

**Overview of ‘Institute of Technology & Policy for Electricity Distribution’
(ITPED) – a Resource & Knowledge Centre being set up by
All India Discoms Association (AIDA)**

Introduction:

1. All India Discoms Association (AIDA) was registered as a not-for-profit charitable society in December, 2024 to bring together distribution utilities of India at one platform with the core objectives of policy and regulatory advocacy, capacity building, peer group learning and standardization of specifications for commonly used equipment by distribution utilities. Within a period of one and a half year, the membership of AIDA has grown to 58 utilities which represents close to 80% of the distribution utilities functioning in various States and UTs of India. Its work in policy advocacy domain is being recognized by all the concerned stakeholders. AIDA has also taken several initiatives for capacity building and peer group learning. It has also developed a robust collaboration network with 14+ organizations of national and international repute.

2. A need has been felt now by AIDA to set up a dedicated institution for building a robust knowledge base and repository of expertise in the area of electricity distribution for imbibing greater intellectual depth in its working and also for providing an easy-to-access platform to the member Discoms to solve their technological, managerial, financial and regulatory challenges. This institution also aims at sharing the several path-breaking initiatives taken by the distribution utilities of India with other utilities of global South Asia.

3. Accordingly, the Executive Council of AIDA has decided, in its meeting held on 29th May, 2026 to set up a Resource & Knowledge Centre, which has been named as Institute of Technology and Policy for Electricity Distribution (ITPED).

Vision and Objectives of ITPED:

4. It will work to realize the following Vision:-

- A Centre of Excellence for knowledge sharing, policy research, capacity building, innovation and collaborative problem solving in power distribution sector;
- As a strategic institutional mechanism to bring expertise from various sources into one place;
- A helping hand for member Discoms in addressing financial, technical, regulatory and managerial challenges;

5. ITPED will work with the following objectives:

- Building knowledge base about Indian and Global electricity distribution segment for use of Member Discoms
- Providing expert assistance to Member Discoms in solving problems and adoption of new technologies

- Assist AIDA in policy and regulatory advocacy
- Promoting international collaboration by extending expertise of Member Discoms to willing partners

Various activities and Focus Areas for ITPED:

6. It shall undertake various activities such as:-

- (i) Develop and maintain a Knowledge Repository of case studies, operational data, technical papers, regulatory guidelines and global best practices;
- (ii) Undertake consultancy assignments for addressing the specific requirements of member Discoms;
- (iii) Undertake AIDA funded studies of relevance to all member Discoms, both internally as well as through external consultants;
- (iv) Undertake consultancy studies relevant to power distribution sector for other than AIDA members which may be financially supported by organizations within and outside India.
- (v) Provide timely and expert inputs for effective policy and regulatory advocacy by AIDA;
- (vi) Customization (including in-house development to the extent feasible) of various tools for the use of interested Member Discoms through subscription mode;
- (vii) Conduct training needs assessment and design of suitable training/ skill upgradation programme for capacity building of the personnel in Discoms. Such programmes may be delivered by ITPED itself or through other partner training organizations. ITPED will aim at certification of such training programmes after due assessment of the participants;

7. The following areas have been identified for the activities of ITPED:

- (i) Demand Flexibility
- (ii) Resource Adequacy tools
- (iii) Network/ System planning
- (iv) AI/ ML and data analytics for demand-supply management and real time network optimization, etc.
- (v) Cost effective grid integration of renewable energy
- (vi) System flexibility
- (vii) Solarization of agricultural demand
- (viii) Competitive RE plus storage procurement
- (ix) Enhancing energy efficiency
- (x) Grid modernization and automation
- (xi) Efficient management of DERs including distributed and Behind the Meter Storage, micro grids, etc.

Institutional structure and Governance of ITPED:

8. ITPED will be governed through an Apex Council (AC) and a Managing Committee (MC). The Apex Council will provide strategic directions, decide the expansion plan, approve annual working plan and budget and also review its performance from time to time. The Apex Council will also evaluate the performance of the ITPED and its report shall be submitted to the Executive Council of AIDA on quarterly basis.

