



Quarterly Newsletter

BSES
BSES Rajbhari Power Limited

AIDA
Collaboration | Innovation | Excellence

ARM

Unlocking a Distributed Energy Marketplace in India

How peer-to-peer energy trading can power a clean, digital grid



Report / June 2026

Strengthening Load Research and Forecasting Capabilities of Discoms

A Multi-Stage Framework for Electricity Demand Forecasting



AIDA
Collaboration | Innovation | Excellence

प्रायस
Prayas (Energy Group)

All India DISCOMs Associations (AIDA) is India's first unified platform for DISCOMs, fostering collaboration, innovation, and best practices to advance energy distribution and service delivery.

General Body (GB)

It is the apex body of the Society which meets at least once every year and approve work plans, budgets and other matters related to the Society's functioning. As of today, 59 Distribution Utilities are part of GB.

Executive Council (EC)

The members of EC are appointed by the GB either through election or nomination. The EC meets at least once in a quarter to review the Society's activities and is responsible for overall governance and strategic direction of the society.

Important Events

ITPED- Curtain Raiser

AIDA is establishing the Institute of Technology & Policy for Electricity Distribution (ITPED) as a Centre of Excellence to support DISCOMs through research, capacity building, innovation, and technical assistance, with the curtain raiser held on 28th July 2026, in Mumbai.

BSES Field Visit

AIDA Secretariat organized a Two-Day Field Visit Program (16–17 July 2026) for member DISCOM officers, featuring exposure to best practices in HR, safety, O&M, BESS, EV charging infrastructure, underground substations, Agri-PV, grid monitoring systems, and digital twin technology.

ENLIT ASIA, Jakarta, Indonesia

Encouraging international exposure, AIDA is facilitating the participation of member DISCOM representatives in ENLIT Asia 2026 (22–24 September 2026, Jakarta) and a technical visit to PT PLN on 21 September 2026 to provide exposure to Indonesia's electricity distribution practices, utility operations, and sectoral best practices.

Highlights

MoUs Signed by AIDA and Memberships: AIDA is pleased to announce that it has signed four more MoUs this quarter namely with ESIG, ISA, CEEW and CSTEP, making the new total to thirteen.

Legal Briefs: AIDA continues to support member DISCOMs by providing legal briefs on key issues. This quarter, five briefs were issued, bringing the total to 27 till date.

Best Practices sharing Webinars: AIDA drives collaboration and knowledge sharing among its DISCOM members by conducting national-level webinars that focus on crucial areas being pursued by Various Discom members.

Capacity Building: AIDA is undertaking multiple capacity-building initiatives, including leadership, strategic management, and academic collaborations, to strengthen DISCOM capabilities and drive sectoral improvement.

Policy Advocacy and Regulatory Initiatives: The Association regularly undertakes policy and regulatory initiatives related to the power distribution sector and engages with concerned authorities such as CEA, MoP, CERC, and others on key DISCOM-related issues.

AIDA Committee Meetings: AIDA has formed eight expert committees to advance its core objectives, focusing on policy advocacy, collaboration, standardization, and capacity building in DISCOM operations. These committees provide informed recommendations on proposals from the MoP, CERC, CEA, and other key stakeholders.

National Workshops

- 1) AIDA, in collaboration with RMI, organized a workshop on "Peer to Peer Energy Trading in India" on 23rd June 2026 in New Delhi. The workshop featured addresses by Alok Kumar (AIDA), Sushanta Chatterjee (CERC), and Prince Dhawan (REC), the launch of the AIDA–RMI–BRPL report on P2P energy trading, and presentations by RMI, BRPL, IEX, Tata Power DDL, PVVNL, NPCL, and UPPCL on opportunities, challenges, and lessons from P2P energy trading pilots.
- 2) AIDA, in collaboration with Prayas (Energy Group), organized a workshop on "Strengthening Load Research and Forecasting Capabilities of DISCOMs" on 24 June 2026, featuring utility presentations from TPC-D, UPPCL, APEPDCL & APPCC, and TSECL, the launch of the guidebook "Strengthening Load Research & Demand Forecasting in Discoms," and discussions on enhancing data-driven forecasting and load research capabilities across DISCOMs.

Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)

Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG)

AIDA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG) on 28 April 2026. ESIG is a leading member-driven, non-profit organization that provides global expertise in energy systems integration and grid operations. Through research, technical forums, and peer-to-peer collaboration, ESIG supports the transition to a reliable, resilient, and decarbonized power system.

The MoU aims to foster collaboration between AIDA and ESIG in addressing key challenges faced by Indian DISCOMs and the broader electricity sector. The partnership will facilitate the exchange of technical knowledge, promote peer learning, and support targeted discussions and capacity-building initiatives on emerging issues in power system planning, operations, and renewable energy integration.

