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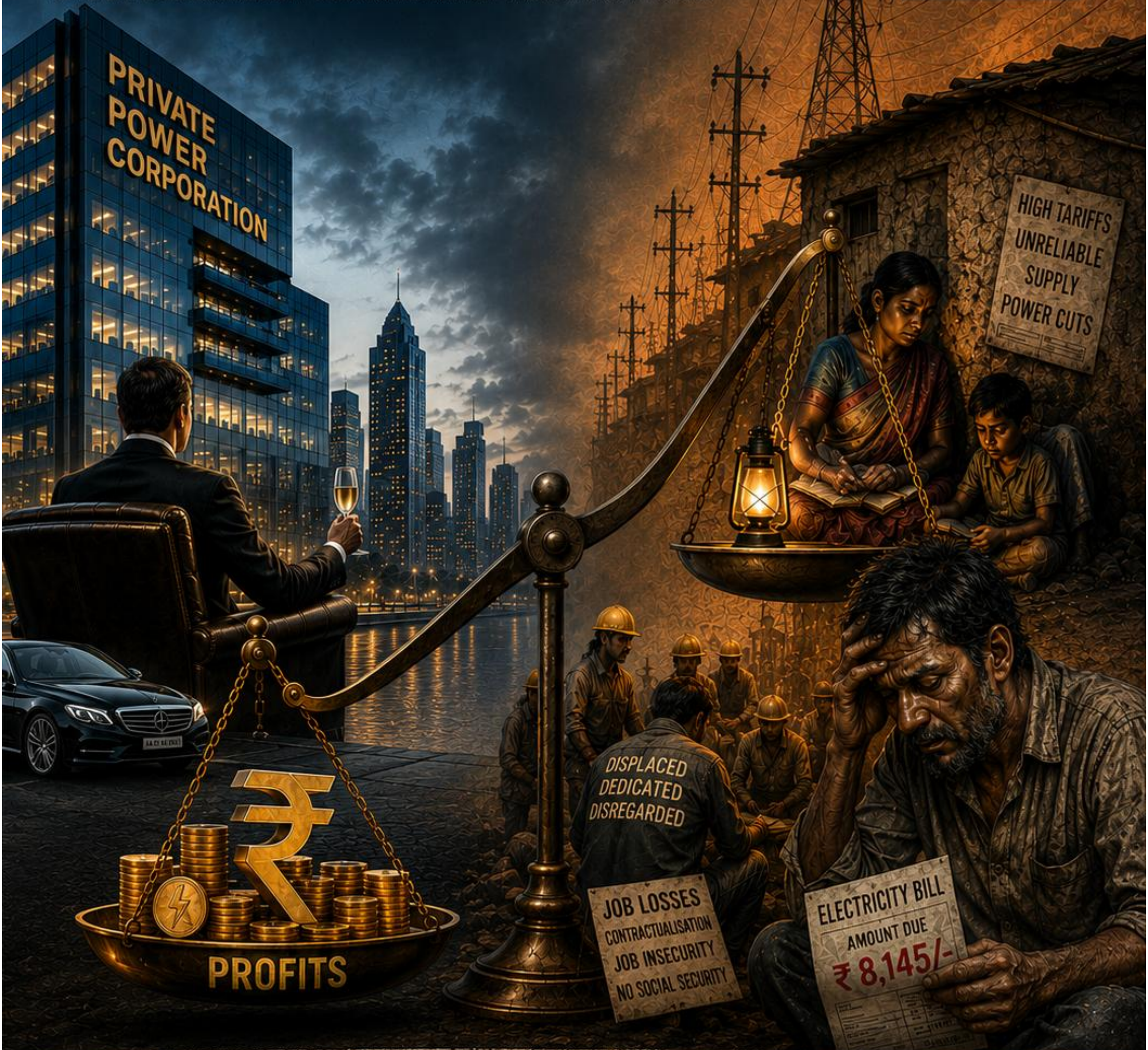
Issue 9

VOICE OF POWER ENGINEERS. POWERING THE NATION. PROTECTING THE FUTURE.



POWER IS A RIGHT, NOT A COMMODITY.
PEOPLE OVER PROFITS.

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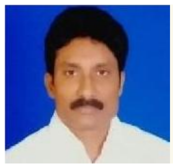

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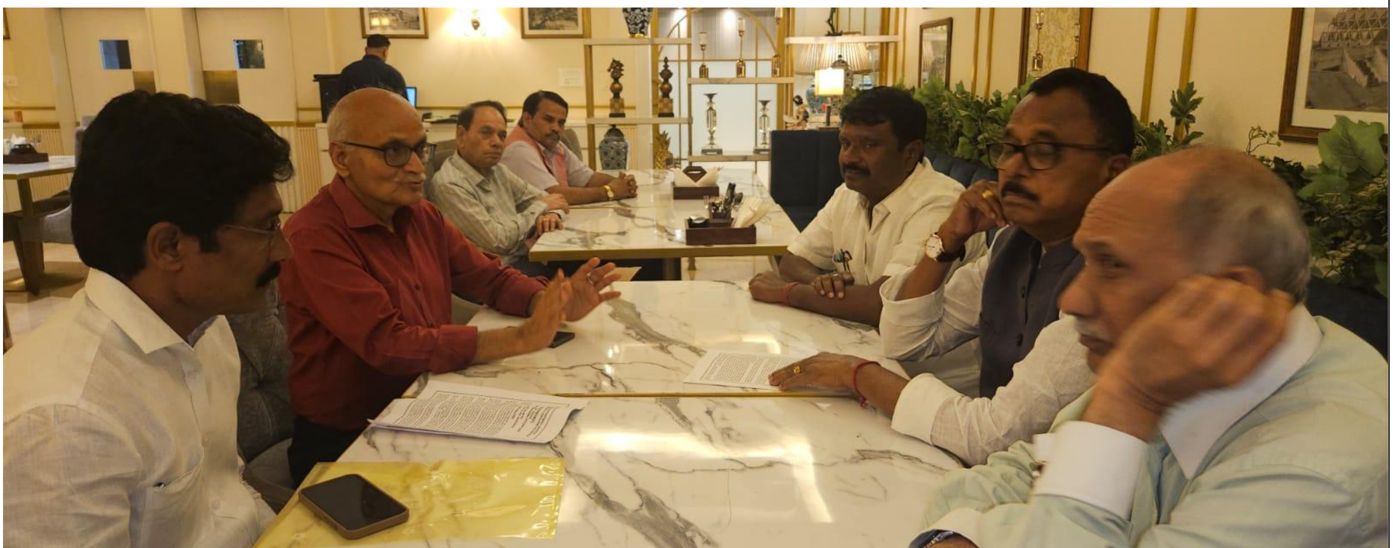
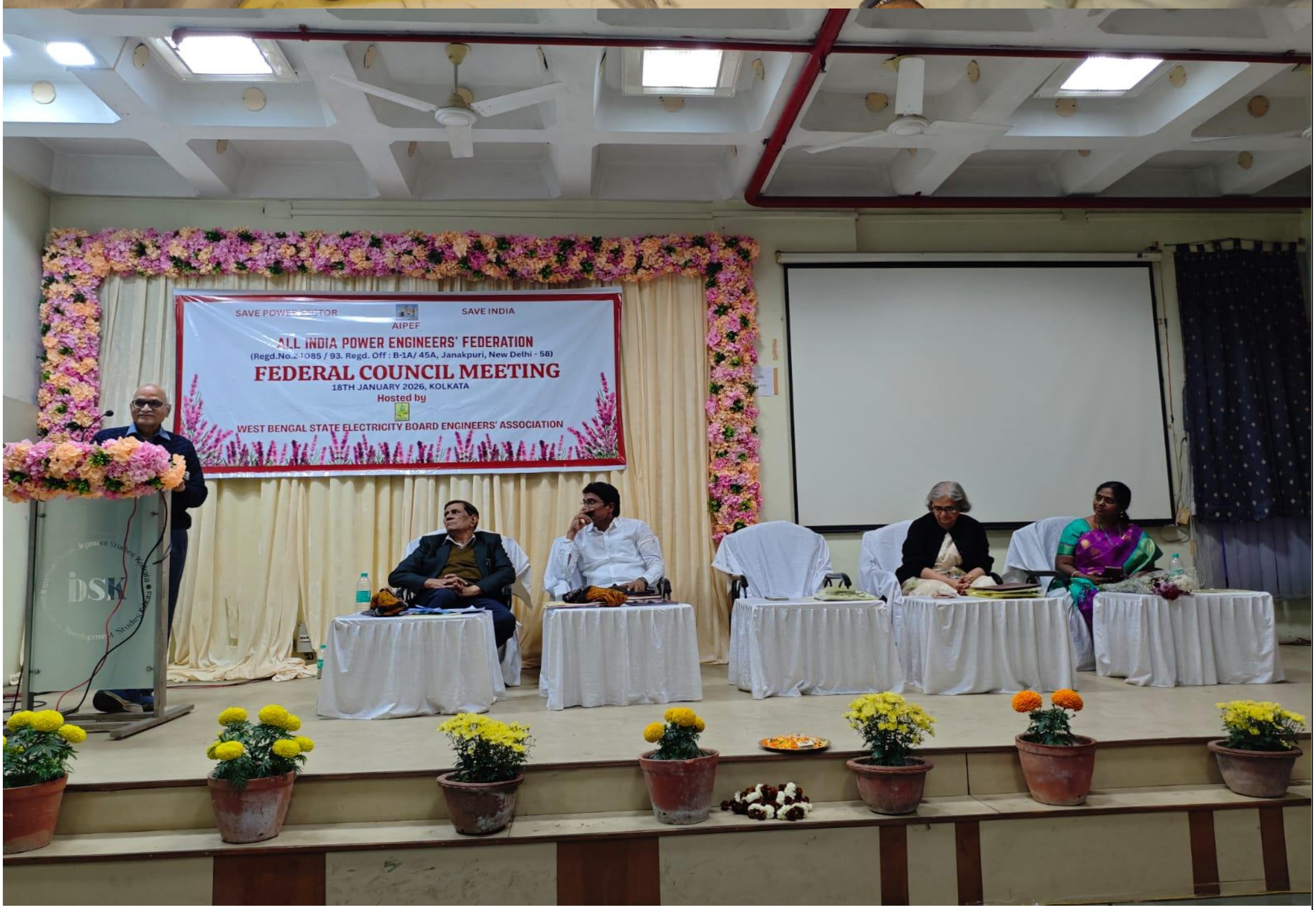
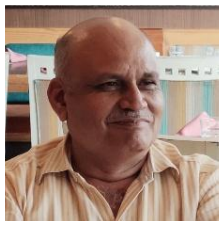




From the Editor's Desk



India's power sector stands today at a critical crossroads. On one hand, the country is witnessing unprecedented growth in electricity demand. On the other hand, the sector is facing deep structural uncertainties arising from unstable policy directions, aggressive privatisation trends, and inadequately planned energy transitions.

One of the most pressing concerns is the growing push for parallel distribution licensees in urban and commercially attractive areas. While competition is often presented as a path toward efficiency, the practical experience raises serious apprehensions regarding "pick and cherry" operations. Private entities naturally gravitate toward high-revenue consumers and profitable urban pockets, while responsibility of serving low-income households, rural consumers, agricultural loads, and financially weak segments remains with the public utilities. The result could be rising tariffs for ordinary citizens, deterioration of financial health of state utilities, and eventual weakening of universal service obligations. Electricity is no longer a luxury; it is a basic necessity that determines access to education, healthcare, communication, and economic opportunity. Non affordable power leads to access denial on multiple fronts. Red flag has been raised by none other than International Energy Agency (IEA). Its report says that in many countries, including India, since 2019, household electricity prices have risen at a higher rate than the income.

Equally concerning is the growing trend of monetisation and privatisation of public assets without adequate safeguards for employees, engineers, technicians, operators, and field staff who have built and sustained India's power infrastructure over decades face mounting uncertainty regarding job security, service conditions, pension protections, and professional independence. A demoralised workforce cannot deliver a resilient power system. The nation must recognise that public sector utilities have repeatedly demonstrated their strength during crises, disasters, and periods of peak demand through commitment and technical excellence. The magnum of the privatisation plan may be gauged from the fact that the second phase of National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP 2.0) has a power sector specific target of 2.76 Lakh Crore. Another indicator for concern is the reluctance of market players to abide by the law and make disclosers. CERC laid down annual mandatory data submission norms in the SOP Regulation 2012. However, despite a displeasure notice in May 2025, by 31st December 2025 only 30 out of 137 ISTC licensees (operational entities) filed data for the period April 2022 to March 2024. None filed for FY 24-25.

The ongoing transition toward renewable energy also demands a balanced and technically sound approach. Rapid solarisation without corresponding investments in grid-scale storage, balancing reserves, transmission strengthening, and flexible generation planning can create long-term reliability challenges. Intermittent energy sources, however desirable environmentally, cannot substitute careful system planning. The energy transition must therefore be guided not by haste, but by scientific planning and long-term grid security. Add to it the ignorance, among the solar push, characteristically, there is no plan for solar waste.

The sector requires not only technological transformation, but also policy stability, social responsibility, and professional courage. Therefore, Engineers must actively participate in informed public discourse.

At the same time, the engineering fraternity must also introspect with honesty and courage. Public confidence in the power sector can be protected only when professional Associations stand firmly not merely against external pressures, but also against internal corruption, favouritism, inefficiency, and misuse of authority wherever they may exist. Silence in the face of wrongdoing ultimately weakens institutions and damages the credibility of thousands of sincere employees who continue to serve with integrity. Engineer Associations therefore have a moral responsibility to promote transparency, ethical conduct, technical merit, and accountability within the system itself. The long-term strength of public sector utilities will depend not only on resisting unjust policies, but equally on maintaining the highest standards of professional honesty and public trust.

Jai Hind

Er. Vinay Pandey

Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 – Key Concerns

The proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 poses serious risks to farmers, consumers, power sector employees, and the federal structure of the country. The Bill primarily promotes privatization of electricity distribution, weakens social protections in the power sector, and centralizes decision-making powers.

1. **Impact on Farmers**
   - Removal of cross-subsidy within five years will lead to a sharp increase in agricultural s.
   - Farmers who currently receive subsidized electricity for irrigation will face higher power costs,.
   - Private distribution companies are unlikely to serve rural and low-revenue agricultural areas, affecting reliable supply to villages.
   - Increased tariffs may lead to higher cost of agricultural production, ultimately affecting food prices.
2. **Impact on domestic Consumers**
   - Allowing multiple distribution licensees in the same area will result in private companies choosing only high-paying consumers, leaving public DISCOMs with loss-making consumers.
   - Gradual elimination of cross-subsidy will cause significant tariff increases for domestic consumers, particularly low-income households. • Electricity may become market-driven rather than service-oriented, undermining universal access.
   - Consumers in rural and remote areas may face reduced service quality and supply uncertainty.
3. **Impact on Power Sector Employees**
   - Backdoor privatization of distribution will lead to job insecurity for thousands of power sector employees and engineers.
   - Experience from privatized utilities shows downsizing, contractual employment, and reduced service conditions.
   - Public DISCOMs will be weakened financially as profitable consumers shift to private companies.
   - Institutional knowledge and public sector capacity in the power sector will be systematically eroded.
4. **Threat to Federal Structure**
   - Electricity is a Concurrent Subject under the Constitution, but the Bill increases central government control over state electricity policies.
   - Creation of new central body National Electricity Council and expanded rule-making powers will reduce the autonomy of state governments.
   - States may lose flexibility in determining tariffs, subsidies & policies according to local needs.
   - This represents a shift from cooperative federalism to centralized control in the power sector.

5. Overall Risks

- Financial weakening of public DISCOMs.
- Increased electricity tariffs for farmers and domestic consumers.
- Privatization of profits and socialization of losses.
- Threat to affordable and universal electricity access.

Demand

- Immediate withdrawal of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025.
- Protection of cross-subsidy and affordable electricity for farmers and domestic consumers.
- No privatization of power distribution through multiple licensees.
- Safeguarding the federal structure and powers of states in electricity governance.
- Meaningful consultation with power employees, engineers, farmers, and consumer organizations before any reforms.

Electricity must remain a public service ensuring affordable & reliable power for all citizens.

ALL INDIA POWER ENGINEERS FEDERATION

FOCUS

12 June, 2026

As we gather today in Bengaluru for the AIPEF Federal Executive Meeting , the power sector stands at a critical and challenging crossroads.

The efforts to pass the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 and expand private sector participation in power distribution continue. In Uttar Pradesh, power employees and engineers have been successfully carrying on a sustained movement for the last 562 days against the decision of privatization of Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam and Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam and have successfully holded the issuance of Privatization tenders till date.

At the same time, new models of privatization are being introduced. In Ladakh, a strategic border Union Territory, an attempt was made to privatize the Ladakh Power Development Department through a Joint Venture with RECPDCL. By bringing together employees and all stakeholders of Ladakh, we have, for the time being, succeeded in getting this proposal put on hold.

In Karnataka, Tata Power has applied for parallel distribution licences in all distribution company areas. Similar applications have been filed by major private players Tata, Adani & Torrent in Maharashtra. Most recently, Medanta Power has sought a parallel licence in the highly profitable districts of Gurugram and Nuh in Haryana. These companies are targeting only high-revenue consumer segments. There is a serious concern that licences may be granted even without adequate infrastructure, allowing private operators to profit from public networks while weakening state-owned distribution companies.

What is happening in Andhra Pradesh is even more alarming. A distribution licence has reportedly been granted for a massive Artificial Intelligence Data Centre project to Google. With a projected load of around one gigawatt, the impact on the state's power infrastructure and the financial health of the distribution utilities could be enormous.

Simultaneously, separate agriculture distribution companies are being proposed or created in Telangana, Maharashtra and Haryana. These developments, combined with the proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025, present unprecedented challenges for power employees, engineers and PSUs across the country.

We must examine each of these issues carefully and formulate a united response. If the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 is introduced during the forthcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament, we should be prepared to launch a nationwide movement, including a national strike, to defend the public power sector and protect consumer interests.

In Transmission sector large scale Privatization is already continuing through TBCB and asset monetization. In generation today more than 50% capacity of Thermal Plants is already with private houses and almost all renewable energy plants are given to private houses. We have to plan strategy to stop all this.

Let us deliberate on these one by one, briefly but meaningfully, and emerge with a clear and united strategy.

"Ladakh's success is a beacon of hope, carrying the footprints of AIPEF's determined struggle."

I would like to begin today's discussions with the issue of Ladakh, which has become a significant battleground in the struggle to defend the public power sector.

AIPEF alongwith Ladakh Power Engineers Association has strongly opposed the proposed Joint Venture between the Ladakh Power Department (LPD) and RECPDCL. We firmly believe that electricity infrastructure in a strategically sensitive border region like Ladakh must remain under public ownership and public accountability. The proposed model raises concerns regarding privatization, tariff increases, employee security, and long-term control over critical power infrastructure.

Despite our limited manpower and resources, AIPEF, along with employees, engineers, consumer groups, religious organizations, and other stakeholders of Ladakh, succeeded in getting the proposed agreement put on hold. This is an important achievement and a positive signal for the entire power sector movement.

Ladakh is particularly important because it is a Union Territory. We have already witnessed the privatization of the power distribution system in Chandigarh. In Puducherry, we succeeded in getting the privatization tender cancelled, although fresh attempts are now being made to revive the process. In this context, protecting Ladakh from privatization, at least for the present, is a significant victory and an encouraging example of what united resistance can achieve.

AIPEF firmly believes that electricity is a public service, not a commodity. Assets created through public investment must remain in public hands. The strengthening of LPD through public investment, modernization, and better management is the correct path forward, not privatization.

Therefore, I propose that we begin our deliberations today with the Ladakh issue, as it reflects the broader challenges confronting the power sector across the country and demonstrates that determined collective action can still succeed.

Distribution Licence for GOOGLE AI DATA CENTER In Vishakhapatnam.

Another development that deserves our immediate attention is the decision of the Andhra Pradesh Government to grant a distribution licence for Google's proposed Artificial Intelligence Data Centre at Visakhapatnam.

This is not merely a project involving a large consumer. The proposed data centre is expected to draw between 1.15 and 1.3 GW of power continuously, equivalent to the electricity demand of a small city. Such a massive load will require substantial investments in transmission and distribution infrastructure, yet there is no clarity on who will bear these costs and how the interests of existing consumers will be protected.

AIPEF believes that granting a separate distribution licence to a single corporate consumer sets a dangerous precedent. It allows a financially powerful consumer to move outside the public distribution framework while continuing to depend upon power infrastructure built through public investment over decades.

This move threatens the very foundation of the cross-subsidy mechanism that supports agriculture, weaker sections and domestic consumers. If large and profitable consumers are allowed to exit public DISCOMs through special licences, state-owned utilities will lose their most remunerative consumers, weakening their financial viability and ultimately increasing the burden on ordinary consumers.

We view this as another form of backdoor privatization. Instead of strengthening public DISCOMs, governments are creating exclusive arrangements for large corporations. If this model is allowed to continue, similar demands will emerge from data centres, industrial parks and large corporate campuses across the country, seriously undermining the integrated public electricity distribution system.

AIPEF, therefore, demands a transparent review of this decision and a detailed public disclosure of its impact on power infrastructure, public investment, tariffs and existing consumers. Electricity distribution is a public service and cannot be converted into a business opportunity for select corporate entities at the cost of public utilities and consumers.

This issue is not confined to Andhra Pradesh. It has national implications and must be resisted collectively by all stakeholders of the power sector.

SEPERATE AGRICULTURE DISCOM: A STEP TOWARDS PRIVATIZATION OF PROFIT

Another disturbing trend emerging in the power sector is the creation of separate Agriculture DISCOMs. What started as an isolated proposal is now being pursued simultaneously in Maharashtra, Telangana and Haryana, indicating a coordinated shift in policy direction.

In Maharashtra, the Government has decided to separate the agricultural business of MSEDCL and transfer it to a new entity, MSEB Solar Agro Power Limited. In Telangana, a separate Agriculture DISCOM, TGRPDCL or Rythu DISCOM, is being proposed exclusively for agricultural consumers. Similarly, Haryana has announced the creation of a separate Agriculture DISCOM for supplying power to farmers.

AIPEF firmly believes that these experiments are neither necessary nor beneficial. They fragment integrated distribution utilities, create additional layers of bureaucracy, increase administrative costs and generate operational confusion regarding accountability, network management, energy accounting and consumer services. More importantly, these initiatives threaten the existing cross-subsidy framework and weaken the financial viability of public sector DISCOMs. By separating the subsidized agricultural sector from the mainstream distribution business, governments are creating a structure that can ultimately facilitate privatization of the remaining profitable consumer segments. This is a classic case of socializing losses while paving the way for privatizing profits.

None of the three states has demonstrated how creating a separate Agriculture DISCOM will improve power supply, reduce losses, lower subsidies or benefit farmers. Real solutions lie in strengthening existing PSUs through better management, timely subsidy reimbursement, infrastructure investment & adequate manpower.

AIPEF therefore strongly opposes the creation of separate Agriculture DISCOMs in Maharashtra, Telangana and Haryana. We believe that the future of the power sector lies in strong, integrated and publicly owned distribution utilities, not in fragmentation, corporatization and eventual privatization.

This is a national issue, and we must collectively resist every attempt to weaken the integrated public electricity distribution system in the country.

TATA SEEKING PARALLEL LICENCE IN KARNATAKA: PRIVATE CONPANIES FOR PARALLEL LICENCE IN MAHARASHTRA, HARYANA AND CHHATTISGARH

Another major threat confronting the public power sector is the growing attempt to introduce parallel distribution licences across the country.

