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UPSC MAINS ANSWER WRITING

- Q. On the content of draft electricity rules 2021, discuss the various challenges present in providing open access to the green energy in the country.

Ans:- Government of India introduced draft electricity rules 2021 in which electricity distribution is decentred, at least in the letter, giving consumers a choice to choose a distribution company in their area.

Some of the challenges are :-

- (i) These rules are proposed for the purchase and consumption of green energy including the energy from waste-to-energy plants etc.
- (ii) The draft rules have the following subheads:
 - (a) Renewable Purchase obligation (RPO).
 - (b) Green Energy open access.
 - (c) Nodal Agencies.
 - (d) Procedure for grant of green energy open access.
 - (e) Banking
 - (f) cross subsidy surcharge.

(iii) The draft rules regarding green hydrogen say that "Green hydrogen" is the hydrogen

produced very electricity from renewable sources.

(iv) Consumers who have contracted demand / sanctioned load of 100kW and above shall be eligible to take power through green energy open access.

(v) The government is also encouraging a hybrid procurement model where green and thermal can be supplied together so that distribution companies can optimize total costs.

(vi) Delays in government approval for such an arrangement, restrictions imposed on open access transactions, transmission charges, cross-subsidy, surcharges, wheeling losses and distribution losses have ensured.

(vii) Discos have ensured that open access never emerged a viable and sustainable alternative for industrial or generator.

New government should be focus on reduction from discos, cross-subsidy and transmission charges etc.