



REGULATORY DIGEST

APRIL - JUNE, 2024

INSIDE THE ISSUE:

Message from Chairperson - In Charge, TAMP.....	1
From the Editor's Desk.....	2
Regulatory News & Trends - FOIR Members.....	3
Regulatory News & Trends - International.....	8
Article - Electricity Regulatory Commissions Pave the Way for India's Green Energy Revolution.....	11
FOIR Events.....	16
About FOIR & Member Organisations.....	18
About FOIR Centre, IICA.....	19

टी. एस. बालासुब्रमनियन
सदस्य (वित्त)

T. S. BALASUBRAMANIAN
Member (Finance) & Chmn I/c



महापत्तन प्रशुल्क प्राधिकरण
चतुर्थ तल, भण्डार भवन, मुझावर पाखाडी रोड,
माझगाव, मुंबई - 400 010.

Tariff Authority For Major Ports
4th Floor, Bhandar Bhavan, Muzawar Pakhadi Road,
Mazgaon, Mumbai - 400 010.

Message from Chairman- Incharge, TAMP



Dear Esteemed Readers,

I am thrilled to connect with you through the April - June (2024-25) edition of the FOIR Quarterly e-Newsletter. This platform is crucial in sharing updates, building connections, and celebrating our collective achievements.

It is a pleasure to use this platform to communicate our progress, strengthen our connections, and recognize our accomplishments. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to FOIR for its dedicated representation of regulators shared interests and its contributions to fostering a supportive regulatory environment.

The Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) was established in 1997 to set rates and conditions for services at major ports and private terminals in India. For 24 years, TAMP managed tariffs for 12 major ports under Central government control.

With the enactment of the Major Ports Authorities Act, 2021, the Central Government plans to establish an Adjudicatory Board to manage functions beyond tariff setting. These functions include resolving disputes between Major Ports and PPP concessionaires, suggesting measures for the revival of stressed PPP Projects, addressing complaints from port users, and considering issues referred by the Central Government or Major Ports. Until the Adjudicatory Board is formed, TAMP has been given the charge to carry out these responsibilities as outlined in the MPA Act, 2021.

I am confident that with the continued support of all stakeholders, the Adjudicatory Board's functions under the MPA Act 2021 will be successfully fulfilled. We strive to continually grow and contribute positively to the port community, including Major Port Authorities, PPP Concessionaires, and port users.

I take this opportunity to appreciate the initiative of FOIR for constitution of Working Group with an aim to foster collaborative approach for synergy based co-operation and sharing of best practices amongst sector specific regulators.

The collaborative efforts between FOIR and IICA highlight the importance of synergy among regulators, as demonstrated through various dissemination activities and events. The FOIR Centre at IICA has played a crucial role in enhancing communication and cooperation within the regulatory ecosystem through webinars, the KYR series, capacity-building programs, and more.

I look forward to our continued collaboration and the progress we will achieve together.

Warm regards,

T S Balasubramanian

From the Editor's Desk



Dear readers,

In 2023, India showcased its remarkable ability to secure global consensus, epitomized by the **G20's New Delhi Declaration**. The nation's achievements are noteworthy: **Chandrayaan-3's** successful landing on the Moon's south pole, its position as the **3rd largest startup ecosystem** in the world, and its anticipated rise to becoming the **3rd largest global economy**.

As the world's largest democracy, India boasts a population of over 1.43 billion people. This year, the general election saw 96.8 crore eligible voters—accounting for over 10% of the global population—including 2.63 crore first-time voters. With a new regime on the horizon, the Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR) is committed to making **Viksit Bharat@2047** achievable through advancements in the regulatory landscape.

At FOIR, we recognize the importance of good governance, inclusivity, and sustainability in India's development narrative through extensive industry consultations and a commitment to predictable policies. This edition presents a curated selection of regulatory news and events, tailored to the diverse interests of our esteemed readers.

The FOIR members' updates include the release of Consultation Paper on '**Inputs for the formulation of National Broadcasting Policy-2024**' by TRAI, IBBI's Training Program for Indian Corporate Law Service Trainee Officers, the CCI's proposal to launch **Market Study on Artificial Intelligence and Competition**, release of Draft Regulations for **Deviation Settlement Mechanism 2024** by CERC, release of IBBI's discussion paper on '**Strengthening the process of issuance of record of default by Information Utility**', celebration of CCI's **15th Annual Day**, the introduction of PNGRB's **New Regulations for LNG Terminals** etc.

Internationally, this edition includes the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) anticipation to **exclude Hydrogen from Power Plant Regulation**, China's order for Provinces to **Boost Energy Efficiency** to Meet 2025 Targets, Drop in European Union (EU) Battery-Electric Car Sales, Operational start of US Natural Gas Project '**Mountain Valley Pipeline**' etc.

During this quarter, the FOIR Centre at IICA organised the **11th Episode** of the Know Your Regulator Series with **Smt Ravneet Kaur** (*Hon'ble Chairperson, CCI*) and participated in the **25th Annual General Body Meeting (AGM)** of the Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR) at New Delhi.