In Karnataka, Tata Power has applied for parallel distribution licences covering all five ESCOMs and nineteen districts of the state. Similar applications have already been filed in Maharashtra by large private players Tata, Adani & Torrent. Most recently, Medanta Power has sought a parallel distribution licence in the highly profitable districts of Gurugram and Nuh in Haryana. In Chhattisgarh too, it is learned that Tata Power has applied for parallel license in select areas.

AIPEF considers these developments a backdoor route to privatization of electricity distribution. Private companies are not seeking licences in remote villages, agricultural areas or loss-making regions. They are targeting only high-revenue industrial, commercial and urban consumers, leaving public sector utilities to shoulder the responsibility of serving farmers, weaker sections and rural consumers.

The Electricity Act 2003 requires a parallel licensee to establish its own independent distribution network. However, there are serious concerns whether such massive infrastructure can realistically be created. If licences are granted without strict compliance with this requirement, private companies will effectively earn profits by relying on networks built through public investment over decades.

This model threatens the cross-subsidy mechanism that supports affordable electricity for farmers and domestic consumers. It will weaken the financial viability of state-owned DISCOMs by taking away their most remunerative consumers while leaving them with all social obligations and public responsibilities.

AIPEF therefore strongly opposes the grant of parallel distribution licences in Karnataka, Haryana, Maharashtra or any other state. Electricity distribution is an essential public service, not a business opportunity for cherry-picking profitable consumers. We must collectively resist every attempt to privatize profits & socializing losses.

This issue has national implications and deserves our united attention and action.

Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for Power Employees & Engineers

Along with protecting the public character of the power sector, we must also safeguard the social security of power sector employees and engineers. One of the most important issues before us is the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

Before the unbundling of State Electricity Boards, power sector employees across the country were covered under the Old Pension Scheme. However, after power sector reforms and restructuring, this vital social security protection was withdrawn in many states, creating a serious disparity and injustice.

Pension is not a charity; it is a deferred wage and a fundamental social security right. This is especially true for power sector employees and engineers who work in hazardous and life-threatening conditions to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply during emergencies, natural disasters and all adverse circumstances.

There have been encouraging developments. Jharkhand and Rajasthan have restored the Old Pension Scheme for power sector employees. Ing Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh, OPS has been restored for government employees and efforts are continuing for power sector personnel. In West Bengal, recommendations have reportedly been made in favour of restoring OPS for power sector employees but couldn't be implemented due to model code of conduct.

AIPEF firmly believes that there cannot be different standards of social security for employees performing the same essential public service. We therefore demand restoration of the Old Pension Scheme for all power sector employees and engineers across the country.

The Federal Executive should resolve to intensify the nationwide campaign for OPS restoration through coordinated action, representations and organizational programmes. The social security, dignity and future of power sector employees are non-negotiable, and AIPEF will continue its struggle until justice is secured for all.

UP POWER EMPLOYEES & ENGINEERS STRUGGLE IN UP : A HISTORY IN MAKING

No discussion on the challenges before the power sector can be complete without referring to the ongoing struggle in Uttar Pradesh against the privatization of Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam and Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam.

For the last 562 days, power employees and engineers of Uttar Pradesh have been carrying out a peaceful, democratic and sustained movement against privatization. Through Bijli Panchayats, Maha Panchayats, mass rallies and public campaigns, this movement has gone beyond employees and has become a people's movement supported by consumers and citizens.

Unfortunately, instead of engaging in dialogue, the authorities have responded with unprecedented repression. Thousands of employees have been transferred, large numbers of contractual workers have been removed, disciplinary rules have been amended to facilitate punitive action, and employees and engineers have been subjected to continuous harassment and intimidation.

AIPEF strongly condemns these actions. We demand immediate withdrawal of the privatization proposal and unconditional revocation of all punitive measures taken against employees and engineers. We also demand implementation of the commitments made in the agreement reached with the Energy Minister on 19 March 2023 regarding withdrawal of victimization.

The Federal Executive reiterates its complete solidarity with the Vidyut Karamchari Sanyukt Sangharsh Samiti, Uttar Pradesh. We assure our colleagues in Uttar Pradesh that they are not alone. Whenever required, power engineers and employees across the country will stand shoulder to shoulder with them.

Let this meeting send a clear message that any attempt to suppress the democratic rights of power employees and engineers or to impose privatization through repression will be met with united nationwide resistance by the entire power sector fraternity.

Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025: Direct assault on Public Power Sector, Federalism & Consumers right

Finally, I would like to draw attention to the biggest challenge before the Indian power sector today—the proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

AIPEF firmly believes that this Bill is not a reform measure but a direct assault on public sector electricity distribution, cross-subsidy, regulatory independence and the federal structure. The proposal to allow multiple distribution licensees in the same area will enable private companies to cherry-pick profitable consumers while leaving public DISCOMs burdened with rural supply, agricultural consumers and social obligations.

The Bill seeks to weaken the cross-subsidy mechanism that protects farmers, domestic consumers and weaker sections of society. It also centralizes powers at the cost of states and increases the risk of backdoor privatization of electricity distribution across the country.

Friends, we have faced this challenge before. In March this year, when there were indications that the Bill would be introduced in Parliament, NCCOEEE organized a national seminar in Delhi on 09 March. Several Members of Parliament from different political parties participated and assured us that they would collectively oppose any anti-consumer and anti-public sector provisions of the Bill.

Today, we must remain vigilant. There are reports that the Government may attempt to introduce the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 during the forthcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament. If such an attempt is made, AIPEF and the entire power sector fraternity must be prepared for a nationwide lightning action programme, including coordinated protests, demonstrations and, if necessary, a nationwide strike movement.

The message from this Federal Executive Meeting should be loud and clear: Electricity is a public service, not a commodity. We will oppose every attempt to privatize profits, weaken public utilities and burden consumers.

Let us remain united and prepared for decisive action in defence of the public power sector.

A CLARION CALL TO POWER ENGINEERS

As I conclude, I would like to issue a clarion call to all power engineers and employees across the country.

Once again, the time has come, and the call of the times is clear: we must unite, organize and prepare ourselves for the challenges ahead. The growing attempts at privatization, fragmentation and corporatization of the power sector cannot be countered by resolutions alone. We must reach every engineer, every employee and every workplace to educate, mobilize and prepare for a nationwide struggle to safeguard the public power sector.

Many people ask: "What is achieved through these struggles?" My answer is simple and unequivocal. Whatever remains today of India's public power sector has survived because of our unity, vigilance and collective strength.

The most recent example is Ladakh, where despite limited resources we succeeded in getting the privatization proposal put on hold. In Uttar Pradesh, after 562 days of continuous struggle, the government has still not been able to proceed with the privatization tender despite repeated announcements. Jammu & Kashmir and Puducherry are also shining examples where unity and determined resistance succeeded in stopping privatization initiatives.

These victories did not come automatically. They were achieved through awareness, organization, sacrifice and struggle. Therefore, we must intensify our efforts. We must reach every engineer and every employee, explain the challenges before the sector and build an informed, united and determined movement.

To save the public power sector, we need the same spirit of commitment, sacrifice and determination that inspired India's freedom movement. With courage in our hearts and confidence in our collective strength, we must march forward together.

Let our message from Bengaluru be loud and clear:

"Educate, Organize, Mobilize — Defend the Public Power Sector."

"An injury to one is an injury to all; the strength of all is the security of each."

"Electricity is a public service, not a commodity."

And above all:

"United We Stand, United We Struggle, United We Shall Win."

LONG LIVE POWER ENGINEERS UNITY !!

INQUILAB ZINDABAD

Jay Hind
Shailendra Dubey, Chairman

"Electricity is a public service, not a commodity.
Public assets created through public investment must remain in public hands."

LADAKH POWER PRIVATIZATION PROPOSAL PUT ON HOLD

A Case Study in Collective Public Resistance : AIPEF Foot Prints in preventing Ladakh Privatization.

The proposed privatization of the Ladakh Power Development Department (LPDD) through a Joint Venture (JV) arrangement emerged as one of the most significant public policy issues in Ladakh during April–May 2026. The proposal envisaged the creation of a Joint Venture company between LPDD and REC Power Development & Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), with RECPDCL holding 51% equity. Such an arrangement would effectively transfer management control of the power development department to the Joint Venture entity, raising widespread concerns about the future of public ownership of the power sector in Ladakh.

The issue first came into the public domain when it was learned that an agreement between LPDD and RECPDCL was proposed to be signed on 09 May 2026. Official documents further revealed that a detailed presentation regarding the privatization of Ladakh Power Development Department was scheduled before the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh on the same day. These developments made it clear that the proposal was not a routine administrative exercise but a major restructuring initiative with far-reaching implications.

Recognizing the seriousness of the issue, i had to rush to Leh on 28 April,the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) immediately launched a comprehensive awareness campaign across Ladakh. AIPEF emphasized that electricity in Ladakh is not merely a commercial service but an essential public utility that sustains life and economic activity in one of the most climatically challenging regions of the country.

A crucial turning point came on 28 April 2026, when a broad-based interaction was organized involving all major stakeholders of Ladakh. The meeting witnessed participation from prominent religious organizations,Ladakh Boudha Association, Ladakh Gompa Association, Anjuman Islamia, Moin Ul Islam, Christian Association,Taxi Cooperative Ltd, Hotel and Guest House Association,the Apex Body Leh, the Kargil Democratic Alliance, the Ladakh Merchants Association, Electrical contractors Association, public representatives, and officers of the Power Development Department, including Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, and Assistant Engineers.

The deliberations reflected a remarkable degree of consensus among diverse sections of society. Participants expressed serious concerns that the proposed Joint Venture could eventually lead to privatization of the power sector, resulting in higher tariffs, reduced public accountability, threats to employee security, and dilution of public control over infrastructure built through decades of government investment.

On the very same day, 28 April, all participating stakeholders jointly submitted a representation to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh opposing the proposed Joint Venture and urging the administration not to proceed with the privatization initiative without extensive public consultation.

The campaign continued to gather momentum. On 29 April, AIPEF Chairman alongwith Ladakh Power Engineers Association held a Press Conference in Leh which was widely covered. Same day Chairman AIPEF and Ladakh Power Engineers Association leaders Er Konchok Ishey President, Er Rinchen Wangmo, Er Aga Murtaza & others met Member of Parliament from Ladakh, Shri Mohammed Haneefa

Jan, and apprised him of the concerns surrounding the proposal. The MP was requested to intervene in the matter and ensure protection of public interest and employee rights.

On 30 April, a historic united meeting of power employees and engineers was held. The meeting resulted in the formation of a Joint Forum of Employees and Engineers to coordinate collective action against the proposed privatization. The formation of the Joint Forum significantly strengthened the movement and provided an organized platform for engagement with the administration and the public.

As public awareness increased, opposition to the proposal spread rapidly across Ladakh. Religious bodies, traders, hoteliers, contractors, consumers, employees, engineers, and public representatives spoke in one voice against the move. Memorandums and representations were submitted from various quarters, reflecting unprecedented public unity on the issue.

The growing resistance soon began to have a visible impact. Indications emerged from the administration that the proposed agreement scheduled for 9 May might not be signed. Subsequently, an official communication was issued stating that the visit of the CMD-led RECPDCL delegation to Ladakh, originally scheduled from 7 to 10 May 2026 for finalizing the Memorandum of Understanding, had been postponed.

The postponement was widely perceived as a direct consequence of the strong public opposition and increasing scrutiny of the proposal.

The decisive moment came on 08 May 2026, when the Chief Secretary of Ladakh addressed a press conference that lasted for nearly an hour. During the interaction with the media, he repeatedly clarified that no privatization of the power sector was being undertaken and that no Memorandum of Understanding would be signed unilaterally. The repeated assurances reflected the intensity of public concern and the pressure generated by the sustained campaign launched under leadership and initiatives of AIPEF.

The developments in Ladakh represent a significant democratic intervention in public policy. Employees, engineers, consumers, traders, contractors, religious organizations, public representatives, and civil society groups came together to protect a vital public utility and ensure that decisions affecting essential services are subjected to public scrutiny and consultation.

For AIPEF, the Ladakh movement marks another important chapter in the nationwide struggle against power sector privatization. Similar collective efforts had earlier succeeded in preventing the privatization of the power sector in Jammu & Kashmir in the region nearly five years ago. The Ladakh experience demonstrates once again that informed public participation and collective action can effectively influence policy decisions involving critical public services.

While the proposal may currently be on hold, AIPEF maintains that continued vigilance remains necessary. The Federation reiterates its position that any attempt to privatize the power sector—whether through direct privatization, Joint Ventures, franchisee arrangements, outsourcing, or any other mechanism—must be opposed whenever it undermines public ownership, affordable electricity, transparency, accountability, or employee rights.

The Ladakh episode has left a lasting message: public utilities belong to the people, and decisions affecting them must be taken transparently, democratically, and with the active participation of all stakeholders.

-Er Shailendra Dubey, Chairman, AIPEF

ALL INDIA POWER ENGINEERS FEDERATION

Resolution No. 1

Against the any unilateral attempt of Tabling of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025 in the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

The Federal Executive of the AIPEF, after detailed deliberations on the developments relating to the proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025, unanimously adopts the following resolution:

Whereas

1. The draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025 was circulated on 09 October 2025 with inadequate time for comments and objections from stakeholders.

2. Despite widespread opposition from power engineers, employees, trade unions, consumer organizations, farmers' bodies, state utilities and electricity sector experts, the Central Government has continued to pursue the Bill without meaningful consultation.

3. On 12 January 2026, representatives of power sector employees and engineers from across the country unanimously demanded withdrawal of the draft Bill. However, the Ministry of Power has not even released the minutes of the meeting, demonstrating disregard for democratic consultation and stakeholder participation.

4. A Working Group constituted on 30 January 2026 included representatives of All India Discoms Association an organization openly advocating privatization of the power sector. The inclusion of such vested interests in the process of finalizing a national legislation affecting millions of consumers and employees raises serious concerns regarding transparency and impartiality.

AIPEF Notes with Serious Concern

A. Threat to Public Distribution Utilities

The Bill seeks to permit multiple distribution licensees in the same area using the same publicly funded distribution network under the guise of competition and consumer choice.

This provision will enable private companies to cherry-pick high-paying industrial and commercial consumers while leaving public DISCOMs with socially obligated consumers, including domestic, agricultural and rural consumers.

The inevitable consequence will be weakening of public utilities, erosion of their revenue base and eventual privatization of distribution.

B. Threat to Affordable Electricity

More than 90% of electricity consumers are domestic consumers with connected loads below 5 kW.

The proposed amendments are designed to benefit a tiny fraction of large consumers while ignoring the interests of ordinary households, farmers, small businesses and weaker sections.

The Bill undermines existing cross-subsidy framework that enables affordable electricity for consumers.

If high-paying consumers migrate to private suppliers, public DISCOMs will lose substantial revenue, resulting in tariff increases for common consumers.

C. Adverse Impact of Open Access Provisions

The proposed Section 43(4) empowers Regulatory Commissions to permit consumers with demand above 1 MW to shift to private suppliers.

Such consumers contribute significantly to the revenue of state DISCOMs.

While these consumers may shift away, public utilities would still be required to maintain network infrastructure and standby capacity, creating an unfair financial burden on state-owned utilities.

D. Erosion of Universal Service Obligation

The Bill permits private licensees to avoid supplying electricity where it is commercially unviable.

Public DISCOMs, however, will continue to bear the statutory obligation of supplying electricity to every consumer irrespective of profitability.

This amounts to privatization of profits and socialization of losses.

AIPEF strongly believes that universal access to electricity is a public service obligation and cannot be subjected to market considerations.

E. Failure of International Experience

International experience has shown that retail competition in electricity distribution has not delivered the promised benefits to consumers.

Studies of electricity sector reforms in several countries have demonstrated that competition in retail distribution has failed to significantly reduce tariffs and has often increased regulatory complexity and financial instability.

F. Threat to Employees and Engineers

The Bill creates conditions that will accelerate privatization of distribution utilities.

This will adversely affect job security, service conditions, career progression and other terminal benefits of power sector employees and engineers.

AIPEF believes that a strong public electricity sector is essential for maintaining technical standards, system reliability and consumer service.

G. Threat to Federal Structure

Electricity is a concurrent subject under the Constitution.

The proposed amendments undermine the powers of State Governments and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions by imposing a centralized framework favouring privatization.

This constitutes an encroachment upon the federal structure of governance.

Therefore, AIPEF Resolves

1. To unequivocally oppose Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025 in its entirety and demand immediate withdrawal.
2. To oppose any provision permitting multiple distribution licensees in same area using the same network.
3. To oppose all provisions that facilitate privatization, cherry-picking of consumers, weakening of public utilities and transfer of public assets to private interests.
4. To demand protection of cross-subsidy mechanisms that support social equity in electricity access.
5. To demand that no consumer category be permitted to migrate to private suppliers in a manner that undermines the financial viability of public DISCOMs.
6. To demand that any reform in the power sector must prioritize affordability, accessibility, reliability and public accountability rather than privatization and profit maximization.

Programme of Action

A. Nationwide Resistance

If the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025 is tabled in either House of Parliament during the Monsoon Session, AIPEF shall immediately launch nationwide protest actions in coordination with the National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEEE) and other trade unions.

B. Lightning Strike

In the event of introduction of the Bill in Parliament, AIPEF authorizes its leadership to call a Nationwide Lightning Strike at short notice in coordination with NCCOEEE.

The strike shall commence immediately upon receipt of credible information regarding tabling of the Bill.

C. Protest Demonstrations

Power engineers and employees throughout the country shall organize demonstrations, gate meetings, protest assemblies and mass mobilization programmes at generating stations, transmission projects, distribution offices, headquarters and district centres.

D. Public Campaign

AIPEF shall undertake a nationwide campaign to educate consumers, farmers, workers, public representatives and civil society organizations regarding the adverse consequences of the proposed legislation.

Call for Unity

The Federal Executive calls upon:

- All affiliated State Associations of Engineers;
- All electricity employees' federations and unions;
- Central Trade Unions;
- Farmers' organizations;
- Consumer organizations;
- Public sector employees' associations; and
- Democratic and civil society organizations

to remain fully prepared for united and coordinated action to defend India's public electricity sector.

AIPEF Reaffirms

Its unwavering commitment to:

- Protect public ownership of generation, transmission and distribution;
- Safeguard the interests of power engineers and employees;
- Ensure affordable and universal electricity access to all consumers;
- Defend the interests of farmers and weaker sections;
- Preserve the federal character of India's power sector; and- Resist attempts to privatize electricity distribution through legislative, administrative or regulatory measures.

The Federal Executive declares that the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025 is not a reform measure but a privatization measure. AIPEF shall oppose it with full organizational strength and in complete unity with all stakeholders committed to protecting the public power sector.

Resolution No. 2

Against Grant of Parallel Distribution Licences to Tata Power in Karnataka and in Defence of Public Sector Electricity Distribution.

The All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF), representing power engineers across the country, expresses its serious concern and strong opposition to the grant of Parallel Distribution Licences sought by Tata Power Company Limited in nineteen districts covering all five Electricity Supply Companies (ESCOMs) of Karnataka.

AIPEF notes that Tata Power has filed Petition Nos. MP 02/2026 to MP 06/2026 before the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) seeking parallel distribution licences in areas presently served by BESCOM, HESCOM, MESCOM, GESCOM and CESC. This proposal poses a grave threat to the public electricity distribution system, consumer welfare, rural electrification and the financial sustainability of Karnataka's state-owned distribution utilities.

AIPEF Resolves That:

1. Parallel Licensing is a Backdoor Route to Privatization

The proposed grant of parallel distribution licences is nothing but a backdoor mechanism for privatization of electricity distribution. It allows private entities to enter profitable urban and industrial markets while leaving state utilities burdened with social obligations, agricultural consumers, rural areas and economically weaker sections.

2. Statutory Requirement of Independent Network Must Be Strictly Enforced

The Sixth Proviso to Section 14 of the Electricity Act, 2003 permits grant of a parallel distribution licence only when the applicant establishes and operates its own independent distribution network. AIPEF notes that no credible, adequately funded and technically feasible plan has been demonstrated for creating an independent network across the proposed nineteen districts. Grant of licences without fulfillment of this mandatory statutory condition would be contrary to the spirit and intent of the Electricity Act.

3. Cross-Subsidy Mechanism Will Be Seriously Damaged

The existing tariff structure in Karnataka depends upon cross-subsidization, wherein industrial and commercial consumers contribute significantly towards subsidized supply to domestic consumers, farmers and vulnerable sections of society. If private licensees are permitted to selectively target high-revenue consumers, the entire cross-subsidy framework will be undermined, ultimately resulting in increased tariff burden on common consumers and farmers.

4. Financial Viability of State DISCOMs Will Be Jeopardized

Loss of premium-paying consumers will severely weaken the revenue base of Karnataka's ESCOMs. Reduced revenues will adversely affect maintenance of distribution infrastructure, system strengthening, network expansion and quality of supply. This will create long-term financial stress on public utilities and increase dependence on government support.

5. Universal Service Obligations Cannot Be Compromised

State-owned distribution companies have a statutory responsibility to provide electricity to all categories of consumers, including remote villages, agricultural pump sets, low-income households and difficult geographical areas. Private operators cannot be allowed to cherry-pick profitable consumers while avoiding universal service obligations.

6. Public Electricity Infrastructure Built with Public Funds Must Be Protected

The distribution network in Karnataka has been developed over decades through public investment and consumer contributions. Any policy decision that weakens public utilities and facilitates transfer of profitable consumer segments to private entities is against public interest and detrimental to the long-term sustainability of the power sector.

Therefore, AIPEF Demands:

1. Immediate rejection of Tata Power's applications for parallel distribution licences in Karnataka.

2. A comprehensive independent assessment of the financial, technical, legal and consumer impact of the proposed licences before any regulatory decision is taken.

3. Invocation of Section 108 of the Electricity Act, 2003 by the Government of Karnataka to issue appropriate policy directions safeguarding public interest, consumer welfare and the viability of state-owned DISCOMs.

4. Full participation of BESCOM, HESCOM, MESCOM, GESCOM and CESC in all proceedings before KERC, with detailed examination of the implications of the proposed licences.

5. Protection of the existing cross-subsidy framework and universal service obligations to ensure affordable electricity for domestic consumers, farmers and weaker sections of society.

Conclusion

AIPEF reiterates that electricity distribution is an essential public service and not merely a commercial activity. Any attempt to weaken public sector distribution utilities through selective privatization or parallel licensing will adversely affect consumers, employees, farmers and the overall power sector. AIPEF therefore calls upon the Government of Karnataka, KERC, power sector employees, engineers ,consumer organizations and all stakeholders to collectively oppose the proposed parallel distribution licences and safeguard the public character of electricity distribution in Karnataka.

Resolution No.3

Against Grant of Distribution Licence to Google AI Data Centre in Andhra Pradesh and its Adverse Impact on The Public Power System

The All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF), representing power engineers across the country, expresses its deep concern and strong opposition to the decision of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to grant a separate distribution licence/status to the proposed Google Artificial Intelligence Data Centre at Visakhapatnam.

AIPEF views this decision as a serious departure from the basic principles governing India's public electricity distribution system and a move that could create dangerous precedents affecting the financial viability of public sector DISCOMs, the cross-subsidy framework, consumer interests and future public investment in the power sector.

The proposed Google AI Data Centre is expected to have a connected load of approximately 1.15 to 1.30 GW. Such a load is equivalent to the instantaneous addition of a medium-sized city to the Andhra Pradesh power system.

A data centre of this magnitude would consume around 11.4 TWh of electricity annually and would require uninterrupted round-the-clock supply at a very high load factor. Unlike ordinary industrial consumers, AI data centres operate continuously throughout the year and create a persistent and non-flexible demand on the power system.

