



News Analysis (04 Oct, 2019)

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PRAKASH Portal

The government has launched a **web portal, PRAKASH (Power Rail Koyla Availability through Supply Harmony)**, with a view to **improving coordination between the power, coal and railway ministries to ensure coal supplies to power plants.**

- It has been **developed by NTPC** and sources data from different stakeholders such as Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) and coal companies.
- The portal is **not accessible to the general public.**

Background

- **Present mechanism** to review coal supply situation consists of an **inter-ministerial group** which has officials from Ministries of Power, Coal and Railways, Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Power Utilities and Coal companies.
- This group holds weekly meetings to review coal supply situation as well as railway logistics.
- It was observed that this mechanism faced **several issues such as scattered information, correctness of data from different organizations, timely availability of data etc.** This often led to difficulties in decision making.

Benefits of Portal to the Stakeholders

- **Stakeholders** including the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and Power System Operation Corporation Ltd. (POSOCO) can **review overall availability of coal at thermal power plants in different regions.** The Portal will make available related reports.
- **Coal company** will be able to track stocks and the coal requirement at power stations for **effective production planning.**
- **Indian Railways** will **plan to place the rakes** as per actual coal available.

- **Power stations** can **plan future schedule** by knowing rakes in pipe line and expected time to reach.

NTPC

- NTPC is **India's largest energy conglomerate** with roots planted way back in 1975 to accelerate power development in India.
- Its **mission** is to provide reliable power and related solutions in an economical, efficient and environment friendly manner, driven by innovation and agility.
- NTPC became a **Maharatna company** in May 2010.
- It is located in **New Delhi**.

Central Electricity Authority

- CEA is an **organization** originally constituted under Section 3(1) of the repealed Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, since substituted by **Section 70 of the Electricity Act, 2003**.
- One of its **objectives** is to formulate National Electricity Plan every five years for optimum utilization of available resources for power generation.
- It works under the **Ministry of Power** and is located in **New Delhi**.

Power System Operation Corporation Ltd.

- POSOCO is a Government of India enterprise that supervise and **control all aspect concerning operations and manpower requirement of the Regional Load Despatch Centres (RLDCs) and the National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC)**.
- NLDC and RLDCs are responsible for operating the electricity market working in the country. They **function under the Electricity Act, 2003**.
- NLDC is located in **New Delhi**.

Centre for Railway Information System

- The Ministry of Railways set up CRIS as **a society in July 1986**.
- Its **area of work** includes information systems from all disciplines and functions of the Indian Railways.
- It is headquartered in **New Delhi**.

Source: PIB

Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus

Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus (EEHV) is a **rare disease that** has killed five elephants in Odisha.

- EEHV is as a type of **herpes virus** that can cause a **highly fatal hemorrhagic disease** in **young Asian elephants** between the **ages of 1 and 12**.
 - If a young elephant dies before reproducing, it affects the population of the species as a whole in the concerned geography.
 - When EEHV is triggered, the elephant dies of **massive internal bleeding** and symptoms which are hardly visible, like reduced appetite, nasal discharge, and swollen glands.
- The disease is usually **fatal, with a short course of 28-35 hours**.
- There is **no cure for herpes viruses in animals or in humans**

Source:IE

Online Child Sexual Abuse Imagery

A new research has placed India at the **top of the list of the countries** from where the **maximum number of reports** (38.8 lakh) related to **suspected online Child Sexual Abuse Imagery (CSAI) originated**.

- According to the data, **India, Indonesia, and Thailand** account for 37% of Online Sexual Abuse Imagery (CSAI).
- The research was carried by **Google and "Thorn" - an international anti-human trafficking organization**.
- The data shows that 68% of reports related to abuse through CSAI have emerged in Asia, 19% in the Americas, 6% in Europe, and 7% in Africa.

Child Sexual Abuse Imagery (CSAI)

- Child Sexual Abuse Imagery (CSAI) is any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a minor (a person less than 18 years old). It reflects the sexual abuse and exploitation of children in online world.
- CSAI can be found in virtually any online realm more than videos and images.
- Not only do these images and videos document victims' exploitation and abuse, but when these files are shared across the internet, child victims suffer **re-victimization** each time the image of their sexual abuse is viewed.

Source: TOI

Waterfall Approach and Money Market

In order to bring uniformity and consistency in valuation, market regulator Sebi has asked mutual fund houses to follow **the "waterfall" approach** for the valuation of money market and debt securities.

- **SEBI** noted various instances wherein mutual funds have used their own trades of relatively small quantities in order to value the entire holding of such security. To avoid this, the waterfall approach is to be adopted.
- Under the Waterfall Approach, all traded securities would be valued on the basis of traded yields
 - For Government Securities (including T-bills), **Volume Weighted Average Yield (VWAY)** for trades in the last one hour of trading shall be used.
 - Valuation of all other money market and debt securities (including Government securities not traded in the last one hour) shall be done on the basis of VWAY of all trades during the day.

Volume Weighted Average Yield (VWAY)

- It is a **trading benchmark** used by traders that gives the **average price security** has traded throughout the day, based on both **volume and price**.
- It is important because it provides traders with **insight into** both the **trend and value of a security**

Money Market Fund

- **Money Market Mutual Funds (MMMF)** are short-run liquid investments which invest in high-quality money market instruments such as Treasury Bills (T-Bills), Repurchase Agreements (Repos), Commercial Papers and Certificate of Deposits.
- Money Market Fund is an **open-ended** mutual fund.
- It invests in **short-term debt securities** like treasury bills and commercial paper.
Debt securities funds invest in **fixed income securities** like bonds and treasury bills.

Source: BS

Poisonous Fire Coral Fungus

One of the world's **deadliest species of fungi, the Poison Fire Coral, has been identified**

growing in Australia for the first time.



- Previously, the presence of fungus has also been found in **Indonesia and Papua New Guinea**.
- The Fire Coral fungus has its **native habitat** in the mountains of **Japan and Korea**.
Several people have died in Japan and Korea after mistaking this bright red fungi for edible mushrooms.
- Its toxins can even be **absorbed through the skin**.
- **If eaten**, it causes **symptoms** such as stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, fever and numbness which are followed over hours or days by the skin peeling off the hands and feet, and the shrinking of the brain.

Source: TH

Performance Smart-Board

The **Ministry of Electronics and IT (MEITY)** has launched an **Automated Real Time Performance Smart-Board to ensure effective monitoring of the key programmes** of the Ministry.

- **Functions:**
 - It will provide **real-time, dynamic analytical project monitoring** for critical and high priority Programme/Schemes of MeitY.
 - It will **enhance analysis** through data integration by consolidating multiple data sources into one centralized, easy-to-access platform.
- **Expected Outcome:** Promoting transparency and enhancing ease of working.

Source: Tol
