



## PRS Capsule- May 2023

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### Governance

#### The Ordinance to Amend the Government of NCT of Delhi Act Promulgated

- After the Supreme Court judgement on control over services in Delhi, the Government of **National Capital Territory (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023**, was promulgated recently.
- The **Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991** provides the framework for the **functioning of the Legislative Assembly and the government of Delhi**. Key features include:
  - **Powers to legislate Over Services:** As per [Article 239AA of the Constitution](#), the Delhi Legislative Assembly has powers to make laws on subjects in the [State List and the Concurrent List](#), barring police, public order, and land.
    - Parliament may **also legislate on subjects under the State List with respect to Delhi**, and these laws will prevail in case of repugnancy with state laws.
    - The **Ordinance specifies that the Delhi Legislative Assembly will not have the power to legislate on the subject of 'services'**, which comes under the State List. Services include matters related to appointments and transfers of employees of the Delhi government, and vigilance.
  - **National Capital Civil Services Authority:** The Ordinance establishes the National Capital Civil Services Authority to recommend to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi (LG):
    - transfers and postings, matters related to vigilance, disciplinary proceedings, and prosecution sanctions of Group A of All India Services (except Indian Police Service), and Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Civil) Services.
  - **The Authority will consist of the:**
    - Chief Minister of Delhi as Chairperson, Principal Home Secretary of the Delhi government as Member Secretary, and Chief Secretary of the Delhi government as member.
    - The central government will appoint both the Principal Secretary and Chief Secretary. Officers serving in connection with the subjects of police, public order,

- and land will not come under the Authority's purview.
- All decisions of the Authority will be based on a majority vote of the members present and voting. The quorum for a meeting is two people.
- **Powers of the Lieutenant Governor:** Under the Act, matters where the LG may act on his discretion are:
  - matters outside the legislative competence of the Delhi Legislative Assembly but which have been delegated to the LG, or
  - where he is required by a law to act in his **discretion or exercise any judicial or quasi-judicial functions.**
  - The Ordinance specifies that in these matters, the **LG will act in his sole discretion.** It expands the discretionary role of the LG by giving him powers to approve the recommendations of the Authority, or return them for reconsideration.
  - The LG's decision **will be final in the case of a difference of opinion between him and the Authority.**

## Quad Health Security Partnership

- The 2023 [Quad](#) Leaders' Summit **issued a joint statement launching the Quad Health Security Partnership.**
- The Quad is a **diplomatic network of the four countries** committed to supporting an open, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific.
- It **consists of India, the United States of America, Japan, and Australia.** The Quad Leaders' Summit is attended by heads of government. **The new partnership is an expansion of the [Quad Vaccine Partnership](#),** launched in 2021.
- The vaccine partnership is planned to enhance equitable access to vaccines in the Indo-Pacific region. The new **partnership will strengthen coordination and collaboration in support of health security** in the [Indo-Pacific](#).
- The **partnership plans to implement activities to build the region's capacity to detect and respond to outbreaks of [epidemic diseases](#).** These activities include:
  - Disease surveillance
  - Coordination of outbreak response
  - Developing and supporting the health workforce.

## Constitution of Inter-Ministerial Committee for Grain Storage

- The Union Cabinet approved the constitution of an Inter-Ministerial Committee to facilitate the creation of the [World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector](#).
  - **Eight schemes** under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution, and Ministry of Food Processing Industries **will be converged for this purpose.**
- The **Committee will address the shortage of agricultural storage infrastructure** by facilitating the establishment of **godowns and processing units at the level of [Primary Agriculture Credit Societies \(PACS\)](#).**
- The **Committee will be empowered to modify** (within approved outlays) guidelines/**implementation methodologies for such schemes** to create infrastructure at selected viable PACS.
  - PACS **will carry out additional activities such as functioning as procurement centres** for the [Food Corporation of India \(FCI\)](#) or state agencies and serving as fair price shops.
- Decentralised storage capacity at the local level is **expected to reduce food grain wastage.**
- Further, **providing options to farmers is expected to prevent distressed sales of crops,** and reduce transportation costs.
  - Implementation of the proposal **will begin within 45 days of Cabinet approval.**

## Revision in Fertiliser Subsidy

- The Union Cabinet [approved the revision in nutrient-based fertiliser subsidy rates](#) for [Rabi 2022-23](#) and **fixed subsidy rates for Kharif 2023.**

- Revised rates under the nutrient-based subsidy scheme will be effective between January 1, 2023 and March 31, 2023 for Rabi crops and between April 1, 2023 and September 30, 2023 for Kharif crops. A subsidy of Rs 38,000 crore will be provided for Kharif 2023.