Prof Naveen Sirohi

Prof (Dr) Naveen Sirohi

Director, FOIR Centre and Founding Head, School of Finance & Management
Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs

Regulatory News & Trends - FOIR Members

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released Consultation Paper on 'Inputs for formulation of National Broadcasting Policy-2024'

The TRAI has released a Consultation Paper on 'Inputs for Formulation of National Broadcasting Policy-2024'. Following a request from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on July 13, 2023, and a subsequent Pre-Consultation Paper issued on September 21, 2023, TRAI has gathered and analyzed 28 comments from stakeholders.

The new Consultation Paper seeks further input from stakeholders and focuses on key issues in the broadcasting sector to position India as a 'Global Content Hub'. It addresses policy and regulatory measures, strategies for economic contribution, innovation, job creation, skill development, start-up promotion, strengthening public service broadcasting, media sector challenges, piracy combatting, content security, audience measurement, terrestrial broadcasting, and socio-environmental responsibilities.

[Read More](#)

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) organised Training Program for Indian Corporate Law Service Trainee Officers (ICLS)

The IBBI organized a three-day training program for ICLS trainee officers of 2022 batch, from April 8 to April 10, 2024. The training was inaugurated by key IBBI members **Mr Sudhaker Shukla, Mr Jayanti Prasad, Mr Sandip Garg, and Mr Santosh Kumar Shukla**.

The program aimed to equip trainee officers with the latest insights and practical approaches for managing insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings. The curriculum covered a comprehensive understanding of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), its processes, and practical applications through expert-led sessions and case studies. Key topics included the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process, Liquidation Process, Voluntary Liquidation, Fast Track Resolution, Individual Insolvency, and Bankruptcy.

[Read More](#)



Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched an Awareness Campaign on Food Safety Aspects

The FSSAI, in partnership with the Delhi Food Safety Department, launched a food safety awareness campaign on April 8, 2024, at Khan Market and INA Market, Delhi. The program emphasized the importance of raw material testing to ensure food product safety and quality. Attendees were educated on the dangers of artificial ripening and wax coating with unapproved chemicals, and the benefits of organic farming. They were also informed about the availability of food testing laboratories in and around Delhi.

The event highlighted the collective responsibility of food safety, with the mantra "**Food Safety is Everyone's Responsibility**," and the crucial role of every stakeholder in the food supply chain. FSSAI continues to uphold public health through stringent food safety protocols nationwide.

[Read More](#)

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) proposed to launch Market Study on Artificial Intelligence and Competition

The CCI has proposed to launch a **Market Study on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Competition** on April 22, 2024. This initiative aims to explore AI's transformative potential for enhancing competition. The study will build a deep understanding of AI's competitive dynamics, development ecosystems, and its impact on efficiency and innovation in key industries. As part of CCI's advocacy efforts, the study will serve as a valuable resource for both industry stakeholders and policymakers. CCI has previously conducted impactful studies in sectors such as mining, e-commerce, and film distribution, leading to significant policy recommendations.

This study coincides with the government's efforts to establish a forward-looking regulatory regime for large digital economy firms. By examining AI's ecosystem and its competitive landscape in India, the study will identify both opportunities and challenges, contributing to informed policy-making and industry practices.

[Read More](#)

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) released Draft Regulations for Deviation Settlement Mechanism 2024

The CERC released the draft regulations for the **Deviation Settlement Mechanism and Related Matters** on April 30, 2024. These regulations aim to create a framework for charges and penalties to address deviations from scheduled electricity generation or withdrawal ensuring grid stability. Applicable to all grid-connected regional entities and those involved in inter-state electricity transactions, the draft mandates adherence to schedules as per the grid code. Deviations will generally be managed using ancillary services, with the regulations detailing the computation, charges, and other related matters.

[Read More](#)

IBBI released Discussion Paper on Strengthening the Process of Issuance of Records of Default by Information Utility (IU)

IBBI issued a Discussion paper on “**Strengthening the process of issuance of record of default by Information Utility**” on May 10, 2024. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) envisages IU as repositories of financial information about debtors for expeditious completion of various processes under the Code. To ensure this, the IBC envisages IUs as central repositories of financial information about debtors, facilitating the expeditious completion of various processes under the Code. It has been proposed that the debtors disputing default information must upload proof to the IU to deter frivolous disputes.

[Read More](#)

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) to propose a New Set of Merger Regulations

Smt Ravneet Kaur (*Chairperson, CCI*) on May 20, 2024, stated that following amendments to the Competition Law enacted last year, CCI is planning to release the new merger regulations. Over the past year, CCI has been developing a regulatory framework under the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023, incorporating global best practices to address emerging market challenges. These regulations include provisions for negotiated settlements on anti-competitive practices, merger and acquisition regulations based on deal value, and an expanded leniency scheme for cartels. The upcoming merger regulations will clarify how transaction values are assessed to determine the need for CCI approval. They will also expedite the merger review process by reducing the decision-making timeframe from 210 days to 150 days, as introduced in the recent amendments.

