

Legal Updates

MoC has approved coal linkage recommendations for Madhya Pradesh, TGGENCO and Kerala

The Ministry of Coal ("**MoC**") has, *vide* letter dated 26.10.2026, circulated the minutes of the meetings of the Standing Linkage Committee (Long-Term) ("**SLC (LT)**") No. 04/2026 for the Power Sector, held on 28.09.2026 and 21.10.2026.

The key recommendations and decisions are as follows:

(a) **Madhya Pradesh** – Earmarking of coal linkage for 2800 MW from Coal India Limited ("**CIL**") under the Revised SHAKTI Policy, 2025, subject to the State seeking exemption from the Empowered Committee if the radial distance of any greenfield thermal project identified through Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding exceeds 300 kms from the coal source. The successful bidder(s) are to be identified within one year from the date of earmarking, failing which the earmarked linkage may lapse. The Committee also recommended that the earlier earmarked linkages of 900 MW, 200 MW and 660 MW stand lapsed.

(b) **Telangana Power Generation Corporation Limited** ("**TGGENCO**") – Transfer of the existing coal linkage for Units 1 and 2 (2 x 800 MW) of the 1600 MW Yadadri Thermal Power Station from Singareni Collieries Company Limited ("**SCCL**") to CIL. CIL is to identify and intimate the coal source, quantity, likely mode of dispatch and representative coal quality.

(c) **Kerala** – Continuation of the coal linkage earmarked for 500 MW under the erstwhile SHAKTI Policy, 2017. Successful bidders are required to execute Fuel Supply Agreements ("**FSAs**") with the coal companies within one year from the issuance of the SLC (LT) minutes.

(d) The Committee dropped the agenda concerning Karnataka Power Corporation Limited ("**KPCL**"), following withdrawal of its request for transfer of coal linkage from SCCL to CIL.

(e) The Committee recommended extension of the bridge linkage for 1340 MW capacity of Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited, pertaining to the end-use plants linked to the Kente Extension coal mine, for one year on a tapering basis. The rate and source of coal supplies against the extended bridge linkage are to be decided by CIL in accordance with its commercial terms.

MoC has confirmed that the recommendations concerning Madhya Pradesh, TGGENCO, Kerala and KPCL have been approved by the Competent Authority, whereas the recommendation concerning RRVUNL remains under examination.

The letter dated 26.10.2026 along with the minutes of meeting can be accessed *here.*

MoC amends the auction methodology to waive the Upfront Amount for underground mining in partially explored coal mines

MoC has, *vide* order dated 29.10.2026, amended the methodology dated 28.05.2020 for auction of coal mines/blocks for sale of coal under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 ("**Methodology**").

The methodology has been amended to insert sub-para (F) in Para 2.1.5 (Upfront Amount). Where a partially explored coal mine is not classified for underground ("**UG**") mining in the tender document, but the successful bidder undertakes UG mining in the approved Mining Plan after allocation, a complete waiver of the Upfront Amount shall be granted. A successful bidder availing the waiver shall not be permitted to convert the mine to opencast ("**OC**") or mixed mining at any stage during the life of the mine. The amendment shall apply only to coal mines auctioned after issuance of the order.

Prior to the amendment, the waiver under sub-para (E) was available only for coal mines classified for UG mining in the tender document. Partially explored coal mines are auctioned without such classification, as their suitability for UG, OC or mixed mining cannot be pre-determined. Consequently, such mines attracted the general floor percentage of revenue share of 4%, and the Upfront Amount, calculated at 0.20% of the value of estimated geological reserves (subject to the prescribed ceiling), remained payable even where the successful bidder subsequently undertook UG mining after allocation.

The insertion of the new sub-para (F) extends the benefit of complete waiver of the Upfront Amount to such partially explored coal mines, provided the successful bidder undertakes UG mining exclusively throughout the life of the mine.

The amendment does not extend the benefit of the reduced floor percentage of revenue share of 2%, which continues to apply only to coal mines classified for UG mining in the tender document under the amendment dated 29.04.2025. Accordingly, partially explored coal mines covered by the new sub-para (F) will continue to attract the 4% floor percentage of revenue share. All other terms and conditions of the Methodology remain unchanged.