AIPEF notes with concern that while approvals for large-scale data centres have been granted on a fast-track basis, no transparent public assessment has been made available regarding:

- Additional generation capacity required to serve this load.

- Additional transmissionv infrastructure needed.

- Additional distribution infrastructure investments.

- Impact on existing consumers.

- Impact on tariffs.

- Impact on grid stability.

- Environmental implications arising from additional thermal generation.

The people of Andhra Pradesh have a right to know the full implications of such a large commitment of public resources.

The establishment of the Google AI Data Centre is expected to require substantial strengthening of the state transmission and distribution network.

The existing 132 kV and 220 kV network in the Visakhapatnam–Steel Plant corridor is likely to require extensive augmentation. A dedicated 400 kV substation and associated transmission infrastructure may become necessary to serve the projected load.

AIPEF estimates that infrastructure strengthening by APTRANSCO alone may require investments in the range of ₹500–700 crore or even higher depending upon the final configuration of the network.

The Federation seeks clarity on the following issues:

- Who will bear the cost of transmission strengthening?

- Whether APTRANSCO and public utilities will finance these investments.

- Whether such investments will ultimately be recovered from ordinary consumers through higher tariffs.

- Whether public resources are being diverted to support a single corporate consumer.

Public infrastructure developed over decades through consumer contributions and taxpayer resources cannot be converted into a subsidy mechanism for private corporate entities.

The Andhra Pradesh power system has been developed primarily to serve domestic consumers, agriculture, small industries, public services and economic development.

If a substantial portion of available generation and transmission capacity is earmarked for a single AI data centre, existing consumers may face:

- Reduced system flexibility.

- Increased transmission congestion.

- Delays in network expansion for public needs.

- Increased tariff burden.

- Diversion of management and engineering resources.

AIPEF believes that the interests of existing consumers, especially domestic consumers, farmers and economically weaker sections, must take precedence over the commercial requirements of large multinational corporations.

The Andhra Pradesh grid already carries substantial industrial and port-related loads in the Visakhapatnam region.

The proposed data centre would impose a continuous demand exceeding one gigawatt, requiring:

- Dedicated transmission corridors.

- Reactive power compensation systems.

- Voltage stability measures.

- Advanced grid management systems.

AIPEF seeks clarification whether APTRANSCO will be required to install:

- Static Var Compensators (SVCs).

- STATCOM systems.

- Additional 400 kV transmission infrastructure.

- Special reliability arrangements.

The Federation further seeks disclosure of the estimated capital expenditure and implementation timelines.

AI data centres operate continuously and require reliable firm power.

Given the present generation mix in Andhra Pradesh, a substantial portion of this demand is likely to be met from coal-based generation sources, including thermal stations in the state and the regional grid.

This would:

- Increase coal consumption.
- Increase greenhouse gas emissions.
- Increase local air pollution.
- Raise the average grid emission factor.

Before granting special concessions, the Government must publicly disclose the environmental consequences of servicing such large AI loads.

One of the most serious consequences of granting a separate distribution licence is the erosion of the cross-subsidy mechanism that sustains the public electricity system.

Industrial and commercial consumers presently contribute significantly towards:

- Agricultural subsidies.
- Domestic consumer subsidies.
- Rural electrification.
- Social obligations of public utilities.

By granting a separate distribution licence and exempting the data centre from normal tariff structures, cross-subsidy surcharge and additional surcharge obligations, the state effectively allows a premium consumer to bypass its contribution to the public electricity system.

This directly weakens the financial foundation of public sector DISCOMs.

If such exemptions are allowed to proliferate, the burden of supporting public utilities will shift to ordinary consumers and state governments.

• Legal and Regulatory Concerns

AIPEF questions the legal validity and regulatory rationale of granting distribution licence status to a single bulk consumer.

The Electricity Act, 2003 envisages electricity distribution as a public service responsibility undertaken within a regulated framework for serving consumers in a licensed area.

Granting distribution licence status to a single corporate entity:

- Violates the spirit of integrated public distribution.
- Creates regulatory asymmetry.
- Undermines public sector utilities.
- Sets a dangerous precedent for future demands from other large consumers.

Such a far-reaching policy decision cannot be implemented through isolated executive actions without comprehensive national debate and stakeholder consultation.

• A Dangerous National Precedent

The Andhra Pradesh decision is not merely a state-specific issue.

If allowed to stand, similar demands can emerge from:

- Data centres.
- Industrial parks.
- Special Economic Zones.
- Technology parks.
- Corporate campuses.
- Large commercial developments.

This could gradually fragment the public distribution system and create exclusive private electricity enclaves across the country.

Such a development would fundamentally undermine the financial viability of public DISCOMs and weaken universal electricity access.

AIPEF Resolves That

1. The grant of a separate distribution licence/status to Google AI Data Centre is discriminatory and contrary to the principles of an integrated public electricity distribution system.

2. The decision threatens the financial viability of public sector DISCOMs by allowing a premium consumer to bypass the normal tariff and cross-subsidy framework.

3. Public investment in transmission and distribution infrastructure must not be used to subsidise private corporate operations.

4. The interests of existing consumers, particularly farmers, domestic consumers and weaker sections of society, must be fully protected.

5. Any additional infrastructure required for the data centre must be financed by the beneficiary entity and not transferred to ordinary consumers through higher tariffs.

6. The legal and regulatory basis for granting distribution licence status to a single bulk consumer must be subjected to independent scrutiny.

7. No policy decision with national implications should be implemented without consultation with state utilities, regulators, engineers' organisations, employees' federations and consumer representatives.

8. The Andhra Pradesh Government must publicly disclose the complete techno-economic study relating to the impact of the Google AI Data Centre on generation, transmission, distribution, tariffs, environment and consumer interests.

Therefore, AIPEF Demands

1. Immediate review and withdrawal of the special distribution licence/status granted to Google AI Data Centre or any similar private entity.

2. No grant of parallel, deemed or exclusive distribution licences that undermine the viability of state-owned DISCOMs.

3. Protection and preservation of the cross-subsidy framework.

4. Full public disclosure of all studies relating to power demand, infrastructure requirements, environmental impact and public investment associated with the project.

5. Assurance that no burden arising from infrastructure augmentation for the data centre will be passed on to existing consumers.

6. Strengthening of public sector DISCOMs through investment, modernization and operational reforms rather than facilitating corporate bypass arrangements.

7. A national policy discussion involving all stakeholders before permitting any model that allows large consumers to exit the public distribution framework.

8. A categorical declaration by the Government of India and all State Governments that electricity distribution shall remain a public service dedicated to serving all sections of society and shall not be converted into a selective business opportunity for large corporate entities.

Conclusion

AIPEF reiterates that India's electricity distribution system has been built through decades of public investment and the dedicated efforts of power engineers, employees and consumers. The grant of exclusive distribution privileges to large corporate entities such as the Google AI Data Centre may appear attractive from an investment perspective, but it carries profound long-term consequences for public utilities, consumers, tariff stability and the federal structure of the power sector.

AIPEF calls upon power engineers, employees, trade unions, consumer organisations and all stakeholders across the country to unite in defence of the public electricity distribution system and oppose all forms of backdoor privatization and regulatory arrangements that weaken public sector utilities.

Resolution No.4

Against Joint Venture / Privatization of Ladakh Power Development Department

The All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF), representing power engineers across the country, expresses its deep concern and strong opposition to the proposed Joint Venture (JV) between the Ladakh Administration and REC Power Development & Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), which effectively amounts to the privatization and corporatization of the Ladakh Power Development Department (LPDD).

After detailed deliberations, AIPEF unanimously resolves as follows:

Whereas

1. LPDD is a vital public utility serving the people of Ladakh, one of India's most geographically challenging and strategically sensitive regions, and its primary objective must remain public service rather than profit maximization.

2. The proposed JV envisages transfer of generation and distribution assets built with public funds and public investment to a corporatized entity in which operational control would effectively rest with the JV partner.

3. Ladakh's unique topographical conditions, sparse population, harsh climate, and strategic border location require a public-sector-driven electricity system focused on reliability, affordability, and national security considerations.

4. The proposal introduces a commercial framework based on assured Return on Equity (RoE), which could ultimately result in increased electricity tariffs and additional financial burden on domestic consumers and economically weaker sections.

5. The continuation of subsidies under the proposed arrangement remains dependent on future government support and does not provide long-term protection to consumers from tariff increases.

6. Electricity infrastructure in Ladakh is of immense strategic importance from the perspective of national security and emergency preparedness, and therefore should remain under direct government ownership, management, and control.

7. The proposed model does not eliminate the need for government support, as continued revenue-gap funding has already been envisaged, indicating that privatization is not a solution to the underlying financial challenges.

8. The proposal raises legitimate concerns regarding the future of employees, institutional capacity, technical expertise, and the long-term strength of the public electricity sector in Ladakh.

9. A long-term licensing and operational arrangement may restrict future policy flexibility and prevent corrective measures if the model proves unsuitable for the unique circumstances of the Union Territory.

Therefore, AIPEF Resolves

1. To strongly oppose the proposed Joint Venture and privatization of the Ladakh Power Development Department.

2. To demand that the proposed agreement between LPDD and RECPDCL be immediately withdrawn and no further steps be taken without comprehensive public consultation.

3. To urge the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor and the Administration of Ladakh to withdraw the proposal, considering its social, economic, strategic, and security implications.

4. To emphasize that electricity infrastructure in strategically important border regions must remain under full public ownership and democratic. accountability.

5. To call for meaningful consultations with employees, engineers, consumer organizations, elected representatives, civil society groups, religious bodies, and technical experts before any restructuring decision is taken.

6. To advocate strengthening LPDD within the public sector framework through enhanced investment, modernization, improved management practices, and adequate financial support rather than privatization.

7. To safeguard the interests of consumers by ensuring affordable electricity, universal access, and protection from tariff shocks that may arise from commercialized operations.

8. To protect the service conditions, job security, and professional interests of all employees and engineers presently serving in LPDD.

9. To support all democratic and lawful efforts of the people of Ladakh, consumer organizations, employees, engineers and civil society groups seeking preservation of the public character of the power sector in the Union Territory.

Conclusion

AIPEF firmly believes that the power sector in Ladakh must remain a publicly owned and publicly accountable service dedicated to the welfare of consumers, the development of the region, and the strategic interests of the nation. The Federation calls upon the Government of India and the Administration of Ladakh to abandon the proposed privatization initiative and instead strengthen LPDD as a robust and efficient public-sector utility.

Resolution No.5

Against the Creation of Separate Agriculture DISCOMs

The All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF), representing power engineers across the country, expresses its strong opposition to the policy initiatives being pursued in certain states for the creation of separate Agriculture Distribution Companies (Agriculture DISCOMs).

The Federation believes that such restructuring is neither technically justified, nor commercially viable, nor financially sustainable.

AIPEF notes that agriculture power supply is intrinsically linked with broader issues of food security, rural development, irrigation, groundwater management, and farmer welfare. The challenges associated with agricultural electricity consumption cannot be resolved through mere administrative restructuring or by carving out separate entities from existing integrated distribution systems.

The Federation observes that agricultural power supply is a loss-making but socially essential service. Isolating agricultural consumers into separate DISCOMs would merely concentrate financial losses within a single entity, thereby weakening its long-term sustainability and increasing dependence on government subsidies. Such a move would undermine the fundamental principle of cross-subsidization that has historically enabled universal electricity access and balanced sectoral growth.

AIPEF further emphasizes that the fragmentation of distribution utilities into profitable and non-profitable segments is counterproductive and contrary to sound utility management practices. Experience with feeder separation and other restructuring measures has not demonstrated any conclusive evidence that further segregation will improve efficiency or financial performance.

The Federation is particularly concerned that the creation of Agriculture DISCOMs is a continuation of the broader agenda of unbundling and privatization of the power sector. By isolating high-loss consumer categories, the path is paved for eventual privatization of profitable urban and industrial distribution areas while leaving socially obligated services under public ownership and financial stress.

AIPEF notes that the Telangana, Maharashtra & Haryana model of seperate Agriculture Discom creates a utility responsible for supplying electricity to agriculture, irrigation, and water-related services without corresponding control over generation, transmission, or the broader distribution network. Such an arrangement creates accountability without authority and is therefore structurally flawed.

Federation also questions rationale behind Maharashtra model of creating a separate entity for agricultural feeder solarization. Solarization of agricultural feeders can be implemented within existing DISCOM structures. Establishing new companies merely increases administrative overheads, creates duplication of functions, and adds financial burdens without addressing the underlying challenges of power supply.

AIPEF further cautions that large-scale dependence on solar generation for agricultural supply raises significant technical challenges related to intermittency, grid stability, frequency control, and voltage management. Any such transition must be guided by comprehensive techno-economic studies rather than administrative restructuring.

The Federation recalls the vision underlying India's electricity sector development, which emphasized coordinated and integrated planning of generation, transmission, and distribution to ensure economical and efficient supply of electricity. The creation of commodity-specific or sector-specific distribution entities runs contrary to this principle and threatens to weaken the integrated character of the power system.

Therefore, AIPEF Resolves:

1. To strongly oppose the creation of separate Agriculture DISCOMs or similar sector-specific electricity distribution entities in any state.

2. To demand that State Governments and the Government of India abandon policies aimed at further fragmentation of the electricity distribution sector.

3. To insist that agricultural power supply issues be addressed through comprehensive measures such as adequate subsidy support, improvement in infrastructure, energy-efficient irrigation, groundwater management, and scientific demand management rather than through artificial organizational restructuring.

4. To oppose any attempt to use Agriculture DISCOMs as a precursor to privatization of profitable distribution areas.

5. To call upon all constituent organizations, engineers, employees, farmers' organizations, and consumer groups to jointly resist policies that weaken integrated public electricity utilities.

6. To urge policymakers to strengthen public sector DISCOMs through financial support, professional management, modernization of networks, and investment in domestic manufacturing of renewable energy equipment, thereby promoting both energy security and self-reliance.

AIPEF Calls Upon

The Government of India and all State Governments to reject the concept of separate Agriculture DISCOMs and instead pursue policies that strengthen integrated public electricity utilities in the interests of farmers, consumers, employees, and the nation.

Resolution No. 6

Resolution Opposing the Creation of a Separate Agriculture DISCOM (TGRPDCL) in Telangana.

The All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF), representing power engineers across the country, expresses its serious concern and strong opposition to the proposal for creation of a separate Agriculture Distribution Company (TGRPDCL/Rythu DISCOM) in Telangana for handling agricultural consumers.

After examining the proposal and the issues raised before the regulatory authorities, AIPEF is of the considered view that the creation of a separate Agriculture DISCOM is neither in the long-term interest of farmers nor in the interest of a financially sustainable and integrated power distribution system.

AIPEF Notes with Concern that:

1. No convincing public interest justification has been established for creating a separate Agriculture DISCOM. The proposal does not explain how the new arrangement will address the fundamental gap between the Average Cost of Supply (ACS) and Average Billing Rate (ABR), nor does it demonstrate any tangible benefit to either agricultural consumers or existing DISCOMs.

2. The proposed entity does not appear to possess an independent and complete distribution system as envisaged under the Electricity Act, 2003. Questions remain regarding its eligibility and capability to function as a full-fledged distribution licensee.

3. Segregation of agricultural consumers into a separate DISCOM raises serious legal concerns regarding the Universal Service Obligation (USO) under Section 43 of the Electricity Act, 2003. Such consumer-category-based segregation could amount to indirect "consumer cherry-picking," contrary to the spirit of the Act and judicial pronouncements.

4. The proposed model creates substantial operational uncertainties relating to consumer categorization, unauthorized use of electricity, complaint redressal, maintenance responsibilities, energy accounting, and emergency restoration of supply.

5. The proposal relies on installation of more than five lakh agricultural DTR meters at enormous cost despite acknowledged practical difficulties relating to communication networks, maintenance, safety, and field conditions in rural areas.

6. The new DISCOM is proposed to commence operations before resolution of linked licensing and operational issues, thereby creating avoidable uncertainty and administrative complications.

7. Creation of a separate Agriculture DISCOM may become a precursor to privatization of the remaining consumer base in existing DISCOMs, thereby undermining the public sector character of electricity distribution in Telangana.

8. The manpower proposed for the new DISCOM is grossly inadequate considering the vast rural network to be managed, creating risks for reliable operation, maintenance, and consumer service.

9. Adequate statutory safeguards regarding employee service conditions, seniority, promotions, pension, gratuity, provident fund and other benefits have not been clearly guaranteed.

10. The proposed Agriculture DISCOM would be almost entirely dependent upon government subsidy, lacking a diversified revenue base and cross-subsidy support mechanism, thereby exposing it to significant financial vulnerability.

11. Critical issues relating to power purchase agreements, tariff implications, cross-subsidy arrangements, energy accounting, settlement mechanisms, grid operation, and system control remain unresolved and require comprehensive examination.

Therefore, AIPEF Resolves:

1. To strongly oppose the creation of a separate Agriculture DISCOM in Telangana in its present form.

2. To urge the Telangana Government and the Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission to undertake a comprehensive review of the proposal from legal, financial, operational, consumer, and employee perspectives and reject the proposal.

3. To demand that no restructuring or transfer of agricultural consumers, assets, or employees be undertaken until all statutory, regulatory, operational, and employee-related issues are satisfactorily resolved.

4. To insist that the interests of farmers, electricity consumers, and power sector employees & engineers must be fully protected and that any reform proposal should strengthen, rather than fragment, the public electricity distribution system.

5. To reiterate AIPEF's consistent position that improvement in power distribution can be achieved through strengthening existing public sector utilities, ensuring timely subsidy payments, reducing losses, improving infrastructure, and enhancing manpower, rather than through organizational fragmentation and steps that may ultimately facilitate privatization.

AIPEF Calls Upon

All power engineers, employees, workers, consumers' organizations, farmers' associations, and democratic forces to remain vigilant and united in safeguarding a strong, integrated, publicly owned, and consumer-oriented electricity distribution system in Telangana and throughout the country.

Resolution No.7

Against creation of seperate Agriculture Discom in Maharashtra.

The All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) expresses its strong opposition to the Maharashtra Government's decision to demerge the agriculture business of Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) and transfer it to a separate entity, MSEB Solar Agro Power Limited, through the Maharashtra Electricity Distribution Company Restructuring and Transfer Scheme, 2026. The scheme creates a separate agriculture distribution company responsible for supply, billing, subsidy management, and revenue recovery from agricultural consumers while MSEDCL continues to own and maintain the distribution network.

AIPEF considers this move a dangerous experiment in the power sector that undermines the integrated distribution utility model and opens the door for future privatization and fragmentation of electricity distribution in Maharashtra.

AIPEF's Major Concerns

1. Artificial Fragmentation of Distribution Business

The Electricity Act, 2003 envisages distribution utilities as integrated entities responsible for power procurement, network operation, consumer services, billing, and revenue management. The proposed scheme separates agricultural consumers from the mainstream distribution utility, creating an artificial division that will increase administrative complexity.

2. First Step Towards Privatization

Experience across the country shows that restructuring, unbundling, and carving out specific consumer categories are often precursors to privatization. AIPEF believes the creation of a separate agriculture

DISCOM creates a structure that can subsequently be handed over to private operators or public-private partnerships under the pretext of improving efficiency.

3. Threat to Cross-Subsidy and Financial Stability

Agricultural consumers constitute a major subsidized category. Separating this segment from MSEDCL will distort the existing cross-subsidy mechanism and may weaken the financial structure of the state distribution utility. The scheme transfers agricultural receivables and subsidy-related assets while leaving substantial operational dependencies between the two entities, creating future financial uncertainties.

4. Creation of Multiple Layers of Bureaucracy

The new company will have separate management, regulatory filings, tariff petitions, accounts, subsidy mechanisms, and administrative structures. This will increase overhead costs without adding any value to consumers or improving electricity supply.

5. Operational Confusion and Accountability Issues

Under the scheme, MSEDCL will continue to own and maintain the distribution network while the agriculture company will undertake consumer-related functions and reimburse MSEDCL through service charges and power cost reimbursements. Such divided responsibility is likely to create disputes over accountability, service quality, losses, and financial settlements.

6. Impact on Employees

AIPEF is concerned that the restructuring may eventually affect manpower planning and job security of engineers & employees. The power sector has repeatedly witnessed restructuring being used as a tool for workforce rationalization and outsourcing.

7. No Evidence of Public Benefit

The Maharashtra Government has not demonstrated how creating a separate agriculture company will improve power supply, reduce losses, enhance consumer services, or strengthen MSEDCL financially. Structural changes alone cannot substitute for better governance, timely subsidy payments, and efficient utility management.

AIPEF Demands

1. Immediate withdrawal of the Maharashtra Electricity Distribution Company Restructuring and Transfer Scheme, 2026.

2. Retention of MSEDCL as a single integrated distribution utility responsible for all categories of consumers.

3. Strengthening of MSEDCL through improved management practices, timely subsidy reimbursement, and adequate investment in network infrastructure rather than fragmentation of the utility.

4. Protection of employees' service conditions, job security, promotional opportunities, and pensionary benefits.

5. Comprehensive consultation with engineers and employee organizations, workers, farmers' organizations, consumer groups, and other stakeholders before undertaking any structural changes in the electricity sector.

6. Rejection of any future move aimed at privatization or commercialization of agricultural power distribution.

Conclusion

AIPEF firmly believes that the challenges faced by the power sector can be resolved through better governance, accountability, investment, and policy support—not through repeated restructuring and fragmentation of public utilities. The Federation calls upon the Government of Maharashtra to reconsider this decision and preserve the integrity of MSEDCL as a unified public sector distribution utility serving all categories of consumers.

Resolution No.8

Against the Creation of a Separate Agriculture DISCOM in Haryana.

The All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF), representing power engineers across the country, strongly opposes the decision of the Government of Haryana to create a separate Agriculture Distribution Company (Agriculture DISCOM) for supplying electricity to agricultural consumers in the State.

AIPEF notes that the Haryana Government has justified the creation of a separate Agriculture DISCOM on the grounds of ensuring faster release of agricultural connections, reliable and uninterrupted power supply to farmers, speedy replacement of transformers and reduction of subsidy burden. However, no convincing evidence has been provided to establish how mere administrative bifurcation of existing distribution utilities will achieve these objectives.

The Federation observes that agricultural feeders in Haryana are already separately managed and scheduled. Farmers are presently receiving electricity supply through dedicated feeder arrangements. Therefore, the creation of a new DISCOM does not provide any additional technical, operational or consumer service advantage.

AIPEF believes that the real objective behind the proposed restructuring is to segregate the loss-making agricultural sector from the profitable industrial, commercial and domestic consumer categories. Such segregation creates conditions for eventual privatization of profitable distribution areas while leaving the subsidy-dependent agricultural sector under government control. This model effectively seeks to privatize profits while socializing losses.

The Federation further notes that agriculture accounts for only about 15–20 percent of electricity consumption in Haryana, while industrial and domestic consumers together account for nearly 65–75 percent of total consumption. The agricultural sector receives substantial state subsidy exceeding ₹5,400 crore annually. Separating agricultural consumers into an independent DISCOM will neither reduce subsidy requirements nor improve operational efficiency.

AIPEF is of the considered view that the proposed Agriculture DISCOM will:

1. Increase administrative and managerial expenditure through duplication of corporate structures, offices and manpower.

2. Create additional financial burden on the State Government without delivering corresponding benefits.

3. Lead to fragmentation of the integrated distribution system.

4. Generate coordination problems between transmission, distribution and agricultural supply operations.

5. Become a precursor to privatization of profitable consumer segments in Haryana.

6. Weaken the financial viability and operational stability of the existing public sector distribution utilities.

7. Ultimately undermine the public service character of electricity distribution in the State.

AIPEF reiterates that the challenges of improving power supply quality, reducing losses, strengthening agricultural infrastructure and enhancing consumer services can be effectively addressed within the existing distribution framework without creating another DISCOM.

