



RENEWABLES

» MNRE CLARIFIED ISSUES OF DCR AND CFA ON PM-KUSUM FOR FEEDER-LEVEL SOLARIZATION

- > Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) issued two clarifications on Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) program for Feeder-level Solarization (FLS).
- > MNRE confirmed the waiver of Domestic Content Requirement (DCR) for solar cells in FLS under Component C of PM-KUSUM to continue until March 31, 2024.
- > FLS is a crucial component in the PM-KUSUM program, targeting the solarization of 1.5 million grid-connected agriculture pumps by March 31, 2026.
- > MNRE reiterated the continuation of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) at ₹10.5 million per MW for General States and ₹17.5 million per MW for Northeast Region, hilly states, and islands until further notice.



RENEWABLES

- » MNRE CLARIFIED ISSUES OF DCR AND CFA ON PM-KUSUM FOR FEEDER-LEVEL SOLARIZATION
- » KERC RELEASED DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR PEER-TO-PEER SOLAR ENERGY TRADING USING BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY



Policy And Regulatory

- » CERC ISSUED PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES UNDER THE CERC COMMUNICATION SYSTEM REGULATIONS
- » CERC ORDERS ENHANCED TRANSPARENCY IN BAY ALLOCATION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS
- » CERC RELAXES STRINGENT PROCEDURES IN THE GNA REGULATIONS UNDER ITS DISCRETIONARY POWER



RENEWABLES

- > MNRE specified financial support amounts for solarization projects, highlighting the differentiated CFA for States based on their geographical characteristics.
- > State agencies have been instructed to report progress on the program's implementation, underscoring the government's commitment to advancing renewable energy initiatives in the agricultural sector.
- >> **KERC RELEASED DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR PEER-TO-PEER SOLAR ENERGY TRADING USING BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY**
 - > Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) released draft regulations for peer-to-peer solar energy trading in the State using blockchain technology.
 - > Consumers can become 'prosumers' by installing rooftop solar modules, selling excess power directly to other consumers. Prosumers and consumers need to register with and seek approval from distribution licensees (DISCOMs) on a first-come, first-serve basis for participation.
 - > DISCOMs and service providers have 15 days to check the compatibility of peer systems for the readiness of energy exchange..





RENEWABLES

- > Peer-to-peer participants must provide a schedule in advance for energy exchange, both for day-ahead and intraday transactions.
- > Trading can be preferential, where prosumers pick preferred consumers and offer a percentage of excess power at an agreed price, or dynamic, with prosumers and consumers setting their own prices.
- > If excess energy is unavailable or no buyers exist, the DISCOM will meet consumer needs or purchase excess energy through a power purchase agreement.
- > Rooftop solar projects must have net or gross metering, with a capacity between 1 kW and 2 MW. Post-paid smart meters are required for accounting imported and exported electricity.
- > The draft regulations are open for stakeholder comments until 11 Feb 2024.





