growth in his inaugural address.



South Asia Forum For Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) Annual Conference on 'Cross Border Cooperation in Energy Infrastructure' held in Sri Lanka

The SAFIR Annual Conference, focusing on the theme '**Cross Border Cooperation in Energy Infrastructure**', was held on March 1-2, 2024 in Sri Lanka with joint efforts of the SAFIR Secretariat and the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL). The conference agenda included discussions on various important topics such as Cross Border Trade for Clean Energy Transition, Transmission Connections and Transmission System Capabilities in South Asia Region, Role of Markets, as well as country-wise perspectives of energy infrastructure.

The event was attended by several high level officials including Chairpersons, Chief Executive Officers and Chairman & Managing Director of stakeholder organizations such as Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), Electricity Regulatory Commission Nepal, Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL), Electricity Regulatory Authority Bhutan, State Electricity Regulatory Commissions of India, Grid Controller of India Limited, NTPC Limited, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), Indian Energy Exchange Limited, and FSR Global.

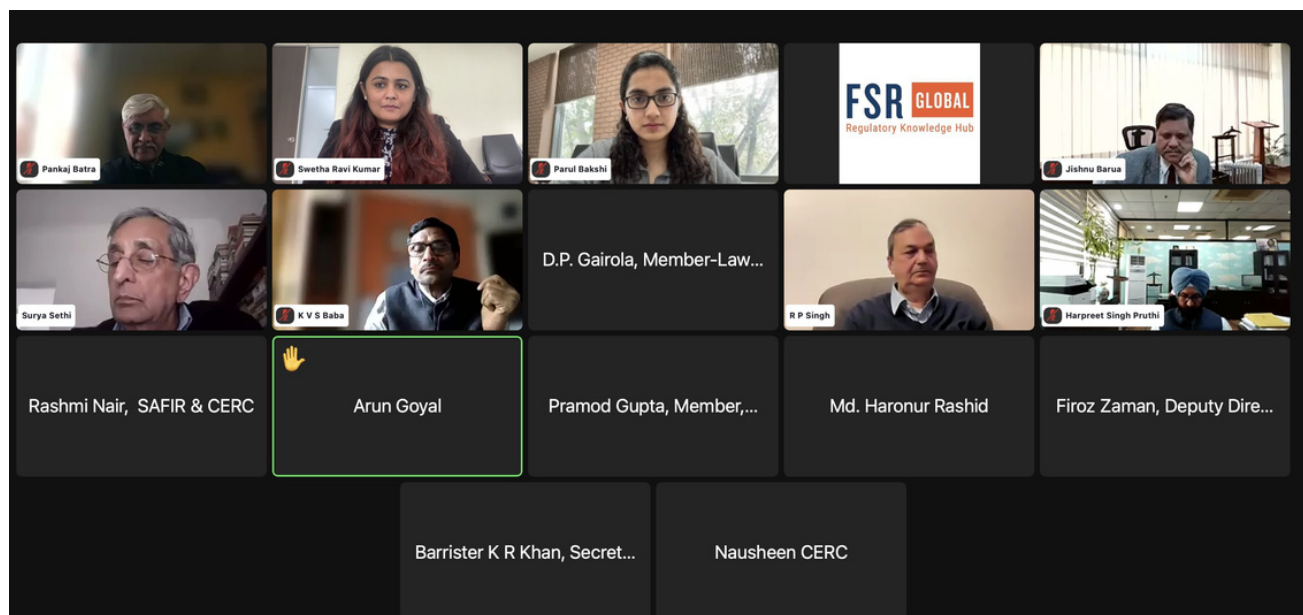


Launch of Webinar Series on 'Energy Transition – Synergies towards Regional Energy Security'

The South Asia Forum For Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) and FSR Global have collaborated to launch a webinar series on Energy Transition – Synergies towards Regional Energy Security on February 13, 2024. The focus of the 6-part series is the process of energy transition in each of the Member Nations - Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, and Nepal, as well as an integrated regional perspective.

Country-specific discussions for India, Bangladesh and Bhutan have been concluded, wherein the pathways to transition and opportunities & challenges regarding the switch to renewable sources of energy were discussed.

Several distinguished experts and speakers, including **Shri Jishnu Barua** (*Chairperson, SAFIR & Central Electricity Regulatory Commission CERC*), **Shri P K Pujari** (*Former Chairperson, CERC*), **Shri Mohammad Nurul Amin** (*Chairperson, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission*), and **Smt Deki Choden** (*Chief Executive Officer, Electricity Regulatory Authority Bhutan*), shared their practical experience on energy transition during the sessions.



29th Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) of the South Asia Forum For Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) held in New Delhi, India

The SCM, held on September 18, 2023 in New Delhi, India, was chaired by **Smt Deki Choden** (*then Chairperson, SAFIR and CEO, Electricity Regulatory Authority, ERA, Bhutan*). A total of 31 guests participated in the event, representing member organizations ERA Bhutan, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) India, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), Electricity Regulatory Commission of Nepal (ERCN), Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL), State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) India, and Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA).

