



PRS Capsule - September 2022

Key Highlights of PRS

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Governance

Criminal Procedure (Identification) Rules, 2022

The Ministry of Home Affairs notified the **Criminal Procedure (Identification) Rules, 2022** under the [Criminal Procedure \(Identification\) Act, 2022](#).

- The Act **allows police officers or prison officers to collect certain identifiable information** (such as fingerprints, biological samples) from convicts or those who have been arrested for an offence.

What are the Rules?

- The Rules specify the manner of taking certain information, persons authorized to collect information, manner of collecting, storing, sharing such records, and the disposal of such records.
 - **Taking Measurements:**
 - Under the Act, **all convicts, arrested persons, and persons detained under any preventive detention law** may be **required to give their measurements**.
 - The Rules specify that for **certain persons measurements will not be taken** unless they have been charged or arrested in connection with any other offence.
 - These persons include **those violating prohibitory orders** which are issued under **Sections 144 or 145 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC)**, or arrested under **preventive detention under Section 151 of CrPc**.
 - **Storage of Measurement Records:**
 - The Rules specify that the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** will issue **the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)** for taking measurements including:
 - **Specifications and the format of the measurements** to be taken,
 - **Specifications of the devices to be used** for taking these measurements, and

- **The method of handling and storing these measurements** at the state level.
- The SOPs may also provide:
 - The **digital format** to which **each measurement should be converted before uploading** onto the database, and
 - The **encryption method** to be followed.
- **Destruction of Records:**
 - The Act provides that the **records will be destroyed in case of persons who have not been previously convicted** (of an offence with imprisonment), and are released without trial, discharged, or acquitted by the court, unless directed otherwise by the Magistrate or court.
 - The NCRB will destroy the records as prescribed.
 - The Rules provide that the **SOP will provide the procedure for destruction and disposal** of records.
 - The state or central government or Union Territory administration will appoint a **Nodal Officer to whom requests for destruction of record of measurements** will be made.
 - The **Nodal Officer will recommend destruction of records to the NCRB** after verifying that such records are not linked with any other criminal cases.

National Logistics Policy, 2022

The [Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade \(DPIIT\)](#) notified the [National Logistics Policy, 2022](#).

- It seeks to provide a framework for the **development of the logistics ecosystem**.
 - Logistics include the transportation and handling of goods, storage, value addition, and allied services.

What are the Key Features of the Policy?

- **Targets:**
 - **Reduce** Indian logistics costs **to comparable global benchmarks by 2030**,
 - **Improve India's ranking in the [Logistics Performance Index \(LPI\)](#)** to be among the top 25 countries by 2030.
 - Create a **data-driven decision support mechanism**.
- **Reduction in Logistics Cost:**
 - Logistics costs are planned to be reduced by **improving efficiency in transport, warehousing, inventory management and regulatory matters**.
 - **Improvement in transport is envisaged through:**
 - Increment in efficiency through **multimodal infrastructure**.
 - **Sectoral plans for efficient logistics**.
 - The policy seeks to **develop warehouses with optimal spatial planning and facilitate private investment**.
 - Inventory management is sought to be improved through **reliable supply chains by promoting digitalization**.
- **Monitoring and Coordination:**
 - **Empowered Group of Secretaries set up under the [PM GatiShakti National Master Plan](#)** will monitor the implementation of the National Logistics Policy.
 - The Empowered Group will set up a **Services Improvement Group for monitoring improvements in processes, regulation, and digitization in the logistics sector**.

Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022

The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has released the [Draft Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022](#) for public feedback.

- It seeks to **replace the [Indian Telegraph Act, 1885](#), the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, and the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950.**
 - These Acts regulate telecom services, possession of telecom equipment, and laying of telecom network.

What are the Key Features of the Bill?

- **License for Telecom Network and Services:**
 - The central government will have the exclusive privilege to **establish, operate, and maintain telecom network and provide telecom services.**
 - It may **grant a license to other entities** to carry out these activities.
 - The bill defines telecom services as services made available to users by telecommunication including **fixed-line and mobile, internet, broadcasting, satellite communication, machine-to-machine communication, e-mail, and [Over-The-Top \(OTT\) communication services \(voice, video, or messaging services over the internet\).](#)**
- **Spectrum Assignment:**
 - Spectrum may be assigned **through auction, or administrative allocation** in case of government functions or purposes concerning public interest or necessity. These include:
 - **Spectrum for BSNL, MTNL, and Prasar Bharti,**
 - **Disaster management**
 - **Safety in transport systems**
 - **Weather forecasting**
 - **Space research**
 - **Community radio stations**
- **Public Safety and National Security:**
 - The central government or state government may:
 - **Take temporary possession** of telecom services or network, or
 - **Direct that certain messages and communication of persons be intercepted and shared with them,** or their communication be suspended.
 - These will **apply in case of public emergency or safety and** should be necessary in the interest of national security, foreign relations, public order, or prevention of offences.
- **Additional Features:**
 - **A framework** for right of way for laying **telecom infrastructure.**
 - **Regulation of restructuring, insolvency, and payment default** in the telecom sector
 - A **telecom development fund.**

PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) Schools

The Union Cabinet approved [PM SHRI \(PM Schools for Rising India\) Schools](#), a [centrally sponsored scheme](#).