## UDAN 5.1 for Helicopter Routes Launched

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation **launched round 5.1 of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - [Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik \(UDAN\)](#).**
- The Scheme **seeks to enhance connectivity to remote areas of the country** and achieve last-mile connectivity through helicopters.
  - The **Scheme seeks to facilitate regional air connectivity by making it affordable.**
- **Key features of the UDAN 5.1 include:**
  - Expansion of operational scope by allowing routes with either the source or destination being the priority area location.
  - Reduction in helicopter airfare caps by 25%.
  - An increase in viability gap funding caps for single and twin-engine helicopters.
- As per the Ministry, **greater helicopter use will help boost [tourism](#), [hospitality](#), and [local economies](#).**
  - As of May 2023, **46 helicopter routes have been operationalised under previous rounds** of the Scheme.

## Draft Amendments to New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019

- Clinical Trials Rules, 2019
  - The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare **released draft [amendments to the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019](#).**
    - They have been **framed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.**
  - The 2019 Rules **specify the procedure for conducting clinical trials.**
    - Clinical trials are studies of the efficacy and safety of new drugs or research on potential new drugs.
  - The 2019 Rules **specify procedural details such as obtaining informed consent of participants** and the oversight of trials by an ethics committee.
- **Draft Amendments:**
  - The draft amendments **define Clinical Research Organisations to be bodies that conduct some or all parts of a clinical trial on behalf of a sponsor**, which is the entity initiating and managing the trial.
  - The draft amendments add a chapter pertaining to the functioning of Clinical Research Organisations. For example, they are required to register with the [Drugs Controller of India](#), and such registration is valid for five years.
  - Clinical Research Organisations **are subject to inspections and must maintain records and data regarding the conduct of trials.** The registration can be cancelled if the Clinical Research Organisation fails to comply with the Act or Rules. \

## Amendments to Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Rules, 2004

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare **notified amendments to the [Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products](#) (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) **Rules, 2004.****
- The **2004 Rules place restrictions on the sale, production, and advertisement of tobacco products.** For example, **they prohibit:**
  - The advertisement of tobacco products, and
  - The sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of an educational institution or to a minor.
- The **2023 amendments require that anti-tobacco advertisements be displayed with online curated content** that features the use of tobacco products.
  - Online curated content **refers to any curated audiovisual content made available on demand via a computer resource**, such as [OTT content](#).
- **[Anti-tobacco advertisements of at least 30 seconds](#) in duration must be displayed** at the beginning and in the middle of any programme.

- **Audio-visual disclaimers of the ill-effects of tobacco consumption must also be displayed** at the beginning and in the middle of online content.

## National Electricity Plan for 2022-32

- The [Central Electricity Authority \(CEA\)](#) notified the [National Electricity Plan \(NEP\)](#) for 2022-32.
- CEA is **required to formulate a national electricity plan once in five years under the [Electricity Act, 2003](#).**
- The **Plan provides a review of the last five years (2017- 22)**, capacity addition requirements for 2022-27, and projections for the period 2027-2032.