AIPEF therefore:

Demands immediate withdrawal of the proposal to establish a separate Agriculture DISCOM in Haryana.

- Calls upon the Government of Haryana to strengthen existing public sector DISCOMs instead of fragmenting them.

- Urges all power sector employees, engineers and workers to remain vigilant against restructuring measures aimed at facilitating future privatization.

- Appeals to farmers' organizations, consumer groups and public representatives to oppose any move that weakens public ownership and public accountability in the electricity sector.

AIPEF firmly believes that strengthening integrated, publicly-owned distribution utilities is the most effective way to ensure reliable power supply, protect consumer interests and safeguard the long-term sustainability of the power sector.

Resolution No. 9

Regarding Grid Stability Risks from unbalanced Renewable Energy Integration and Rigid RPO Compliance.

The All India Power Engineers Federation expresses deep concern over the emerging threats to national grid stability arising from the disproportionate and poorly planned prioritisation of renewable energy (RE), largely in the private sector, at the expense of baseload public sector generation.

The situation is very grim and calls for immediate action. For example, NTPC has reported 692 boiler tube leakages due to frequent and forced ramping, leading to equipment damage and jeopardising plant life and worker safety.

AIPEF draws attention to the following reality:

1. The Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) under the Act, and its proposed expansion under the draft Bill to include non-fossil sources coupled with a penalty ranging between 35 paise and 45 paise per unit for non-compliance, creates an inflexible mandate that disregards technical realities.

2. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) Chairperson has publicly warned that grid inflexibility is creating dangerous situations, and the CEA has acknowledged that India's rapid RE push is causing a grid stability crisis.

3. The inflexibility of large size thermal power plants is inevitable and this has led to dangerous grid oscillations and record-breaking curtailment of clean power.

4. A major oscillation originating in Rajasthan was felt as far away as the Kudankulam nuclear plant in Tamil Nadu, demonstrating the acute vulnerability of the integrated national grid.

AIPEF demands:

1. A moratorium on RPO penalties until a comprehensive grid stability audit is conducted and mitigation mechanisms are in place.

2. Mandatory technical consultation with power engineers Federation before expanding RPO to non-fossil sources, ensuring operational feasibility.

3. Strengthening of grid management protocols to prevent dangerous oscillations and ensure integrated grid resilience across all states.

4. A balanced energy transition policy that does not sacrifice grid security or public sector assets for private renewable expansion.

Resolution No. 10

Against Privatization of Distribution Companies in Uttar Pradesh and Repression of Power Employees & engineers

The Federal Executive of the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) has taken serious note of the ongoing developments in the State of Uttar Pradesh regarding the proposed privatization of Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited and Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited.

For the past 562 days, power employees and engineers of Uttar Pradesh have been continuously and peacefully protesting against the decision to privatize these distribution companies. The movement has witnessed Bijli Panchayats, Bijli Maha Panchayats, mass rallies, and large public mobilizations. Importantly, this has not been an industrial strike but a broad-based democratic movement that has evolved into a mass public campaign in which poor consumers and citizens have actively participated alongside power employees.

The Federal Executive expresses grave concern over the unprecedented repression unleashed on power sector employees and engineers during this movement:

Large-scale transfers of thousands of regular employees.

Arbitrary termination of low-paid contractual workers.

Amendments in disciplinary procedures enabling dismissal without charge-sheet and without giving opportunity for explanation.

Issuance of dismissal orders in violation of principles of natural justice.

Continuous harassment and intimidation of employees and engineers.

Such actions are undemocratic, unjust, and aimed at suppressing legitimate dissent.

Demands of the Federal Executive

The Federal Executive of AIPEF hereby unanimously resolves and demands that:

1. The decision to privatize Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited and Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited must be immediately withdrawn in the larger public interest.

2. All punitive and repressive actions taken against power employees and engineers during the course of the anti-privatization movement must be unconditionally revoked.

3. In accordance with the agreement dated 19 March 2023 between the Hon'ble Energy Minister of Uttar Pradesh and the Vidyut Karamchari Sanyukt Sangharsh Samiti, Uttar Pradesh, all instructions issued by the Energy Minister for withdrawal of victimization must be implemented in letter and spirit.

Declaration of Solidarity

The Federal Executive declares its full solidarity with the Vidyut Karamchari Sanyukt Sangharsh Samiti , UP and the power sector employees and engineers of Uttar Pradesh. AIPEF affirms that whenever required, power engineers across the country will stand shoulder to shoulder with their colleagues in Uttar Pradesh.

The Federal Executive further warns that any attempt to intensify repression or suppress the democratic rights of power sector employees and engineers in Uttar Pradesh will compel nationwide resistance. All 27 lakh power sector employees and engineers across the country will stand united in their support, and AIPEF will be constrained to launch .a nationwide movement, for which the entire responsibility shall rest with the Government.

Resolution No 11

Restoration of Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for Power Sector Employees & Engineers Across the Country

AIPEF, in its meeting held on 12th June deliberated in detail on the long-pending issue of restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for employees and engineers of the power sector.

The Federal Executive unanimously resolves as follows:

Historical Background

In almost all States, employees of the Power Sector were earlier covered under the Old Pension Scheme when they were part of the State Electricity Boards. However, after the unbundling of State Electricity Boards under the Electricity Reforms process, the Old Pension Scheme was arbitrarily discontinued in many States without safeguarding the legitimate social security rights of power sector employees.

Pension is a Social Security Right

Various Governments have acknowledged that pension is not a charity but a deferred wage and an essential social security measure. This is particularly important for power sector employees who work under highly hazardous and risk-prone conditions, ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply under all circumstances.

Positive Developments in States

The Govt of Jharkhand has taken a historic decision to restore OPS for power sector employees.

The Government of Rajasthan has also restored OPS for power sector employees.

The Governments of Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh have restored OPS for State Government employees, and efforts are ongoing to extend similar benefits to power sector employees.

In West Bengal, a Committee was constituted to examine restoration of OPS. It is learnt that committee has given recommendations to restore OPS for Power Sector employees. However the recommendation could not be implemented and Assembly elections model code of conduct was announced . It is noteworthy that Old Pension Scheme is already applicable to State Government employees in West Bengal.

Risk and Nature of Power Sector Work

Power sector employees and engineers work in extremely challenging and life-threatening conditions — handling high-voltage systems, maintaining generation, transmission, and distribution networks, and ensuring round-the-clock power supply during natural calamities and emergencies. Denial of guaranteed pension security to such employees is unjust and discriminatory.

Resolution and Demands

In view of the above, the Federal Executive of AIPEF strongly resolves and demands that:

- ✓ **OPS must be restored for all power sector employees and engineers across the country.**
- ✓ **All discriminatory provisions introduced after unbundling of SEBs must be reviewed and corrected.**
- ✓ **The Central and State Governments should treat pension as a matter of social security and dignity for power sector employees.**

Future Course of Action

The Federal Executive authorizes the Chairman and Secretary General of AIPEF to coordinate with State Units and other power sector organizations to intensify efforts, including representations, conventions, and nationwide programs, to secure restoration of the Old Pension Scheme in all States.

The Federal Executive reiterates that social security of power sector employees is non-negotiable and restoration of OPS is essential to ensure justice, morale, and long-term stability of the power sector.

Address by Shailendra Dubey, Chairman of the AIPEF At the Kolkata Federal Council meeting.

The central government is preparing to privatize the entire power sector.

The longest ongoing movement against the privatization of the power sector is taking place in Uttar Pradesh. Today marks the completion of 417 days of the agitation. On November 25, 2024, the Uttar Pradesh government announced that the Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam and Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam—which cover 42 districts of the state—would be privatized. Since then, Uttar Pradesh's power employees and engineers have been on the streets. Despite all kinds of harassment, repression, oppression ,threats, suspensions, dismissals, and every possible unjust measure, the power employees of Uttar Pradesh have continued their agitation without faltering. In Uttar Pradesh, the tender for privatization has not yet been issued. The Vidyut Karmchari Sanyukt Sangharsh Samiti, Uttar Pradesh, has resolved that the movement will continue until the privatization decision is finally withdrawn and all repressive actions taken as a result of the agitation are revoked.

The biggest achievement of the ongoing movement in Uttar Pradesh is that we have turned the issue of power privatization into a people's issue and made efforts to transform the agitation into a mass movement. The results are evident: in Uttar Pradesh, power employees are marching together with farmers and consumers. The vision of forming a joint front of Power employees, farmers, consumers, and trade unions across the country is being realized in practice in Uttar Pradesh.

Meanwhile, on October 9, 2025, the central government once again—indeed, for the sixth time—released the draft of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025. The All India Power Engineers Federation submitted a class-wise report in opposition to it. In the virtual meeting called by the Secretary (Power), Government of India, on January 12, 2026, the federation strongly presented its view point. The points of the federation's opposition to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 are attached.

On October 10, 2025, a meeting of the Group of Ministers took place. In this meeting, very important decisions were taken regarding the privatization of electricity. The Group of Ministers currently includes the power ministers of seven states: Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. The Group of Ministers has suggested imposing three conditions on the financial packages provided by the central government to the states. The first condition is that the state should sell 51% equity of the discom, which means privatization. The second option is to sell 26% equity but hand over management to the private sector. The third option is to list the discom on the stock exchange. All three options are forms of privatization. In the name of financial packages, the central government is arm-twisting—or rather, blackmailing—the states. We will never accept this.

After releasing the draft of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025, on December 18, 2025, the Union Power Minister held a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Power affairs. It has been learned that in this meeting, efforts were made to build consensus on the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025, and the conditions for financial packages were also presented before the members of parliament. The next meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Power affairs has been scheduled for February 3, 2026. The agenda of this meeting includes the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 and the conditions for financial assistance to the states.

Activities for the complete privatization of the transmission sector are proceeding at a very rapid pace in all states. In the name of Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB), new substations and transmission lines are being directly handed over to private entities. In the name of asset monetization, even existing substations will be transferred to private companies. TBCB in transmission marks the beginning of the end of the government sector in transmission. Stopping this at all costs should be our top priority.

There is nothing disposable in the assets and land of the power sector. Now, in Punjab and Uttarakhand, activities have started to sell land by declaring it disposable. The Punjab government had created history by taking over the GVK thermal power station. While governments are selling public sector thermal power stations, the Punjab government took over a private sector thermal power station and gave direction to the entire country. Now, land of government power houses is being sold in Punjab. The same is happening in Uttarakhand. Power employees and engineers in Punjab and Uttarakhand are struggling, and we stand fully with them. We firmly state that selling government sector land is unacceptable to us, and we will do everything possible to oppose it.

From Puducherry, after a long struggle, finally came relieving news. I still remember when, at night, I was explaining to Puducherry's power employee leaders about satyagraha and offering collective arrest. My colleague T. Jayanti was translating excellently into Tamil to help them understand. And in this way, I succeeded in conveying my point. The history of Uttar Pradesh was repeated on the soil of Puducherry. More than 300 power employees gave collective arrest while raising slogans. Ultimately, the Chief Minister had to talk to us. This was a major turning point in the ongoing movement against privatization. Privatization was halted. In August 2025, Adani Power formed Puducherry Adani Power Co. Ltd. This was shocking. Despite this, for now, truth has prevailed, and government had to cancel the privatization tender.

Meanwhile, the Telangana government has decided to create a separate discom for electricity supply in rural areas. This decision requires detailed analysis. There is apprehension that after separating the rural areas, the discom supplying electricity to rural areas will remain in the government sector as a loss-making discom, while the profit-making discoms will be handed over to the private sector. Our demand is that until the government clearly states that other discoms will not be privatized, no separate discom should be created for the private sector.

In an important meeting held in Delhi on December 14, 2025, consensus was reached among the Core Committee of the National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers, top office bearers of 10 central trade unions, and the Samyukta Kisan Morcha that central trade unions and the Samyukta Kisan Morcha will participate alongside power employees in the ongoing movement against power privatization. An appeal is made to all state office bearers of the All India Power Engineers Federation to take initiatives to form such joint fronts in their respective states.

On January 9, 2026, at the national conference of central trade unions held in Delhi, it was decided that on February 12, 2026, employees and workers of all industries in the country will observe a one-day token strike. In the agenda set by the central trade unions, the withdrawal of power privatization and the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 is a key demand. The National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers has decided that, in opposition to the privatization of electricity in Uttar Pradesh, against the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025, for the regularization of contract workers, and for the restoration of the old pension scheme, the Coordination Committee will issue a separate notice, and across the country, 27 lakh power employees and engineers will observe a one-day strike on February 12.

This is the most difficult juncture since independence in the effort to save the power sector in the public sector. The central and state governments are jointly attacking us. Everything is adverse. But we are accustomed to working in such adverse circumstances. Let us once again rise with full determination and steely unity to face this challenge.

From the platform of this Kolkata Federal Council, I call upon all of you to come forward fearlessly. History is being written. It is our good fortune that we are both participants in and witnesses to that history. Kolkata has been the land of sacrifices in the freedom struggle. The wonderful confluence of spirituality and revolution flowed from Bengal itself. In this Kolkata conference, with the resolve that we will do whatever it takes to keep the power sector in the public sector—we will fight, yes, we will fight because we are alive.

शैलेन्द्र दुबे

Inquilab Zindabad …

Address by Er Shailendra Dubey, Chairman, All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) -AIPEF Federal Executive Meeting – 08 March 2026 - Dehradun

On International Women's Day – Salute to Women Power Engineers

Today is 8th March — International Women's Day. It is a matter of pride and inspiration that this meeting is being held on a day when the world celebrates the strength, resilience, and women leadership of.

The power sector engineers of India have been fortunate to receive strong and dynamic leadership from women at the highest levels of our Associations. In West Bengal, Er Moupali Mukhopadhyay has become synonymous with struggle and resistance. She still continues to guide and is inspiration for Power Engineers.In Tamil Nadu, Er T Jayanthi, former General Secretary of the TNEB Engineers' Association, has played a historic role in struggle against Privatization in Puducherry. She continues to lead. Er K Indirani led TNEB Engineers Association as President & Er Geetha as General Secretary of KSEB Engineers Association in Kerala.

Recognizing the need to further strengthen the role of women power engineers, AIPEF has resolved that in every region there shall be:

1. One Woman Secretary
2. One Woman Joint Secretary
3. Two Women Executive Members
4. One Woman Vice Chairman & one Additional Secretary General at the national level

On this International Women's Day, I extend my revolutionary greetings and heartfelt congratulations to all women power engineers and employees of the power sector. The flag of struggle is increasingly in your hands, and with your participation, our movement will be stronger and victorious.

Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 – Preparation to Table and Pass in Parliament

The draft of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 was issued on 09 October 2025, with very limited time given for comments. Now there are clear indications that the Government intends to table and pass the Bill during the second phase of the ongoing Budget Session of Parliament beginning 09 March.

The so-called stakeholder consultation was merely a formality. On 12 January 2026, national-level federations and trade unions representing power sector employees & engineers unanimously demanded withdrawal of the draft Bill. To date, the Ministry of Power has not even released minutes of that meeting.

On 30 January 2026, the Ministry constituted a Working Group to examine comments and give recommendations. Shockingly, this Working Group includes the Director General of the All India DISCOM Association a body formed under the Societies Act, comprising Managing Directors of DISCOMs, whose sole agenda has been to advocate privatization as the only solution to distribution sector challenges.

Including such a private lobbying body in the process of finalizing a national amendment law is highly objectionable.

We have now learned that the Working Group has submitted its report. All indications suggest that Government may suddenly introduce & attempt to pass Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 in Parliament.

Let me make it clear: This Bill is nothing but a document for complete privatization of the distribution sector, and we shall oppose it at any cost.

National Electricity Policy 2026 – A Supplement to the Amendment Bill

On 20 January 2026, the Government notified the National Electricity Policy 2026, again allowing very limited time for comments. This policy document appears to be a supplementary instrument to push through provisions that may not pass directly through the Amendment Bill.

AIPEF strongly opposes both documents.

Aggressive Privatization Drive in Generation, Transmission and Distribution Privatization of distribution is being pushed not only through legislation but also through financial blackmail. The Group of Ministers decided on 10 October 2025 that central financial assistance to states would be conditional upon adopting one of the following:

1. 51% equity privatization of DISCOMs
2. 26% equity with management control to private companies
3. Listing DISCOMs on stock exchanges

These are not reform conditions — they are coercive measures & Blackmail.

In the transmission sector, Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding is being used as the primary route to privatize projects. Even projects of moderate cost are being handed over to private players.

Simultaneously, assets are being prepared for monetization.

In generation, more than half of installed capacity is already in private hands. Long-term PPAs are forcing states to pay thousands of crores in fixed charges, even if no electricity is drawn.

The privatization drive is systematic and comprehensive.

Uttar Pradesh – The Largest Struggle in Power Sector History

On 25 November 2024, the Government of Uttar Pradesh announced privatization of Purvanchal and Dakshinanchal DISCOMs, covering 42 districts. Since then, under the banner of the Vidyut Karmachari Sanyukt Sangharsh Samiti, UP all unions and associations have united in protest.

This is no longer merely an employees' movement — it has become a people's movement. Over 466 days of continuous struggle, Bijali panchayats / Maha Panchayat, mass rallies, and public mobilizations have been held with participation from consumers and farmers.

Despite severe repression — mass termination of contract workers, mass scale transfers, withholding salary for months, arbitrary disciplinary amendments allowing dismissal without charge-sheet or hearing — employees continue to resist.

This struggle proves that we are alive and fighting.

Separate Rural DISCOMs – A Hidden Privatization Strategy

Recent decisions in Telangana and announcements in Haryana Budget to create separate rural DISCOMs raise serious concerns. Is this a strategy to isolate loss-making rural areas so that profitable urban areas can be privatized easily?

This is not about political parties — governments cutting across party lines appear aligned toward privatization. We must resist this dangerous trend.

Asset Sales and Land Monetization

In Uttarakhand, valuable hydel project lands of Dakpathar, Dhakrani, Dhalipur, Chinyali saur and even historic power sector colonies in Dehradun are being prepared for sale.

In Punjab, despite earlier progressive steps like takeover of a private plant, large-scale land monetization is now being pursued. Punjab had distinction of taking over private sector Power plant of GVK but now it's reverse gear. Public sector assets and lands are being sold and General Secretary of PSEB Engineers Association alongwith other office bearers are transferred to curb the opposition.

In Uttar Pradesh, six small hydel projects are being leased for 42 years — effectively privatized. The combined capacity may be small, but the land value alone runs into hundreds of crores. This is organized asset transfer in the name of reform.

Restoration of Old Pension Scheme (OPS)

OPS restoration has become a central demand. Jharkhand & Rajasthan have restored OPS for power sector.

Other states have partially implemented it. In Himachal Pradesh & Chhattisgarh OPS has been restored for Govt employees but Power Sector has been left.

In West Bengal one committe was formed to restore OPS in Power Sector. Hope in West Bengal OPS is restored for Power Sector.

We demand uniform restoration of the Old Pension Scheme for all power sector employees and engineers across India.

February Nationwide Strike – Review and Resolve

In the nationwide strike of 12 February, power employees and engineers in many states participated boldly.

In UP it was massive movement in continuation. Gujarat set a record with protests at 360 locations. In Karnataka after long time lot of enthusiasm was seen across the State. In Tamil Nadu also at several places massive demonstrations held.

Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh as usual exhibited their strength.

As usual Jammu & Kashmir pictures came first, Punjab,Haryana, Uttarakhand, West Bengal ,Himachal

Pradesh, Meghalaya,Ladakh and Assam saw strong participation. Already Privatize Odisha Power

Sector Engineers & employees came on streets

Most inspiring was the massive participation of women power engineers and employees — even in Srinagar, hundreds women engineers and employees came out in protest. It was a powerful symbol that Durga Shakti has awakened.

At the same time, we must honestly analyze shortcomings and improve coordination for future struggles.

Clarion Call – Lightning Strike if Bill is Tabled

Friends,

The second phase of the Budget Session of Parliament runs from 09 March to 02 April. If the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 is tabled in Parliament, AIPEF gives a clear clarion call:

There will be a nationwide Lightning Strike.

The moment the Bill is introduced, power engineers and employees across India will leave their workplaces and come out in protest. No separate notice will be given. The entire responsibility for such a situation will rest with the Central Government.

Conclusion

We are passing through a decisive moment in the history of India's power sector. The attempt is to corporatize and privatize generation, transmission and distribution entirely.

But we are united & we must remain united.

With the spirit of unity, struggle, and confidence in victory, we resolve in this Federal Executive Meeting of the All India Power Engineers Federation to intensify our movement and defend the public power sector of this country.

Inquilab Zindabad

Jay Hind

Shailendra Dubey

Chairman

Minutes of Meeting of AIPEF Federal Council Meeting Held At Kolkata On 18th Jan., 2026

The Federal Council Meeting of AIPEF was held on 18-01-2026 (Sunday) at Institute of Development Studies, Bidhannagar, Kolkata, West Bengal State. The Delegates from 18 Constituents attended the Meeting Chaired by Er.Shailendra Dubey, Chairman/AIPEF. Er.P.Rathnakar Rao, Secretary General AIPEF, Er.P.N.Singh, Patron/AIPEF, Er. Moupali Mukhopadhyay President/WBSEB EA & & Sr.Vice Chairman, AIPEF, were on the dais along with Er.Shailendra Dubey, Chairman/AIPEF. Com. Samar Sinha President of All India Power Men Fed.also attended the open session. Apart from above, the meeting was attended by following Delegates.

Er A K Jain, Er Ajeet Kumar from DVC, Er Yashpal Sharma from Delhi, Er Pirzada Hidayatullah, Er SachinTickoo, Er Ankush Sharma from J&K, Er Laxman Rathod, Er Santosh Khumkar, Er Suryakant Pawar, Er Sanjay M Patil, Er Nagnath Gayale from Maharashtra, Er M Shiva Shankar, Er P Sadanandam, Er J L Janapriya, Er M Venkateshwarlu, Er K Anjaiah from Telangana, Er Jasvir Singh Dhiman, Er Amaandeep Singh from Punjab, Er A P Singh, Er Manoj Verma, Er Dhanjay Verma from Chhattisgarh, Er Vivek Pratap Singh, Ajay M Parmar from Gujarat, Er T Jayanthi, Er D Anand Kumar, N Arunachalam from Tamilnadu, Er Chandrashekar Desai, Er Nagabhushan NG, Er B Sudheer, Er Ravi Asuti from Karnataka,

Er Vikas Kumar Shukla , Er Suresh K Trivedi from Madhya Pradesh, Er Jogendra Jena, Er Jagannath Bariki from Odisha, Er Mukesh Kumar, Er C K Pandey, Er Abhinav Rawat from Uttarakhand, Er W N Sangma, Er M K War from Meghalaya, Er George Mathew, Er Anu Paul from Kerela, Er Prashant Chaturvedi, Er Sanjay Singh from Jharkhand, Er Narayan Ch. Roy, Er Tanvir Syed, Er Debnath Mandal, Er Sushant Swaries, Er Himachal Kundu, Er Aman Mishra, Er Mallika Das Neogi, Er Priyanka Sen,Er Dipakka Biswas, Er Somdura Das and several Office bearers of WBSEB, West Bengal participated in Federal Council meeting.

The open session of meeting was attended by Office-bearers of WBSEB EA and other invitees. Er. Tanvir Syed from WBSEBEA welcomed the office bearers of AIPEF and delegates from various states for the Federal Council Meeting at their home state West Bengal. The program started with lighting of lamp and singing National song Vande mataram.

Er.P.Rathnakar Rao, Secretary General in his report welcomed all the delegates on behalf of AIPEF and briefed about Meeting Agenda for the Federal Council Meeting.