[Read More](#)

Power Ministry Panel outlined a Roadmap to Develop the Electricity Market

A Power Ministry panel has proposed a comprehensive roadmap for the development of the electricity market, emphasizing interventions for the near, medium, and long term. Chaired by **Shri Alok Kumar** (*Hon'ble Power Secretary*), the panel comprised representatives from the **Ministry of Power, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Central Electricity Authority, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, Grid Controller of India (Grid-India), and state governments**. **Shri R K Singh** (*Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy*) stressed the need for efficient power generation procurement, supported long-term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) of 12-15 years, and called for the development of new renewable energy capacity using the Contract for Difference (CfD) methodology to ensure transparency and competition. Additionally, he directed the CERC to validate the power exchange clearing engine.

Key recommendations include monitoring the adequacy of supply by state utilities, enhancing the efficiency of the Day-ahead Market, and introducing a market-based mechanism for secondary reserves. The panel also advocates for the implementation of 5-minute-based metering, scheduling, dispatch, and settlement, as well as demand response and aggregation to reduce reserve requirements and lower costs. Strengthened market monitoring and surveillance are recommended to prevent price volatility, alongside the implementation of a regional framework for deviation management to reduce penalties and reserve needs.

[Read More](#)

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) celebrated its 15th Annual Day

The CCI celebrated its **15th Annual Day** in New Delhi on May 20, 2024. The event featured a special address by Chief Guest **Shri R. Venkataramani** (*Attorney General for India*) who spoke on the history of competition regulations, global competition policies, and the challenges of digitalisation, sustainability, and privacy in competition law.

Smt Ravneet Kaur (*Chairperson, CCI*) reflected on the Commission's 15-year journey and outlined future focus areas, including the digital economy, AI, and the amended regulatory framework. **Shri Anil Agarwal** (*Member, CCI*) proposed the Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude to the Attorney General for his insights. The event was also attended by CCI Members **Shri Deepak Anurag** and **Ms Sweta Kakka**.

[Read More](#)



Telecom Operators seek 5-6 Year Moratorium on Spectrum Purchases after 2025

According to a Financial Express report, Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, and Vodafone Idea have requested a 5-6-year interest-free moratorium on payments for spectrum acquired in auctions from 2025 onwards. In their communication to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the operators highlighted the significant capital expenditure on 5G deployment, which has yet to generate revenue, and emphasized the need for ongoing network investments. They suggested that a moratorium on payments would alleviate their financial burden.

In response to a consultation paper on the auction of spectrum in the 37-37.5 GHz, 37.5-40 GHz, and 42.5-43.5 GHz bands, Airtel stated that new networks take at least 4-5 years to monetize. They proposed recovering spectrum payments in 14 instalments over the spectrum term. Jio recommended that deferred payments for auctioned spectrum prices be spread over 15 years with a reasonable interest rate of 6.5%, as specified by the RBI Repo Rate, instead of the current higher rates.

[Read More](#)

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) notified Draft Amendment to Indian Electricity Grid Code, 2024

The CERC has introduced the **CERC Indian Electricity Grid Code) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2024**. These amendments, effective upon notification (except for a specific clause effective April 1, 2024), include limits on injecting infirm power, extension provisions for Renewable Energy Generating Stations (REGS) and Energy Storage Systems (ESS), and updated demonstration requirements for water reservoir levels. Additionally, it clarifies compensation for the part-load operation of thermal stations, specifies the date of commercial operation notification, introduces new scheduling adjustments below minimum turndown levels, and defines limits on schedule revisions. These changes aim to enhance operational efficiency and regulatory clarity for grid management and generating stations.

[Read More](#)

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) convened Meeting with Financial and Telecom Stakeholders

TRAI convened a crucial meeting with representatives from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), over 25 banks and financial institutions, the Association of National Exchanges Members of India (ANMI), and all Telecom Service Providers on June 14, 2024.

Key discussions included TRAI's recommendation to allocate the 160 series exclusively for transactional and service voice calls to enhance caller identification and prevent fraud. Detailed discussions were held on the **Digital Consent Facility (DCA)** established under TRAI's TCCCPR-2018 Regulations, which enables entities like banks and insurance companies to acquire digital consent from customers for promotional communications. The meeting also deliberated on the responsibilities of senders (banks, insurance companies, etc.) under TRAI regulations, including whitelisting URLs/APKs in content templates, minimizing headers and content templates, and taking immediate action against misuse of senders' credentials. Regulators and financial institutions emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to curb spam, particularly through voice calls, and assured cooperation in promptly implementing TRAI's initiatives.

[Read More](#)

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) introduced New Regulations for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminals

The PNGRB has introduced a draft **PNGRB (Registration for Establishing and Operating Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminals) Regulations, 2024** requiring companies to seek approval to set up or expand LNG terminals. This move aims to regulate the rapid expansion of terminals that remain underutilized. Key criteria for approval include promoting competition, avoiding unnecessary investments, ensuring national gas supply, protecting customer interests, and providing adequate gas evacuation facilities. It requires companies to present a credible business plan, and a detailed evacuation plan, and furnish a bank guarantee of 1% of the project's estimated cost or Rs 25 crore, whichever is lower. PNGRB can suspend or terminate registrations and forfeit bank guarantees if companies engage in unfair practices or breach regulations. Additionally, companies must adhere to an approved completion schedule, with financial penalties for delays.