POLICY AND REGULATORY

» CERC ISSUED PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES UNDER THE CERC COMMUNICATION SYSTEM REGULATIONS

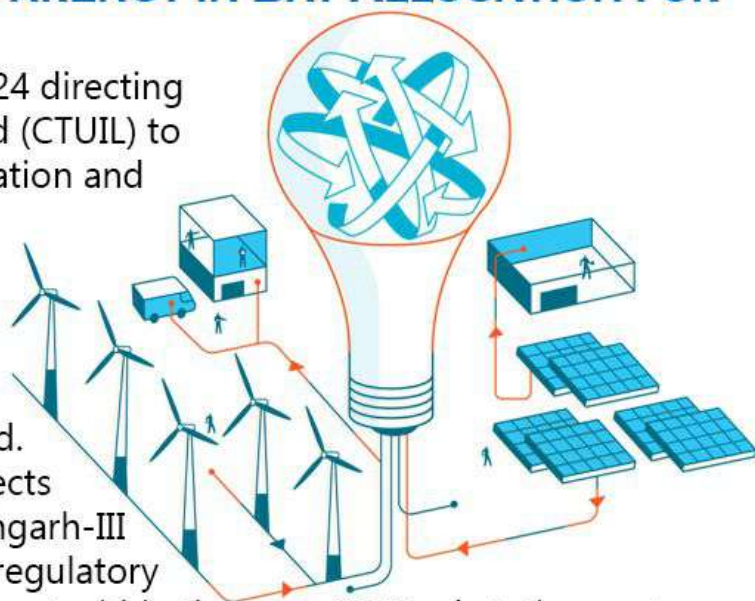
- Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) issued the procedures and guidelines under the CERC (Communication System for inter-State transmission of electricity) Regulations, 2017 (Communications Regulations).
- CERC approved the Guidelines on Availability of Communication System prepared by the National Power Committee in compliance with Reg. 7.3 of the Communications Regulations. These guidelines are applicable to the Central Transmission Utility (CTU) for the communication system infrastructure of inter-State Transmission System (ISTS). These guidelines shall also be applicable to the State Transmission Utility for the communication system infrastructure of intra-State Transmission System, till appropriate regulation on communication is framed by the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commission.
- CERC approved the Guidelines on Interfacing Requirements prepared by the National Load Despatch Centre in compliance with Reg. 7.4 read with Reg. 14.2 of the Communications Regulations. These guidelines focus on the general data acquisition systems for RTUs, SAS Gateway computers, communications and AMI metering systems required for reliable, secure and economic operations of the control centre(s).
- CERC approved the Procedure on Centralized Supervision for Quick Fault Detection and Restoration of Communication System, prepared by the CTU in compliance with Reg. 7.2 of the Communications Regulations. The procedure provides for coordinated operation amongst the concerned users of the interconnected communication systems.
- CERC also approved the Procedure on Maintenance & Testing of Communication System, prepared by the CTU in compliance with Reg. 9 of the Communications Regulations.



POLICY AND REGULATORY

» CERC ORDERS ENHANCED TRANSPARENCY IN BAY ALLOCATION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

- > CERC has issued a landmark order on 19.01.2024 directing the Central Transmission Utility of India Limited (CTUIL) to establish a transparent procedure for the allocation and reallocation of bays in substations.
- > Eden Renewable Bercy Private Limited (ERBPL) and Eden Renewable Passy Private Limited (ERPPL) faced challenges in relocating solar power projects in Rajasthan due to a Supreme Court order protecting the Great Indian Bustard.
- > ERBPL and ERPPL sought to relocate their projects from Fatehgarh-II Pooling Sub-Station to Fatehgarh-III or Bhadla II Pooling Sub-Stations. The current regulatory framework only allows connectivity rearrangement within the same ISTS substation, not between different substations.
- > CERC emphasized the critical role of bay allocation for renewable energy project development and stressed that CTUIL must provide non-discriminatory open access to its transmission system as per the Electricity Act, 2003.
- > CERC highlighted the necessity for a transparent approach in bay allocation and directed CTUIL to propose regulatory amendments for shifting/connectivity reallocation within a month, after consulting stakeholders.
- > CERC issued practice directions for CTUIL to conduct future reallocations transparently until amended regulations are in place, while instructing it to consider the relocation applications filed by the petitioners.





POLICY AND REGULATORY

» CERC RELAXES STRINGENT PROCEDURES IN THE GNA REGULATIONS UNDER ITS DISCRETIONARY POWER

- > CERC issued an order on 21.01.2024 under its discretionary power, relaxing stringent procedures under the CERC (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022 (GNA Regulations).
- > Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) sought relief from Regulation 8.2 (c) of the GNA Regulations regarding timelines for submitting Bank Guarantees (BGs) for ISTS connectivity.
- > TPREL received a four-day extension for BG submission for Mudhol and Karur Wind Plants.
- > CERC, acknowledging practical challenges, exercised discretionary power to balance regulatory compliance and practical issues.
- > CERC extended the relief to generators facing similar difficulties, allowing a 10-day delay in BG submission as a one-time measure until 20.01.2024.
- > CERC decision provided TPREL with timely relief, demonstrating flexibility in compliance timelines. While not a precedent, the decision showcases a temporary example of regulatory flexibility.

