




PRAKASH Portal

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/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- CEA is an **organization** originally constituted under Section 3(1) of the repealed Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, since substituted by **Section 70 of the Electricity Act, 2003**.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