1. Report of Secretary General, AIPEF.
2. Address by Chairman, AIPEF.
3. Address by Chief Patron & Patrons AIPEF.
4. Report of Regional Federations.
5. Discussion on
   - Electricity Amendment Bill.
   - Privatisation decision of UP DISCOMS.
   - Privatisation of Transmission through TBCB & Monetization.
6. Report of State Constituents.
7. Future Action plan to oppose EA Bill and Privatization in Power Sector.

Secretary General Er P. Rathnakar Rao explained about the recent developments. He appreciated the historical struggle by UP Electricity employees and Engineers continuously for the past 417 days under the leadership of Er.Shailendra Dubey, Convenor, UPVKSSS. He requested all the State Constituents to send the annual contribution to AIPEF of Rs.25,000/- for the year 2026 along with dues of 2024 and 2025.

Chairman of All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF), Er.Shailendra Dubey explained in detail in his address the recent developments in the sector about the continuous struggle against Privatization proposals of Purvanchal & Uttaranchal Distribution Companies by Govt of Uttar Pradesh and present status of it. He also guided the executive on future course of action against Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 & Privatisation in Power Generation, Transmission & Distribution Sectors..

Er PN Singh, Patron Er Moupali Mukhopadhyay, Sr. Vice Chairman and Com. Samar Sinha President AIPF addressed the meeting. Later on, the Office bearers of AIPEF & Regional Federations and State Constituents have spoken on various issues and developments in their respective states and course of action.

Finally, the following Resolutions were unanimously passed by the Federal Council.

1. It is resolved to resort to one day Strike/Work Boycott on 12.02.26 against Privatization and Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 (Central Trade Unions going on strike on 12th Feb against Labour laws).

2. To resort to lightening action if Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 is introduced in Budget Session t.
3. To demand UP Government to withdraw Privatisation proposal of two UP DISCOMs.
4. To represent to Govt of Punjab against victimization of PSEBEA Office- bearers and selling of land.
5. To represent to Uttrakhand Govt to withdraw order for selling land of hydroelectric projects.
6. Privatisation and JVCs of Genco power plants & Trans Projects in TBCB to be stopped.
7. To take up mobilization campaign and agitation program as decided by NCCOEEE against Privatisation and Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025.
8. Federal Council resolved to represent to Govt. of India and State Governments that old Pension Scheme be restored to Power Engineers across the Country.
9. The Federal Council appreciated UPRVPAS and UPVKSSS for their untiring efforts and continued struggle since 417 days to stop Privatisation of 2 Distribution Companies in Uttar Pradesh under the leadership of Er Shailendra Dubey Ji. If the Govt of Uttar Pradesh and the UPPCL continue to take supressive action against employees the Engineers and employees of the power sector across the country would resort to firm action in favor of UP Power Employees and Engineers.
10. To amend the Bye-laws of AIPEF for increasing female Engineers representation in AIPEF executive.
    - Addl Secretary General – 1
    - Vice chairman – 2
    - Secretary – 4 Nos
    - Joint Secretary – 4 Nos
    - Executive members – 8 Nos
11. The following Engineers are nominated/elected as Office-bearers of AIPEF.
    - Er Suryakant Pawar from Maharashtra as Patron
    - Er T.Jayanthi from Tamilnadu as Vice-chairman
    - Er. Yamini Diwakar Pimple from Maharashtra as Secretary
    - Er Rekha Dangwal from Uttarakhand as Secretary.
    - Er Debashree Banerjee from DVC as Secretary.
    - Er Jyothi Rani from Karnataka as Secretary.
    - Er Priyanka Sen from WB as Joint Secretary.
    - Er M Raghasudha from Tamilnadu as Joint Secretary.
    - Er Hur E Yasrab from J&K as Joint Secretary.
    - Er Rujal Desai from Gujarat as Joint Secretary.
    - Er T.Umalakshmi from Telangana as Member Executive.
    - Er Swati Tiwari from Chhattisgarh as Member Executive.
    - Er Neha Singh from Madhya Pradesh as Member Executive.
    - Er Rinchen Wangmo from Ladakh as Member Executive.
    - Er Sandhya Rani from Karnataka as Member Executive.
12. It was resolved to conduct the meetings of Regional Federations immediately to elect New Executive. NIPEF FC meeting will be held alongwith next AIPEF meeting to elect new executive.
13. To Co-ordinate with other Unions & Associations & form/activate Joint forums at State level.
14. All constituents shall pay annual contribution alongwith dues of 2025 & 2025 within one month.
15. One-time struggle fund of Rs.2 lakh to be paid immediately as decided earlier.

The Federal Council members appreciated the arrangements for the FC meeting made by the host WBSEBEA and thanked the organizers for making the meeting grand Success. The delegates from other states were felicitated and the vote of thanks were proposed by the host WBSEBEA.

The Meeting was declared concluded by the Chairman, AIPEF with his closing remarks.

(Er.P.RATHNAKARRAO)

Secretary General

Minutes of Meeting Of AIPEF Federal Executive held at Dehradun on 8th March, 2026

The Federal Executive Meeting of AIPEF was held on 08-03-2026 (Sunday) at Hotel City Star, 108, Subhash Road, Dehradun, Uttarkhand State. The Delegates from 16 Constituents attended the Meeting Chaired by Er.Shailendra Dubey, Chairman/AIPEF. Er. P.Rathnakar Rao, Secretary General AIPEF, Er. Moupali Mukhopadhyay President/WBSEB EA & Sr.Vice Chairperson, AIPEF, Er. Kartikey Dubey Sr.Vice Chairman, AIPEF, Er. T.Jayanthi Vice Chairperson, AIPEF, Er. Y.S. Tomar, President, UPEA, Er. Rahul Channa, Secretary General, UPEA, Er. Rekha Dangwal, Secretary, AIPEF, were on the dais along with Er.Shailendra Dubey, Chairman/AIPEF. AIPEF Patrons Er. Sunil Grover, Er. Satyapal and Er. Suryakanth Pawar have graced the occasion. Apart from above, the meeting was attended by following office-bearers of AIPEF, Regional Federations & State Contituents.

Er. A K Jain, from DVC, Er. Yashpal Sharma from Delhi, Er. Yash Paul, Er. Rajeshwar from J&K, Er. Sanjay Singh Chauhan, Er. Jitender Singh Gurjar from Uttar Pradesh, Er. Satish V Shelke, Er. Nagnath Gayale from Maharashtra, Er. M Shiva Shankar, Er. P Srinath Reddy, Er. T Uma Laxmi from Telangana, Er. P Prathapa Reddy from Andhra Pradesh, Er. Ajay Pal Singh Atwal, Er. Jatinder Garg, Er. Jagtar Singh, Er. Harinder S Chahal, Er Subhwant Singh, Er. Jaydeep Singh, Er. Raminder Singh from Punjab, Er. Kaushik Chaudhuri, Er. Jigar Pathak from Gujarat, Er. Roseline Grace, Er. Anita Celine, Er. A Durga Devi, Er. Ragha Sudha, Er. K Gomathi from Tamilnadu, Er. Chandrashekar Desai, Er. Ravi Asuti, Er. A Amreen Raj, Er. D Sandhya Rani, Er. R Sudheer, Er. Jithendra Kumar BN from Karnataka, Er. Pravat Kumar Dash, Er. Ranjit Patr from Odisha, Er. Prashant Chaturvedi, Er. Sanjay Singh from Jharkhand, Er. Ravinder Singh, Er. Jatin Jangra, Er. Ashish Gautam from Haryana, Er. Priyanka Sen from West Bengal, Er. Lokesh Thakur from Himachal Pradesh, Er. Anil Mishra, Er. Mukesh Kumar, Er. Amit Rajan, Er. C.K. Pandey and several Office bearers of UPEA,.

The open session of meeting was attended by Office-bearers of UPEA and other invitees also. **Er. Rekha Dangwal** from UPEA welcomed the office bearers of AIPEF and delegates from various states for the Federal Executive Meeting. The program started with lighting of lamp and singing National song 'Vande mataram'.

It was followed by Women's Day Celebrations on the occasion of International Women's day on 8th March.

The role of Women Engineers in the Power Sector was well recognized by the Executive. There are efficient Engineers in the sector and many are working as Chief Engineers and got elevated to the Board of Directors from Women Engineers. The Executive highlighted the services of Women Engineers as office-bearers of Engineers Associations at state level and also in AIPEF/Reginal Federations. The Women Engineers like Er. Moupali Mukhopadhyay from West Bengal working as Chief Engineer in WBSEDCL is serving as President of SBSEBEA and also as Sr. Vice Chairperson of AIPEF. Er. T. Jayanthi from Tamilnadu working as Superintending Engineer in TANTRANSCO has earlier served as General Secretary of TNEBEA and presently she is Principal Secretary, TNEBEA. Further, Er. Indirani from Tamilnadu who served as President of TNEBEA was elevated to the post of Director in TANGEDCO. Er.Geetha from Kerala has served as GS of KSEBEA. Also, Er. T.Latha Vinod from Telangana is presently holding post of Director (Projects), TGTRANSCO.

The executive has felicitated Er. Moupali Mukhopadhyay, Er. T.Jayanthi, Er. Rekha Dangwal and other Women Engineers present in the meeting on the occasion of International Women's Day.

Later, **Er.P.Rathnakar Rao**, Secretary General in his report welcomed all the delegates on behalf of AIPEF and briefed about Agenda for the Federal Executive Meeting.

1. Confirmation of minutes of last AIPEF meeting.
2. Report of Secretary General, AIPEF.
3. Address by Chairman, AIPEF.
4. Address by Chief Patron/Patron, AIPEF.
5. Report of Chairman/Secretary General of Reginal Federations.
6. Report of President/General Secretary State Constituents.
7. Felicitation of Women office bearers on the occasion of International Women's Day.
8. Discussion & Resolutions on:
    a. EA Bill 2025 & Privatization of Power Sector in Distribution, Transmission & Generation.
    b. Ongoing Privatization process in UP DISCOMs.
    c. Selling land & assets in Punjab & Uttrakhand Power Sector.

d. Victimizing actions on Electricity employees in UP & Punjab.
e. Struggle Fund for AIPEF.
f. AIPEF flat at Janakpuri, New Delhi.
g. 8th Pay Commission for employees.
h. Old Pension Scheme to Power Engineers.

He explained about the recent developments. He appreciated the spirit of UP Electricity employees and Engineers for the historical struggle continuously for the past 466 days under the leadership of Er.Shailendra Dubey, Convenor, UPVKSSS. He requested all the State Constituents to send the annual contribution to AIPEF of Rs.25,000/- for the year 2026 along with dues of 2024 and 2025.

Er. Shailendra Dubey, Chairman AIPEF, explained in detail about the recent developments in the Power sector and the continuous struggle against Privatization proposals of Purvanchal & Uttaranchal Distribution Companies in Uttar Pradesh. He gave direction to the executive on future course of action against Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 & Privatisation in Power Generation, Transmission & Distribution Sectors.

Er Moupali Mukhopadhyay, Sr. Vice Chairperson, Er. T.Jayanthi, Vice Chaiperson, AIPEF, Er. Kartikeya Dubey, Sr.Vice Chairman, AIPEF, Er. Y.S.Tomer, President, UPEA, Er. Rahuk Channa, General Secretary, UPEA and AIPEF Patron Er. Sunil Grover, Er. Satyapal and Er. Suryakanth Pawar addressed the meeting.

Later on, the Office bearers of AIPEF & Regional Federations and State Constituents have spoken on various issues and developments in their respective states and deliberated on further course of action.

Finally, the following Resolutions were unanimously passed by the Federal Executive.

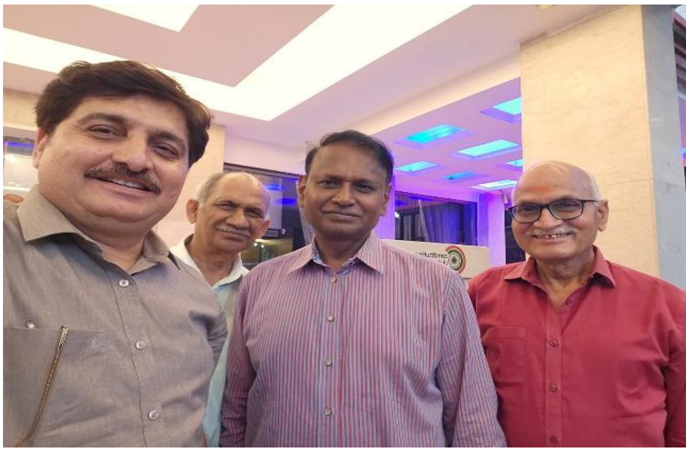
1. To resort to lightening action if Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 is introduced in Budget Session of Parliament scheduled to start from 10th March 2026.
2. To Ensure Work Boycott and Demonstrations across the country on March 10, 2026 against EA Bill 2025.
3. To demand UP Government to withdraw Privatisation proposal of two UP DISCOMs.
4. To represent to Govt of Punjab against victimization of PSEBEA Office- bearers and sale of land owned by State Power Utilities in Punjab.
5. To represent to Uttrakhand Govt to withdraw proposal for sale of land of hydroelectric projects.
6. To oppose formation of New Distribution company exclusively for Agriculture Services and other subsidized category Government Services.
7. Privatisation and JVs of Genco power plants & Transmission Projects in TBCB method be stopped.
8. It is resolved to take up mobilization campaign and agitation program as decided by NCCOEEE against Privatisation and Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025.
9. Federal Executive resolved to represent to Govt. of India and State Governments that old Pension Scheme be restored to Power Engineers across the Country.
10. The Federal Executive appreciated UPRVPAS and UPVKSSS for their untiring efforts and continued struggle since 466 days to stop Privatisation of 2 Distribution Companies in Uttar Pradesh under the leadership of Er. Shailendra Dubey Ji. If the Govt of Uttar Pradesh and the UPPCL continue to take supressive action against employees the Engineers and employees of the power sector across the country would resort to firm action in favor of UP Power Employees and Engineers.
11. To take legal remedy to takeover AIPEF office at Janakpuri, New Delhi.
12. It is also decided to establish AIPEF office temporarily on rental basis. Er. Yashpal, Er. A.K.Jain and Er. Prashant Chaturvedi are authorized to act on it.
13. To represent to Govt. of Tamilnadu on Wage revision and Time bound Promotions to Power Engineers.
14. To represent to Govt. of Uttarakhand not to alter qualifications for appointment of Managing Directors.
15. All constituents shall pay annual contribution of Rs.25000/- for the year 2026 alongwith dues of 2024 & 2025 within one month.

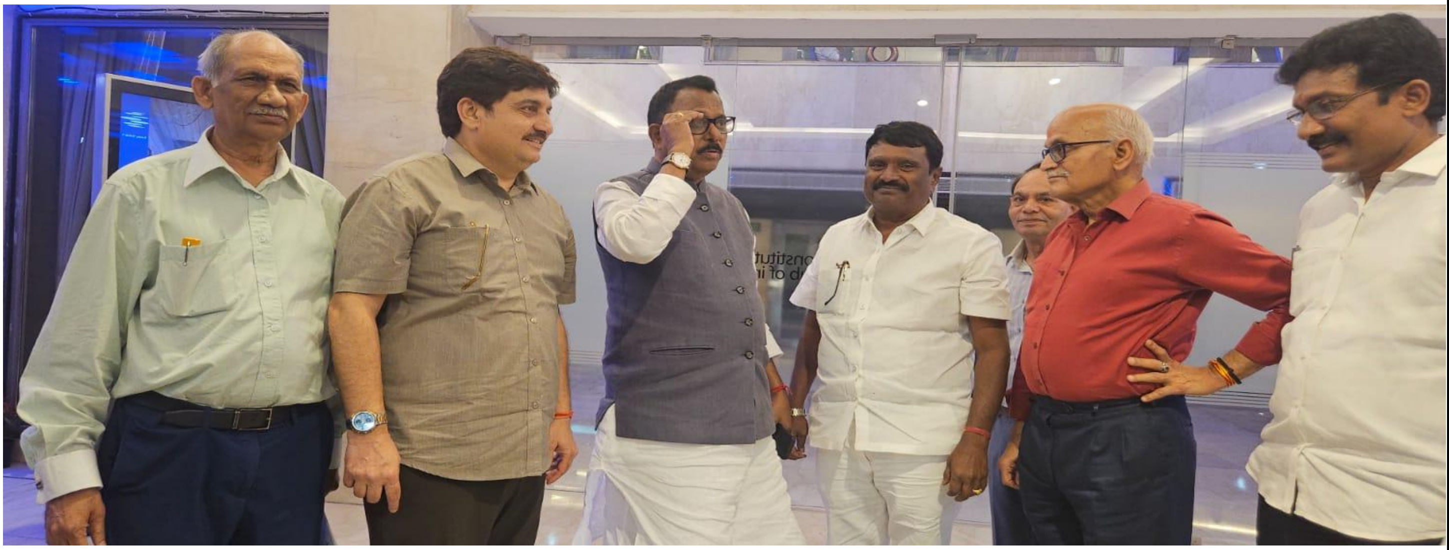
The Federal Executive members appreciated the arrangements for the FE meeting made by the host UPEA and thanked the organizers for making the meeting grand eventful.

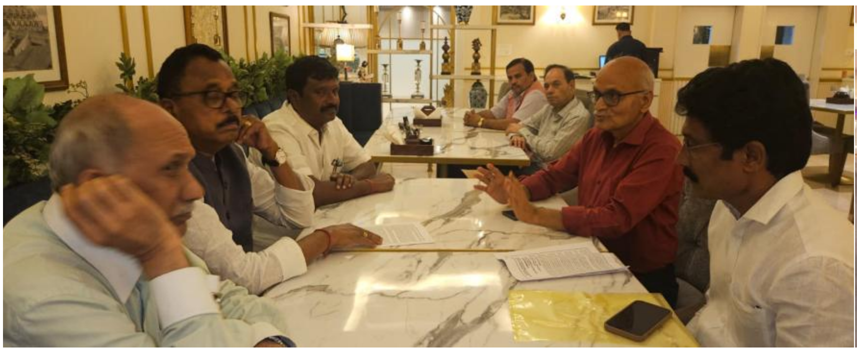
The delegates from other states were felicitated and the vote of thanks were proposed by the host UPEA.

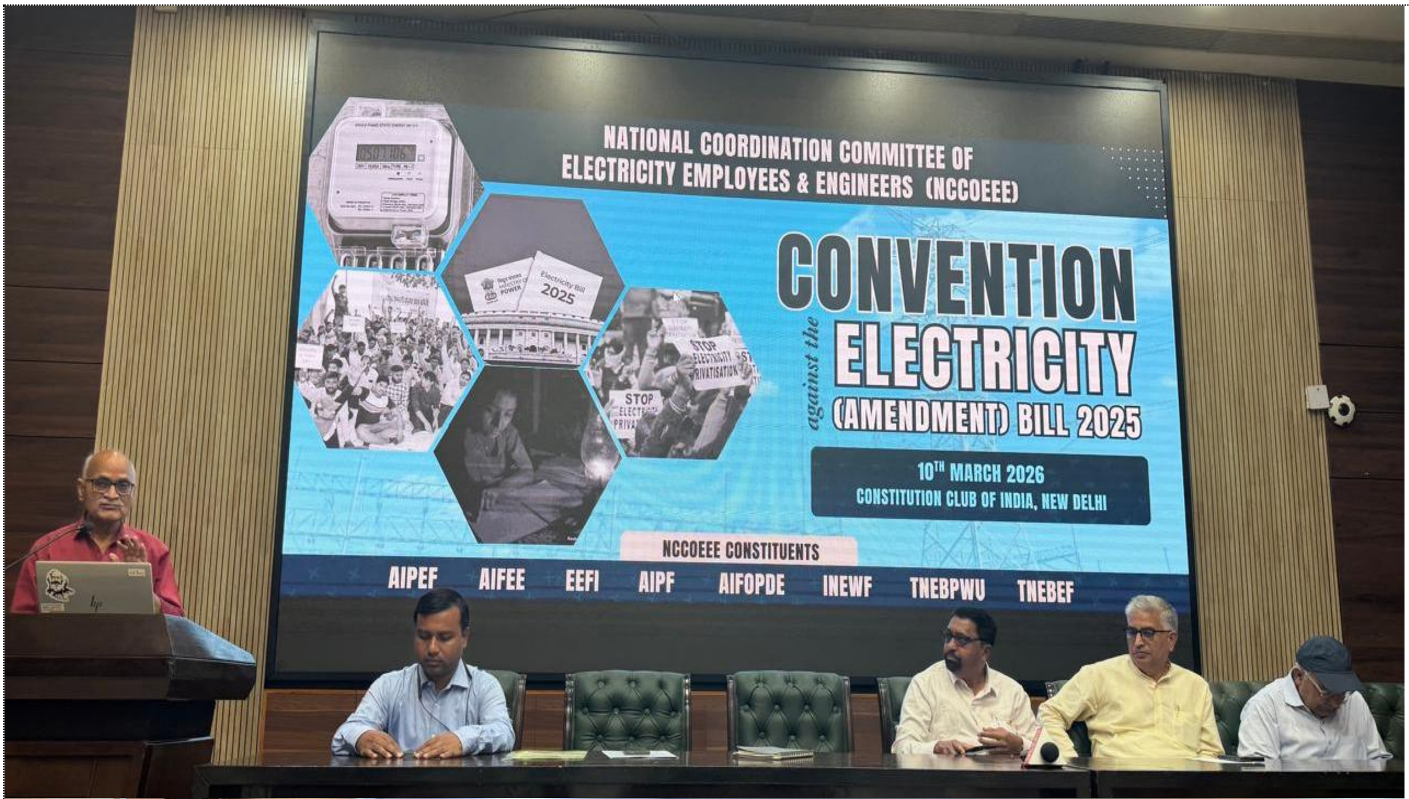
The Meeting was declared concluded by the Chairman, AIPEF with his closing remarks.