[Read More](#)

Regulatory News & Trends - International

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) anticipated to exclude Hydrogen from Power Plant Regulation

The Biden administration is set to remove green hydrogen from its key plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector, aiming to reduce legal risks if the technology doesn't reach commercial scale. This decision highlights government scepticism about the rapid development of green hydrogen, which uses zero-emissions energy sources like wind and solar to extract hydrogen fuel from water.

The EPA will announce its final rule soon, marking a significant step in President Biden's climate strategy. Initially, the EPA proposed standards for fossil fuel power plants to use either super-low-emissions hydrogen or carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology. By dropping hydrogen, the rule might gain legal strength, as critics had questioned the commercial viability of the technology by 2030 for gas plants and 2032 for coal plants.

[Read More](#)

China orders Provinces to Boost Energy Efficiency to Meet 2025 Targets

China's state planner, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), has mandated provinces to create energy-efficiency plans for entities responsible for about 70% of consumption and carbon emissions by the end of 2025. This move aims to meet lagging targets. By 2025, the plan will cover entities consuming at least 5,000 metric tons of standard coal equivalent, down from 10,000 tons in 2024. About 20,000 entities will be inspected nationally. In 2024, 60% of entities with a yearly consumption of 10,000 tons will be inspected. This initiative seeks to meet China's energy intensity target of a 2.5% reduction in 2024 after missing the 2% goal last year. Mr **Yao Zhe** (*Global Policy Advisor, Greenpeace East Asia*) notes that achieving the target also requires structural changes in China's economy, not just technical upgrades.

[Read More](#)

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group under Investigation for Possible Bond Issuance Law Violations

ANZ Group Holdings (ANZ.AX) is under investigation by Australia's corporate regulator for suspected legal violations in executing the issuance of 10-year treasury bonds by the Australian Office of Financial Management (AOFM) in 2023. The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) began its probe after receiving a complaint from the AOFM, which raised concerns about the sale of some of its debt. ANZ, appointed by the AOFM to manage the treasury bond issuance, stated that ASIC is investigating potential breaches of the ASIC Act and the Corporations Act. ANZ emphasized its commitment to regulatory compliance and is fully cooperating with the investigation.

[Read More](#)

US Agency to Unveil Plan to ease Power Transmission Crunch

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is set to release a final rule addressing the strain on U.S. electricity transmission as the grid copes with integrating vast amounts of clean energy amidst rising demand. This rule aims to ensure that various U.S. regions develop long-term plans to bolster transmission capacity, coordinating state and local regulations and utility strategies to share costs for expansion. With President Biden's target of a carbon-free power sector by 2035, the nation must significantly increase both regional and interregional transmission capacity. To achieve this, there's a crucial need to reverse the declining trend in transmission investments. **Allie Kelly** (*Executive Director, Ray*) emphasizes the current surge in demand, fueled by factors like the electrification of industries and technological advancements such as AI and data centres.

[Read More](#)

Drop in European Union (EU) Battery-Electric Car Sales

According to data from the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA) sales of new battery-electric cars in the EU dropped 12% in May 2024 compared to the previous year, led by a 30% plunge in Germany. Germany, the EU's largest EV market, ended subsidies for EV purchases in December as part of a 2024 budget deal, resulting in a 16% year-to-date decline in EV sales. Overall new car sales in the EU fell by 3% in May, marking the second drop this year, and decreased by 2.6% in the wider region including the EU, Britain, and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). EV demand in Europe has cooled after years of strong growth amid increasing competition for affordable models. To protect domestic automakers from cheap EV imports, the European Commission will impose provisional duties of up to 38.1% on China-made EVs starting in July 2024. Despite the current market stagnation, sales are expected to pick up in 2025 with the introduction of new EU car emission targets.

[Read More](#)

U S Senate passed Bill to accelerate Nuclear Energy Deployment

The U S Senate on June 20, 2024 passed a bill to accelerate nuclear energy capacity, speeding up, permitting and creating new incentives for advanced nuclear reactor technologies. The ADVANCE Act has broad bipartisan support and aims to decarbonize the power sector and ensure reliable electricity supply. The bill will reduce regulatory costs for licensing advanced nuclear technologies, establish a prize for next-generation reactors, and expedite licensing for nuclear facilities at specific sites. This could benefit companies like TerraPower, which is developing a \$4 billion Sodium reactor in Wyoming. However, non-proliferation groups like the Union of Concerned Scientists caution that safety should remain the priority despite the eased licensing for advanced reactors using high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU).

[Read More](#)

US Natural Gas Project “Mountain Valley Pipeline” started Operations

The Mountain Valley Pipeline, a major \$7.85 billion natural gas project, has finally entered service, connecting West Virginia to Virginia. This significant venture, the largest gas pipeline under construction in the U.S. Northeast, faced numerous delays due to regulatory and legal battles since its inception in 2018. The project received crucial support from a U.S. Congress bill, signed by President Joe Biden, and the Supreme Court to resume construction in 2023.

The pipeline, led by Equitrans Midstream, is now available for interruptible or short-term firm transportation services until long-term firm capacity starts on July 1. It can transport up to 2 billion cubic feet per day of gas from the Marcellus and Utica shale regions to various markets in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic and Southeast, meeting the growing demand from local distribution companies, power generation facilities, and industrial users.