The order dated 29.10.2026 can be accessed *here.*

MNRE has issued the Thirteenth Revision of ALMM List-II for solar PV cells

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy ("**MNRE**") has, *vide* OM dated 28.10.2026, issued the Thirteenth Revision of the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers ("**ALMM**") List-II for solar PV cells, pursuant to the ALMM Order dated 02.01.2019 and subsequent amendments and clarifications thereto. The revision introduces new manufacturers and additional manufacturing capacity in the list of manufacturers and models of solar PV cells enlisted under ALMM List-II.

The revision includes the enlistment of Grew Energy Private Limited, with a manufacturing capacity of 2407 MW per annum at its facility in Narmadapuram, Madhya Pradesh, for bifacial mono-crystalline TOPCon solar cells, and Ampin Solar One Private Limited, with a manufacturing capacity of 1160 MW per annum at its facility in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, for bifacial mono PERC solar cells.

Further, the enlisted manufacturing capacity of Avaada Electro Limited, at its Butibori Industrial Area facility in Nagpur, Maharashtra, has been specified as 7117 MW per annum, covering four N-

type TOPCon solar cell models comprising G12R and G12 half-cut and full-cell variants. The enlistments are subject to the respective validity periods specified in the revised list.

The revision further clarifies that, unless expressly stated otherwise, the capacity specified against a manufacturing unit in the relevant revision shall constitute the ALMM-enlisted manufacturing capacity of that unit from the date of such revision and shall not be construed as the aggregate of the capacity enlisted under previous revisions and the capacity specified in the current revision.

The Thirteenth Revision thus expands the list of eligible domestic solar PV cell manufacturers and models under ALMM List-II and specifies the revised enlisted manufacturing capacity of Avaada Electro Limited.

The OM dated 28.10.2026 can be accessed *here.*

MNRE issues Fourteenth Revision of ALMM List-II for solar PV cells

MNRE has, *vide* OM dated 06.11.2026, issued the Fourteenth Revision of the ALMM List-II for solar PV cells, pursuant to the ALMM Order dated 02.01.2019, the Guidelines dated 28.03.2019 and the subsequent amendments and clarifications thereto. The Fourteenth Revision updates the list of manufacturers and models of solar PV cells enlisted under ALMM List-II.

The revision records a capacity addition in respect of Reliance Industries Limited, at its New Energy Complex, Navagam/Kana Chhikari, Jamnagar, Gujarat, with an enlisted manufacturing capacity of 3369 MW per annum for Heterojunction Technology ("**HJT**") solar cells. The enlisted model is HJNxx, comprising HJT solar cells of dimensions 210 mm × 105 mm, with no bus bars and PID-free characteristics, as claimed by the manufacturers. The average solar cell efficiency is specified as 25.57%, with an average wattage of 5.64 W. The stated efficiency range is 23.80% to 26.20%, and the wattage range is 5.28 W to 5.79 W, both as claimed by the manufacturer. The validity period specified in the revised list is from 13.04.2026 to 12.04.2030.

The revision further clarifies that, unless expressly stated otherwise, the capacity specified against a manufacturing unit in the relevant revision shall constitute the ALMM-enlisted manufacturing capacity of that unit from the date of such revision. Accordingly, the capacity specified in the current revision is not to be construed as the aggregate of the capacity enlisted under previous revisions and the capacity specified in the present revision. The Fourteenth Revision therefore updates the ALMM List-II by reflecting the enlisted capacity and model details of Reliance Industries Limited's HJT solar cells.

The OM dated 06.11.2026 can be accessed *here*.

PNGRB has extended the temporary suspension of levy of imbalance charges under the Access Code Regulations for a further period of 3 months

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board ("**PNGRB**") has, *vide* Public Notice dated 06.11.2026, approved a further extension of the waiver/temporary suspension of imbalance charges leviable under Regulation 13 of the PNGRB (Access Code for Common Carrier or Contract Carrier Natural Gas Pipelines) Regulations, 2008 ("**Access Code Regulations**"), for a further period of three months, i.e., from 01.11.2026 to 31.01.2027. The extension applies to entities, shippers and consumers covered under the aforesaid Regulations.