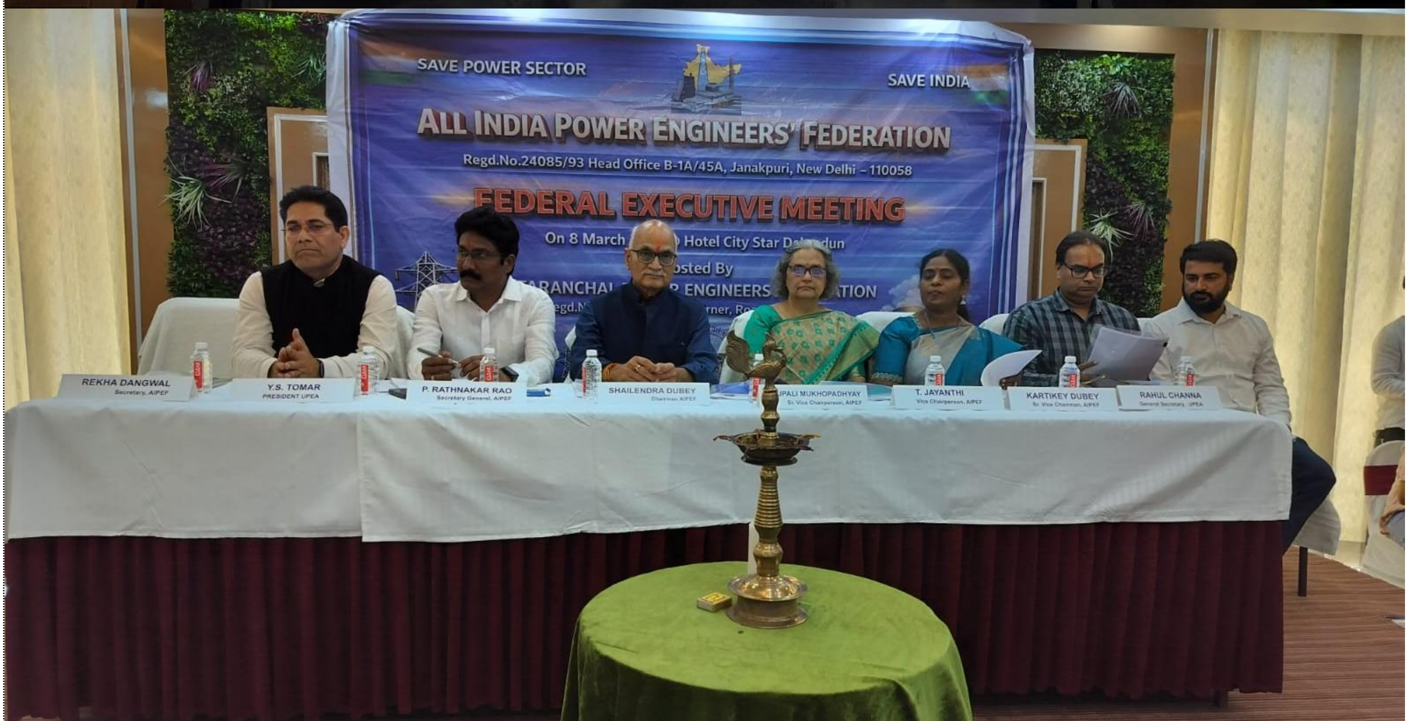
AIPEF MEMORABLE MOMENTS

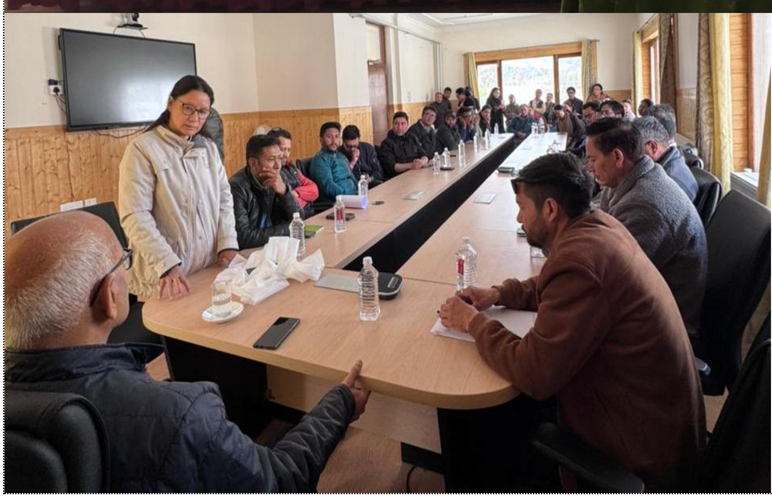







NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF
ELECTRICITY EMPLOYEES & ENGINEERS (NCCOEEE)
CONVENTION
against the
ELECTRICITY
(AMENDMENT) BILL 2025
10TH MARCH 2026
CONSTITUTION CLUB OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
NCCOEEE CONSTITUENTS
AIPEF AIFEE EEFI AIPF AIFOPDE INEWF TNEBPWU TNEBEF


SAVE POWER SECTOR
SAVE INDIA
ALL INDIA POWER ENGINEERS' FEDERATION
Regd.No.24085/93 Head Office B-1A/45A, Janakpuri, New Delhi – 110058
FEDERAL EXECUTIVE MEETING
REKHA DANGWAL
Y.S. TOMAR
P. RATHNAKAR RAO
SHAILENDRA DUBEY
T. JAYANTHI
KARTIKEY DUBEY
RAHUL CHANNA



IMPORTANT LETTERS

Letter to Hon'ble CM Karnataka

No. 32 - 2026/Karnataka. 27-05-2026

Respected Hon'ble Chief Minister,

Subject: Urgent Intervention Sought Regarding Five Parallel Distribution Licence Applications Filed by M/s Tata Power Company Limited Before KERC (Petition Nos. MP 02/2026 to MP 06/2026) Covering 19 Districts Across All Five State ESCOMs in Karnataka — Threat to Public Electricity Infrastructure, Consumer Welfare and State ESCOM Viability — Invocation of Section 108 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

The All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF), the apex national body representing power engineers across India, respectfully submits this representation seeking the urgent intervention of the Government of Karnataka in a matter of immense public importance affecting the electricity consumers, farmers, rural communities and the longterm financial sustainability of Karnataka's State Electricity Supply Companies.

M/s Tata Power Company Limited has filed five separate petitions before the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) seeking grant of parallel distribution licences across Nineteen districts spanning all five ESCOM jurisdictions in Karnataka.

I. **LEGAL POSITION — APPLICATIONS ARE PREMATURE AND LEGALLY UNSUSTAINABLE** The Sixth Proviso to Section 14 of the Electricity Act, 2003 permits grant of a parallel distribution licence only where the applicant establishes and operates its own independent distribution network. This requirement is a mandatory statutory precondition and not a mere procedural formality.

II. However, the petitions filed by M/s Tata Power Company Limited do not disclose any credible, funded or technically feasible plan for establishing an independent distribution network across the proposed Nineteen districts.

III. **IRREVERSIBLE IMPACT ON KARNATAKA'S POWER SECTOR AND CONSUMERS**

A. **Collapse of Existing Cross-Subsidy Framework -**Karnataka's electricity tariff structure is fundamentally dependent on cross-subsidy, wherein high-paying commercial and industrial consumers support subsidised electricity for domestic consumers, agricultural consumers and vulnerable sections.

   A private parallel licensee would inevitably target profitable HT and commercial consumers in urban centres while avoiding low-revenue rural and social-obligation consumers.

B. Threat to Financial Viability of ESCOMs -Loss of premium revenue-paying consumers to a private licensee would weaken ESCOM finances, affect infrastructure investments and threaten continuity and quality of public electricity supply.

C. Rural Electrification and Universal Service Obligations -State ESCOMs are statutorily obligated to supply electricity to all categories of consumers including remote villages, agricultural pump sets and economically weaker sections.

IV. **INVOCATION OF SECTION 108 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003 -**AIPEF respectfully requests the Government of Karnataka to issue appropriate policy directions to KERC under Section 108 of the Electricity Act, 2003 to ensure protection of public interest.

PRAYER

AIPEF most respectfully prays that the Government of Karnataka may kindly:

(a) Direct the Energy Department to urgently examine Petition Nos. MP 02/2026 to MP 06/2026 and conduct a comprehensive impact assessment before further proceedings before KERC.

(b) Issue appropriate Policy Directions under Section 108 of the Electricity Act, 2003 to safeguard consumer welfare, financial stability of ESCOMs and public electricity infrastructure.

(c) Direct KERC to implead BESCOM, HESCOM, MESCOM, GESCOM and CESC as necessary respondents and permit detailed objections regarding financial and technical implications.

(d) Pass such further orders deemed necessary to safeguard Karnataka's electricity sector and the interests of crores of domestic, agricultural and rural consumers.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,
Shailendra Dubey, Chairman

Letter to Hon'ble LG Ladakh.

No.27-2026/Ladakh 04-05-2026

Subject: Demand for Immediate Dialogue with Power Employees & Engineers and Deferment of Proposed MoU with RECPDCL.

Hon'ble Sir,

We write on behalf of the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF), representing power engineers and employees across the country, to express our serious concern regarding the proposed move to enter into a Joint Venture with REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL) in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

2. We have carefully gone through the representation submitted by the employees and engineers of Ladakh Power Development Department (LPDD), which highlights several long-pending and unresolved service-related issues, including non-regularization of engineers, pending promotions, unresolved cases of daily wagers, and critical gaps in staffing.

3. At a time when such fundamental concerns remain unaddressed, proceeding with a Joint Venture or any form of corporatization/privatization will only aggravate the situation, severely impacting employee morale, service conditions, and ultimately the reliability of power supply in a strategically sensitive and geographically challenging region like Ladakh.

4. AIPEF firmly believes that the power sector in Ladakh is not merely a commercial activity but an essential public service, crucial for survival and development in extreme climatic conditions. Any structural change without stakeholder consultation is neither prudent nor acceptable.

5. In view of the above, we strongly demand the following:

   - Immediate initiation of meaningful dialogue with representatives of power employees and engineers of Ladakh.

- Deferment of signing of any MoU or agreement with RECPDCL. On priority concerns of stakeholders should be duly addressed.
- Resolution of long-pending service and administrative issues of employees on priority to restore confidence in the system.

6. We wish to clearly state that if the administration proceeds with signing the MoU without engaging in constructive dialogue and addressing the genuine concerns of employees, AIPEF will not remain a silent spectator. Such unilateral action will compel power engineers and employees across the country to resort to democratic and united agitation. In that eventuality, the entire responsibility for any industrial unrest and its consequences shall lie with the Government.
7. AIPEF however, sincerely hope that your esteemed office will take a judicious and pragmatic view of the situation and initiate immediate discussions to arrive at an amicable and mutually acceptable solution in the larger interest of the people of Ladakh and the power sector.
8. We look forward to your urgent intervention.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,
Shailendra Dubey, Chairman

Copy to:
1. Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Government of India
2. Hon'ble Union Power Minister, Government of India
3. Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh
4. Administrative Secretary, Power Development Department, UT Ladakh

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Previous Letter to Hon'ble LG Ladakh

No. 26 - 2026/Ladakh 25-04-2026

Subject: Request for reconsideration and detailed consultation on proposed Joint Venture / privatization of Ladakh Power Development Department (LPDD).

Esteemed Sir,

On behalf of the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF), we respectfully submit our serious concerns regarding the proposed corporatization and formation of a Joint Venture between the Administration of UT Ladakh and REC Power Development Corporation Limited (RECPDCL) for the Ladakh Power Development Department (LPDD).

At the outset, we wish to emphasize that the electricity sector in Ladakh is not merely a commercial service but a critical public utility with deep social and strategic significance. Any restructuring of such a vital sector must be approached with utmost caution, transparency, and wider stakeholder consultation.

AIPEF strongly feels that the proposed arrangement, which envisages transfer of core electricity assets and dilution of government ownership through a 51% equity stake to a joint venture partner, raises the following serious concerns:

1. **Impact on Poor and Domestic Consumers.**

   The transition to a commercial model with provision of Return on Equity (RoE) will inevitably lead to higher tariffs. This will severely affect domestic consumers, particularly economically weaker sections in Ladakh, where income levels are modest and cost of living is already high. The existing welfare-oriented approach of LPDD may be replaced by a profit-driven system, compromising affordability and universal access.

2. **Uncertainty of Subsidy and Consumer Protection.**
Although continuation of subsidies is mentioned, it is contingent upon future fiscal support from the UT Administration. This creates uncertainty for consumers and exposes them to potential tariff shocks in the coming years.

3. **Strategic and National Security Concerns.**
Ladakh is an extremely sensitive border region with strategic importance for national security. Electricity infrastructure in such an area must remain under direct and effective government control. The proposed model, which allows operational flexibility to engage third-party agencies and contractors, may create vulnerabilities in terms of security, coordination, and control, especially during emergency or conflict situations.

4. **Transfer of Public Assets to Commercial Entity.**
The proposed transfer of generation and distribution assets—created through public investment—to a corporatized entity effectively amounts to privatization. While liabilities remain with the government, operational control and profit opportunities are handed over to the joint venture partner, which is not in the larger public interest.

5. **Long-Term Policy Lock-in.**
The proposal for a long-term license period (up to 25 years) will restrict future policy flexibility of the government, even if the model proves unsuitable for the unique conditions of Ladakh.

6. **Employee and Institutional Concerns**.
Although existing employees are proposed to be protected on deputation, the longterm impact on institutional strength, technical capacity, and future workforce conditions remains uncertain. This may weaken the public sector capability in a strategically important region.

7. **Financial Viability Concerns.**
The MoU itself indicates the need for continued revenue gap funding and government support. This suggests that privatization may not resolve underlying financial challenges but instead add a layer of profit obligation, ultimately burdening consumers and public finances.

In view of the above, AIPEF respectfully submits that:

- The proposed Joint Venture / privatization process should be kept in abeyance.
- A comprehensive review should be undertaken considering the unique geographical, socio-economic, and strategic context of Ladakh.
- Wider consultations should be held with stakeholders including employees, consumer groups, and technical experts before taking any final decision.
- Strengthening and reforming LPDD within the public sector framework should be explored as a more suitable alternative.

We sincerely hope that the Administration will give due consideration to these concerns in the larger interest of consumers, employees, and national security.

With regards,

शैलेन्द्र दुबे

Shailendra Dubey, Chairman, AIPEF

Letter to Hon'ble CM Kerala

No. 21-2026/Kerala 15-03-2026

Subject : Request for Immediate Withdrawal of Government Order G.O.(Ms) No. 4/2026/Power Affecting KSEB's Autonomy and Engineers' Pay Structure.

I write on behalf of the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) to express serious concern over certain provisions incorporated in Government Order G.O.(Ms) No. 4/2026/Power issued regarding the pay revision of officers and employees of KSEB Ltd.

The provisions contained in the said order have created deep resentment among engineers and officers of Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd., as several conditions in the order adversely affect both institutional autonomy of the utility and established pay structure of engineers working in power sector.

One of the most disturbing provisions in the order is the direction to discontinue the existing Cadre Pay system applicable to KSEB officers. The Cadre Pay system had earlier been introduced by the Government itself in recognition of the specialised nature of services rendered by power sector engineers, their high level of technical responsibility, and the hazardous working conditions associated with electricity operations. Abolishing this system would directly result in a reduction of salaries of engineers and would amount to disregarding the professional contribution made by them in maintaining the power infrastructure of the State.

It has been pointed out that withdrawal of Cadre Pay would lead to a monthly reduction in salary of approximately ₹1,000 to ₹2,000 for engineers from the level of Assistant Engineer to Chief Engineer. Apart from the immediate salary reduction, this move will also adversely affect the pension calculations of engineers in future, thereby proportionately reducing the retirement benefits of officers who have devoted decades of service to the power sector.

The order further stipulates that the effective date of future pay revisions in KSEB should be aligned with the pay revision dates of State Government employees. Such a condition restricts the independent pay determination mechanism of KSEB, which functions as a corporate electricity utility and has historically followed its own pay revision framework based on sectoral requirements.

Another major concern relates to the directive to replace the existing monthly service weightage system in KSEB with the model followed for State Government employees. This change would substantially reduce the pay benefits currently available to officers who have long years of service in the organisation, thereby adversely impacting employee morale.

The order also mandates that future pay revision proposals of KSEB must be examined in advance by the Kerala SERC, and that prior approval of the State Government would be mandatory even after discussions with trade unions. Such provisions would significantly curtail the administrative and financial autonomy of KSEB Ltd., which functions as a corporate entity under the Act.

It is pertinent to point out that under the existing regulatory framework governing the power sector, the expenditure of distribution companies is already scrutinised by the Regulatory Commission and accommodated through tariff determination. Direct intervention by the Government bypassing this established regulatory mechanism is therefore inconsistent with the spirit and provisions of the Act.

The financial position of KSEB has also been affected in recent years due to factors such as mandatory acceptance of high-cost borrowings like KIIFB loans and reduction in financial support to the Pension Master Trust. In such a situation, weakening the pay structure of engineers who are responsible for maintaining the power system of the State would be highly demoralising.

In view of the above, the All India Power Engineers Federation strongly urges the Government of Kerala to immediately withdraw the provisions in Government Order G.O.(Ms) No. 4/2026/Power that adversely affect pay structure of engineers and the institutional autonomy of KSEB Ltd., and to initiate constructive dialogue with stakeholders to arrive at a fair and sector-appropriate solution.

We sincerely hope that the Government will reconsider the matter with due sensitivity to the concerns of power engineers who play a vital role in ensuring reliable electricity supply to the people of Kerala.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,
Shailendra Dubey, Chairman

Letter by Telangana State Power Employees Joint Action Committee (TGPEJAC) to Spl. Chief Secretary to Government, Energy Dept, Govt. of Telangana

Date: 19-02-2026

Sub: Electricity - Proposal of formation of a Third DISCOM in Telangana State - Reconsideration – Requested – Reg **Ref:** G.O.Ms.No. 44 dated 17.12.2025.

Sir,

The Telangana State Power Employees Joint Action Committee submits that the proposal for formation of a Third Distribution Licensee (DISCOM) as notified under G.O.Ms.No. 44 dated 17.12.2025 needs reexamination in the larger interest of Power Sector.

At the outset, it is to respectfully clarify that we are not opposed to reforms intended for improvements in the power sector. However, any such reforms must strictly be in conformity with the provisions of the Electricity Act 2003, settled regulatory principles, and the laws laid down by the ERCs & Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL), while ensuring financial sustainability, operational feasibility, better service to consumers and protection of employee interests.

At the outset, it is to respectfully clarify that we are not opposed to reforms intended for improvements in the power sector. However, any such reforms must strictly be in conformity with the provisions of the Electricity Act 2003, settled regulatory principles, and the laws laid down by the ERCs & Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL), while ensuring financial sustainability, operational feasibility, better service to consumers and protection of employee interests.

1. Cross-Subsidy, Tariff Principles, and Financial Viability

Under Sections 61 and 62 of the Electricity Act, 2003, tariff determination is required to progressively reflect the cost of supply, while also recognising cross-subsidy within permissible limits.

The proposed segregation of subsidised consumer categories into a separate DISCOM may remove cross-subsidy burden from high-paying consumers while, it does not reduce the actual cost of supply. In the absence of cross-subsidy, such costs can only be recovered either through substantial tariff revision for subsidised consumers or through explicit Government subsidy.

A DISCOM catering exclusively to subsidised consumers will have no internal revenue buffer and will be entirely dependent on timely and assured subsidy releases. Any delay or shortfall in subsidy payments will directly affect power purchase obligations, system maintenance, and payment of employee salaries and statutory dues. APTEL has consistently held that financial viability of a distribution licensee is a prerequisite for effective discharge of statutory obligations.

2.Mandatory Advance Subsidy under Section 65

Section 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003 mandates that any subsidy directed by the State Government shall be paid *in advance* to the distribution licensee to compensate for the tariff determined by the Commission.

Past experience demonstrates that advance and full subsidy payments have not been consistently ensured. In the absence of time-bound, and advance subsidy mechanism, the proposed Third DISCOM with subsided categories will remain financially vulnerable, contrary to the provisions of the Act and settled APTEL rulings emphasising certainty of revenue streams.

3.Universal Service Obligation under Section 43

While Section 14 of the Act permits multiple distribution licensees in the same area, Section 43 imposes a mandatory and non-negotiable Universal Supply Obligation on every distribution licensee.

The Electricity Act envisages area-based licensing. Consumer-category-based segregation raises serious legal concerns regarding discharge of the universal service obligation, particularly in respect of agriculture and water supply consumers.

APTEL has consistently held that restructuring cannot dilute, fragment, or shift statutory obligations. The proposed model lacks clarity on how the Third DISCOM will independently and effectively discharge its universal supply obligation.

4.Privatization of Incumbent Discoms

As reflected in Table-6 of G.O.Ms.No. 44, high-paying consumer categories such as commercial and industrial consumers are proposed to remain with the incumbent DISCOMs, while subsidised consumer categories are to be segregated into a separate entity. Further, the energy requirement of TGNPDCL constitutes only about 13% of the total State energy requirement.

This restructuring will substantially alter the consumer mix of the incumbent DISCOMs, rendering them predominantly high-revenue and commercially attractive utilities. Such a configuration is likely to enhance the attractiveness of the incumbent DISCOMs to private sector particularly in the absence of cross-subsidy and **social service obligations**.

In this context, employees have expressed serious apprehension that the proposed formation of a Third DISCOM catering exclusively to subsidised consumers may operate as a **precursor to future privatisation** or **dilution of public ownership** of the incumbent DISCOMs. In the absence of explicit, binding policy assurances and statutory safeguards such apprehensions cannot be treated as unfounded and are likely to adversely affect employee confidence, industrial harmony, and long-term sector stability.

5. Allocation of Arrears from Govt & Dues payable to Generators to Third DISCOM

It is observed from the table 9 of the G.O. Ms 44 dated 17.12.2025 that major liabilities, including Arrears from Government & Dues payable to GENCOs, are proposed to be transferred entirely to the proposed Third DISCOM. Such an arrangement would impose a disproportionate financial burden on the Third DISCOM from its inception and render it a loss-bearing entity. In the absence of adequate independent revenue sources, the Third DISCOM will be dependent solely on Government payments to meet its obligations. Any delay in receipt of Government dues would severely affect its capacity to discharge payments to GENCOs, thereby adversely impacting their financial stability as well.

This mechanism may lead to a cascading financial stress on both the Third DISCOM &GENCOs.

6. Supplier of Last Resort and Continuity of Supply

The proposal does not clarify the mechanism for ensuring continuity of supply to essential services in the event of operational failure, financial distress, or inability of the Third DISCOM to supply power.

Absence of a clearly defined *Supplier of Last Resort* mechanism poses a serious statutory and public interest risk. APTEL has repeatedly emphasised that continuity of supply, particularly for essential services, cannot be left uncertain in restructuring exercises.

7. Distribution Network Ownership and Operational Accountability

In a scenario where multiple DISCOMs operate in the same geographical area, statutory and regulatory clarity is required regarding:

- ownership of distribution assets such as DTRs, LT lines, and interface meters,
- operation and maintenance responsibility,
- fault rectification authority, and
- dispute resolution mechanisms.

The proposal envisages deputation/transfer of only about 1,000 Operation & Maintenance (O&M) personnel, resulting in an unworkable workload of approximately 522 Distribution Transformers (DTRs) and about 261 circuit kilometres of Agricultural LT lines for each O&M employee. Given that Agriculture networks are predominantly rural and remote with higher fault incidence, such deployment is operationally not workable.

APTEL has held that restructuring must be operationally viable and not merely administratively expedient.

8. Energy Accounting, Metering, and Settlement

The proposal lacks clarity regarding feeder-wise, DTR-wise, and consumer-wise energy accounting, as well as inter-DISCOM settlement mechanisms subject to Commission approval.

Earlier attempts of metering Agriculture Transformers have failed due to technical, operational, and communication constraints. The presently adopted ISI methodology is itself subject to inaccuracies.

APTEL has consistently emphasised that regulatory approvals, tariff determination, and true-up exercises must be based on verifiable and reliable energy data. Absence of such data renders the proposed structure legally and regulatorily vulnerable.

9. Power Purchase Cost Allocation

During peak hours, when marginal power purchase costs are extremely high, accurate attribution of drawal to the Third DISCOM becomes critical. The proposed reliance on approximately 5.3 lakh AGL interface meters for D–D settlement raises serious concerns regarding accuracy and auditability.

Any ambiguity in power purchase cost allocation is likely to result in disputes during ARR and true-up proceedings.

10. Loss Norms and Risk Allocation

Energy input to the Third DISCOM is accounted at the **LT voltage level** using **normative loss parameters**, while the **11 kV distribution network is owned, operated, and maintained by the incumbent DISCOM**. In such a scenario, where **actual losses at the 11 kV level exceed the loss levels approved by the Hon'ble TGERC**, in such scenario:

- which distribution licensee shall bear such excess losses, and
- whether such losses shall be treated as a **pass-through** in tariff or be **disallowed**.

In the absence of such clarity, loss accountability becomes diffused between entities, rendering tariff determination and true-up proceedings legally unsustainable. The Hon'ble Appellate Tribunal for Electricity has consistently held that **loss accountability must be clearly and definitively assigned** and cannot be shared or ambiguously attributed among multiple licensees.

11. Operational Control and Emergency Response

Operational responsibility during outages, voltage issues, system contingencies, and emergency restoration must be clearly demarcated. Absence of such clarity due to third DISCOM will result in field-level confusion and compromise system reliability, particularly for essential services.