What are the Key Features of the Scheme?

- Under the scheme, more than **14,500 schools managed by central, state, and local body governments** will be selected and upgraded.
 - Schools would be required to **apply through an online portal.**
 - The portal will be **opened four times a year, once every quarter, for the first two years of PM SHRI.**
- PM SHRI schools will be provided with several facilities such as:
 - **Linkage with sector** skill councils and local industry.
 - **Improved pedagogy** with a focus on holistic learning.
 - **School quality assessment framework** to measure outcomes.
 - **Infrastructural facilities** such as solar panels, Light-Emitting Diode (LED) lights, and smart classrooms.
 - **Annual school grants.**
- The **total cost of the scheme will be Rs 27,360 crore** (including central share of Rs 18,128 crore) for the period **2022-23 to 2026-27.**

Extension in PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana

The Union Cabinet approved the **extension of the [Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana \(PMGKAY\)](#)** for a period of **three months (October to December 2022)**.

- Under the scheme, **every month 5 kilograms of food grains per person is provided free of cost** to all beneficiaries covered under the [National Food Security Act \(NFSA\), 2013](#).
- Till now, **six phases of the scheme have been implemented** involving a **cost of about Rs 3.45 lakh crore**.
 - The current phase i.e., PMGKAY VII is estimated to entail an **additional expenditure of about Rs 44,762 crore**.

What is PMGKAY?

- PMGKAY is a part of [Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package \(PMGKP\)](#) to help the poor fight the battle against [Covid-19](#).
 - Its nodal Ministry is the Ministry of Finance.
- The scheme aimed at providing each person who is covered under the NFSA with an additional 5 kg grains (wheat or rice) for free, in addition to the 5 kg of subsidized food grain already provided through the [Public Distribution System \(PDS\)](#).
- It was initially announced **for a three-month period (April, May and June 2020)**, covering 80 crore ration cardholders. However, it has been **extended multiple times, since 2020**.

Economy

PLI Scheme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules

The Union Cabinet approved the implementation of the second tranche of the [Production Linked Incentive \(PLI\) Scheme on the 'National Programme on High-Efficiency Solar PV Modules'](#).

- The scheme seeks to achieve the target of generating **280-GigaWatt (GW) capacity from solar energy by 2030**.

What are the Key features of the Scheme?

- **Aim:** It seeks to promote [domestic manufacturing of highly-efficient solar photovoltaic \(PV\) modules](#) (commonly known as **solar panels**).
- **Implementation:** [Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency \(IREDA\)](#) is the implementing agency of the scheme.
- **Scheme Outlay:** Under the scheme, **PLI is provided to selected manufacturers for five years** post commissioning of the plants.
 - The **first tranche of the scheme**, approved in April 2021 had an outlay of **Rs 4,500 crore** and the **second tranche** has an outlay of **Rs 19,500 crore**.
 - The PLI rate will have a **tapering factor**, i.e., it will be higher in the first year and lower towards the end of the fifth year. This will **signal the manufacturing industry to be competitive after five years**.
- **Key Objectives:**
 - Installing an **estimated 65,000 megawatt (MW) per annum** manufacturing capacity of fully and partially integrated solar PV modules.
 - **Creating manufacturing capacity for components** (excluding PV modules).
 - **Boosting research and development initiatives** to achieve high-efficiency solar PV modules.

National Electricity Plan on Generation

The [Central Electricity Authority \(CEA\)](#) released the **draft National Electricity Plan for public feedback**. CEA is required to formulate a national electricity plan once in five years under the Electricity Act, 2003.

- The draft Plan provides a review of the last five years (2017-22), capacity addition requirements for 2022-27, and projections for the period 2027-2032.
- The draft Plan **projects total electricity generation of 2,674 billion units by 2031-32**, most of which will come from thermal (51%) followed by renewables (44%).

What are the Key Features of the Plan?

