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# Electricity Distribution Industry (*EDICON*) 2026

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of 

**Theme : Viable Future Ready Discoms**

All India Discoms Association (AIDA) was set up in December 2024 as a non-profit charitable society. It has now 53 utilities as its members. AIDA is now recognised as a unique platform representing the reasoned and collective viewpoint of distribution utilities in India. Its membership and the Executive Council consist of distribution utilities alone. It is working tirelessly for effective policy and regulatory advocacy, capacity building in discoms, and collaboration for sharing best practices and standardisation of equipment specification for better quality and competitive prices. AIDA aims at world class distribution performance for larger welfare of common electricity consumers.



21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 2026 | SCOPE auditorium, New Delhi



**WWW. aida-india.org**  
All India Discoms Association

**Conference on**  
**Electricity Distribution Industry, 2026**  
**AIDA**  
**21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2026**

**Introduction and Context**

All India Discoms Association, on completion of its first year of inspiring existence, has decided to organize a two-day conference on 21st and 22nd January, 2026 to bring together policy makers, regulators, think tanks, industry participants, its collaborating partner organizations and all its member discoms for meaningful in-person deliberations on identified key topics highly relevant to improvement in performance of distribution utilities. It will be institutionalized as an annual event organized and participated by most of the Discoms in India.

**Objectives**

The conference has been structured keeping in view the following objectives:

- To disseminate and showcase the work done by AIDA in the year 2025.
- To connect with all relevant stakeholders for identifying the possible action areas for improvement in the performance of distribution utilities.
- To recognize the innovative work being done by the discoms for inspiring other members to also innovate and excel.
- To deliberate and recommend on the contemporary issues relevant to distribution utilities.

**Expected Outcomes:**

AIDA is looking forward to the following outcomes from the conference:

1. Wider appreciation of the role being played by AIDA enabling it to become more effective in policy and regulatory advocacy.
2. Deeper understanding of the issues through deliberations and crystallizing new action areas for AIDA going forward.
3. Identifying new opportunities for collaboration with stakeholder organizations and think tanks.
4. Presentation of AIDA awards 2025 for good work being done by Discoms to foster peer group learnings and create an environment for moving towards excellence.



## Day 1: 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2026

### CONFERENCE - INAUGURATION

09:45 ~ 11:10 am

09:00 ~ 09:45

**Registration and Badge Collection**

09:45 ~ 11:15

**Lighting of the Lamp**

**Welcome Address** by Shri Alok Kumar, Director General, AIDA

**Opening Address** by Shri Lokesh Chandra, President, AIDA

**Screening of AIDA Corporate Film**

**Presentation of AIDA Annual Awards** to Winning DISCOMs

**Felicitation of Hon'ble Jury Members**

**Launch of Executive MBA Programme for DISCOM Officers** by IIM Lucknow

**Release of 'India DISCOMs 2025'** – AIDA's Annual Publication

**Keynote Address** by Secretary (Power), Government of India

**Address by the Hon'ble Chief Guest-** Shri Manohar Lal, Minister of Power and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India

**Vote of Thanks** by Dr. Ashish Kumar Goel, General Secretary, AIDA

**Session Coordinator:** Sudhir Kumar, RO, AIDA, 9555232966, [ro@aida-india.org](mailto:ro@aida-india.org)  
Garima Maurya, RO2, AIDA, 9565950184, [ro2@aida-india.org](mailto:ro2@aida-india.org)

11:10 – 11:25 am Welcome Tea



## Technical Sessions

### SESSION 1: Viability of Discoms and Cost-Reflective Tariff

11:45 – 13:00 pm

#### Session Background

DISCOM viability is the foundation of India's entire power sector. However, tariffs are not fully cost-reflective, losses remain high, working-capital shortages persist, and integration of renewable energy is increasing system costs. To ensure reliable, affordable, and sustainable power, it is essential to reform tariff structures, improve financial discipline, strengthen data quality, adopt new technologies (AI/ML, forecasting, smart metering), and streamline regulatory processes. This session will focus on practical ways to make DISCOMs financially strong, viable and future-ready.