Cooperative Activities are:

- ✚ Sharing technical advancements, needs and challenges related to power system planning, procurement, operations, and the integration of new generation resources and loads.
- ✚ Providing or facilitating the sharing of international expertise and experience on mutually agreed topics, including through the AIDA Resources and Knowledge Center (RKC) named as ITPED.
- ✚ Organization of tutorials, working groups or task forces on mutually-agreed technical topics or challenges.
- ✚ Other cooperative activities of mutual interest and benefit.

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

AIDA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on 29 April 2026. The International Solar Alliance, launched on 30 November 2015 in Paris, France, is a member-driven intergovernmental organization dedicated to promoting the deployment of solar energy technologies to enhance energy access, strengthen energy security, and support energy transition across its member countries.

The partnership seeks to leverage AIDA's institutional expertise, extensive practitioner network, and experience of Indian electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs), alongside ISA's global outreach, technical platforms, and South-South cooperation framework. The collaboration aims to identify, document, and disseminate practical solutions and best practices that can support the transformation of power distribution utilities and accelerate the adoption of clean energy technologies.

Areas of Cooperation includes:

- ✚ Solarization of Agriculture and Utility-led Deployment Models
- ✚ Digital Architecture, Data Policy and Utility Digitization
- ✚ Artificial Intelligence for Distribution Utilities and Renewable Energy Integration

 Knowledge Sharing and Dissemination of Best Practices.



Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

AIDA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) on 25th May 2026. CEEW is one of Asia's leading not-for-profit policy research institutions and is widely recognized among the world's foremost climate and energy think tanks. Through data-driven research, integrated analysis, and strategic engagement, CEEW addresses critical energy, environmental, and development challenges in India and globally. The organization has a strong presence across more than 20 Indian states and has consistently been ranked among the world's leading independent think tanks.

The MoU aims to foster collaboration between AIDA and CEEW on research, knowledge sharing, and stakeholder engagement to support the transformation of India's power distribution sector. Key areas of cooperation include joint research studies, field surveys, techno-economic assessments, evaluation of regulatory reforms, stakeholder consultations with DISCOMs, and knowledge support on emerging sectoral issues. The partnership will also focus on enabling cost-effective renewable energy integration, strengthening distribution system planning and resource adequacy, promoting distribution sector modernization, and building the capacity of utility officials to effectively navigate future sector reforms.

Areas of collaboration are:

1. Cost-effective distributed renewable energy (DRE) integration with a focus on solarisation of agriculture and rooftop solar
2. Supporting smart metering, use of smart meter data by discoms, and consumer engagement.
3. Exploring tariff designs for large loads
4. Strengthening resource adequacy assessment practices
5. Discom capacity building.



Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP)

AIDA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) on 1st July, 2026. The Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), is a leading Indian think tank based in Bengaluru, founded in 2005, with a clear mission to bridge the gap between science, technology, and policy. CSTEP is a passionate team of researchers and experts dedicated to creating innovative solutions that drive positive change. AIDA will collaborate on research, knowledge sharing, and joint initiatives in areas of mutual interest related to the technical, operational, and financial aspects of DISCOMs. The collaboration will facilitate exchange of information, undertaking of research projects, and organization of workshops, seminars, conferences, and other knowledge-sharing platforms.

Envisaged activities of cooperation will include:

- ✚ Integrated Distribution Network Planning Assessment and Financial Implications of Decentralized Rooftop Solar (RTS) and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).
- ✚ Co-locating Battery Energy Storage Systems with Thermal Power Plants to optimize existing operations, support DISCOM procurement, and strengthen grid reliability.
- ✚ Integrated Transmission and Sub-Transmission Network Planning Framework for Renewable Energy Integration.
- ✚ Decarbonizing Distribution Utilities: Cost-Optimized Clean Energy Planning.



National Events

AIDA Specialized Workshop on Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Energy Trading at Scale in collaboration with RMI on 23rd June, 2026 at CBIP Building, Malcha Marg, New Delhi

AIDA, in collaboration with RMI, organized the workshop “Peer-to-Peer Energy Trading in India: Reflections and Emerging Pathways” on 23 June 2026 in New Delhi. The workshop featured opening remarks by Mr. Alok Kumar (AIDA), special remarks by Mr. Sushanta Chatterjee (CERC), and a keynote address by Mr. Prince Dhawan (REC) on the benefits of P2P energy trading for DISCOMs, prosumers, and consumers. The event also marked the launch of the AIDA–RMI–BRPL report, *“The Next Frontier: India’s Journey Toward Peer-to-Peer Energy Exchange,”* with presentations by RMI and Mr. Adarsh Nagarajan (BRPL). Further presentations were delivered by Mr. Puneet Chitkara (IEX) on digital energy marketplaces and by BRPL, Tata Power DDL, PVVNL, NPCL, and UPPCL on their experiences, challenges, and lessons learned from P2P initiatives. Discussions highlighted the opportunities of P2P energy trading for enhancing DER visibility, demand flexibility, and consumer participation, while identifying key regulatory, technical, and commercial considerations for its wider adoption. The workshop witnessed participation from 80+ delegates representing 25+ DISCOMs, think tanks, academic institutions, regulators, technology providers, and other power sector stakeholders. The workshop was organized with the objective to develop a template for P2P energy trading which is sustainable for Discom’s ARR. The recommendations are being finalized and will be shared with Member Discoms soon.





