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Ref. No. ED/MSLDC/OP/GCC/

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Date: 22 MAY 2026

To,
As per mailing list GCC Core Group Members.

Sub: - Minutes of the 18th Grid Coordination Committee (GCC) meeting held on 20.02.2026 at C.O. Prakashganga, Mumbai.

Ref.: 1. GCC invitation and Agenda vide Letter No. ED/MSLDC/OP/GCC/No.359 dated 17.02.2026

Dear Sir,

With reference to the above subject, the Minutes of the 18th Grid Co-ordination Committee (GCC) meeting held at C.O. Prakash Ganga, Mumbai on 20.02.2026 at 11:00 hrs in hybrid mode is enclosed herewith.

Thanking you.

With regards,

Encl: As above.



(Shashank Jewalikar)

Executive Director, MSLDC

and

Member Convenor of GCC

Copy s.w.rs. to:

The Director (Operations), Corporate Office, MSETCL, Mumbai.

Copy to:

- The Chief Engineer (STU), Corporate Office, MSETCL, Mumbai.
- The Chief Engineer (Special Projects), Corporate Office, MSETCL, Mumbai.
- The Chief Engineer (SLDC), Airoli, Navi Mumbai.

Mailing List of GCC Core Group Members:

Sr. No.	Name of Organization	Name of Nominee/Designation	Committee Position	Contact No.	E-mail ID
1	MSETCL	Shri Satish Chavan, Director (Operations)	Chairperson	022-26492162	dirop@mahatransco.in
2	MSEDCL	Shri. Yogesh Gadkari Director (Commercial)	Member	022- 26474211 / 26472131	directorcommsedcl@gmail.com
3	MSLDC	Shashank Jewalikar Executive Director (SLDC)	Member Convener	022-27601765	edsldc@mahasldc.in
4	MSETCL	Anil Bharsakle CE (O&M)	Member	8554995004	ceom@mahatransco.in
5	MSPGCL	Shri. Pankaj Nagdeote CE (Works)	Member	022-6942200 69843434 Ext. 3419	cegw@mahagenco.in
6	WRPC	Shri P. D. Lone, S.E. Commercial	Member	9867622823	comml-wrpc@nic.in
7	MEDA	Shri Manoj Pise, General Manager	Member	9422319093	gmr@mahaurja.com

Minutes of the 18th Grid Co-ordination Committee meeting held on 20th February 2026 at 11:00 hrs. at C.O., Prakashganga, Mumbai.

The 18th Grid Coordination Committee (GCC) meeting of the Core Group was held on 20.02.2026 at 11:00 hrs at C.O. Prakash Ganga, Mumbai.

The meeting was conducted both physically and via video conferencing. A list of members /participants is enclosed as **ANNEXURE - A**.

The Executive Director of MSLDC and Member Convener of the GCC welcomed all the members and other participants to the 18th GCC Meeting.

With the permission of the Chair, discussions for the 18th GCC Core Committee began as follows:

Agenda points from STU

Agenda point 1:

Proposed Amendments to the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Transmission Open Access) Regulations, 2016 (and Subsequent Amendments) in alignment with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access) Regulations, 2022 (3rd Amendment)

Committee may discuss:

In recent months, multiple applicants have been approaching for grant of connectivity specifically for Solar/Non-Solar hour connectivity in respect of Wind and Hybrid projects. This increasing number of such applications has brought out certain immediate regulatory and procedural gaps under existing framework of the (Transmission Open Access) Regulation 2016.

Considering the evolving regulatory landscape, particularly under the (Connectivity and General Network Access) Regulation 2022, (including 3rd Amendment) there is a need to examine alignment of the State Regulation with the GNA framework, especially with respect to:

- 1) Grant of connectivity for timeblock specific injection (Solar/ Non- Solar hour)
- 2) Treatment of Wind and Hybrid projects under GNA-based planning
- 3) Network planning, augmentation and capacity allocation methodology
- 4) Avoidance of regulatory ambiguity and ensuring uniformity with national framework.

In view of the above, the matter may be deliberated in ensuring GCC, and suitable recommendations may be finalized for further representation before the Hon'ble MERC. This will

help in bringing regulatory clarity, ensuring consistency with GNA regime and facilitating systematic transmission planning.

Discussion in 18th GCC:

The CE, STU made the following submissions before the GCC:

Background

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission notified the Third Amendment to the Connectivity and General Network Access (GNA) Regulations, 2022 on 31 August 2025, which came into force from 09 September 2025.

The Amendment introduced the concepts of Solar Hour Access and Non-Solar Hour Access, with emphasis on integration of Renewable Energy (RE) sources and Energy Storage Systems (ESS) through time-based access rights. It also enables utilization of existing solar connectivity for other energy sources during non-solar hours for optimal utilization of transmission infrastructure.