[Read More](#)

Article - Electricity Regulatory Commissions Pave the Way for India's Green Energy Revolution



Mr Pradeep Malik
Deputy Director(Media)
Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission, Panchkula

India will increase its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 gigawatts by 2030, enabling the country to meet 50% of its electricity needs from green energy. Achieving this goal will require the crucial and meaningful role of Electricity Regulatory Commissions. State Electricity Regulatory Commissions are working to bring uniformity in their regulations to promote green energy and make them consumer-friendly to encourage more green energy. The Ministry of Power is also maintaining better coordination with the electricity regulatory commissions of the central, state, and union territories to formulate regulations for solar energy and green energy open access. Several states have already formulated regulations in this direction, including Haryana.

According to Haryana's green energy open access regulations, any sanctioned load of at least 100 kilowatts is eligible for green energy open access. This allows green energy to be supplied from one location to another through transmission lines via open access. These regulations are being made in line with the Central Government's green energy open access regulations. Any discrepancies in the green energy open access regulations of any state are also being addressed, as the aim is to promote green energy at all costs and remove any obstacles in this direction. Similarly, regulations for promoting solar energy are being made simpler and more accessible. Issues found in regulations for rooftop solar connections of up to 10 kilowatts are being resolved to make them consumer-friendly and promote green energy as much as possible. For this purpose, the Ministry of Power is holding separate meetings with the Secretaries of the Regulatory Commissions and urging each State's Electricity Regulatory Commission to work promptly in this direction.

According to the Indian Constitution, electricity is a concurrent subject, so it is the responsibility of both the centre and the states to formulate rules in this area and for the states to follow the central policies on matters of national interest, such as environmental sustainability. The Electricity Act, 2003 grants all powers to the Central, State, and Union Territory Electricity Regulatory Commissions to formulate regulations. Section 166(2) of The Electricity Act, 2003 mentions the Forum of Regulators, comprising the Chairman of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the Chairpersons of the State and Union Territory Electricity Regulatory Commissions. Frequent meetings of the Forum of Regulators discuss improving regulations to promote green energy so that India can achieve its set target of 500 gigawatts of green energy by 2030.

Notably, India has the potential for over 1,000 gigawatts of renewable energy. As of May 2024, India produced 201.760 gigawatts of green energy. India is the third-largest producer of new and renewable energy and fourth in wind and solar energy capacity. India experiences approximately 300 days of sunshine per year. The current installed capacity of solar energy is 17.8 gigawatts in Rajasthan, 10.13 gigawatts in Gujarat, 9.05 gigawatts in Karnataka, 6.8 gigawatts in Tamil Nadu, and 4.8 gigawatts in Maharashtra.

It is with great pleasure to state that today, the world is following India's lead in green energy. India has shown the world a new light in the realm of green energy. The only viable solution to avoid the threat of global warming is green energy, which will protect the environment, strengthen the economy, and open up immense job opportunities. Green energy will bring smiles to the faces of farmers and offer new horizons to industrialists. The concept of One Sun, One World, One Grid will open new avenues of cooperation among Nations. By 2030, green energy will make India the world's third-largest economy. India is becoming a global flag-bearer in green energy, and as the world faces the threat of global warming, the only solution is the extensive use of green energy. On November 1, 2021, during his address at the COP-26 Summit in Glasgow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaffirmed India's commitment to green energy.

Earlier, on August 15, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the National Hydrogen Mission from the Red Fort, stating that the Indian government is working on a major mission to make India a global hub for green hydrogen. The Prime Minister has previously emphasized that future fuel-green energy is crucial for energy self-reliance. Today, the entire world is deeply interested in environmental conservation issues such as climate change and wants to join this mission.

Recently, a report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) warned that if traditional energy sources continue to be used at the current rate, greenhouse gas emissions could be double by 2050. The report advises reducing dependence on traditional means and adopting green energy alternatives to meet energy needs. India had already anticipated this warning from UNEP and started working in this direction in a timely manner, yielding positive results. India is fully committed to the campaign to save the environment and avoid the threat of global warming. By 2030, India will reduce its projected carbon emissions by one billion tons and reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by less than 45%. By 2070, India aims to achieve net-zero emissions.

Green energy is a mission that will unite the world. Today, India is progressing towards One World, One Sun, One Grid, reflecting India's vision towards climate change, encapsulated in the saying "Sarve Sukhinah Bhavantu" (May all be happy). This mantra will open new avenues of cooperation among nations. No one could have imagined how the concept of one world, one sun, and one grid could unite the world, but it is binding the world together, resulting in significant future benefits. The establishment of the International Solar Alliance aims to meet each other's electricity needs worldwide through a global grid, fostering new relationships among nations. For example, when the sun sets in East Asia, it rises in India. In this way, when one place is in darkness, another place is in light. Through the grid, green energy can be exchanged, reducing the costs associated with storing solar energy.