Workshop on Strengthening Load Research & Demand Forecasting in DISCOMs on 24th June, 2026

AIDA, in collaboration with Prayas (Energy Group), organized a workshop on “Strengthening Load Research and Forecasting Capabilities of DISCOMs” on 24th June 2026 at NHPC Conference Hall, New Delhi. The workshop focused on strengthening demand forecasting practices, data-driven planning, and load research capabilities of DISCOMs amid changing demand patterns due to climate variability, urbanization, DER adoption, and EV growth. The session included addresses by Shri Alok Kumar, Director General, AIDA and Shri Praveen Gupta, Member (Thermal), CEA, along with utility perspectives from TPC-D, UPPCL, APEPDCL & APPCC, and TSECL on existing forecasting practices and challenges. Prayas (Energy Group) presented a three-stage framework for strengthening forecasting capabilities across system, feeder/division, and consumer levels. A guidebook on **‘Strengthening Load Research & Demand Forecasting in Discoms’** was also launched in the workshop. The workshop witnessed participation from 70+ delegates representing 22+ DISCOMs, think tanks, and academic institutions, facilitating knowledge exchange for building smarter and resilient distribution systems. The guidebook can be accessed on AIDA website in ‘Resources’ tab.





Legal Briefs

1. Generation-based Incentives and Tariff Determination: A purposive Approach affirmed by the Supreme Court

In *Southern Power Distribution Company of Andhra Pradesh Ltd. v. Green Infra Wind Solutions* (2026 INSC 294), the Supreme Court held that State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have the authority to consider incentives and subsidies granted by the Central or State Government while determining tariffs under the Electricity Act, 2003 and applicable regulations. However, the Court clarified that such incentives do not automatically warrant a reduction in tariff or a pass-through adjustment. Instead, Commissions must adopt a purposive and contextual approach, examining the objective and policy intent behind the incentive scheme before deciding its tariff treatment. The judgment reinforces the primacy of SERCs in tariff determination, affirms their duty to evaluate the impact of subsidies where regulations so require, and enables DISCOMs to argue for appropriate tariff adjustments while ensuring that the intended benefits of government incentive schemes are preserved.

2. Coal Block cancellation by Hon'ble Supreme Court is Change-in-Law but no compensation for procurement of Coal from alternate Source prior to Change-in-Law even due to Indemnity Clause

In *West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. v. Adhunik Power & Natural Resource Ltd.*, the Supreme Court held that the cancellation of the Ganeshpur captive coal block following the *Manohar Lal Sharma* judgment and the enactment of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 constituted a Change-in-Law event, entitling the generator to compensation for the resulting impact. However, the Court clarified that the generator was not entitled to compensation for additional costs incurred in procuring coal from alternate sources before the Change-in-Law event, as the PPA's indemnity clause expressly insulated the DISCOM from such fuel cost escalations. The judgment draws a clear distinction between ordinary commercial risks, which remain with the generator and are governed by indemnity provisions, and extraordinary legal or regulatory changes, which are compensable under Change-in-Law provisions, thereby providing important guidance on risk allocation in power purchase agreements.

3. Supreme Court Rules against recovery of depreciation from consumers beyond operations period of power plants.

In *Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission v. Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited*, the Supreme Court held that a generator cannot recover depreciation or the remaining capital cost from consumers beyond the period during which the power plant actually supplies electricity under an approved arrangement. The case concerned TPDDL's temporary 108 MW gas-based Rithala plant, which was approved to operate for six years despite having a technical useful life of fifteen years. The Court clarified that the technical life of an asset does not automatically entitle a generator to recover tariff over that entire period and that tariff regulations must be read harmoniously with the approved PPA and regulatory framework. Since the plant ceased supplying power after March 2018, consumers could not be burdened with further depreciation charges, and any remaining capital recovery would have to be through alternative commercial arrangements rather than through tariff recovery from consumers.

4. Indian Railways not deemed distribution licensee- SC judgement dated 8-05-2026, IN Indian Railways Vs. WBSEDCL, 2026.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its judgment dated 08.05.2026 in Indian Railways vs. WBSEDCL, 2026 INSC 464, held that Indian Railways does not qualify as a Deemed Distribution Licensee (DDL) under the Electricity Act, 2003 and shall be treated as a consumer. The Court clarified that ownership or operation of an electricity network for captive consumption does not amount to distribution of electricity, and DDL status requires actual supply of electricity to identifiable consumers beyond internal requirements. Accordingly, Indian Railways is liable to pay Cross-Subsidy Surcharge and Additional Surcharge for availing open access under Section 42 of the Act. The judgment further clarified that administrative directions and proposed amendments cannot override the existing statutory provisions.