12. Employee Service Conditions

APTEL has consistently recognised that restructuring should not adversely affect service conditions, career progression, or legitimate expectations of employees.

The proposal simultaneously offers promotions as an incentive for transfer while abolishing posts vacated in the incumbent DISCOMs. These provisions are mutually contradictory and undermine employee confidence, making the proposal vulnerable to service-related disputes.

The proposal of transferring Engineers and Staff on permanent basis from Transco, Genco & DISCOMs will create confusion. Particularly fixing of inter-se-seniority among them will be very difficult task and finally ends up in litigation & legal tussles.

13. Recovery of True-Up Costs

In a category-based DISCOM serving subsidised consumers, recovery of true-up costs through tariff is not feasible. In the absence of cross-subsidy, such costs will devolve upon the State Government or accumulate as regulatory assets.

APTEL has held that accumulation of regulatory assets without a credible recovery mechanism is impermissible and detrimental to sector sustainability.

In view of the foregoing submissions, the JAC respectfully requests to;

➢ **Reconsider the proposal of the Third DISCOM in its present form;**

➢ **Undertake wider consultation with all stake holders including Unions & Associations before finalising the restructuring proposal.**

The TGPEJAC submits the above in the interest of long-term sector stability and public service continuity and requests to consider the same in the larger interest of the consumers.

Yours Sincerely

Chairman TGPEJAC	Convenor TGPEJAC	Secretary General TGPEJAC	Co-convenor TGPEJAC

"Efficiency is doing things right; effectiveness is doing the right things."

Peter F. Drucker
"Father of Modern Management."

Letter to Hon'ble Minister of Power, Govt of India,

No. 12 - 2026 / NEP 2026 19-02-2026

Subject: Detailed Objections and Recommendations of AIPEF on Draft National Electricity Policy (NEP), 2026

Hon'ble Sir,

On behalf of the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF), which represents power engineers across the country engaged in generation, transmission and distribution utilities, we respectfully submit our detailed concerns and suggestions regarding the Draft National Electricity Policy (NEP), 2026.

AIPEF supports the national objective of ensuring reliable, affordable, sustainable and universally accessible electricity and strengthening the power sector in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047 and India's long-term energy security and climate commitments. However, several provisions of the Draft NEP may weaken State-owned utilities, increase the financial burden on consumers, accelerate privatization of essential public services, and adversely affect the long-term stability and equity of the power sector.

AIPEF requests you to withdraw the present Draft of NEP 2026. However the key concerns of AIPEF are submitted below for your kind consideration.

1. Phasing Out Monopoly in Distribution and Introduction of Multiple Licensees

The Draft NEP proposes phasing out the monopoly in distribution by allowing multiple licensees and supply competition within the same service area.

This approach is likely to result in :

- Cherry-picking of high-revenue industrial, commercial and urban consumers by private suppliers.
- State DISCOMs being left with low-paying rural, agricultural and subsidized consumers.
- Severe erosion of the revenue base of public utilities.
- Creation of stranded power purchase liabilities and network costs.
- Financial instability and possible collapse of State distribution companies.

Electricity distribution is a natural monopoly infrastructure service. Fragmentation of the consumer base without corresponding sharing of network and social obligations will undermine integrated planning, system optimization and consumer service reliability.

2. Promotion of PPP Model, Privatization and Listing of Utilities

The Draft NEP promotes Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models, private participation, and listing of distribution utilities.

Experience from various states and international examples indicates that :

- Privatization has not consistently delivered sustainable loss reduction
- Tariffs tend to rise due to profit-driven cost structures
- Public accountability and social obligations are diluted
- Investments are often directed toward commercially viable areas rather than system strengthening
- Long-term network development may be compromised for short-term financial returns

Distribution is a critical public service linked to social welfare and economic development, and therefore must remain under strong public ownership and regulatory oversight.

3. Cost-Reflective Tariff and Automatic Cost Recovery

The proposal for mandatory cost-reflective tariffs, automatic pass-through of fuel and power purchase costs, and index-based periodic tariff revisions will:

- Lead to frequent and steep tariff increases
- Transfer the entire financial risk to consumers
- Reduce the effective regulatory role of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions
- Make electricity increasingly unaffordable for households, farmers, small industries and vulnerable consumers

Electricity cannot be treated purely as a commercial commodity; tariff policy must balance financial viability with social equity and affordability.

4. Elimination of Cross-Subsidy

The Draft NEP proposes progressive reduction and eventual elimination of cross-subsidy, along with exemption of large consumers from cross-subsidy surcharge. This will:

- Weaken the financial structure of DISCOMs
- Increase tariffs for domestic, rural and agricultural consumers
- Shift the burden from high-paying industrial consumers to common citizens
- Undermine the principle of equitable access to electricity

In a developing country like India, cross-subsidy remains an essential instrument of social equity.

5. Exemption from Universal Service Obligation

The proposal to exempt large consumers (1 MW and above) from the Universal Service Obligation (USO) and allow open access without adequate safeguards will:

- Cause migration of high-revenue consumers away from DISCOMs
- Leave utilities with fixed network costs and long-term power purchase commitments
- Create a “utility death spiral” situation
- Result in higher tariffs for remaining consumers

Universal Service Obligation is fundamental to maintaining a stable and inclusive electricity distribution system and should not be diluted for private suppliers.

6. Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) in Transmission

The increasing reliance on Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) for transmission projects may gradually lead to the weakening of the public sector’s role in transmission, which is a matter of serious concern.

Transmission is a strategic and critical infrastructure that requires long-term planning, system reliability, and coordination at the national and regional levels. Excessive privatization through TBCB may: Gradually reduce the role of public sector transmission utilities and lead to de facto privatization of the transmission network.

Prioritize commercial returns over long-term system reliability and network strengthening increase overall project costs due to higher financing costs, risk premiums, and profit margins of private developers. Ultimately result in higher transmission charges, which will be passed on to distribution companies and finally to end consumers.

Transmission is a natural monopoly and a core grid infrastructure. Treating it primarily as a commercial investment opportunity rather than a strategic public utility is not in the long-term interest of consumers, grid security, or affordable electricity.

AIPEF, therefore, recommends that the expansion of the transmission system should continue to be undertaken primarily through strong public sector utilities.

7. Excessive Marketization and Commercialization

The Draft NEP places excessive emphasis on market mechanisms, competition, and private participation in core segments of the power sector.

Over-marketization may lead to:

- Price volatility and financial uncertainty
- Weakening of long-term resource planning
- Fragmentation of system operation and coordination
- Risks to energy security and grid reliability

The power sector is strategic infrastructure and must be governed primarily by public interest considerations.

8. Impact on Public Utilities, Human Resources and Sector Stability

The combined impact of multiple licensees, PPP models, revenue erosion, TBCB in transmission and structural fragmentation will:

- Weaken State utilities financially and operationally
- Adversely affect manpower planning and skill development
- Increase outsourcing and contractualization
- Impact operational reliability, safety and institutional capacity

Strengthening public utilities and technical manpower is essential for long-term sector sustainability.

9. Concerns Regarding Nuclear Power Targets and Energy Transition

AIPEF notes that long-term energy transition studies, including those referenced by IIM Ahmedabad, indicate that achieving Net Zero scenarios may require nuclear capacity of around 331 GW by 2070.

In this context:

- The current operational nuclear capacity in India remains limited compared to long-term requirements
- Heavy reliance on Small Modular Reactor (SMR) pathways alone may not be sufficient to meet large-scale capacity targets
- Nuclear power, being a reliable base-load and low-carbon source, should be expanded through a clear long-term capacity addition roadmap
- Given India's strong track record of achieving infrastructure targets, the country may consider advancing the Net Zero timeline toward 2050 instead of 2070
- Nuclear plants have long operational lifespans and high reliability, making them critical for longterm energy security and decarbonization

The NEP should therefore provide a more realistic and structured roadmap for large-scale nuclear capacity development.

AIPEF's Recommendations

1. Strengthen State DISCOMs through financial restructuring, loss reduction, technology upgradation and governance reforms instead of privatization.
2. Retain the single-licensee distribution model in public sector to ensure integrated planning and financial sustainability.
3. Continue Universal Service Obligation for all consumer categories.
4. Maintain a balanced and rational cross-subsidy framework to protect vulnerable consumers.
5. Avoid mandatory cost-reflective tariffs without adequate consumer protection and regulatory flexibility.
6. No PPP and private participation in core distribution network operations.
7. Roll back TBCB model in Transmission sector.
8. Ensure that any major structural reform is undertaken only after wide consultation with State Governments, utilities, regulators and employee/engineer organizations.
9. Preserve the public sector character of critical power infrastructure.
10. Provide a clear and realistic roadmap for nuclear capacity expansion in line with long-term Net Zero requirements.

Request

In view of the above, AIPEF respectfully requests the Ministry of Power to:

- Withdraw the Draft National Electricity Policy, 2026 relating to distribution, transmission & generation privatization, multiple licensees, PPP models, cost-reflective tariffs, cross-subsidy elimination and dilution of Universal Service Obligation.
- Conduct detailed stakeholder consultations with AIPEF and other power sector organizations before finalizing the policy.
- Ensure that the final NEP strengthens public utilities, protects consumer interests, and maintains electricity as an essential public service rather than a purely commercial commodity.

AIPEF requests again to extend the time limit to give comments by further three months. AIPEF would be grateful for an opportunity to present its views before the Ministry at a mutually convenient time

With regards,

शैलेन्द्र दुबे

Shailendra Dubey

Chairman, AIPEF

CC:

1. Secretary Power, Govt of India, New Delhi.
2. Chairman, Central Electricity Authority, New Delhi.

"The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members."

- Mahatma Gandhi

Letter to Hon'ble Chief Ministers (All States / UTs)

No. 05 - 2026 / EA Bill 21-01-2026

Subject: Request to Oppose Electricity Privatisation and Reject the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 in the Upcoming 22–23 January Meeting

Hon'ble Chief Minister Sir,

On behalf of the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF), I extend this earnest appeal to you ahead of scheduled meeting of Hon'ble Union Power Minister with State Power/Energy Ministers on 22–23 Jan.

India's electricity sector is a Concurrent List subject, and the States play a central role in ensuring affordable, reliable electricity to all citizens. It is therefore essential that the collective voice of States be strongly represented, particularly at a time when major structural changes are being proposed through the Electricity (Amendment) Bill and various privatisation frameworks.

After in-depth analysis, AIPEF believes that the proposed amendments pose serious risks to the federal structure, finances of State DISCOMs, and the rights of ordinary consumers, farmers, employees, and small industries.

Major Concerns Requiring Firm Opposition by States

Backdoor Privatisation Through "Shared Distribution Systems" (Section 14)

The proposal allows private licensees to use public networks without investment, enabling revenue cherry-picking from industrial and commercial consumers. This will deprive DISCOMs of 40–50% of their income, pushing them into irreversible financial crisis.

Mandatory Open Access and Cross-Subsidy Erosion

Forced open access and elimination of cross-subsidies (within 5 years) will sharply raise tariffs for agricultural and domestic consumers. States will lose control over tariff design, subsidy delivery, and rural electrification policies.

Universal Supply Obligation Removal for Large Consumers

Exempting >1 MW consumers from supply obligations will leave DISCOMs with only lossmaking rural and household consumers, accelerating their collapse and pushing States towards privatisation.

Threat to Federalism Through Centralised Bodies

The creation of a Central Electricity Council and expanded rule-making powers dilute State authority in a Concurrent subject, undermining the constitutional federal balance.

Introduction of Speculative Power Markets

Expanding market mechanisms at the cost of long-term PPAs risks tariff volatility, grid instability, and financial stress for State utilities.

Electric Line Authority – Fragmentation of Responsibilities

A parallel authority for line management will create jurisdictional confusion, weaken State utilities, and open doors to outsourcing and asset transfer.

Why States Must Take a Unified Stand

- The proposed amendments will severely undermine financial viability of State DISCOMs.
- Tariff shocks of 30–50% for farmers, rural households, and small consumers will become unavoidable.
- Long-term power purchase commitments of States will become stranded, creating massive liabilities. Public assets built over decades will be opened to private profit without investment or accountability.
- State autonomy in a Concurrent subject will weaken substantially.
- States bear the responsibility of ensuring that electricity remains an essential public service, not a profit-driven commodity controlled by a few private players.

AIPEF's Appeal

In light of the above, AIPEF respectfully urges you to:

1. Strongly oppose the Electricity (Amendment) Bill in the meeting on 22–23 January.
2. Reject all proposals of distribution privatisation or shared networks.
3. Assert State rights and federal autonomy, emphasising that electricity is a Concurrent subject.
4. Demand meaningful consultation with States, power engineers, and employees before any structural change.
5. Advocate for strengthening public-sector DISCOMs through investments, loss-reduction measures, and transparent regulatory processes—not privatisation.

Conclusion

The proposed reforms will have long-term and irreversible consequences for State finances, consumer welfare, agricultural operations, and energy security. States must act collectively and firmly to safeguard the public electricity system.

AIPEF stands with all State Governments in their efforts to protect affordable, reliable, and equitable electricity supply. We remain available for any technical support or consultation your office may require.

With Respectful Regards

Yours Truly

शैलेन्द्र दुबे

Shailendra Dubey
Chairman, AIPEF

CC: Hon'ble Energy Minister - All States/UTs

"Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy."

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

Power Sector Round- up (Jan. 2026- May 2026)

Policy

1. W.e.f 01/04/26, China has withdrawn export tax rebates on Solar PV products (9-13%), and reducing rebate on Lithium-ion batteries from 9% to 6% (full elimination by Jan 1, 2027).
2. MNRE has granted time extensions to effected RE projects in Rajasthan and Gujarat that have delayed due to legal proceedings in the Great Indian Bustard case (GIB). Time period between 21.03.24 to 19.12.25 has been considered as "force majeure". (ET, Jan 13)
3. In important amendments to Air & Water pollution Acts, SPCBs can now issue integrated consent under twin acts along with authorisations under various Waste Management Rules. Further, CTO, once granted, will now remain valid until it is cancelled. (PIB, Jan 28)
4. On 30th January, MoP has issued Revised Guidelines for coal and lignite based TPPs to utilize ash as stipulated in MoEF&CC Notification dt 31.12.21 & its amendments dated 30.12.22 and 01.01.24..
5. On 23rd, Fin. Minister took the wraps off Niti Ayog's monster-size 2nd phase of National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP 2.0). It envisages total mobilization of ₹16.72 trillion by FY30 (including 5.9 trillion investments by pvt sector). With 2.76 Lakh Cr, Power sector accounts about 17%. (Min, Feb 23)
6. In a significant move for the advancement of National Green Hydrogen Mission, MNRE has notified the Green Ammonia and Green Methanol Standards. (ET, March 07).
7. In a written reply to parliament, Govt informed that India is developing 3 types of indigenous Small Modular Reactors. Led by DAE and NPCIL, the lead project is 220 MWe BSMR-200, followed by 55 MWe SMR-55, and a 5 MWth High-Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor (HTGCR) for hydrogen production. (Energyworld, March 12)
8. On March 18, MNRE expanded Approved List of Models & Manufacturers (ALMM) to include solar ingots and wafers (List-III) with compliance deadline of June 1, 2028.
9. GoI has approved SHP development Scheme for FY 26-27 to 30-31, targeting 1,500 MW of new Small Hydro, with pre specified central assistance. (PIB, March 18)
10. CEA has published the Resource Adequacy Plan. Upto 2036, solar capacity is expected to quadruple & wind may triple. Total capacity will be 1,121 GW (Coal – 315, Solar -509, Wind – 155, Large Hydro - 78 GW, SHP-6, Nuclear -22, Gas -20 & Biomass- 16). Plan also envisage Storage capacity of 174 GW/888 GWh.
11. On March 30th, MNRE issued OM allowing SECI for a pilot 'Contract for Difference' (CfD) Scheme with GOI funded CfD Stabilization Fund of ₹76 Cr.
12. In first of its kind, Korba Municipal Corporation has imposed Export Tax on Electricity. Korba is power hub of India. Experts apprehend that, it may cascade an alarming trend, disrupting not only the power cost dynamics but One India, One Tax notion too.
13. On April 30, MoP revised "Make in India" norms for HVDC (LCC type) substations. It has eased immediate 60% local content requirement to - till 31.03.28: Min. 30%, till 31.03.30 – Min 40%, till 31.03.32 – Min. 50% & then till 31.03.35 – Min. 60%. (ANI, May 02)
14. After report by a high-level committee constituted by CM, UP has scrapped mandatory prepaid smart meters and reverted all power connections to postpaid billing. (India Today, May 6)
15. On 12th, MoP forwarded a report to FoR on "Need for a National Framework for Rationalisation fixed charges and Tariff Design for Discoms". Report highlights that while fixed costs for Discoms account from 36% - 56% of ARR, fixed charges in tariff contribute only 9% - 20% of revenue.

Legal

1. In Rattan India vs MSEDCL, decided on 10.12.2025, Hon'ble Supreme Court dealing with compounding of interest on carrying cost, emphasized that questions not been finally decided or mentioned in the remand order in the earlier round, remain open for consideration.
2. In Adani Power vs Union of India, on 05.01.2026, Hon'ble Supreme Court has upheld that no customs duty is leviable on power generated in a plant located in SEZ & supplied to Domestic Tariff Area (DTA).
3. On March 17, in a landmark judgement, APTEL dismissed an appeal by BEST against an earlier order of MERC on parallel licensing. The verdict effectively upholds the legality of phased rollout of parallel distribution systems.
4. On 25th March, Supreme Court, in a case related to Maharashtra, has upheld State's authority to withdraw electricity duty exemptions for CPPs. The Court ruled that such exemptions are concessions, not permanent rights, but required a one year notice period to prevent abrupt financial disruption. (law Trend, March 26)
5. On the same day, in another judgment the Apex Court held that Generation Based Incentives (GBI) must be paid over and above the tariff. While acknowledging plenary powers of SERCs to fix tariff, the Apex court held *"..Regulatory authority cannot be exercised in a manner that nullifies the legislative or policy intent ..."* .
6. On 27th April, on a petition by National Solar Energy Federation of India, Karnataka High Court stayed enforcement of stricter provisions under DSM Regulations 2024 for RE firms, allowing them to continue using older system till next hearing. Petitioners alleged that new rules were introduced without proper prior public consultation.
7. On 7th May in Civil Appeal no 6388 of 2025, Supreme Court held that consumers cannot be required to pay for a service which they no longer received.
8. On 8th May Supreme Court held that Indian Railways is not a Deemed Distribution Licensee (DDL) as it uses electricity mainly for its own consumption. MoP clarifications considering Railway a DDL are held to be not legally binding. Railways will have to pay CSS & additional Surcharge.
9. On 11th May, in Santosh Agrawal v MP Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Co. Ltd, single judge bench of MP High Court, held that an advocate running office from his residence cannot be charged for electricity at commercial tariff rates. Experts debate whether similar relief shall be applicable to other professionals too.
10. On a petition by "Energy Watchdog", Supreme Court has directed appointment of chairperson and two members of the DERC within two months. (HT, May 30)

Regulatory

1. Displeased with failure of almost all ISTS licensees to submit mandatory annual data required under SOP regulation 2012, CERC has issued notices to numerous licensees. Despite a May 2025 direction, only 30 out of 137 operational entities submitted any data for April 2022 to March 2024. None complied for FY 24-25. (Businessline, Dec 30)
2. After accounting for an estimated savings of ₹270.3 Cr following the removal of FGD, UPERC has approved UPPCL's 1500 MW PPA with Adani Group's 1,500 MW Mirzapur TPP at a tariff of ₹5.38 /unit discovered through bidding. (Energyworld, Jan 15)
3. HERC has ruled that power supply cannot be disconnected citing non-payment of non-electricity charges in places where it is clubbed with CAM (common area maintenance). The commission termed

disconnection of supply for refusing to pay any illegal charges imposed by RWAs as "extortion and organised crime". (Energyworld, Feb 19).

4. On 6th March, UPERC, declared the act of UPPCL to charge unapproved smart meter cost from consumers akin to "regulatory capture", and has ordered full refund of excess recovery.
5. On 20th March CERC issued detail 2nd Amendment (33 pages) to Tariff Regulations 2024. It defines operational norms, tariff structure for integrated BESS for conventional plants / transmission assets. Most significantly, a new concept of "Regulatory Sandbox" has been introduced, allowing 1% of AFC (or ₹ 100 Cr) for Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) in power sector.
6. On 31st March CERC in an order in a Suo Motu petition, decided value of "X" for computation of the deviation for Wind and Solar (WS) Sellers from 01.04.2026.
7. With amendment dt 1st April to CEA Meter Regulations 2022, pre-paid meters are now optional (not mandatory) within Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). (ToI, April 7)

Commercial

1. The Public Investment Board (PIB) has cleared ₹26,000 Cr, Capex on 1720 MW Kamala HEP at the tributary of river Subansiri in Arunachal by NHPC JV with State. (ET, Jan 09)
2. PIB has also in-principle approved Rs 3000 Cr investment plan for power equipment testing infrastructure at CPRI test centres to conduct routine /type tests for equipment like cables, transformers, switchgear and towers etc. (ET, Jan 09)
3. As per MoP OM, NTPC is now sole promoter of PTC. NHPC, Powergrid and PFC have been directed to withdraw relinquish rights in favor of NTPC. CMD NTPC will now be Non Executive Chairman and CMD PTC is redesignated as MD (PTC). (Exchange filing, Jan 23)
4. On 27th Jan, at Samvat Bhavan (CM residence), MPPMCL signed PPA for 4000 MW on DBFOO (Design, Built, Finance, Operate and Own) basis with Hindustan Power – 800 MW, Torrent 2X800MW and Adani 2X800 MW. The rates are close to Rs 5.82/unit.
5. For FY 26-27, Investment commitments of the nine CPSUs under MoP is over Rs one trillion (Rs 1,01,763 Cr, an 18.6% YoY jump). PGCIL tops the list with Capex plan of about 37000 (about 32% jump) followed by NTPC - about 32000 Cr (up 7%) & NHPC about 14000 Cr (up 15%) (Business Standard, Feb 02)
6. Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) which began its Smart meter journey in 2024, has claimed that it has become first player in India and perhaps globally to have successfully delivered 1 crore electricity smart meters across discoms. Under RDSS India aims to replace 25 crore meters. (PTI, Feb 5)
7. In a major technological upgrade MSEDCL has launched a Substation Monitoring System (SMS) that enables real-time digital surveillance of substations and faster response to faults. Developed indigenously at a relatively low cost the system allows central control room to track electricity flow, voltage levels and equipment status at substations across the state in real time. (Energyworld, Feb 15)
8. On Feb 16, L & T informed BSE/ NSE, of its agreement with Torrent power for transfer of its 100% stake in 2x700 MW Nabha Power Ltd for Rs. 3,660.87 Cr. For FY25, NPL had turnover of Rs. 4,421.54 Cr and net worth of Rs. 3,553.00 Cr.
9. On March 15, Adani Power informed bourses about LOA from MSEDCL for 25-yr PPA of 1,600 MW thermal power via TBCB route. With supply to commence in FY 31, 1st yr tariff is Rs. 5.30/kWh.
10. Waaree Energies Ltd has begun construction of India's biggest 10 GW integrated solar ingot and wafer (each) manufacturing Rs 6,200 Cr facility at Butibori, Nagpur. (PV Magazine, March 16)