- **Current Installed Capacity:**
 - As of March 2022, the **current installed capacity of the country is about four lakh MegaWatt (MW)**.
 - Coal, renewable energy sources, and nuclear constitute 51%, 39%, and 2% of the installed capacity, respectively.
- **Generation Capacity Addition (2017-2022):**
 - The target capacity addition for 2017-2022 could not be achieved primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - As per the National Electricity Plan, 2018, the target from conventional sources (coal, gas, nuclear) was about 50,000 MW. However, the capacity addition could only achieve about 30,000 MW, i.e., 60% of the set target
- **Required Capacity Addition (2022-2027):**
 - 2.3 lakh MW of additional capacity needs to be added during 2022-2027 to meet the peak demand and energy requirement for the year 2026-2027.
 - Solar as a source will be a major contributor followed by wind, coal, and hydro.
- **Contribution of Renewable Energy Sources (2026-27, 2031-32):**
 - According to the CEA policies such as the [National Solar Mission](#), [PM-KUSUM](#), and the declining cost of [Renewable Energy \(RE\) technologies](#) will help make RE the major source in the energy mix of the country.
 - The draft Plan projects that RE contribution will increase from 25% (2020-21) to 36% of the total energy of the country in 2026-27, and 45% by 2031-32.
- **Need for Additional Coal-based Capacity (2031-32):**
 - Besides the under-construction coal-based capacity of 25,000 MW for 2022-27, the country may need an additional coal-based capacity of up to 28,000 MW by the year 2031-32.

RBI's Guidelines on Digital Lending

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released [guidelines on digital lending](#).

- The guidelines will be applicable for **digital loans extended by regulated entities including commercial banks, urban co-operative banks, states co-operative banks, and [Non-Banking Financial Companies \(NBFCs\)](#)**.

What are the Guidelines?

- **Disclosure to Borrowers:**
 - Regulated entities shall provide a **key fact statement to borrowers before the loan contract** is executed.
 - The statement should be in a **standardised format** for all digital lending products and shall include information on:
 - **Annual Percentage Rate** (Cost of Digital Loans for the Borrower)
 - **Recovery Mechanism**
 - **Grievance Redressal Officer**.
 - **Any fees/charges not part of the statement cannot be charged** by the regulated entities.
 - Digital lending applications should prominently **display information such as product features, loan limits, and costs**.
- **Creditworthiness:**
 - Regulated entities shall capture the **economic profile of the borrowers before extending loans**.
 - There shall be **no automatic increases in the credit limit** without the explicit consent

of the borrower for every such increase.

▪ **Data Protection:**

- Any data collected by regulated entities should be **need-based, with the prior consent of the borrower**, and should have an **audit trail**.
- Digital lending applications should **desist from accessing mobile phone data** such as media, contact lists, and call logs.
- **Explicit consent of the borrower shall be taken before sharing personal information with third parties** except in cases where it is done according to statutory or regulatory requirements.

▪ **Grievance Redressal:**

- Regulated entities shall ensure that they have a **nodal grievance redressal officer to deal with digital lending related complaints**.
- If a complaint lodged by a borrower is **not resolved within 30 days**, they can **complain with the [Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme](#)**.

Biodiversity & Environment

Compliance Timelines for Emissions of Thermal Power Plants

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** notified **amendments to the [Environment Protection Rules, 1989](#)** specifying standards for emission of environmental pollutants.

- Previously, emission standards of thermal power plants were based on the generation capacity of the plant.

What are the Key Amendments?

- The amendments specify emission compliance timelines based on the geographical location of thermal power plants (**[Category-A, Category-B and Category-C plants](#)**).
 - **Category-A plants** are required to **comply with Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) emissions by 2024**.
 - **Category-B plants** are required to comply with **SO₂ emissions by 2025**.
 - Category-C plants are required to comply with **SO₂ emissions by 2026**.
- An **environment compensation charge** shall be levied on plants that **continue non-compliant operations** beyond the prescribed timeline.
- The amendments also provide **exemptions to thermal power plants that are retiring**, i.e., being decommissioned.
 - Category-A units that are retiring in 2022, and Category-B and -C units that are retiring in 2025 are exempt from non-SO₂ emission standards.
- Similarly, **all units that are retiring in 2027 are exempt from SO₂ emissions**.

What are the Different Categories of Coal Plants?

▪ **Category-A Plants:**

- The power plants **within the radius of 10 km of the National Capital Region (NCR) or cities having million-plus population** have to meet the **December 2022 deadline**.
 - As per the list prepared by the **[Central Pollution Control Board \(CPCB\)](#)**, there are **79 such coal-based power plants**.

▪ **Category-B and -C Plants:**

- The power plants **within the radius of 10 km of critically polluted areas or non-attainment cities** have to meet the **December 2023 deadline**. There are **68 Category-B plants**.
- The **remaining plants comprising 75% of total** fall under **Category-C** were expected to meet the December 2024 deadline. There are **449 Category-C plants**.