5. Condonation of Delay in Restoration Proceedings on the ground of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process: APTEL Order Dated 5-05-2026 IN GEPL V. MERC & TPCL, APPEAL NO. 88 of 2017.

The Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL), vide its order dated 05.05.2026 in GEPL v. MERC & TPCL, Appeal No. 88 of 2017, dismissed an application seeking condonation of 421 days' delay in filing a restoration application for an appeal dismissed for non-prosecution. APTEL held that pendency of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, does not automatically justify procedural lapses or prolonged inaction. The Tribunal observed that the Successful Resolution Applicant (SRA) and Monitoring Committee were required to demonstrate due diligence, bona fide conduct, and a valid explanation for the delay. It rejected the grounds relating to failure of the Resolution Professional to hand over records, ill-health of the SRA, and the IBC moratorium, noting that appropriate remedies were available before the NCLT and that proceedings initiated by the corporate debtor itself cannot be abandoned on account of CIRP. APTEL reaffirmed that condonation of delay is not a matter of right and vague claims without supporting evidence cannot constitute "sufficient cause" under the Limitation Act. Consequently, the delay was not condoned and the restoration application was dismissed.



Policy Advocacy and Regulatory Engagements

Ministry of Power (MoP)

Clarity on Benchmark Energy Charge Rate determined pursuant to the directions in Section 11.

AIDA, representing distribution utilities, has undertaken policy advocacy to address regulatory uncertainty arising from the benchmark Energy Charge Rate (ECR) framework under **Section 11** directions dated 05.05.2022. It highlighted that DISCOMs relied on the committee-determined benchmark rates for power procurement, billing, and financial planning, and any retrospective changes could impose unforeseen financial liabilities and disrupt merit order positions. AIDA has therefore urged the Ministry of Power to issue a clarification on the applicability and finality of the benchmark ECR during the period of operation of the Section 11 directions. This intervention aims to ensure regulatory certainty, reduce litigation, and safeguard both DISCOM financial stability and consumer interests.

Key findings and Recommendations of AIDA study “Dynamics of Tariff and True-up Mechanisms: Insights from Tariff Orders and Regulations”.

AIDA, with support from REC Ltd., conducted a study titled “*Dynamics of Tariff and True-up Mechanisms: Insights from Tariff Orders and Regulations*” to assess the alignment of SERC tariff practices with the Ministry of Power’s policy framework. The study analyzed tariff and true-up orders of seven states, focusing on power purchase cost treatment, regulatory assets, FPPPA mechanisms, O&M benchmarks, subsidies, cross-subsidies, and efficiency parameters. The findings highlight gaps in AT&C loss trajectories, power purchase cost disallowances, regulatory asset recovery, O&M benchmark adoption, and cross-subsidy levels. The study recommends harmonization of regulatory practices with national policies through RDSS-aligned loss trajectories, Five of the seven jurisdictions allow automatic FPPAS adjustments, with monthly or quarterly frequencies making it uniform and timely may enable timely recovery, CEA-based O&M norms, timely liquidation of regulatory assets and keeping approved carrying cost rates are below the base LPS rate will create a financial shortfall for DISCOMs, and adherence to cross-subsidy limits to strengthen DISCOM financial sustainability. The findings of the Study were submitted to Ministry of Power with request to take steps for providing cost reflective tariffs.

Long-Term Power Procurement under DBFOO Framework and SHAKTI Policy, and Cost-Plus Mode – Risk Allocation

AIDA made a presentation to the Ministry of Power (MoP) on the revised Model Bidding Documents (MBDs) issued under the SHAKTI Policy framework on 21st May, 2026. AIDA highlighted the need for transparent fuel sourcing arrangements, balanced risk-sharing provisions in PPAs & the revised framework needs to facilitate long-term procurement of electricity through competitive e-bidding, and addressing key concerns faced by DISCOMs, including demand risk, fixed-cost burdens, fuel-related issues, tariff escalation, and challenges associated with the Cost-Plus Tariff regime.

The Association noted that DISCOMs currently bear disproportionate risks related to demand uncertainty, fixed cost obligations, fuel availability and quality, cost and time overruns, technology obsolescence, O&M expenses, and Open-ended tariff escalation. AIDA recommended transitioning towards firmness-based and market-aligned procurement frameworks with specified supply obligations across peak, off-peak, solar and non-solar periods, greater procurement flexibility, stronger accountability for project delays and fuel risks, rationalization of fixed charges and Return on Equity (RoE), fair compensation for generation shortfalls, and limiting post-bid project changes. The recommendations aim to enhance reliability, transparency, and efficiency in power procurement while safeguarding consumer interests and affordability.

Forum of Regulators (FOR) and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)

Framing Model Regulations on Treatment of Negative FPPA/FPPAS in case of legacy Regulatory Assets

AIDA has highlighted a key regulatory concern regarding the design and implementation of Fuel and Power Purchase Price Adjustment (FPPA/FPPAS) mechanisms across States, particularly the treatment of negative FPPA/FPPAS in cases where Distribution Licensees are carrying substantial regulatory assets and accumulated revenue gaps. The inconsistencies in the regulatory approach adopted by certain State Commissions are creating confusion and delay in liquidation of regulatory assets. It has pointed out that such practices, as seen in certain State regulations, create internal inconsistencies and adversely impact the financial health of DISCOMs by delaying recovery of past costs and increasing carrying burdens.