The provisions of the Third Amendment are applicable to solar-based Renewable Energy generating stations, with or without Energy Storage Systems (ESS), and hybrid generating stations having a solar component, which have been granted connectivity or have applied for connectivity under the Regulations. The Amendment also prescribed a timeline of five and a half months from the date of notification for conversion of existing connectivity arrangements in line with the amended provisions

Subsequent to implementation of the Third Amendment, Renewable Energy developers raised various operational and procedural issues relating to compliance with the amended provisions, particularly for Solar Hour and Non-Solar Hour access applications.

Accordingly, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, vide Order dated 08 December 2025 in Suo-Motu Petition No. 14/SM/2025, issued directions to address the implementation-related aspects of the Third Amendment, including directions to CTUIL under Regulation 44 of the GNA Regulations.

The State Transmission Utility (STU) has received representations from Renewable Energy developers, particularly for solar, wind, hybrid and Energy Storage System (ESS) based projects proposed to be connected to the Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS).

The developers highlighted practical difficulties in implementation of the concepts of Solar Hour Access and Non-Solar Hour Access at the intra-state level and requested incorporation of suitable provisions in the State regulatory framework.

Accordingly, the matter was taken up with the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC), which directed that the issue be deliberated before the Grid Coordination Committee (GCC) and its recommendations be submitted to the Commission. In compliance thereof, the matter is being placed before the GCC for consideration of suitable amendments to the MERC (Transmission Open Access) Regulations, 2016 to align the State framework with the amended GNA Regulations.

Proposed Amendments:

In view of the above, the Chief Engineer (STU) submitted detailed proposals for suitable amendments to the MERC (Transmission Open Access) Regulations, 2016, in line with the provisions introduced under the Third Amendment to the CERC (Connectivity and General Network Access) Regulations, 2022, as follows:

S.No.	Particular	Suggestions to amend the MERC ToA Regulations, 2016
1. DEFINITIONS		
1.1	Solar Hours / Non-Solar Hours	NLDC defines solar hours/non-solar hours for each state or part thereof as per the CERC GNA Regulations. It is proposed that Maharashtra SLDC can define Solar/Non-Solar hours accordingly.
1.	ESS / Energy Storage System, Lead Energy Storage System, Lead Generator	Definitions should be incorporated as references are mentioned in MERC MYT Regulations 2024 and the Revised Procedure for Grant of Grid Connectivity to the projects based on RE sources to InSTS.
2. WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION FOR CONNECTIVITY & TREATMENT OF BANK GUARANTEES		
2.1	Application Fees	Application fees shall be Non-Refundable.
2.2	Treatment of Land BG (₹10 Lakhs/MW) in case of under process application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return of Land BG: If withdrawal of application is made before issuance of Grid Connectivity (GC). • Forfeiture (100%) of Land BG: If withdrawal is made after issuance of GC.
3. APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF CONNECTIVITY		
3.1	Basis of Connectivity Application	Applicants seeking connectivity shall apply based on the quantum of its proposed maximum injection to InSTS for all applicants.
3.2	Access Type for Wind & Solar Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind projects may seek Non-Solar Hour Access. • Solar Hour Access to be granted to Solar/Solar-based Hybrid projects.

S.No.	Particular	Suggestions to amendment the MERC ToA Regulations, 2016
3.3	ESS / Wind Entity Injection During Solar Hours	During solar hours, an ESS or Wind-based entity may inject power at the same InSTS substation by entering into an agreement with another entity as the Lead Generator, for utilization of Solar-Hour or Non-Solar-Hour access rights.
4. CONNECTIVITY BANK GUARANTEE (BG)		
4.1	STU Intimation – Existing InSTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicable BG amount (not exceeding estimated cost). • For shared infrastructure, BG shall be proportional to applied capacity.
4.2	Planned Substation	GC BG shall not be claimed.
4.3	Proposed Substation	Applicable BG amount (not exceeding estimated cost).
4.4	Proposed Substation – Already Allocated	GC BG shall be the augmentation cost OR 25% of applicable GC BG, whichever is higher.
5. TIMELINES & DEFAULT		
5.1	BG Submission Timeline	BG must be submitted within 15 days; otherwise, the application stands cancelled.
5.2	Default Conditions	<p>Failure to submit land/eligibility documents, achieve financial closure, or show satisfactory progress will result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancellation of Connectivity • Encashment of BGs • Forfeiture of Commitment Fee
6. CHANGE OF SOURCE(S)		
6.1	Same Capacity – No Additional GC	No additional Grid Connectivity for same capacity.
6.2	Capacity Augmentation, Material Change (Location or >10% Capacity)	Requires a fresh application.
6.3	Non-Material Change (≤10%, Same Substation)	Intimation within 7 days; original application date is retained.
6.4	Change in RE Source	<p>Permitted with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STU Approval • MEDA NOC • System Study Compliance, or in line with CERC 3rd Amendment principles
6.5	Conversion of Connectivity (PPA/LoA Termination – Not Attributable to Applicant)	<p>Full conversion allowed upon submission of land ownership/lease documents OR Land BG (₹10 Lakh/MW).</p> <p>Such conversion is allowed only once.</p>

