




**POWER PURCHASE**

>> **MOP REVISE PRICE BENCHMARKS FOR BIOMASS PELLETS IN NORTHERN AND WESTERN REGIONS**

- > Ministry of Power has revised the Biomass Co-Firing Policy to set benchmark prices for biomass pellets used in thermal power plants. The initiative aims to integrate cleaner and eco-friendly energy sources into India's power generation landscape.
- > Benchmark prices for non-torrefied biomass pellets in the Northern Region (excluding NCR) are Rs. 2.27 per 7,000 kcal, excluding GST and transportation costs at the pellet manufacturing site.
- > Specified pellets must maintain a moisture content below 14% and a Gross Calorific Value (GCV) between 2,800-4,000 kcal/kg. Benchmark prices for non-torrefied biomass pellets in the Western Region are Rs. 2.24 per 7,000 kcal, with consistent moisture content and GCV criteria.
- > The Ministry issued the 'Modification of Revised Policy for Biomass Utilization for Power Generation through co-firing in coal-based power plants' in June to promote a greener energy mix.



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**RENEWABLES**

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- MOC IDENTIFIES 20 ABANDONED MINES FOR POTENTIAL PUMP STORAGE PROJECTS**



**POLICY & REGULATORY**

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- MERC INCREASES BANKING CHARGES UNDER NEW OPEN ACCESS RULE**





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- > The objective is to encourage the development and sustainability of biomass pellet supply chains.
- > A committee on the price benchmarking of biomass pellets was formed to address volatility in raw biomass prices and expedite pellet manufacturing capacity addition.
- > Power utilities are required to adhere to the specified rates for biomass pellets to implement the benchmark prices effectively.
- > The strategic move is expected to stabilize prices and promote the adoption of biomass co-firing practices.



**RENEWABLES**

- >> **MOC IDENTIFIES 20 ABANDONED MINES FOR POTENTIAL PUMP STORAGE PROJECTS**
- > Ministry of Coal has earmarked 20 abandoned mines for evaluation as potential sites for pumped storage projects to leverage the economic advantages of vast land banks.
- > The projects aim to utilize solar energy during the day to pump water into higher reservoirs and generate hydroelectricity at night, promoting sustainable development within the coal sector.



 **RENEWABLES**



- > NLC India is tasked with conducting feasibility studies for pumped storage projects at the identified sites, with a focus on engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) and public-private partnership models.
- > The Ministry plans to collaborate with state governments, private players, and research institutions for project implementation, encouraging a collaborative approach in the development of these initiatives.
- > MNRE will provide technical, policy, and capacity-building support for green energy initiatives, further emphasizing the integration of renewable energy into the coal sector.
- > **Land Capital Contribution:** The Coal Ministry will contribute land capital and oversee the implementation of projects related to solar energy, green hydrogen, and other renewable energy programs.
- > The pumped storage project involves two water reservoirs at different elevations, generating power as water moves between them. During low demand, water is pumped to the higher reservoir, released during high demand to generate electricity.
- > Public sector undertakings of the Coal Ministry aim to achieve a renewable generation capacity of **12 GW by 2030**, with a focus on repurposing de-coaled mines and offering land for green hydrogen projects, aligning with MNRE's policies.

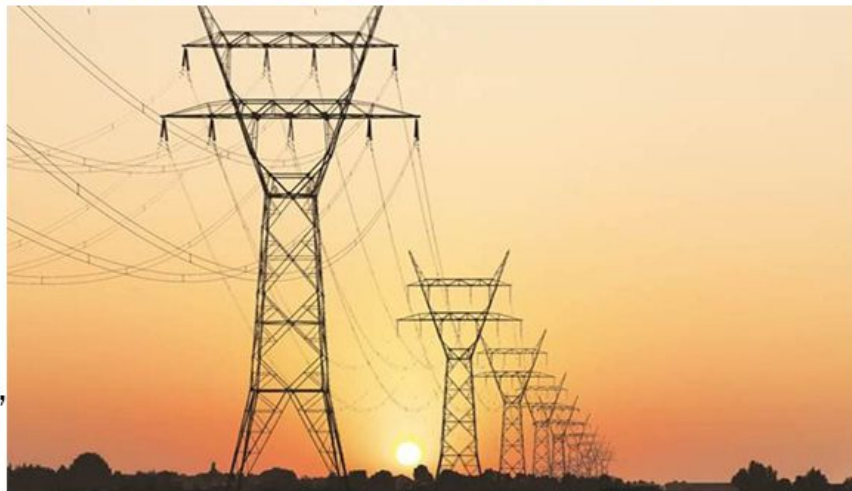




## POLICY & REGULATORY

### >> MERC INCREASES BANKING CHARGES UNDER NEW OPEN ACCESS RULE

- > Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) has increased banking charges for green energy open access consumers from 2% to 8%.
- > Amendments to Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Distribution Open Access) Regulations, 2016, were enacted to address sectoral developments.
- > The (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2023, incorporate changes related to recent amendments to the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022.
- > Unutilized surplus banked energy will lapse at each banking cycle's end, but the renewable energy generating station is entitled to Renewable Energy Certificates (REC) for the lapsed energy.
- > Captive consumers face no power supply load limits under Green Energy Open Access. Consumers with a contract demand of 100 kW or more are eligible for Green Energy Open Access.
- > Green Energy Open Access is permitted for consumers with a contract demand lower than 1 MW, based on specific energy meter requirements.







## POLICY & REGULATORY



- > No load restrictions for Captive Power Project consumers using Green Energy Open Access, except for Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL).
- > Open Access consumers from renewable energy generators are not subject to capacity limits but must adhere to specified conditions related to power flow.
- > Advance notification to the distribution licensee is required for consumers with multiple connections regarding the percentage share of energy generation allocated to each connection.
- > Green Energy Open Access consumers cannot alter power consumption for a minimum of twelve-time blocks. The provisions are valid only when power is sourced with the green attribute; exceptions exist for separate sales of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) or the renewable component.
- > Consumers with rooftop renewable energy generating systems can simultaneously avail Open Access under these regulations.
- > Central Nodal Agency responsibilities for Short-Term Green Energy Open Access lie with the Maharashtra State Load Despatch Centre, and for Medium/Long-Term, it's the State Transmission Utility.
- > Cross-subsidy surcharge exemptions apply if power is from a non-fossil fuel-based waste-to-energy plant, used for green hydrogen and green ammonia, or for offshore wind projects commissioned up to December 2032 with fixed charges paid by consumers.