Through its policy advocacy, AIDA has urged the Forum of Regulators (FoR) to develop harmonized model guidelines on FPPA/FPPAS treatment in the context of regulatory assets and revenue gaps to ensure that negative FPPA is first adjusted against accumulated regulatory assets before being refunded to consumers. This approach aims to balance consumer interest with DISCOM financial sustainability, promote regulatory consistency, and support timely recovery of power procurement costs in line with the Ministry of Power's framework.

Forum of Regulators (FOR) and Ministry of Power (MoP)

National Framework for Incentivizing Optimized Sale of Surplus Power by Distribution Utilities

AIDA proposes a harmonized gain-sharing framework for surplus power management, under which DISCOMs would be incentivized to maximize value realization from surplus power sales. The proposed mechanism would allow gains from efficient surplus power transactions to be shared between consumers and utilities, while ensuring that any losses arising from inefficient decisions remain the responsibility of the utility. The framework aims to reduce power procurement costs, strengthen DISCOM finances, and promote optimal utilization of generation resources. AIDA highlights that most DISCOMs currently sell surplus power merely to recover variable costs, resulting in missed opportunities for reducing power procurement costs and consumer tariffs. Drawing on the successful regulatory frameworks of Delhi and West Bengal, where gains from surplus power transactions are shared between consumers and utilities, the proposal recommends a harmonized national framework under the

Forum of Regulators (FoR). The framework should reward efficient surplus power management, ensure that consumers receive a substantial share of the gains, and place any losses from inefficient decisions entirely on the utility, thereby promoting prudent portfolio management, stronger DISCOM finances, and optimal utilization of generation resources.

Webinars

Webinar on MAHARASHTRA RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY STORAGE POLICY 2025-26 TO 2035-36.

The AIDA Secretariat organized a virtual knowledge-sharing webinar on “Maharashtra Renewable Energy & Energy Storage Policy 2025-26 to 2035-36” on 28th April 2026. The webinar highlighted Maharashtra’s transition from the conventional energy banking model to an energy storage-based framework to address renewable energy intermittency, enhance grid stability, and support efficient power management. Mrs. Abha Shukla (IAS), Additional Chief Secretary (Energy), Government of Maharashtra, shared key insights on the policy framework, implementation strategies, renewable energy capacity expansion, agricultural feeder solarization, and the role of energy storage in reducing DISCOM subsidy burdens and optimizing power procurement costs. The session facilitated knowledge exchange among DISCOMs and stakeholders on policy design, regulatory considerations, project implementation, and best practices for integrating renewable energy with storage solutions.

Webinar on “Chhattisgarh experience on complete smart metering of high loss feeders”, scheduled held on 26th May 2026.

AIDA organized a virtual knowledge-sharing webinar on “Chhattisgarh Experience on Complete Smart Metering of High-Loss Feeders” on 26th May 2026. The webinar focused on the role of smart metering in improving distribution sector efficiency, reducing AT&C losses, enhancing billing and collection efficiency, and strengthening energy accounting. Shri Saransh Mittar, IAS, Secretary, Energy Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, shared insights on the State’s experience in implementing complete smart metering of consumers connected to high-loss feeders, including planning, execution strategies, operational challenges, consumer indexing, communication systems, data management, and prepaid functionalities. The session provided valuable learnings for DISCOMs on feeder-level monitoring, loss reduction strategies, integration of smart metering with utility operations, and scaling up smart metering initiatives under RDSS and other reform programs.

Research Officer AIDA (Presenting, annotating)

Operational Advantages- DISCOM centric...3 Arrear Recovery Drive



AMISP	Period	Total Disconnection	Time taken for DC	Total Reconnection	Time taken from RC
Tata Power	February'26	34,794	<3 minutes	30554	<1 minute for each meter
	March'26	11,292		8921	
	April'26	11,659		10965	
Genus/ Hi-print	February'26	15,637	<3 minutes	11595	<1 minute for each meter
	March'26	15,316		9150	
	April'26	0		289	

Package	Remotely Disconnected	Amount Recovered
Package1	25549	₹ 14,17,11,175
Package2	108504	₹ 66,79,74,521
Package3	47254	₹ 9,82,45,849
Total	181307	₹ 90,79,31,545

RC- Re-connection, DC- Disconnection

- All consumers are currently in Post-Paid
- Data for disconnection being provided by DISCOM and being disconnected through MDM
- On payment by consumer, middleware soft ware is pushing the data to MDM & billing solution simultaneously and thereby re-connection being done automatically.

