Electricity Bill 2020: A Bill that is Sadly Timed, Mal-Directed and Devoid of Basics

Any act or bill to get an act on electricity (or the larger issues of primary energy), has to first comprehend the basic functions electricity has in human society. Presumably, some form of electricity might have kick-started life on earth, and natural electricity still plays a major role in many ecosystems. But we as human society are fundamentally occupied with tapping nature's resources for producing electricity, that provides a range of essential goods and services to all sections of human society (or is supposed to do so). That should be our priority, before striving to produce and supply more electricity for the luxuries of the elite, if at all.

A ‘reasonable amount’ of electricity serves as one of the essential services to all sections of modern human societies, as it has come to be in the last 138 years, from the world’s first public electricity supply in early 1880s in survey, Godalming, UK, and in India from 1890s, starting from Kolkata (then called Calcutta).

Impact of Lockdown on the Trans Community
Meera Sanghamitra, a trained lawyer and a trans rights activist gives her thorough analysis on the impact of lockdown on the Trans community, at the webinar Solidarity Series: Conversations during lockdown & beyond. The Solidarity Series is aimed at activists, students and citizens at large, who wish to explore the concepts in depth, develop clarity & understanding on some of the issues we deal or grapple with, in our work.

Barking in Disarray! How to bring it back on tracks?
RBI in its first announcement dated 27th March, 2020 had come out with various initiatives such as reduction in CRR, Repo Rate etc. thus to improve upon liquidity position of the banks so as to facilitate for extension in credit thus to revive the economy.

New Report: Learning from 10 years of campaigning on financial intermediary lending at the International Finance Corporation
Civil society organisations from around the world have been campaigning and advocating for a more responsible, human rights-oriented and sustainable development finance model.

Electricity Amendment Bill Pushes for Privatisation Model, Limits Powers of Local Admin, State Govts
Experts question the government’s stance of preparing and notifying ‘National Energy Renewable Policy’ through the bill in spite of controversy over classification of hydro power as renewable energy. On Wednesday, April 29, a national consultation on the Draft Electricity Amendment Bill, 2020, organised online by a group of non-profit organisations, unanimously opposed the changes proposed by the Union Ministry in the bill. The draft bill seeks to introduce a semi-judiciary authority, franchisee model in power distribution and new energy renewable policy, among others.