



PRS Capsule - October 2024

Key Highlights of PRS

▪ Polity and Governance

- Guidelines Released for Pilot of Prime Minister's Internship Scheme
- SC Upholds Provision on Citizenship for Migrants From Bangladesh to Assam
- Supreme Court Upholds States' Right to Regulate Industrial Alcohol
- Health Ministry Expands Scope Of Nutrition Support For Tuberculosis Patients
- Guidelines for innovative projects under PMSurya Ghar Yojana notified

▪ Economy

- Repo rate kept unchanged at 6.5%
- Cabinet Approves Rationalisation of Schemes For Sustainable Agriculture And Food Security
- Cabinet Approves Mission For Oilseeds Production
- Cabinet Approves Continuation of Supply of Free Fortified Rice Under PMGKAY
- National Electricity Plan (Transmission) notified for 2022-32

▪ Science and Technology.

- Cabinet Approves Rs 1,000 Crore Funding For Space-Based Startups

Polity and Governance

Guidelines Released for Pilot of Prime Minister's Internship Scheme

- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs released the guidelines for the [Prime Minister's Internship Scheme, Pilot Project](#).
- A pilot project of the scheme has been launched for 2024-25 with a target of **providing 1.25 lakh internships**.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Criteria for Companies:** For offering internships, the top 500 companies have been selected based on their average expenditure on [Corporate Social Responsibility \(CSR\)](#) over the last three years.
 - Other companies can participate in the scheme with approval from the Ministry.
 - The internship duration must be for 12 months.
 - At least half of this must be spent in actual working experience/job environment.

SC Upholds Provision on Citizenship for Migrants From Bangladesh to Assam

- With a 4:1 majority, the [Supreme Court](#) upheld the provision of the [Citizenship Act, 1955](#) providing a separate citizenship criterion for migrants from Bangladesh to Assam.
- **Key Highlights of Judgement:**
 - The Court ruled that Parliament has the competence to pass any law on citizenship.
 - This competence extends to legislating the provision in question.
 - The Court also ruled that a separate provision under the Act for Assam does not violate the [right to equality \(Article 14\)](#).
 - Assam and the rest of India are distinguishable based on the unique political situation created in Assam by the [influx of migrants](#).
 - The Court also added that the cut-off dates under this provision are not arbitrary as they

are based on specific historical events and circumstances.

Supreme Court Upholds States' Right to Regulate Industrial Alcohol

- The [Supreme Court](#) in a nine-judge bench judgment reversed an earlier seven-judge bench judgment and [upheld states' right to regulate denatured spirit](#) or industrial alcohol.
- The Court held that the Constitution empowers states to regulate **intoxicating liquors** from the stage of raw materials to their consumption.
- It further held that **Parliament cannot enact a law** to take control of the industry of intoxicating liquor.
- It also held that intoxicating liquors under **Entry 8 of List II** cover all alcohol that could be used noxiously to the detriment of public health.
 - This includes **rectified spirits and industrial spirits** (not fit for human consumption) used in the production of potable alcohol and other products.

Health Ministry Expands Scope of Nutrition Support For Tuberculosis Patients

- The Health Ministry recently announced the expansion of the [Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana](#).
- This scheme aims to provide **nutritional and financial support** to TB patients to reduce mortality due to TB.
 - Financial support for each TB patient will be increased from **Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 per month**.
- The scheme will also provide **energy-dense** nutritional supplements to underweight TB patients for the first two months of treatment.
- **Family members** of TB patients will also receive nutritional support which will be aimed at improving their immunity.

Guidelines for Innovative Projects Under PMSurya Ghar Yojana Notified

- The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** notified the guidelines for the implementation of innovative projects under [PM Surya Ghar Yojana](#).
- The scheme aims to increase the share of solar rooftop capacity and empower residential households to generate their own electricity.
- Rs 500 crore has been allocated for innovative projects under the scheme to encourage advancements in **rooftop solar technologies** and fund innovations in business models.
- The scheme is **open to entities and individuals** including international co-operation for joint research.
- Projects under the scheme can have a **maximum duration of 18 months**.
- The selected projects will receive financial assistance of up to **60% of their total cost** or Rs 30 crore, whichever is lower.

Economy

Repo Rate Kept Unchanged at 6.5%

- The [Monetary Policy Committee \(MPC\)](#) of the [Reserve Bank of India](#) kept the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5%.
- Other decisions of the Committee include:
 - The [standing deposit facility rate](#) has been retained at 6.25%.
 - The [marginal standing facility rate](#) and the bank rate have been retained at 6.75%.
 - The MPC decided to change its [stance to neutral](#) from its earlier disinflationary stance.
 - It also decided to remain focused on keeping [inflation](#) in line with the target of 4% while supporting growth.

Cabinet Approves Rationalisation of Schemes For Sustainable Agriculture And Food Security

- The **Union Cabinet** approved the [rationalisation](#) of all existing **centrally sponsored schemes** under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare into two umbrella schemes:
 - **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVV)**: The [PM-RKVV](#) will be implemented with an outlay of Rs 57,075 crore to promote sustainable agriculture.
 - **Krishonnati Yojana**: The [Krishonnati Yojana](#) will be targeted at achieving food security for self-sufficiency with a proposed outlay of Rs 44,247 crore.

Cabinet Approves Mission For Oilseeds Production

- The Union Cabinet approved the [National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds \(NMEO-Oilseeds\)](#).
- The Mission will be implemented with a proposed allocation of Rs 10,103 crore between **2024-25 to 2030-31**.
- The mission aims to increase the production of primary oilseed crops from 39 million tonnes in 2022-23 to 70 million tonnes by 2030-31.
- These include rapeseed mustard, Groundnut, Soybean, Sunflower, and Sesamum. Domestic edible oil production in 2023-24 is estimated to be 12 million tonnes.

Cabinet Approves Continuation of Supply of Free Fortified Rice Under PMGKAY

- The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of supply of free [fortified rice](#) under all welfare schemes including the [Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana](#).
- The free supply has been extended from July 2024 to December 2028.
- Rice fortification involves adding rice kernels enriched with micronutrients to regular rice.
- It will be implemented as a **central sector scheme** funded by the Union government.

National Electricity Plan (Transmission) notified for 2022-32

- The [Central Electricity Authority \(CEA\)](#) notified the [National Electricity Plan \(NEP\)](#) (Volume-II Transmission) for 2022-32.
 - In May 2023, CEA had notified NEP (Volume-I Generation).
- CEA is required to formulate a National Electricity Plan once in five years under the Electricity Act, 2003.
- **Key Features of the Plan:**
 - **Current Capacity and Target:** The NEP plans to add 1,91,474 km of transmission lines during 2022-32 (at voltage levels of 220 kV and above).
 - **Target for 2017-22 not met:** The Plan noted that target capacity addition for 2017-2022 could not be achieved due to reasons such as the Covid-19 pandemic and delay in getting forest clearance.
 - **Renewable Target:** The Plan noted that the installed electricity generation capacity from renewable energy sources was 193.5 GW as of May 31, 2024.
 - The NEP provides a plan for installing a transmission system associated with a renewable energy capacity of 613 GW by 2032.

Science and Technology

Cabinet Approves Rs 1,000 Crore Funding For Space-Based Startups

- The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of a Rs 1,000 crore [venture capital fund](#) to support space-based startups.
- This fund is being set up by the [Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre \(INSAPe\)](#).
- The fund would be deployed over a five-year period starting from 2025 to 2030, with an annual deployment of Rs 150-200 crore.
- This fund is expected to benefit around 40 space-based startup companies.