Additionally, exchanging solar energy will become feasible and straightforward, lowering carbon footprints and energy costs. Currently, India exchanges energy with Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Bangladesh. If the world embraces the mantra of one world, one sun, one grid, it can create a harmonious environment globally. This formula, envisioned by India, believes that challenges can be addressed through mutual cooperation.

Climate change is no longer the problem of a single nation; it is a global issue requiring collective action. The world's appreciation for this creative initiative is evident, but it will only be possible if the world advances hand in hand to save the environment. The states are also providing their full support in the field of green energy. This is why, when it comes to the world's top 5 solar parks, 3 are in India. The Bhadla Park located in the Jodhpur district of Rajasthan, where 2245 megawatts of solar power are being generated, is spread over 14,000 acres. This park experiences the highest solar temperature, with open sunlight year-round. In Rajasthan, a desert area where much of the region depends solely on rainwater, these new experiments are succeeding, and a new revolution has come in solar energy. Geographically, places with the most sunlight are identified and green energy work is being carried out at a rapid pace. This has brought investments to Rajasthan, resulting in a significant transformation in the lives of the people there. Rajasthan's land is playing a crucial role in achieving the non-fossil energy target, and work is underway in this direction. Hence, Rajasthan's land is emerging as a clean energy powerhouse.

In Karnataka, the Pavagada Solar Park in Tumkur is generating 2000 megawatts of solar energy and is spread over 13,000 acres. In Andhra Pradesh, the Kurnool Ultra Mega Solar Park, which generates 1000 megawatts, spans 5932 acres, and the Kunta Ultra Mega Solar Park in Anantapur, which generates 1500 megawatts, spans 7924 acres. In Madhya Pradesh, the Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Plant generates 750 megawatts and covers 1590 acres. The Cochin International Airport, which is fully powered by solar energy, initially required 12 megawatts of electricity, now increased to 40 megawatts, all met by solar energy. Remarkably, where solar infrastructure is established, green vegetables are also being produced under the solar panels. Additionally, Indian Railways is playing a significant role in green energy production, with a solar-powered train running in Kerala, and efforts are underway to introduce more such trains.

A giant solar park is being developed in Kutch, Gujarat, covering approximately 800 square kilometers and expected to produce around 30 gigawatts of electricity, including wind energy production. Moreover, a green energy corridor is being created in India to bring green energy into use through grid connectivity via transmission lines. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs of India has approved phase two of the Green Energy Corridor for the intra-state transmission system. The first phase of the Green Energy Corridor is already being implemented in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan. This aims to integrate and transmit approximately 24 gigawatts of renewable energy into the grid.

This will facilitate the grid integration and power transmission of approximately 20 gigawatts of renewable energy (RE) power projects in seven states: Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh. These transmission systems will be built over five years from the fiscal year 2021-22 to 2025-26, with an estimated cost of 12,031 crore rupees, where central financial assistance (CFA) will be 33% of the project cost.

The aim is to integrate renewable resources like wind and solar with traditional power stations into the grid to achieve the target of 500 gigawatts of installed renewable energy capacity by 2030. The Green Energy Corridor aims to establish large-scale renewable energy with around 20,000 megawatts and improve the grid at the state level.

This will contribute to India's long-term energy security and promote ecologically sustainable growth by reducing the carbon footprint. It will create direct and indirect employment opportunities. As of May 31, 2024, India's installed power capacity is 444.757 gigawatts. Currently, 54.6% of energy production in India is from fossil fuels, with 210.970 gigawatts from coal, 6.620 gigawatts from lignite, 24.818 gigawatts from gas, and .589 gigawatts from diesel. Non-fossil fuels produce 201.760 gigawatts, which is 45.4% of the total installed capacity, with 49.928 gigawatts from hydro, 146.652 gigawatts from wind, solar, and other renewable energy sources, and 8.180 gigawatts from nuclear energy.

Now let's talk about the PM-KUSUM scheme, which has increased farmers income. Between 2014-19, there were only 11,626 solar pumps, which have now increased to 2.95 lakh (as of February 2024). Under the Prime Minister's KUSUM scheme, a large number of farmers are joining this initiative, which is also providing them with income. No one would have thought that farmers livelihoods could be enhanced through renewable energy, but now farmers are not only increasing their livelihoods by joining the PM-KUSUM scheme but also playing a significant role in saving the environment. The Ministry of Power is also working to link the electricity used in the entire agricultural sector with the PM-KUSUM scheme, which will not only result in remarkable progress in the field of green energy but also make farmers self-reliant. India is very serious about climate change, and as a result, the Ministry of Power, State Governments, other private institutions, and industrialists are working shoulder to shoulder to realize the Prime Minister's Glasgow speech. This is why India is reducing mercury pollution by using LED lights, and Indian industries are exporting LEDs to the world to protect the environment.