15:39 | meu-scfm-vnd

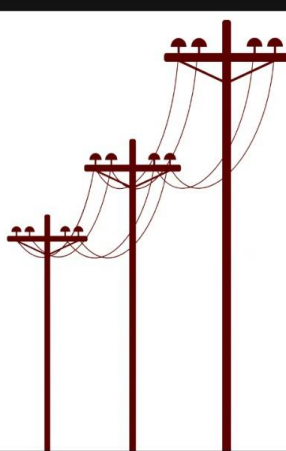
Participants: Director General, UPPCL Lucknow, secretary energ..., Shailaja Vachhraj..., WBSEDCL Smart..., Vinay Kr Singh, 157 others, INFO AIDA

Webinar on “Capacity Market for Electricity in India”, held on 22nd May 2026.

AIDA organized a virtual knowledge-sharing webinar on “Capacity Market for Electricity in India” on 22nd May 2026. The webinar focused on the CERC Staff Paper on Capacity Market and discussed market design options for ensuring resource adequacy, reserve availability, and efficient utilization of generation resources. Dr. S.K. Chatterjee, Chief (Regulatory Affairs), CERC, shared insights on international practices, regulatory considerations, proposed capacity market frameworks, and the way forward for implementation in India. The session covered key aspects including DISCOM resource adequacy obligations, reserve procurement mechanisms, renewable energy and storage integration, and centralized/decentralized capacity procurement models. The webinar provided a platform for DISCOMs and stakeholders to understand the implications of capacity markets for future power procurement planning, grid reliability, and India’s evolving electricity market framework.

Sushanta Chatterjee (Presenting, annotating)

CAPACITY MARKET



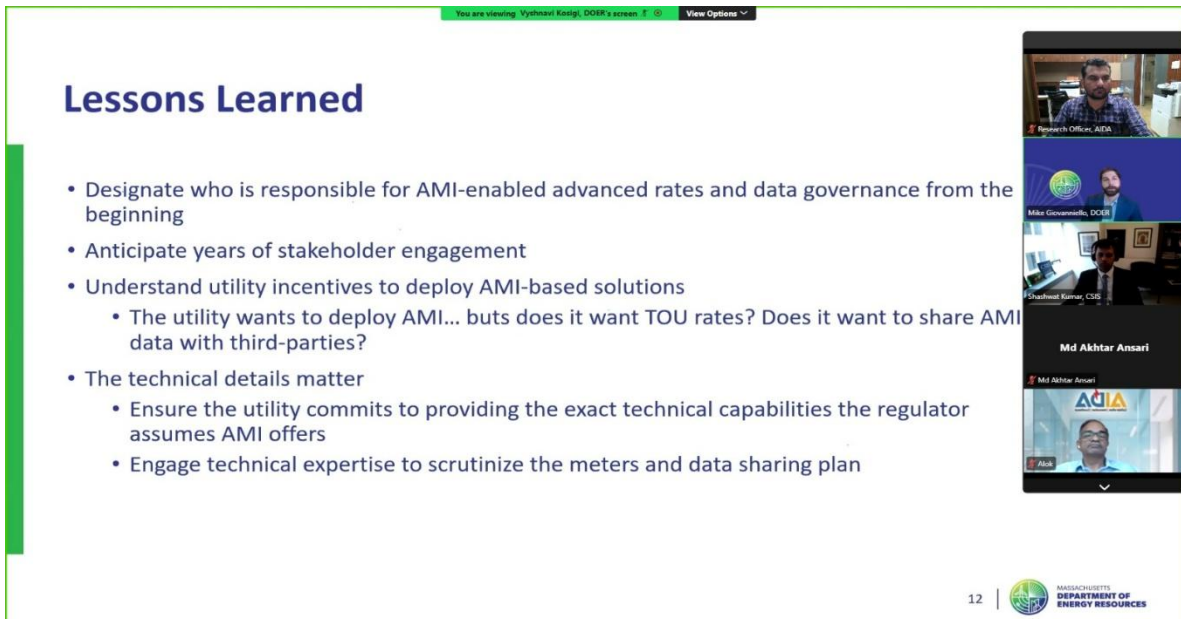
Dr Sushanta K Chatterjee*,
Chief (Regulatory Affairs)
CERC
22.05.2026
**Views are personal and not those of CERC*

15:13 | njg-pnei-ijk

Participants: Sushanta Chatterjee, acecomtaseb office, Naveen Chandra, UPPCL Lucknow, SANJEEV KUMAR, Deepak Mishra, CPDL - Auto..., 85 others, INFO AIDA

Webinar on ‘Smart Meter Deployment in USA experiences and considerations from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources’ held on 8 June, 2026.

AIDA, in association with the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), USA, organized a virtual knowledge-sharing webinar on “Smart Meter Deployment in USA – Experiences and Considerations from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources” on 8th June 2026. The webinar highlighted the role of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) in improving distribution system efficiency, billing accuracy, consumer engagement, demand-side management, and grid modernization. Experts from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources shared insights on policy frameworks, implementation strategies, stakeholder engagement, data management, and operational learnings from smart meter deployment in the USA. The session provided valuable perspectives for Indian DISCOMs on leveraging smart metering under RDSS, addressing implementation challenges, enabling peak demand management, improving utility operations, and maximizing consumer and system-level benefits through data-driven approaches.