The PNGRB has extended the temporary suspension in view of the continuing geopolitical situation and the consequential uncertainties affecting energy supplies, availability of liquefied natural gas (LNG), logistics, scheduling and market conditions.

The measure is intended to provide temporary regulatory relief in view of the extraordinary circumstances arising from the prevailing geopolitical developments, which continue to have implications for supply conditions and operational balancing in the natural gas sector. It is also intended to provide a reasonable transition period for stabilisation of supply and operational conditions, pending further consideration of measures for rationalisation of imbalance.

The Public Notice dated 06.11.2026 can be accessed *here.*

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), vide Supplementary Draft Notification dated 26.10.2026, has proposed amendments to the Draft Central Electricity Regulatory

CERC issues supplementary draft notification proposing extension of ISTS charge waiver for renewable energy projects delayed due to transmission system non-readiness

Commission (Sharing of Inter-State Transmission Charges and Losses) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2026, seeking to extend the benefit of graded waiver of Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) charges to renewable energy generating stations (REGS) based on wind or solar energy and renewable hybrid generating stations (RHGS) based on a combination of wind and solar energy, whose commissioning is delayed due to non-availability of the transmission system.

The proposed amendment provides that projects having a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) or Power Sale Agreement (PSA) of at least seven years, executed with the drawee Designated ISTS Customer (DIC), directly or through a trading licensee or Renewable Energy Implementing Agency (REIA), on or before 31.03.2027, may claim the waiver. For determining eligibility, the relevant date shall be the later of (i) the start date of connectivity communicated by CTUIL as on the date of signing of the PPA or PSA, as applicable, and (ii) the Scheduled Commercial Operation Date (SCOD) specified in the PPA or PSA. The project must also achieve Commercial Operation Date (COD) within two months from the date of effectiveness of its General Network Access (GNA).

Under the proposed framework, the extent of waiver shall be determined based on the above relevant date, with 100% waiver for projects where such date falls on or before 30.06.2025, 75% for the period from 01.07.2025 to 30.06.2026, 50% from 01.07.2026 to 30.06.2027, and 25% from 01.07.2027 to 30.06.2028. No waiver shall be available where the relevant date falls after 30.06.2028. The waiver shall remain applicable for the tenure of the PPA or PSA, subject to a maximum of 25 years from COD, and may continue where the same agreement is extended. However, the waiver shall cease if the agreement is terminated or the prescribed conditions are not fulfilled.

Further, projects already commissioned before the proposed amendment comes into effect may also opt for the revised waiver mechanism by submitting the prescribed undertaking to CTUIL and NLDC within one month of its effectiveness. Eligible projects must furnish the relevant PPA and PSA, as applicable, to CTUIL and NLDC by 30.04.2027. The Commission has issued the supplementary draft to incorporate the Ministry of Power's Office Memorandum dated 05.10.2026 and invited stakeholders to consider the proposed changes.

The comments/ suggestions/ objections may be sent to the email addresses secy@cercind.gov.in and shilpa@cercind.gov.in on or before 27.11.2026 and registered users may also be uploaded through the SAUDAMINI Portal by clicking the e- Regulation link on the e-filing Home Page. A copy of the Draft Notification dated 26.10.2026 can be viewed *here.*

GERC notifies Grid Interactive Distributed Renewable Energy Sources Regulations, 2026

The Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission ("**GERC**"), vide Notification No. 11 of 2026 dated 30.10.2026, notified the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Distributed Renewable Energy Sources) Regulations, 2026 ("**DRES Regulations, 2026**"), in exercise of its powers under Sections 42, 61, 66, 86(1)(e) and 181 of the Electricity Act, 2003. The DRES Regulations, 2026 establish a comprehensive framework for the installation, grid connectivity, metering, energy accounting and commercial settlement of Distributed Renewable Energy Systems ("**DRES**") in Gujarat. The Regulations repeal the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) Regulations, 2016, along with subsequent amendments, and apply to DRES installations commissioned on or after their notification in the Official Gazette.