India is the world's second-largest producer of LEDs. This strengthens India's economy further, and India is now the fifth-largest economy in the world, which is projected to become the third-largest economy by 2030. For this, the Central, State, and Union Territory Electricity Regulatory Commissions are playing a significant role. These Commissions instruct electricity distribution companies to meet their Renewable Power Obligation (RPO) targets at any cost to save the environment in the future because green energy is a sustainable source that protects both the environment and human health. The Commissions emphasize the maximum use of green energy.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Government of India is actively promoting the benefits of green energy. Solar energy has been used in various ways for many years. Significant achievements have been made in generating electricity from solar energy. In addition to using it as natural light, the use of solar geysers and solar cookers is also increasing in homes. All these utilize solar energy in the form of integrated photovoltaic and energy plants. Seeing the immense possibilities in the field of solar energy, foreign companies are now attracted to India. New discoveries and technologies are emerging in this field, allowing this energy to be stored for use when needed, and a lot of work is being done in this direction.

As for wind energy, it is generated by wind turbines in open windy areas on Earth. Wind energy is emerging as a good alternative to green energy. India ranks fourth in the world in wind energy capacity. In terms of green energy, it can be said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is continuously striving to promote green energy on national and international platforms. The good results of his efforts are visible, and because of his solid initiatives, India will achieve its set target in this direction by 2030. This is all possible due to the good regulations of the electricity regulatory commissions, whose positive role in this direction will prove to be a milestone in the country's green energy upliftment.

Disclaimer: Views expressed in this article are personal just for information, general nature and do not reflect those of FOIR or HERC.

FOIR Events

FOIR Centre, IICA organised 11th episode of Know Your Regulator (KYR) series with Smt Ravneet Kaur (*Hon'ble Chairperson, CCI*)

The Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR) Centre at the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) successfully conducted the 11th episode of the KYR series with **Smt Ravneet Kaur** (*Hon'ble Chairperson, Competition Commission of India, CCI*) on April 5, 2024. A total of 76 participants attended the webinar including Chairpersons, Secretaries, senior officials, industry experts, academicians and scholars representing various regulatory bodies and institutions. The session formally commenced with the inaugural address by **Prof (Dr) Naveen Sirohi** (*Director, FOIR Centre, IICA*), who also moderated the KYR talk.

Welcoming Smt Ravneet Kaur, Dr Sirohi highlighted the pivotal role of CCI in nurturing a conducive competition culture to amplify consumer welfare and bolster economic growth. In the course of her talk, Smt Ravneet Kaur shed light on recent developments occurring both within CCI, and in the broader context of the competition dynamics unfolding in markets. Several pertinent areas of interest including the newly enacted Competition (Amendment) Act 2023, growing adoption and use of artificial intelligence by industries, leniency provisions as a method of reporting cartelisation were discussed.

Further, the Chairperson noted that the rapidly increasing digitalization of services both acts as an accelerator of growth and presents challenges for competition in the market, especially with the current dominance of a few big technology firms in the digital space. In this regard, the importance of developing adequate technical expertise within the Commission to understand market dynamics was reiterated.

The episode provided participants with an expansive view of the responsibilities and mandate of CCI, along with an in-depth understanding of the mechanisms adopted by CCI to discharge its functions effectively. The informative and interactive session was highly appreciated by the participants.



25th Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR)

The 25th AGM of the FOIR was held on June 14, 2024 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Addressing the gathering, **Shri Ravi Mital** (Hony Chairperson, FOIR and Chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India IBBI) highlighted the efforts of FOIR in fostering an enabling regulatory ecosystem in India. **Shri Jishnu Barua** (Hony Vice-Chairperson, FOIR and Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission CERC) acknowledged the Forum's importance and vibrancy, highlighting its role as a fertile platform for sectoral regulators to exchange ideas, knowledge, and best practices. **Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti** (Chairperson, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India TRAI), and **Shri S K G Rahate** (Chairperson, Airports Economic Regulatory Authority AERA), were also present in the meeting along with 34 other former and serving members of FOIR & officials.

The discussions covered review of the previous year's activities as well discussions on accounts-related matters and planned activities for FY 25. For FY 25, Prof (Dr) Naveen Sirohi (Director, FOIR Centre IICA) proposed the action/activities plan for FY 2024-25. IICA will support FOIR through the publication of quarterly e- Newsletter 'Regulatory Digest', Regulatory Governance Course, Know Your Regulator (KYR) Series/Webinars on contemporary issues, Conferences & Capacity Building Programs for officials of FOIR Member Organizations.



About FOIR & Member Organisations

The Forum of Indian Regulators was formally registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, with the Registrar of Societies in the National Capital Territory of Delhi on February 4, 2000. Schedule-I provides the Memorandum of Association, while Schedule-II provides the Rules and Regulations.

The Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) was the first Regulatory Commission constituted in the electric power sector on November 28, 1996. This was followed by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) which was constituted in August 1998 and the Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC) on March 10, 1998. Ten more followed to it thereafter. A need was felt by these regulators for a common platform to discuss emerging issues in regulatory procedures and practices, to evolve common strategies to meet the challenges before regulators in India and to share information and experiences. A meeting was convened of the CERC, OERC and HERC in February, 1999 at New Delhi to discuss the modalities for constituting a suitable forum. The idea quickly found acceptance and as more Regulatory Commissions were constituted, either under State specific Acts, or the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998, they started participating in the activities of the Forum of Indian Regulators. The constitution of the Forum does not restrict it only to the electricity sector.

Member Organisations

Presently, Forum of Indian Regulators has 38 regulatory authorities as its members.