#### Discussion Points

1. Cost-Reflective Tariffs
2. Financial Discipline
3. Regulatory Assets/ Power Purchase Cost Reduction
4. Renewable Integration Costs

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Parminder Chopra, CMD, PFC</b>
<b>Co-chair</b>	<b>P Ravi Kumar, Chairperson, Karnataka SERC</b>
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Smt. Valli Natarajan, ED, REC</b>
<b>Panelist 1</b>	<b>Moez G. Cheriff, India Energy Lead, World bank</b>
<b>Panelist 2</b>	<b>Shambhu Kumar, MD, PuVVNL</b>
<b>Panelist 3</b>	<b>Sanjay Goyal, CMD, MePDCL</b>
<b>Panelist 4</b>	<b>S K Chatterjee, Chief (Regulatory Affairs), CERC</b>
<b>Presentation I</b>	<b>World Bank</b>
<b>Presentation II</b>	<b>Power Finance Corporation (PFC)</b>
<b>Presentation III</b>	<b>Summary of Study Report on 'Analysis of Tariff Orders'</b>
	<b>Panel Discussion (30 min) and Q&amp;A (15 min)</b>

**Closing Remarks by Chair of the session**

**Session coordinator: S. N. Kalita Director Regulatory Affairs, AIDA, 7002550205, [dirra@aida-india.org](mailto:dirra@aida-india.org)**  
**Sudhir Kumar, RO, AIDA, 9555232966, [ro@aida-india.org](mailto:ro@aida-india.org)**





## SESSION 2: Leveraging Smart Meters and Data Analytics

13:00 – 14:15 pm

### Session Background

Smart meters provide real-time, accurate data on consumer usage, load patterns, and power quality. This data helps DISCOMs reduce losses, improve billing and revenue, manage demand, plan networks better, and offer transparent, reliable services to consumers. It is a key enabler for digital and future-ready power distribution.

### Discussion Points

1. AT&C loss reduction through theft/tamper detection and Revenue enhancement.
2. Load and demand forecasting, Demand response, and demand side management.
3. Faster outage detection and improved reliability.
4. Consumer empowerment through real-time usage data.
5. Network planning using consumption and DRE patterns.

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Shashank Mishra, JS (Distribution), MoP</b>
<b>Co-chair</b>	<b>Mahendra Kumar, MD, SBPDCL</b>
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Reji Kumar Pillai, President ISGF</b>
<b>Panelist 1</b>	<b>Shalu Agrawal, Director Programmes, CEEW</b>
<b>Panelist 2</b>	<b>Swetha Ravi Kumar, ED, FSR Global</b>
<b>Panelist 3</b>	<b>Samuel Paul N, MD, KESCO</b>
<b>Panelist 4</b>	<b>Gautam Aggarwal, CRO, Bidgley Technologies</b>
<b>Panelist 5</b>	<b>Sunil Singhvi, Group Head, Secure Meters</b>
<b>Presentation I</b>	<b>CEEW</b>
<b>Presentation II</b>	<b>FSR Global</b>
	<b>Panel Discussion (30 min) and Q&amp;A (15 min)</b>

### Closing Remarks by Chair of the Session

**Session coordinator:** Khajan Bardwaj, Director Technical, 7836810510, [dirtech@aida-india.org](mailto:dirtech@aida-india.org)  
Garima Maurya, RO, AIDA, 9565950184, [ro2@aida-india.org](mailto:ro2@aida-india.org)

14:15 – 15:00 Networking Lunch



### SESSION 3: Challenges in Renewable Energy Integration

15:00 – 16:15 pm

#### Session Background

With the increase in solar, wind and DRE capacity, the grid faces new technical and operational challenges. To ensure reliability, flexibility and agility of the grid is need of the hour, and this will require huge investment. Managing this transition while keeping power affordable and reliable is a major challenge for Discoms.

#### Discussion Points

1. Intermittent and infirm power; availability during off-peak hour and cost of balancing.
2. Impact on Grid stability and the cost of integration.
3. Transmission constraints – RE-rich areas often lack strong evacuation lines.

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Ghanshyam Prasad, Chairperson, CEA</b>
<b>Co-chair</b>	<b>Ajitabh Sharma, PS (Energy), Govt of Rajasthan</b>
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Alok Kumar, Director General, AIDA</b>
<b>Panelist 1</b>	<b>A K Saxena, Senior Director, TERI</b>
<b>Panelist 2</b>	<b>Reena Suri, ED, ISGF</b>
<b>Panelist 3</b>	<b>Dr. J Radhakrishnan, CMD, TNPDC</b>
<b>Panelist 4</b>	<b>Vivek Singhla, MD &amp; CEO, PXIL</b>
<b>Panelist 5</b>	<b>Dhruv Suri, Energy Scientist, Phd Scholar at Stanford</b>
<b>Panelist 6</b>	<b>Shiv Kumar, Director (Power Systems), SECI</b>
<b>Presentation I</b>	<b>TERI</b>
<b>Presentation II</b>	<b>ISGF</b>
	<b>Panel Discussion (30 min) and Q&amp;A (15 min)</b>