11. On March 24, Tata Power announced, signing of supplementary PPA by GUVNL for 4,000 MW Mundra UMPP. Signed after govt orders, it allows for pass through of actual coal costs (imported), which was not allowed under original 2007 PPA. Company plans similar PPAs with Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Punjab, and Haryana. (Energyworld, March 24)
12. NTPC has announced launch of cutting edge project of 20 MW/ 160 MWh, CO2 based Long Duration Energy Storage Scheme LDESS at Kurgi TPS., spearheaded by NETRA (R&D wing of NTPC) in collaboration with Triveni Turbine and Energy Dome, Italy. (BSE filing & PIB)
13. AGEL also informed Bourses that its 5,051 MW RE capacity addition during FY 26, is the highest by any company globally in a single year, excluding China. The new capacity includes 3.4 GW solar, 0.7 GW wind, and 1 GW wind-solar hybrid.
14. NTPC has completed the transfer of coal mining business to its wholly owned subsidiary, NTPC Mining Limited (NML), effective 01.04.26.
15. Adani group ventures in nuclear domain with network of stepdown subsidiaries. First Adani Power (APL) formed a subsidiary Adani Atomic Energy (AAEL). Then this month, AAEL formed two step-down subsidiaries Rawatbhata-Raj Atomic Energy Ltd (RRAEL) and Coastal-Maha Atomic Energy Ltd (CMAEL)
16. With market capitalization of approx. ₹4.27 lakh Cr Adani Power has overtaken PSU giant NTPC (market cap of ₹3.81 lakh Cr) to become India's most valued power producer. Since war erupted, APL has gained about 50%, while NTPC is up marginally about 4%. (ToI , May 15)
17. The BoDs of PFC and REC have formally approved mega merger of REC into PFC, now the proposal awaits Presidential ascent. As per REC filing share exchange ratio is yet to be finalised. (ToI, May 17)
18. A report by SBICAPS identified 9 state owned DISCOMs (UP, Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, Aasma, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, West Bengal and Uttarakhand) for complete privatization. However, with caveat of no responsibility, it also specifically mention that report is not prepared with a view towards compliance with published guidelines or generally accepted accounting principles.
19. Following successful trial run of 800 MW U-2 of PVUNL, NTPC group has crossed 90 GW installed capacity mark.
20. On 26th May, AGEL announced CoD of a 50 MW solar project and a 1,990 MWh BESS located in Khavda, Gujarat. With these, AGEL's total operational RE capacity has reached 19,785.8 MW. The BESS at Khavda is now 3,366 MWh, the largest single location installation, outside China.
21. RIL has rolled out first batch of first 200 MWp BIS-Certified high efficiency HJT Solar Modules form its Jamnagar Facility. The 720-watt-peak (Wp) modules are stated to have nearly 10% higher energy yield and around 25% lower degradation. (UNI, May 28)

Initiatives/ Achievements

1. 43 projects under Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI), have been commissioned. PGCIL tops the chart with 20 projects followed by NTPC at 14.
2. On Feb 5 China’s Three Gorges Corporation connected the world's first 20 MW offshore wind turbine to the Grid. With three 147 M blades hoisted to a height of 174 M, complete assembly of 300 M dia rotor has a swept area of about 10 standard football fields. (Interesting Engineering, Feb 06)
3. With commissioning of a new 765 kV, 628 ckm line in Rajasthan to facilitate evacuation of additional 1,100 MW RE power, India's power transmission network has crossed five lakh circuit kilometres and 1,400 GVA transformation capacity. (ET, Jan 22)

4. On February 15, in a first of its kind operation, the US Air Force and DoE successfully airlifted a 5 MW next generation nuclear microreactor "Ward 250" via three C-17 Globemaster III. (TOI , Feb 16)
5. In the roll out of P2P power trading, during the AI summit, a farmer from Meerut used a secure, blockchain-enabled platform to sell surplus electricity to a garment shop owner in the capital. He sold six units of solar power & earned Rs 30. India Energy Stack framework may also soon allow electricity bills to be issued as digital credentials on Digi Locker or other platforms (Energyworld, Feb 19)
6. Power foundation of India with REC ltd has released first "Rating Regulatory performance of states and UTs 2025". Punjab tops with 97. 11 SERCs got A grade. In Western grid MERC and MPERC gets A; Gujrat, Goa & DD&NH got B while Chhattisgarh C.
7. NASA is developing a new nuclear battery that could run for four centuries. Powered by Americium-241 isotope (with half-life of nearly 433 years), it will outlast currently in use Radioisotope Power Systems (RPS) powered by Plutonium-238 (with half-life of 88 yrs).
8. In a landmark achievement, prototype indigenous 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR), designed by IGCAR and built & commissioned by BHAVINI, attained first criticality on 6th April. Unlike conventional reactors, PFBR, enables production of more fuel than it consumes, which will fuel 3rd stage of India's nuclear power program.
9. In a sort of record in international nuclear arena, AERB has approved restart and continued operation of Unit-2 of Tarapur Atomic Power Station for 10 more years after recent refurbishment. TAPS Units-1 & 2 , with COD in 1969 are India's first nuclear reactors based on Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) design. (Deccan Herald, May 12)
10. Saudi researchers led by Professor Peng Wang at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, have innovated a new cooling system NESCOD (No Electricity and Sustainable Cooling on Demand). Instead of relying on Compressors, Refrigerant cycles and electricity, it uses endothermic dissolution involving Ammonium Nitrate, Water with recharge by Solar Energy. (ToI, May 15)

Statistics

1. India added a record 55.29 GW RE capacity in FY26. With total installed RE capacity of 274.7 GW (Solar- 150.3, Wind 56.1, Large Hydro 51.4, Bio 11.7, Small Hydro 5.2), now India stands third globally (surpassing Brazil), however China is still about 8 times higher than India.
2. For the first time ever, on 1st May 2026, India's Real Time Market hit Rs.0.00/kWh, across two consecutive 15 min. blocks at 10:30 & 10:45 AM. Prices stayed near-zero (< 0.1 paisa) for about 3 hrs.
3. During the 3rd week of May, for four consecutive days new All India demand record was set. On 18th – 257.37 GW, 19th – 260.45 GW, 20th – 265.44 GW and on 21st – 270.82. While peak demand is during 3 to 4 PM, more challenging is evening/ night demand (about 250 GW), after 60 GW+ solar is gone
4. MPPGCL's 210 MW U#5 at the Amarkantak TPS in Chachai, has completed more than 600 day record of continuous generation. The first unit of state sector to achieve the milestone, it has regularly recorded PAF exceeding 95%.
5. In the 14th Discom rating report, claim that Discoms on aggregate are now in profit. However, experts point raise discrepancies, pointing out that before government takeover, DISCOM are in fact in a cumulative loss of Rs 36,935 Cr. In the ranking, Torrent Power has topped. In state sector Gujrat utilities occupied the top four slots, followed by Punjab and PVVNL of UP. Chhattisgarh with score of 70.40, upgraded from category 'B' to 'A'.

The Challenge

1. Alleging "globalist agendas" conflict with its national interest, US has withdrawn from over 60 international organisations, including India-France-led International Solar Alliance (ISA). ISA, already lagging in key theme 'Towards 1000' (1,000 GW solar energy, by mobilising $1,000 billion to deliver clean energy to 1,000 million people, by 2030) will have added difficulties. (Indian Exp, Jan 08)
2. With surge in RE and BESS, the emerging big challenge is handling the new waste. Implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for solar PV modules, panels, cells and batteries has yet to see light. With the targeted 280GW of solar power, more than 600,000 tonnes of solar waste may accumulate by 2030, further projected to increase 32-fold to more than 19 Million tonnes by 2050.
3. CEA Chairman has cautioned that inability to smoothly switch between coal and solar-wind energy is leading to "dangerous" frequency oscillations. Tamil Nadu. Experts point out that in the 3rd & 4th quarters of 2025, on 39 days, for more than 20% of the time, grid frequency remained above the ceiling. (The Hindu, Feb 27)
4. In an alarming trail of fake BGs, EOW Maharashtra has registered FIRs against multiple firms (at least 8) for submission of fake bank guarantees worth Rs 123 Cr. The BGs were submitted under Maharashtra's solar agriculture energy policy. (TOI, Feb 24)
5. Citing unfair manufacturing subsidies allowing exporters to undercut US producers, US has imposed preliminary duties of 126% on solar imports from India, 86% to 143% on Indonesia and 81% on Laos. These three accounted for 57% of solar-module imports to US in first half of 2025. (ET, Feb 25)
6. IEA has expressed concern that in many countries including India, household electricity prices have risen faster than incomes and inflation since 2019.. (Business Line March 02)
7. A catastrophic accident at Vedanta Power Plant in Chhattisgarh on April 14, claimed 20+ lives and left 36+ others severely burnt. The accident raised serious concerns about preservation in stressed assets & checks before restoration. Amid allegations of rapid unsafe load increase it also questions sharp ramp up vs operational safety. (NDTV)
8. As per reports, in Kochi at several places KSEB transformers have reached a saturation point, making it difficult to connect new solar panels of domestic consumers to the grid. Though KSEB is installing BESS however constrained by local saturation, it is considering advising consumers to install their own storage. (ToI, April 14)

Compilation by

- Vinay Pandey, Chhattisgarh

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

— Benjamin Franklin

"Knowledge is power. Information is liberating.
Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family."

— Kofi Annan

Uttar Pradesh: 565 Days of Unwavering Resistance

25th November 2024–

UP government announces privatisation of Purvanchal and Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigams covering 42 districts

Struggle Begins

Power employees and engineers take to the streets, facing harassment, repression, threats, suspensions, and dismissals

Movement Grows

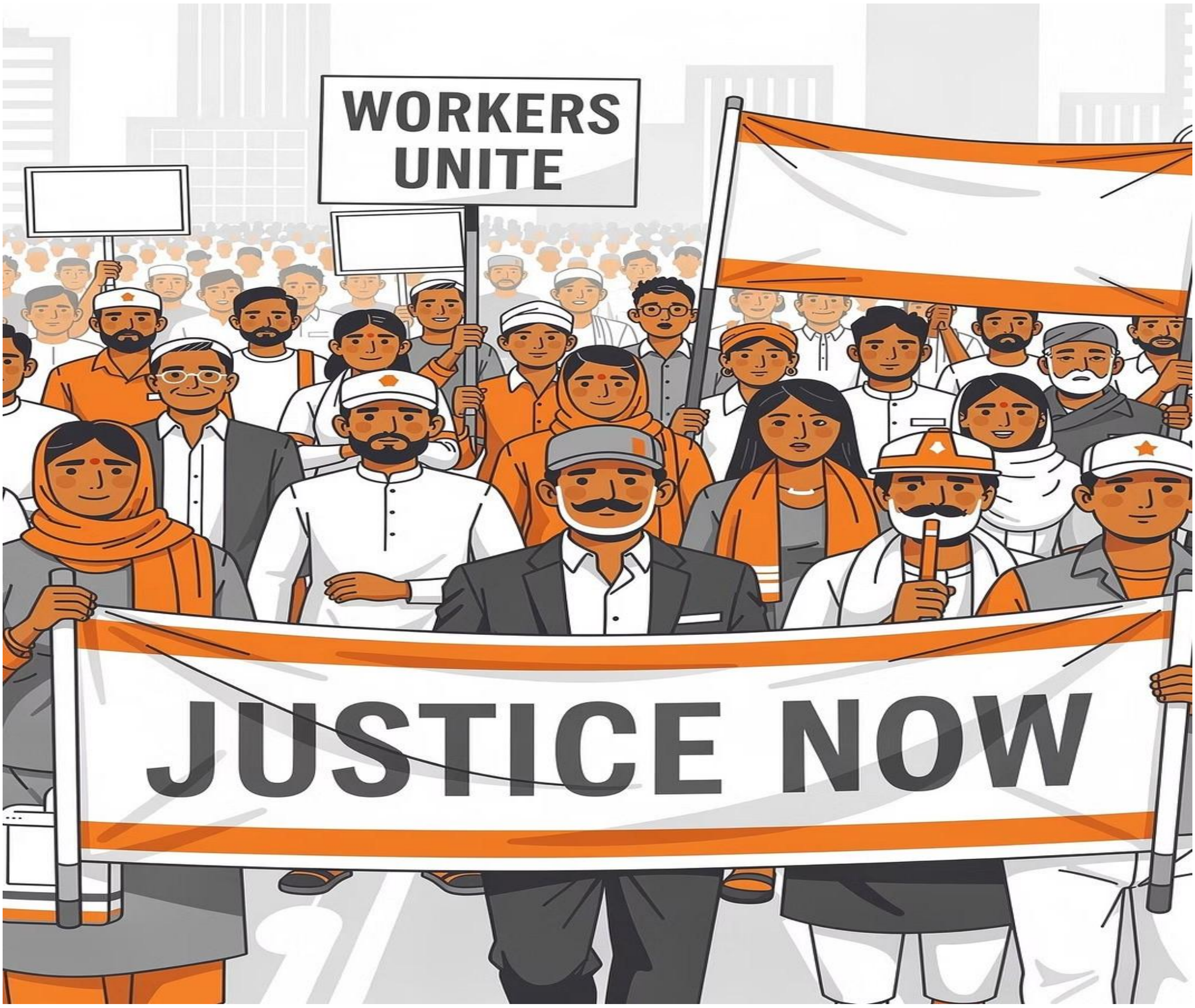
Agitation transforms into mass movement—power employees march together with farmers and consumers

12 June 2026

565 days completed. Tender not yet issued.

Movement continues until privatisation decision is withdrawn

Employees + Consumers +Farmers + Trade Unions



IN NEWS…

Power sector 'privatisation' proposal triggers face-off between Ladakh admn, local bodies

ADIL AKHZER

SRINAGAR, MAY 9

A confrontation is brewing between the Ladakh administration and the region's two influential socio-political bodies — the Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance — over a proposed restructuring of the power sector that critics allege amounts to privatisation.

The issue marks the first major standoff between the administration and Ladakh's key representative groups since Vinai Kumar Saxena assumed office as Lieutenant Governor in March and initiated a series of development measures across the Union Territory.

The controversy centres around a proposed joint venture between the Ladakh Power Development Department (LPDD) and the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC). According to a memorandum submitted last month by LAB and KDA to the Lieutenant Governor, the proposed structure envisages a 49 per cent stake for LPDD and a 51 per cent share for REC.

MP TERMS PLAN 'ANTI-PEOPLE'

- The Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance have opposed the proposed LPDD-REC joint venture, citing fears of losing public control over Ladakh's power sector
- Ladakh MP Haji Haneefa Jan termed the proposal "anti-people", warning it could weaken local accountability and regional control over critical public infrastructure
- The Electrical Contractors' Association Leh warned the proposed joint venture could hurt local contractors, reduce employment opportunities and increase tariff burdens
- Ladakh Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra denied reports of privatisation, calling them "baseless", and clarified no final decision had been taken by the administration

The two bodies expressed "strong objection and grave concern" over the proposal, alleging that it could pave the way for privatisation of the power sector in the region.

In their memorandum, the groups urged the administration to immediately reconsider or halt the proposal in its current form and instead explore alternative models that could improve efficiency and service delivery while keeping the power sector fully under public control.

Ladakh MP Haji Haneefa Jan also wrote to the Lieutenant Governor expressing "deep concern and unequivocal opposition" to the proposed move.

"This proposal is not only ill-conceived but also against the interests of the people of Ladakh," the MP said, adding that transferring control of public assets to an external entity would weaken local accountability and reduce the region's control over a critical sector.

Echoing similar concerns, Electrical Contractors Association Leh warned that the proposed LPDD-RECPDCL joint venture could marginalise local contractors, limit employment opportunities for Ladakhi youth and increase the tariff burden on consumers.

In response to the growing controversy, Ladakh Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra dismissed reports of privatisation as "baseless and misleading".

Clarifying the administration's position, Kundra said no decision regarding privatisation had been taken and urged the public not to be swayed by unverified information or spread misconceptions.

However, LAB and KDA leaders, while addressing a press conference, produced what they described as official documents indicating that the administration was preparing to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) related to the proposal.

"Chief Secretary sahib gave the impression that we are trying to mislead people. That is not true. We are only trying to make the public aware," said LAB co-chairman Cheering Dorjey Lakruk.

Lakruk claimed that the two bodies possessed documents showing that an MoU linked to the proposed restructuring was scheduled to be signed on May 9.

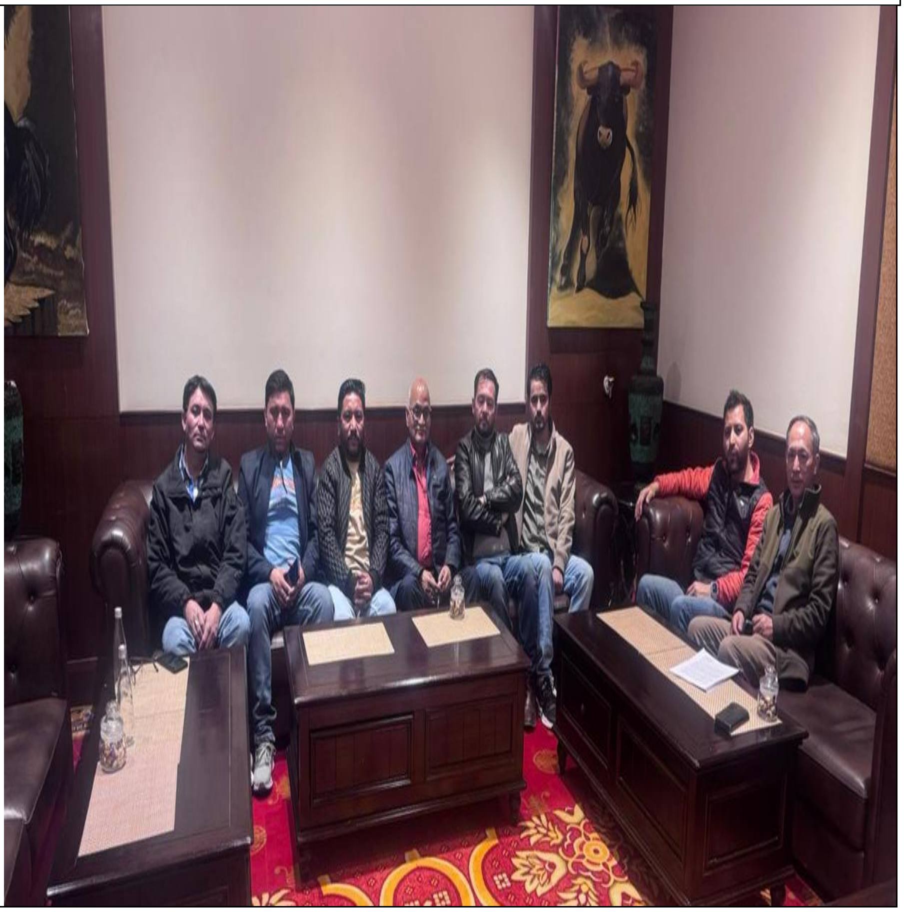
Meanwhile, representatives of the Electrical Contractors Association said the move appeared to have been temporarily put on hold following mounting public pressure.

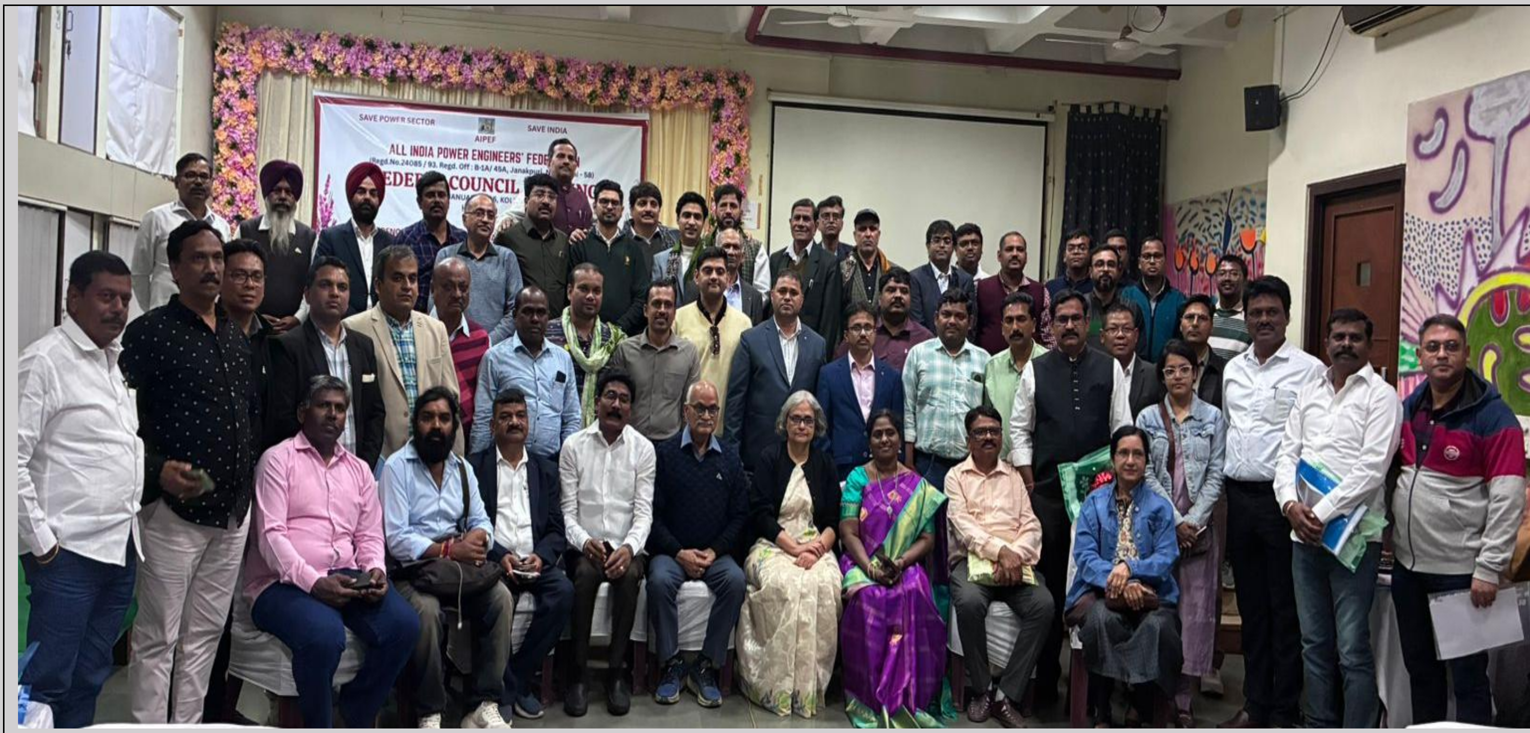
"However, the absence of any official clarification from the UT Administration continues to create uncertainty among local stakeholders," said Gelek Phunchok, a representative of the association.

The issue has emerged as the first major flashpoint between the Ladakh administration and the region's representative bodies under the new Lieutenant Governor.

During the tenure of former L-G Kavinder Gupta, Leh witnessed one of its first major incidents of public unrest in decades last year. Subsequent remarks by Gupta describing protesters as "anti-nationals" had further widened the trust deficit between the administration and local groups.

Leaders of the Apex Body reiterated on Saturday that they would continue to oppose any decision affecting Ladakh's future if taken without safeguarding local interests and consulting stakeholders.





AIMS & OBJECTIVES OF AIPEF

- **To provide a forum for formulating guidelines for the coordinated development of power in the best interest of the nation.**
- **To provide a common platform for discussion and exchange of views amongst Power Engineers on various technical and administrative problems with a view to improve proficiency in public service and to build up sound traditions and practices for the Power Engineers.**
- **To promote a sense of fraternity and a feeling of brotherhood amongst Engineers of professional as well as social levels.**
- **To formulate uniform guidelines and co-ordinate the activities of the constituents.**
- **To achieve, promote and safeguard professional freedom, dignity and interest of Power Engineers in the country.**
- **To help, encourage and guide, maintenance of high ethical standards and ideals of service among the Engineers in discharge of duties towards the people & the nation.**

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(Not for Sale/Any Commercial Gain)

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