The Regulations permit five metering arrangements, namely Net Metering, Net Billing, Gross Metering, Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering. Consumers across all categories are eligible to install DRES, subject to the prescribed capacity limits. The minimum and maximum permissible capacities are as follows:

1. Net Metering and Net Billing - 1 kW to 1,000 kW (AC) or 1,250 kWp (DC);
2. Gross Metering - 6 kW to 4,000 kW (AC);
3. Group Net Metering - 6 kW to 1,000 kW (AC) or 1,250 kWp (DC); and
4. Virtual Net Metering - 10 kW to 4,000 kW (AC).

Consumers/Prosumers having a contract demand exceeding 100 kW and installing DRES capacity beyond their contract demand under Net Metering, Group Net Metering or Net Billing arrangements are required to install a Battery Energy Storage System ("**BESS**") with a minimum two-hour charging/discharging cycle per day for at least 50% of the DRES capacity exceeding the contract demand.

Under Virtual Net Metering, participating consumers must belong to the same tariff category and the same distribution licensee's area of supply, whereas under Group Net Metering, the participating connections must additionally be in the same name.

The Regulations prescribe distinct energy accounting and commercial settlement mechanisms for the different metering arrangements. Under Net Metering, exported energy is adjusted against imported energy during the same billing cycle. For residential consumers, the entire exported energy is eligible for adjustment without banking charges, and any surplus energy remaining thereafter is purchased by the distribution licensee at ₹2.25/kWh or such other rate as may be determined by GERC. For consumers other than residential category, adjustment is restricted to 30% of the total energy imported during the billing period, subject to applicable banking charges, and any excess energy is treated as lapsed energy.

Under Net Billing, imported energy is valued at the applicable retail tariff, while exported energy is credited at the generic tariff determined by GERC for the respective renewable energy source.

Under Gross Metering, the entire energy generated and injected into the grid is accounted for separately at the applicable generic tariff, while the consumer's electricity consumption is billed at the applicable retail tariff. Any excess monetary credit remaining at the end of the financial year is required to be deposited in the consumer's designated bank account within 30 days.

Under Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering, energy is allocated among participating connections in accordance with the allocation ratio specified in the agreement with the distribution licensee, with adjustment undertaken on a 15-minute time-block basis, after accounting for applicable wheeling losses. For non-residential participating consumers under these arrangements, banking of energy is restricted to 30% of the total energy drawn during the billing period, subject to applicable banking charges, and unutilised banked energy lapses at the end of the billing cycle. Residential participating consumers are permitted full adjustment without banking charges, with surplus energy purchased by the distribution licensee at ₹2.25/kWh or such other rate as may be determined by GERC.

The Regulations prescribe the applicability of wheeling charges, wheeling losses, banking charges, Cross Subsidy Surcharge ("**CSS**") and Additional Surcharge ("**AS**") in accordance with the applicable regulatory framework. However, residential consumers procuring energy from a non-captive DRES owned and installed by a Renewable Energy Service Company are exempted from CSS and AS where the allocated capacity does not exceed 3 kW per individual residential connection. The Regulations also provide that consumers claiming captive status must satisfy the requirements prescribed under the Electricity Rules, 2005 and applicable regulations. In relation to implementation, distribution licensees are required to prepare detailed implementation procedures and guidelines, establish a web-based application portal and develop a software-based energy accounting system within the prescribed timelines. Applications for DRES installations up to 10 kW, complete in all respects, are deemed to have been accepted without requiring a technical

feasibility study. The Regulations also prescribe timelines for various stages of registration, technical feasibility, connectivity approval, system strengthening and commissioning, and provide for compensation of not less than ₹500 per day for delays attributable to the distribution licensee without justifiable cause.

A copy of the DRES Regulations, 2026 can be viewed *here.*

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