Emerging developmental needs of the Indian power sector include viability, sustainability and modernisation. Disruptive and transformative changes such as influx of renewable energy, commercialisation of utility scale storage and digital innovation, amongst others, impact the existing business models and present new opportunities for the sector. Rapidly evolving market transformation and technological developments add to the complexity of power sector dynamics. Understanding long term implications of the choices made today is critical to lay a strong foundation for a more vibrant and agile power sector that can cater to the needs of a growing economy.

Well-informed policy and regulatory decision making has a crucial role in defining the future pathways to address the emerging requirements of the sector. The institutional capacity of the power sector needs to be strengthened to ensure an effective policy and regulatory response.

About CER

The Centre for Energy Regulation (CER) is an endeavor towards comprehensive and sustained institutional strengthening in the Indian power sector. It is an initiative led by the Department of Industrial and Management Engineering (IME) at Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK), which has been actively engaged in education, research, capacity building, consulting and policy advisory related to energy/power sector. The CER and its activities are partly supported by the UK Government till March, 2021 through a project on “Strengthening Regulatory Research & Network in the Power Sector” under the “Supporting Structural Reforms in the Indian Power Sector” program. The Centre will work in close cooperation with key stakeholders in the Indian power sector, particularly the Electricity Regulatory Commissions (ERCs), electric utilities and academia.

Objectives

- Support enhanced regulatory-academia-utility interaction
- Develop analytical cum regulatory knowledge base including data repository for informed and well evidenced policy and regulatory decisions
- Support research-based studies and opinions impacting power sector and its regulation
- Promote active platform for peer-to-peer learning amongst Electricity Regulatory Commissions and the utilities
- Develop a collaborative research network for assisting assimilation of national and international best practices
Activities

**CER Approach**

To meet the above objectives, the Centre would undertake structured activities implemented using innovative and inclusive approach:

- Demand driven research for driving policy and regulations
- Bottom up capacity creation of regulatory institutions and utilities
- Hands on involvement of regulatory staff in research
- Regulatory database, information and analytical tools to support research, learning and decision making
- Continuous engagement through online learning platforms and dissemination workshops
- International exposure to leading institutions and good practices through structured programs
- Twining arrangements with leading national and international institutions for collaborative research and knowledge exchange
- Promotion of regulatory research by through doctoral/ post-doctoral fellowships, internships etc.

Key outputs of the Centre, namely, regulatory database, working papers, learning modules, visualisation tools, regulatory newsletter and discussion forum will be available on its web portal.

**Partners**

The UK Government is a key partner, committed to supporting the CER, furthering a common agenda of creating a vibrant and resilient power sector. CER is keen to collaborate with national and international research institutions, regulatory bodies, utilities and civil society groups for knowledge sharing, collaborative research and expert guidance, paving way for future developments in the Indian power sector.

A three-tier governance structure comprising of an Advisory Committee for strategic guidance, IITK's administrative control for operational oversight and a Key Performance Indicator based performance assessment framework will ensure transparent, independent and sustainable functioning of the CER to meet its objectives.

**How can you contribute**

We seek your inputs and cooperation in undertaking various activities of the Centre. Interested stakeholders can participate in Regulatory Skill Mapping (RSM) hosted at the Centre's portal. Your inputs and feedback on the Centre's output would help us design appropriate programs and activities in future.

**Other Initiatives**

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