Chairpersons of member regulatory organizations, including **Shri Jishnu Barua** (*Chairperson, CERC*), **Shri Mohammad Nurul Amin** (*Chairperson, BERC*), **Shri Dilli Bahadur Singh** (*Chairperson, ERCN*), and **Prof M A R M Fernando** (*Chairperson, PUCSL*) addressed the gathering in their opening remarks, sharing their thoughts on the significance of the Forum and recent developments in their respective sectors.

Notably, the meeting agenda included presentation of the study on '**Regulatory practices for innovation: Cross learnings from Infrastructure sectors 2021**' by the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA). During the presentation, **Prof (Dr) Naveen Sirohi** (*Founding Head, Centre of Regulatory Governance, IICA*) apprised the attendees of the key findings from the study, especially the positive impact of technological innovation on streamlining regulatory processes, enhancing efficiency, and facilitating reforms.

Completion of the South Asia Forum For Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) Core Course on Infrastructure Regulation

The Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) organized a 3-day course on **‘Regulatory Experience in Infrastructure Sectors’** for SAFIR Member Organizations from June 5-7, 2023.

A total of 19 participants from SAFIR member nations Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal enrolled for the program, comprising regulatory officials, industry professionals and academicians. Representative organizations from India included Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP), State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs), NTPC Ltd, and Indian Institute of Corporate affairs(IICA). Senior officials from the Electricity Regulatory Commission, Nepal, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission, and Electricity Regulatory Authority of Bhutan also attended the program.

The training program included ten sessions covering regulatory and policy challenges in the Power, Transportation, Telecom and Urban issues, with the objective of imparting the participants with an expansive and in-depth understanding of the sectoral issues and enabling them to utilize the knowledge in discharging their functions and duties.

About SAFIR

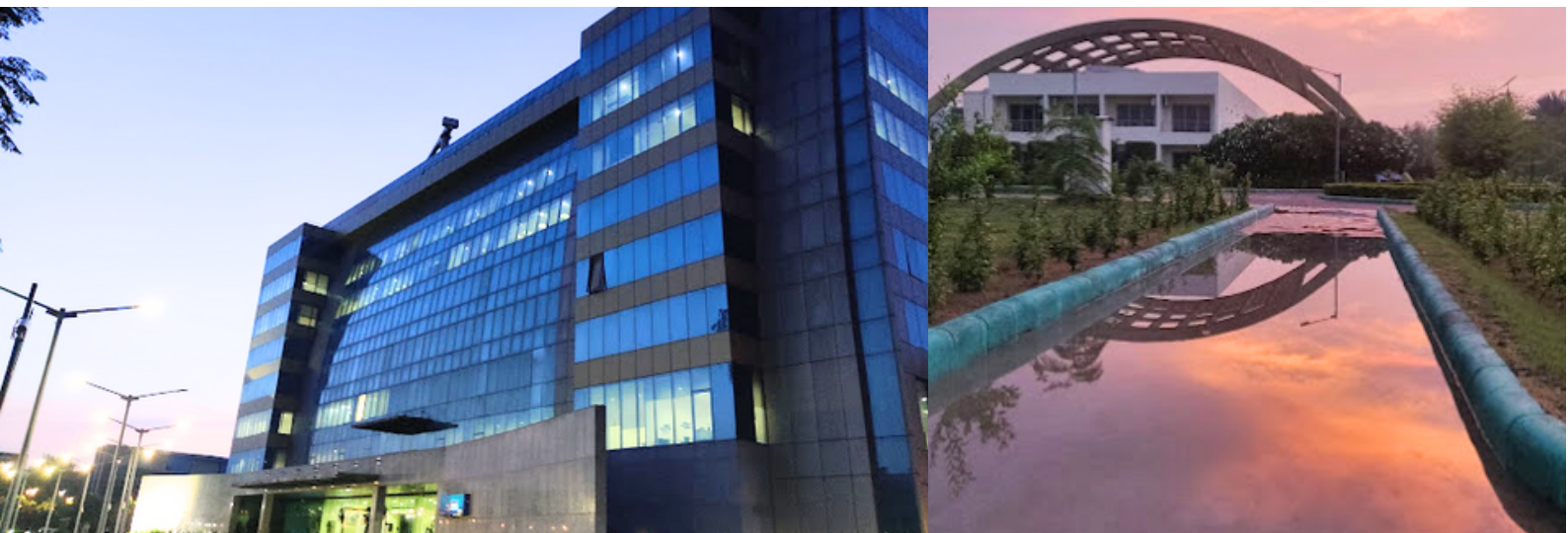
The South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) was established in May 1999. SAFIR aims at providing high quality capacity building and training on infrastructure regulation & related topics, in South Asia and to stimulate research on the subject by building a network of regional and international 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'.

About Centre of Regulatory Governance

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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