Lessons Learned

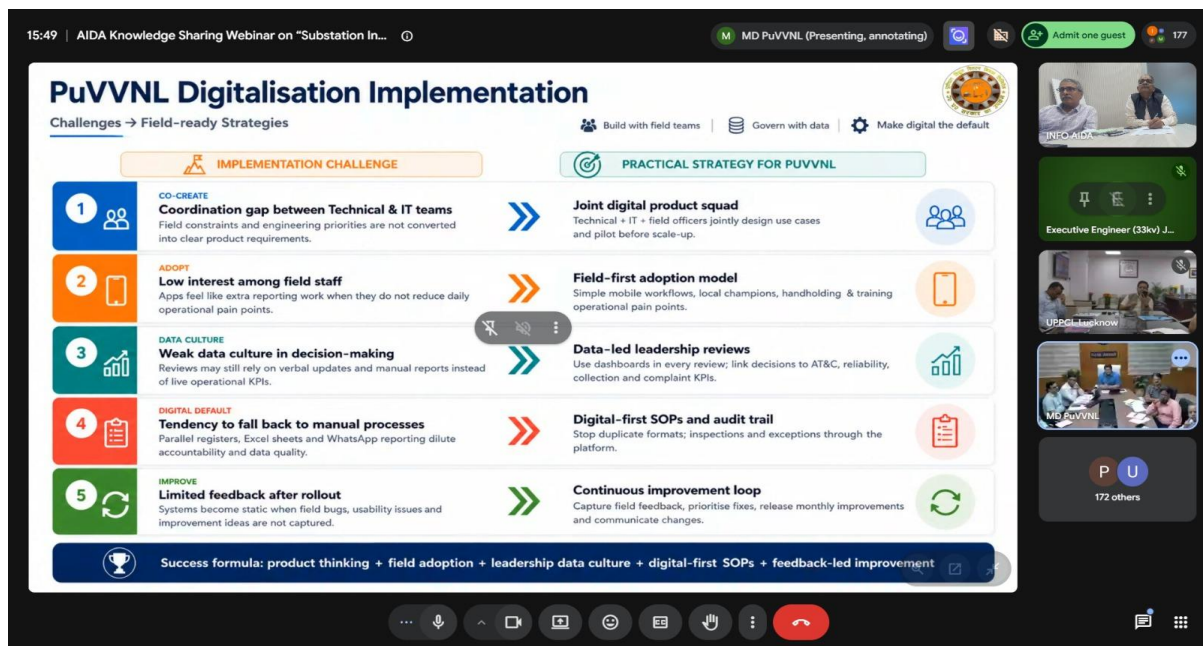
- Designate who is responsible for AMI-enabled advanced rates and data governance from the beginning
- Anticipate years of stakeholder engagement
- Understand utility incentives to deploy AMI-based solutions
 - The utility wants to deploy AMI... but does it want TOU rates? Does it want to share AMI data with third-parties?
- The technical details matter
 - Ensure the utility commits to providing the exact technical capabilities the regulator assumes AMI offers
 - Engage technical expertise to scrutinize the meters and data sharing plan

Participants shown in video feeds: Research Officer, AIDA; Mike Giovannelli, DCR; Shashant Kumar, CES; Md Akhtar Ansari; AIDA.

12 | MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

Webinar on ‘SUBSTATION INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIS): Building the Digital Infrastructure for Data Driven Discom Management’ held on 26th June, 2026.

AIDA organized a virtual knowledge-sharing webinar on “Substation Information System (SIS): Building the Digital Infrastructure for Data-Driven DISCOM Management” on 26th June 2026. The webinar showcased PuVVNL’s experience in implementing SIS as an integrated digital platform for real-time monitoring, asset management, outage tracking, data analytics, and improved operational efficiency. Shri Shambhu Kumar, IAS, Managing Director, PuVVNL, shared insights on the implementation journey, challenges, achievements, and future roadmap for leveraging digital technologies to enhance distribution sector performance. The session provided valuable learnings for DISCOMs on using digital infrastructure to strengthen network reliability, accountability, and data-driven decision-making.



Handbook/ Curriculums

1. Handbook on Best Practices on Digitalization for world class consumer interface. (CESC Ltd)

AIDA is preparing a Handbook on “Best Practices on Digitalization for a World-Class Consumer Interface” to document innovative approaches adopted by DISCOMs for improving consumer experience and service delivery. The initiative was proposed during AIDA’s webinar on “Change Management for Improved Consumer Service” held on 23rd February 2026, with CESC Ltd. (Gold Winner, AIDA Annual Award 2025 in the category) taking the lead in developing the handbook. The handbook will cover case studies from circle-level and DISCOM-level initiatives, global best practices, and their impact on consumer satisfaction and faster grievance resolution. Key focus areas include unified digital service standards, real-time consumer communication, data-driven consumer empowerment, internal digital capabilities, omnichannel grievance redressal, data security and privacy governance, and consumer feedback mechanisms. A dedicated group comprising representatives from CESC Ltd., GUVNL, APDCL, and AIDA Secretariat has been constituted to develop the handbook, which will subsequently be published by AIDA.