#### Concluding Remarks by Chair of the Session

Session coordinator: S.N. Kalita Director Regulatory Affairs, AIDA, 7002550205, [dirra@aida-india.org](mailto:dirra@aida-india.org)

Sudhir Kumar, RO, AIDA, 9555232966, [ro@aida-india.org](mailto:ro@aida-india.org)

16:15 – 16:30 pm Tea Break



## SESSION 4: Interventions for Improving Reliability of Supply

16:30 – 17:45 pm

### Session Background

Reliable electricity supply depends on strong and flexible networks, efficient operations, and timely fault detection. As demand grows and more renewable energy connects to the grid, DISCOMs need modern technologies, better maintenance, and smarter systems to keep supply stable and uninterrupted. Improving reliability directly enhances consumer satisfaction and reduces technical and commercial losses.

### Discussion Points

1. Strengthening network infrastructure & automation.
2. Real-time monitoring, maintenance and control of distribution network.
3. Reliability indices – SAIFI, SAIDI, CAIDI improvement plans.

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Dr. Ashish Goel, Chairman, UPPCL</b>
<b>Co-chair</b>	<b>Ketan P. Joshi, MD, PGVCL</b>
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Abhishek Ranjan, CEO, BRPL</b>
<b>Panelist 1</b>	<b>Prabhat Kumar Singh, ED(RDSS), REC</b>
<b>Panelist 2</b>	<b>P R Kumar, CEO, NPCL</b>
<b>Panelist 3</b>	<b>Rohit Bajaj, JMD, IEX</b>
<b>Panelist 4</b>	<b>Sunil Kumar, Service Director, GE Vernova Ecosystems</b>
<b>Presentation I</b>	<b>REC</b>
<b>Presentation II</b>	<b>RMI</b>
	<b>Panel Discussion (30 min) and Q&amp;A (15 min)</b>

### Concluding Remarks by Chair of the Session

Session coordinator: Khajan Bardwaj, Director Technical, 7836810510, [dirtech@aida-india.org](mailto:dirtech@aida-india.org)  
Garima Maurya, RO, AIDA, 9565950184, [ro2@aida-india.org](mailto:ro2@aida-india.org)



## Day 2: 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2026

### SESSION 5: Renewable Consumption Obligations for DISCOMs

10:00 – 11:15 am

#### Session Background

Renewable Consumption Obligation (RCO) requires DISCOMs to ensure that a target percentage of the electricity they distribute comes from renewable sources like solar, wind, hydro, DRE, biomass, etc. DISCOMs procure RE power through PPAs, green energy markets, rooftop solar, or other mechanisms to meet these obligations. Non-compliance leads to penalties, higher costs, and regulatory scrutiny. The compliance also adds cost to the Discoms.

#### Discussion Points

1. Targets & Compliance – Annual RE % targets set by SERCs/GoI.
2. Procurement Options – Solar/wind PPAs, GTAM, green OA, REC purchase, VPPAs, FDRE.
3. Financial Impact – Cost of compliance vs. penalties for shortfall.
4. P2P Transactions of Rooftop Solar Energy

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Lokesh Chandra, CMD, MSEDCL</b>
<b>Co-chair</b>	<b>S K Ray Mohapatra, Member (Technical), Odissa SERC</b>
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Rahul Tongia, Senior Fellow, CSEP</b>
<b>Panelist 1</b>	<b>Milind Deore, Secretary, BEE</b>
<b>Panelist 2</b>	<b>Pankaj Kumar, MD, UPPCL</b>
<b>Panelist 3</b>	<b>Krishna Bajpai, MD, GESCOM</b>
<b>Panelist 4</b>	<b>Dharmveer, CEO, PowerXchange</b>
<b>Panelist 5</b>	<b>Rajul Agrawal, Chief Business Officer, BRPL</b>
<b>Presentation I</b>	<b>CSEP</b>
<b>Presentation II</b>	<b>MSEDCL</b>
<b>Presentation III</b>	<b>PowerXchange Innovations Pvt Ltd</b>
	<b>Panel Discussion (30 min) and Q&amp;A (15 min)</b>

#### Closing Remarks by Chair of the Session

Session coordinator: S. N. Kalita Director Regulatory Affairs, AIDA, 7002550205, [dirra@aida-india.org](mailto:dirra@aida-india.org)

Sudhir Kumar, RO, AIDA, 9555232966, [ro@aida-india.org](mailto:ro@aida-india.org)





## SESSION 6: Scaling up Demand Response

11:15 – 12:30 pm

### Session Background

Demand Response (DR) incentives consumers to reduce or shift their electricity usage during peak hours in response to signals from the DISCOM. Scaling up DR can significantly improve reliability, reduce costs, and make the grid more flexible.