[Click for List of Members](#)

Governing Body

The Forum has a Governing Body. Any Fellow Member of the Forum is eligible for appointment to the Governing Body. All members work in an honorary capacity.

[Click for Governing Body Details](#)

Contact

FOIR Secretariat

C/O Central Electricity Regulatory Commission,
8th Floor, Tower-B, World Trade Centre,
Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029.

Phone: 011-2618 9709

Email: asecy.foir@gmail.com

[Website: foir-india.org](http://foir-india.org)

About FOIR Centre, IICA

Forum of Indian Regulator (FOIR), with its aim to promote transparency in working of Regulators and to safeguard the consumer interest, signed MoU with Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), a think tank under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to establish its centre at IICA with the objective to promote cooperation and coordination among regulatory members of FOIR.

The FOIR Centre at IICA provides capacity building, education, research and advocacy support to FOIR Secretariat for academic upgradation and intellectual development for members and officials of FOIR member organisations. The centre also provides administrative support to FOIR including preparation of annual reports, statutory compliances etc.

Few notable contributions of FOIR Centre, IICA include:

- Flagship Certificate Course on Regulatory Governance
- Know Your Regulator (KYR) / Webinar Series
- Colloquium for Central Sector Chairpersons and Members
- Online / In-person Capacity Building Programs on Contemporary Issues
- Research on Contemporary Issues

TEAM



Prof (Dr) Naveen Sirohi,
Director
Email: naveen.sirohi@iica.in



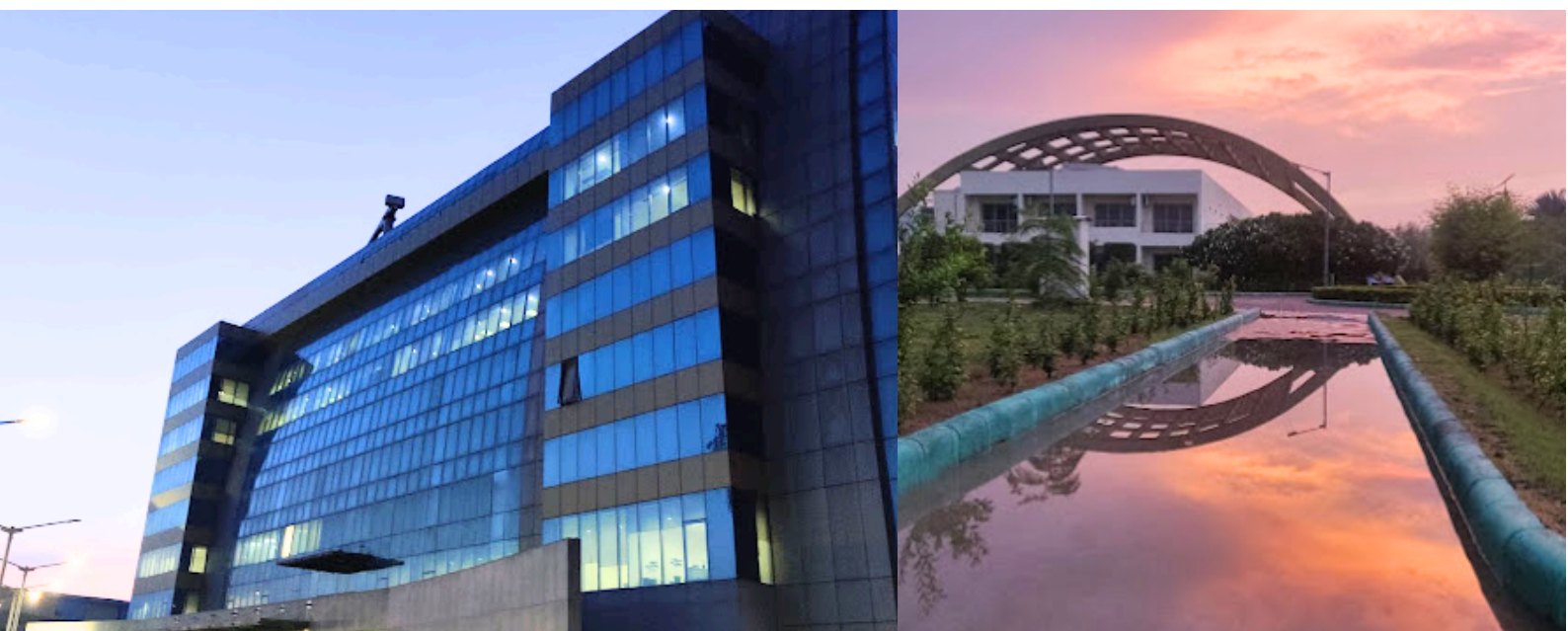
Ms Ankita Tiwari,
Research Fellow
Email: fellow.foir@iica.in



Ms Akanksha Chaudhri,
Research Associate
Email: ra.foir@iica.in



Mr Avanish Ranjan,
Consultant
Email: avanish.srivastava@iica.in



For Queries and Feedback:
Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR) Centre
Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs
Sector 5, IMT Manesar, Gurugram, Haryana-122052
Phone: 0124-2640080 | Email: foir@iica.in | www.iica.nic.in