## Recommendations on Ease of Doing Business in the Telecom and Broadcasting Sector

- **Key recommendations include:**
  - **Clearances and Approvals:** [Telecom Regulatory Authority of India \(TRAI\)](#) noted that currently, the process of obtaining permissions, and making payments is complex and time-consuming.
    - Concerned Ministries should set up a **single window system** for all clearances and approvals.
    - Each Ministry **should specify stage-wise timelines for all the processes in the respective guidelines or policies.** Each Ministry should set up a standing [Ease of Doing Business](#) committee to review, simplify, and update processes in this regard.
  - **Infrastructure and Essential Services Status:** The broadcasting and cable service sector should be granted '**infrastructure status**'. This will enable the industry to **raise capital from [non-banking finance companies](#)**, insurance companies, pension funds and India Infrastructure Financing Company Limited.
  - **Testing of Telecom Products:** To avoid duplication in the testing of telecom products, the Department of Telecommunications **should constitute a standing committee.**
    - The committee should include representation from the Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology, [Department of Telecommunication \(DoT\)](#), and the [Bureau of Indian Standards](#).
  - **Right of Way:** DoT has developed the [GatiShakti portal](#) to streamline the process for right of way approvals. However, there is no provision for local cable operators (LCO) to take such approvals from the portal.
    - The **portal should incorporate all service providers including LCOs.**
  - **Website Blocking:** TRAI noted that different ways/ portals are being used to send the list of websites to be blocked to internet service providers. It **recommended creating a single window portal for website blocking.** The list of blocked websites should be sent to the internet service provider via the portal.

## PLI scheme for IT Hardware

- The **Union Cabinet approved the [Production Linked Incentive \(PLI\) Scheme 2.0 for IT hardware](#)** for a period of six years.
- A PLI **provides certain benefits to selected companies on the incremental sales of products manufactured domestically.**
- The scheme **will cover manufacturing of laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs, servers, and ultra-small form factor devices.**

## Biodiversity & Environment

### Amendments to Green Energy Open Access Rules

- The Ministry of Power notified the Electricity ([Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access](#)) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2023.

- The **Rules provide a framework for open access to [renewable energy](#)** (from sources including solar, wind, hydro, and waste-to-energy).
- Open access means allowing a consumer to purchase electricity from a distribution company of its choice.
- Under the Rules, **consumers with access to green energy** (renewable sources) **shall pay a cross-subsidy surcharge** as per the central government's tariff policy.
  - Cross subsidy refers to a **tariff structure where a group of consumers pay relatively higher charges** to cover the cost of supply to another group of consumers.

## **Scheme to Make Cities Climate Change Resilient and Promote Circular Economy**

- The Union Cabinet **approved the 'City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0' (CITIIS 2.0)** for a period of four years (2023-2027).
  - The program has been **conceived by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in partnership with:**
    - French Development Agency (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW); a German bank, European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs.
- CITIIS, **launched in 2018**, is a sub-component of Smart Cities Mission in 12 select cities.
- It **focused on building infrastructure-related projects in cities**, capacity building with states, and promoting integrated urban management at the national level.
- **Key aims of CITIIS 2.0 include:**
  - providing financial and technical support in up to 18 smart cities (will be selected) for projects related to building climate resilience, and circular economy focusing on waste management,
  - assisting states/ UTs (on demand basis) to facilitate climate data driven planning with necessary infrastructure and build capacities of urban local bodies, and
  - assisting the centre, state, and city to integrate climate change governance in urban India.
- CITIIS 2.0 **seeks to supplement climate change commitments of India through National Mission on Sustainable Habitat, [Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 \(AMRUT\)](#), [Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0](#) and [Smart Cities Mission](#).**

## **Economy**

### **RBI Withdraws Rs 2,000 Denomination Banknotes from Circulation**

- The [Reserve Bank of India \(RBI\)](#) has **[withdrawn Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation](#)**. However, **such banknotes will continue to be legal tender**.
- The Rs 2,000 **denomination banknote was introduced in November 2016 to expeditiously meet currency requirements** in the backdrop of the withdrawal of the legal tender status of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 denomination banknotes.
- RBI noted that the objective of introducing the Rs 2,000 banknote was met once other denominations became available in adequate quantities.
  - It also **observed that the banknote is not commonly used for transactions**.
- People **may deposit such banknotes in their bank accounts or exchange them for banknotes of other denominations** at any bank branch by September 30, 2023. An amount of up to Rs 20,000 in Rs 2,000 banknotes **can be exchanged at a time**.