9. The Apex Council shall have the following composition:

(i)	DG, AIDA	Chairman
(ii)	Representatives of six Discoms as decided by the EC of AIDA	6 Members
(iii)	One representative each of Ministry of Power, MNRE and CEA	3 Members
(iv)	One representative of an Industry body/Association as decided by the EC of AIDA	1 Member
(v)	One representative of an IIT/IIM as decided by EC of AIDA	1 Member
(vi)	One representative of an eminent think tank/ research body working in the areas related to distribution of electricity as decided by EC of AIDA	1 Member
(vii)	Three representatives of the organizations which provide significant funding/support for activities of ITPED as decided by EC of AIDA	3 Members
(viii)	One representative of Forum of Regulators	1 Member
(ix)	One of the Directors of AIDA dealing with Regulatory/ Technology as nominated by DG, AIDA	1 Member
(x)	Centre Director	Convenor

10. The AC shall take decisions by consensus and, if on any issue there is difference of views, the members of the AC in the category (i), (ii), (iii) & (ix) shall decide the matter through voting with each of the members in these categories having one vote. The quorum for the meetings of the AC shall be one-third of the members with voting rights.

11. The nominations in the AC in the categories (ii), (iv), (v) and (vi) shall be for a period of two years.

12. The Managing Committee (MC) of ITPED shall be responsible for its management and day-to-day affairs. The MC shall take all necessary steps to mobilize necessary resources for achieving the activities envisaged in the Annual Action Plan so that the ITPED is able to achieve its objectives timely. The MC shall be competent to take decisions on day-to-day affairs of ITPED such as hiring of space, equipment, deciding the compensation, wages and similar other matters within the guidelines, if any, set by the AC. The quorum for the meetings of the MC shall be three members.

13. The Managing Committee of ITPED shall comprise of the following:-

- (i) Chairman of the Apex Council;
- (ii) Treasurer of AIDA;
- (iii) Centre Director; and
- (iv) 02 (Two) Discom representatives in the Apex Council

14. It is also envisaged that ITPED shall enter into partnerships with other willing institutions in various regions of the country to function as its satellite centres. Partnering with such satellite centres will have the benefit of leveraging their infrastructure, expertise and services to achieve common goals.

Staff structure of ITPED:

15. A full-time Centre Director will be heading the staff of ITPED. In addition to the necessary administrative staff, the Centre Director will be assisted by the following:

- (i) Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) who will provide deep knowledge and expertise in various identified areas of high priority;
- (ii) Three Lead Positions, in the following domains:
 - (a) Policy and Regulatory Facilitation
 - (b) Technical and Research Lead, and
 - (c) Knowledge Management and Outreach
- (iii) Fellows from member Discoms who will be working full time with ITPED and will bring hands on field level insights in the functioning of the institution.

Operating framework of ITPED:

16. It will function with the following mandate:

- (i) It will serve as an expert body on advanced technologies, knowledge repository, providing support for policy and regulatory advocacy, research and innovation.
- (ii) ITPED will identify training needs for the delivery of the training programme. ITPED may partner with the established training institutions in the initial phase and could gradually become independent for delivery of the training programmes as it builds institutional capabilities and recognition. It will also provide certificate to the trainees.
- (iii) While ITPED shall undertake day-to-day coordination and interventions with collaborators/ partners, broader stakeholder engagement is to be channelled through AIDA.
- (iv) ITPED will provide technical inputs and recommendations to AIDA for its policy and regulatory advocacy. But the final processing of such inputs and submission of the recommendations/ comments to the relevant authority will continue to be done by AIDA following the SOP approved by the EC of AIDA.

Sources of revenue for ITPED:

17. Its budget is envisaged to be funded from the following sources:

- (i) Seed money and earmarked annual funding from AIDA;
- (ii) Support from CPSEs under the Ministry of Power through sponsored Chairs, studies or grants, etc.;
- (iii) Support from the philanthropies/ CSR through Chairs or projects/ study-based funding etc.;
- (iv) Nominal fee from member Discoms for specific consultancy and training programmes;
- (v) Participation fee from technology solution providers for participating in the envisaged (virtual) Technology Demonstration Gallery

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