### Discussion Points

1. Why DR matters and how to increase Consumer participation.
2. Technology enablers for DR.
3. Policy support & Challenges

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Jishnu Barua, Chairperson, CERC</b>
<b>Co-chair</b>	<b>Dwijadas Basak, CEO, TPDDL</b>
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Sumedh Agarwal, Director, AEEE</b>
<b>Panelist 1</b>	<b>Nilesh Kane, CEO, Tata Power Mumbai</b>
<b>Panelist 2</b>	<b>Anay Dwivedi, MD, MPPKVVCL</b>
<b>Panelist 3</b>	<b>Vishal Pandaya, MD, Reconnect Energy</b>
<b>Panelist 4</b>	<b>Dr. Mahesh Patnakar, Founder &amp; MD, MP Ensystems Advisory Pvt Ltd</b>
<b>Panelist 5</b>	<b>Ashutosh Goel, CMD, AEW</b>
<b>Presentation I</b>	<b>AEEE</b>
<b>Presentation II</b>	<b>TPDDL</b>
	<b>Panel Discussion (30 min) and Q&amp;A (15 min)</b>

### Concluding Remarks by Chair of the Session

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Garima Maurya, RO, AIDA, 9565950184, [ro2@aida-india.org](mailto:ro2@aida-india.org)

12:30 – 12:45 pm Tea Break



## SESSION 7: Capacity Building of DISCOMs Personnel

12:45 – 14:00 pm

### Session Background

As the power sector becomes more digital, data-driven, and renewable-heavy, Discoms will have to train its employees in new technologies, modern systems, consumer services, and regulatory processes; further creating a pool of officers to take up leadership role is very crucial. Strengthening skills at all levels - technical, financial and managerial - helps improve efficiency, reduce losses, enhance reliability, and deliver better customer service. Capacity building is essential to create a future-ready, tech-savvy, consumer-oriented workforce.

### Discussion Points

1. Type of skill required, the gap and training needs.
2. Technical upskilling, Financial and commercial knowledge, Regulatory understanding, Soft skills for consumer interaction.
3. Leadership & management – Planning, decision-making, project management.
4. Institutional support – Training centers; partnerships with NPTI, IITs, IIMs, IGNOU, Industries.
5. Use of new tools like AR & VR.

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Pankaj Kumar, MD, UPPCL</b>
<b>Co-chair</b>	<b>Minhaj Alam, CMD, KSEBL</b>
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>S N Kalita, Director (Regulatory Affairs), AIDA</b>
<b>Panelist 1</b>	<b>Dr. Indu Maheswari, Principal Director, NPTI</b>
<b>Panelist 2</b>	<b>Vineet Sikka, MD, CESC</b>
<b>Panelist 3</b>	<b>Prof. Abhijit Abhayankar, Professor, IIT Delhi</b>
<b>Panelist 4</b>	<b>Prof. Sanjay Agrawal, Professor, IGNOU</b>
<b>Presentation I</b>	<b>NPTI</b>
<b>Presentation II</b>	<b>GUVNL</b>
	<b>Panel Discussion (30 min) and Q&amp;A (15 min)</b>

### Concluding Remarks by Chair of the Session

**Session coordinator:** S. N. Kalita Director Regulatory Affairs, AIDA, 7002550205, [dirra@aida-india.org](mailto:dirra@aida-india.org)

Sudhir Kumar, RO, AIDA, 9555232966, [ro@aida-india.org](mailto:ro@aida-india.org)



## CONCLUDING SESSION

(14:00 -14:30 pm)

Concluding Remarks by Shri Alok Kumar, DG, AIDA

Felicitation of the Sponsors

Vote of thanks by Shri S.N. Kalita, Director (Regulatory Affairs), AIDA

Session Coordinator: Sudhir Kumar, RO, AIDA, 9555232966, [ro@aida-india.org](mailto:ro@aida-india.org)

Garima Maurya, RO, AIDA, 9565950184, [ro2@aida-india.org](mailto:ro2@aida-india.org)

14:30 – 15:30 Networking Lunch & End of Conference

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