2. Publication of BEST Practices – AI/ML use cases in DISCOMs (BRPL), BRPL

AIDA is preparing a Handbook on “Best Practices – AI/ML Use Cases in DISCOMs” to promote the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) solutions in the power distribution sector. The initiative, led by BRPL (Adarsh Nagarajan), focuses on documenting practical applications of AI/ML for improving DISCOM planning, operational efficiency, and system reliability. An AIDA Group on AI/ML was constituted on 24th March 2026 comprising experts from BRPL, AIDA, TGNPDCL, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited, and TNPDC. The handbook will cover three priority AI/ML use

cases for DISCOMs: Demand Forecasting, Demand Flexibility, and Predictive Maintenance of Assets. The publication is part of AIDA's Annual Action Plan 2026–27 to facilitate knowledge sharing, capacity building, and wider adoption of emerging digital technologies among distribution utilities.

3. Guidebook for Discoms on Solarization of Agricultural Demand

AIDA is preparing a Handbook on “Solarization of Agriculture – Best Practices and Learnings from Maharashtra and Rajasthan” following the discussions held during the knowledge-sharing webinar on “Maharashtra Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Policy 2025-26 to 2035-36.” The idea for developing the handbook emerged during the post-webinar deliberations, with the objective of documenting practical experiences, implementation approaches, and key learnings from agricultural feeder solarization initiatives. The handbook is being prepared with support from MSEDCL and Rajasthan DISCOMs and will serve as a knowledge resource for Indian DISCOMs and ISA member countries. It will cover best practices in scaling up renewable energy adoption, improving power supply quality and reliability for agriculture consumers, reducing subsidy burden on DISCOMs, optimizing power procurement costs, and strengthening the financial sustainability of utilities.

AIDA Committee Meetings

As per the Bye-laws of AIDA and to achieve its objectives, eight specialized committees formed to support member DISCOMs to identify key sector issues, share best practices, and contribute to policy and regulatory discussions. The main task of the committees is to identify relevant issues for further deliberations, suggest best practices in the concerned area for experience sharing with other member discoms, formulate recommendations, and suggest responses on various proposals received from sources like Ministry of Power, CERC, etc. Each committee is expected to meet at least once in 2 months.

During the quarter, AIDA's Expert Committees held 20 meetings, including 6 on Regulatory Matters, 4 on Planning & Procurement of Bulk Power/Capacity, 4 on Capacity Building, 2 on Commercial Aspects of DISCOM Functioning, and 1 each on Policy Matters, Smart Grid Technical Matters, Technical Specifications, and Contracts. A key highlight was the joint meeting of Prayas Energy Group (PEG) and AIDA's Planning & Procurement of Bulk Power/Capacity Committee on “Strengthening Load Research and Demand Forecasting Capabilities of DISCOMs.” The Capacity Building Committee also constituted three Sub-Committees to develop standardized entry-level training curricula for Graduate, ITI, and Diploma-level recruits, with participation from member DISCOMs across the country.

AIDA sets up a Resource and Knowledge Centre

Institute of Technology & Policy for Electricity Distribution (ITPED)

AIDA is setting up the “Institute of Technology & Policy for Electricity Distribution (ITPED)” as a Resource & Knowledge Centre to support DISCOMs through knowledge sharing, policy research, capacity building, innovation, and expert assistance. Established by the decision of the AIDA Executive Council, ITPED will develop a knowledge repository, undertake sectoral studies, provide technical and regulatory support, promote best practices, and facilitate adoption of emerging technologies. The Centre will focus on key areas including AI/ML, demand flexibility, resource adequacy, renewable energy integration, grid modernization, energy storage, and digital transformation. ITPED will serve as a Centre of Excellence to strengthen the capabilities of Indian DISCOMs and support a reliable, efficient, and future-ready electricity distribution sector. The curtain raiser of ITPED was held on 28th July 2026.



*All India Discoms Association
Ground Floor, CBIP Building
Malcha Marg, New Delhi - 110021*

The AIDA thanks aida secretariat team for their contribution in supporting the analysis, editing, compiling snippets of its quarterly activity, regulatory updates, and coordinating final production of this Issue. S.N. Kalita, Director (Regulatory Affairs AIDA), Garima Maurya (Research Officer), Sudhir Kumar (Research Officer).

Disclaimer: The information contained herein is of a general nature and is not intended to address the circumstances of any individual or entity. Although we endeavor to provide accurate and timely information, there can be no guarantee that such information is accurate as of the date it is received or that it will continue to be accurate in the future. No one should act on such information without appropriate professional advice after a thorough examination of the situation.