S.No.	Particular	Suggestions to amendment the MERC ToA Regulations, 2016
7. SUBMISSION OF LAND DOCUMENTS		
7.1	Applicable Entities & Timeline	Applicants who are REPP (other than Hydro generating Station), or ESS (excluding PSP), or Solar/Wind/RPPD shall submit land documents within 12 months from the date of issue of the Grid Connectivity Letter.
7.2	BG Return on Document Submission	BG shall be returned within 7 days of submission of stipulated documents as proof of ownership, or lease rights, or land use rights.
7.3	Special Provision – Upto 33kV Interconnection	An applicant whose voltage level for interconnection is up to 33kV shall submit land documents within 6 months from the date of issue of the Grid Connectivity Letter.

The proposed amendments aim to introduce the concepts of Solar Hour Access and Non-Solar Hour Access in the State regulatory framework, address connectivity requirements of Solar, Wind, Hybrid and Energy Storage System (ESS) based projects connected to the InSTS, align the provisions with the amended GNA Regulations and CERC directions, and ensure optimal utilization of the transmission system through a time-based access frameworkx

Observations and Suggestions from Stakeholders

Maharashtra State Load Despatch Centre (MSLDC)

The Executive Director, Maharashtra State Load Despatch Centre (MSLDC) placed the following observations and suggestions before the Committee:

- **Time-Based Power Injection:** It was submitted that clear provisions may be incorporated in the MERC (Deviation Settlement Mechanism and Related Matters) Regulations for accounting, measurement, and settlement of deviations arising from time-based power injection by Renewable Energy generators.
- **Deviation Settlement for Hybrid Projects:** It was suggested that separate deviation settlement provisions be specified for hybrid projects with and without Energy Storage Systems (ESS). Further, the nature of connectivity for hybrid projects, whether combined or separate for wind and solar components, should be clearly defined at the time of grant of connectivity.

- **Regulatory Framework for ESS:** It was observed that a comprehensive regulatory framework for grant of connectivity and operation of Energy Storage Systems (ESS) is required. It was further suggested that suitable connectivity limits may be specified for ESS proposed as shared facilities for multiple co-located generating stations.

Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL)

The representative of MSEDCL expressed the need for clear provisions in the MERC (Transmission Open Access) Regulations, 2016 for identification and classification of connectivity users under Solar Hour Access and Non-Solar Hour Access. It was submitted that such provisions are necessary to ensure clarity in access rights, scheduling, metering, and operational implementation within the InSTS.

The Chairperson of the Grid Coordination Committee (GCC) made the following observations and issued directions to the members:

- **Clarity in Connectivity Framework:** Greater clarity and precision in the connectivity mechanism and related procedures is necessary for effective implementation of the revised framework.
- **Alignment of Regulations:** Upon amendment of the MERC (Transmission Open Access) Regulations, 2016, other associated regulations relating to scheduling, operation, and deviation settlement should also be suitably aligned.
- **Non-Collocated Hybrid Projects:** It was observed that scheduling and injection monitoring for non-collocated hybrid projects during Solar and Non-Solar hours may involve operational complexities, which should be clearly addressed in the Regulations.
- **Connectivity-Focused Recommendations:** The Chairperson directed that the recommendations and proposed amendments should remain confined to connectivity-related provisions under the MERC (Transmission Open Access) Regulations, 2016, in alignment with the overall connectivity framework.

The Chief Engineer, State Transmission Utility (STU), informed the Committee that a detailed note incorporating the proposed amendments and suggestions relating to the connectivity framework shall be circulated to all GCC members for their observations and comments.

The Committee directed all members to furnish their comments, suggestions and feedback on the proposed modifications to the connectivity framework, particularly concerning grant of connectivity to Renewable Energy (RE) generators and users, within seven (7) days.

It was further decided that the comments and observations received from the members shall be consolidated by STU and thereafter placed in the ensuing Grid coordination Committee(GCC) for further discussion & further submission to MERC.

With the conclusion of the deliberations, the 18th Meeting of the Core Group of the Grid Coordination Committee (GCC) ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure A

List of participants for 18th GCC meeting held on 20.02.2026

Sr no	Name of member	Designation	Committee position
1	Shri Satish Chavan	Director (Operations), MSETCL	Chairperson
2	Shri Shashank Jewalikar	Executive Director (MSLDC)	Member Convener
3	Shri. Anil Bharsakle	CE (O&M)	Member
4	Shri Sandip Patil	Chief Engineer (PP), MSEDCL attended on behalf of Director (Commercial) MSEDCL	Member
5	Shri. Pankaj Nagdeote	CE (Works), MSPGCL	Member
6	Shri P. D. Lone,	S.E. Commercial, WRPC	Member
7	Shri Manoj Pise	General Manager, MEDA	Member