CONCEPT NOTE

Power sector plays a crucial role in promoting economic growth, industrial development and social welfare. Access to reliable and affordable electricity is essential for improving productivity, supporting industrialisation and enhancing the quality of life. However, the sector continues to face significant challenges related to financial sustainability, operational efficiency, electricity pricing, and integrating renewable energy sources.

The National Conference on "**Issues In The Indian Power Sector: Reforms and Question of Sustainability"** aims to examine the various issues related to India's power sector. It will provide a platform for discussing power sector reforms, financial and institutional constraints, regulatory developments and emerging opportunities associated with the transition towards sustainable energy.

By bringing together researchers, academicians, policymakers and industry experts, the conference seeks to develop a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by the Indian power sector and identify policy measures that can promote financial viability, energy security and inclusive development in India.

WHY IS POWER SECTOR TRANSFORMATION IMPORTANT?

A financially sustainable and efficient power sector is essential for ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply, supporting economic activities and promoting regional development. Improvements in electricity distribution, tariff rationalisation, reduction of technical and commercial losses and strengthening of power utilities can contribute to better sectoral performance.

At the same time, the growing importance of renewable energy, technological advancement and changing patterns of electricity demand require new approaches to energy planning and governance. Addressing these challenges is vital for ensuring affordable electricity, reducing regional disparities and supporting India's transition towards a cleaner and more sustainable energy future.

The Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur (IDSJ), established in 1981, is an autonomous research organisation supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and the Government of Rajasthan. The Institute promotes multidisciplinary research on issues related to economic and social development.

Located in Jaipur, Rajasthan, IDSJ provides an academic platform for research, policy dialogue and scholarly exchange on contemporary development challenges.

How to Reach: The Institute is located in the Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur, approximately 9 km from Jaipur Railway Station and 8 km from Jaipur International Airport.

Conference Coordinator:
Dr. Varinder Jain
Assistant Professor, IDSJ

INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Call for Papers

National Conference

2027

ISSUES IN THE INDIAN POWER SECTOR

REFORMS AND QUESTION OF SUSTAINABILITY

11-12 MARCH, 2027

Institute of Development Studies
Jaipur, Rajasthan

Submission Guidelines

Important Dates

Date of Announcement: October 28, 2026.
Last date to apply / Abstract submission: December 31, 2026.
Selection notification: January 7, 2027.
Registration dates: February 16–25, 2027.
Full paper submission deadline: March 7, 2027.
Conference dates: March 11–12, 2027.

Eligibility

Early-career researchers, PhD scholars, faculty members, and independent researchers are invited to submit papers.

Abstract & Full Paper

Abstract length: maximum 300 words.
Full paper length: approximately 8,000 words (word count may vary modestly).
Only complete (full) papers will be considered for presentation, discussant allocation, and travel support, and one author will be reimbursed, subject to IDSJ rules.

Formatting and Submission Format

Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt. Line spacing: 1.25.
File format: MS Word (.doc/.docx).
Include title, author(s) name(s), affiliation(s), and contact email on the first page.

Selection and Publication

Submissions will be peer-reviewed.
Selected papers will be considered for publication in a conference volume (Book) to be published by a leading academic press (Oxford University Press/Cambridge University Press/Palgrave/Routledge or similar).

Travel Grant (Conditions)

Travel support: Reimbursement for 3rd AC travel will be provided to the participants by the shortest route(Non-Rajdhani Trains) and local travel by taxi to/from the railway station, as per IDSJ rules. Reimbursement for air and 2nd AC fare will also be provided to the selected participants
Accommodation will be provided on a single basis to the selected participants.
Guest house stay: March 10–13, 2027.

Registration Fee

There is no registration fee for presenters.

Presentation Format

Mode of Conference: Offline.
Each presentation: 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of Q&A.
Papers will have assigned discussants; presenters should submit full papers on time to allow adequate review.

Certificate

A Certificate of Presentation will be awarded to presenters at the closing ceremony.

How to Submit & Contact

For queries and submission details, please submit your paper through the following Google Form link:
https://forms.gle/Q6yFj98BpEzeekKT8

Acknowledgement

This conference has been made possible through the generous support and funding of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi.

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)

The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) was established in 1969 by the Government of India as an autonomous body to promote, guide and support research in the social sciences. It functions under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. ICSSR aims to foster high-quality research, build research capacity, and encourage the application of social science knowledge for addressing contemporary social and economic challenges. The Council provides financial assistance for research projects, seminars, workshops, publications and capacity-building programmes, and also supports institutional development and collaboration with national and international organizations. Through its initiatives, ICSSR seeks to promote evidence-based policy research and contribute to the inclusive and sustainable development of Indian society.
Website: www.icssr.org

Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Jaipur

Established in 1981 as an autonomous organization, IDS Jaipur is supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and the Government of Rajasthan. The Institute aims to understand development processes and challenges, focusing on the problems faced by marginalized sections and hinterlands. IDS Jaipur adopts a multi-disciplinary approach in its research activities and provides a platform for various stakeholders to discuss developmental issues. The Institute emphasizes the study of growth processes, the impact of public interventions like poverty reduction and employment generation programs, and participatory efforts by voluntary organizations concerning marginalized communities.
Website: www.idsj.org

THEMES FOR PAPER SUBMISSION

1. **Financial Sustainability of Power Utilities**

This theme examines the financial performance and viability of electricity utilities, particularly distribution companies (DISCOMs). Papers may explore financial losses, operational inefficiencies, revenue collection, debt burdens and measures to improve the financial sustainability of power distribution.

2. **Electricity Pricing and Market Reforms**

This theme invites research on electricity tariff structures, subsidies, pricing mechanisms and market efficiency. Studies may analyse the economic and distributional implications of electricity pricing reforms and their effects on consumers, utilities and industrial development.

3. **Renewable Energy and Energy Transition**

This theme explores the transition towards renewable energy and its implications for India's energy security and sustainability. Contributions may examine renewable energy integration, green financing, energy planning, and the challenges of moving towards a cleaner energy system.

4. **Technology and Infrastructure Development**

This theme focuses on technological advancement and infrastructure modernisation in the power sector. Papers may examine smart grids, digitalisation, infrastructure investment, technological innovation and improvements in electricity generation, transmission and distribution.

5. **Energy Access and Inclusive Development**

This theme explores the link between electricity access, affordability and inclusive economic growth. Research may focus on regional inequalities, energy equity, reliable power supply and their contribution to improving livelihoods, social welfare and economic opportunities.

6. Power Sector Reforms and Governance

This theme focuses on policy reforms, regulatory frameworks, and institutional arrangements that shape India's power sector. Contributions may examine governance structures, institutional accountability, regulatory effectiveness and the implementation of power sector reforms.

RELEVANCE OF POWER SECTOR TRANSFORMATION IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT

India's power sector is undergoing significant changes driven by rising electricity demand, renewable energy expansion, technological advancement and the need for financially viable utilities. These developments have increased the importance of efficient governance, sustainable investment and appropriate regulatory frameworks.

The transition towards renewable energy creates opportunities to improve environmental sustainability and energy security, but it also requires investment in infrastructure, improved grid management and effective integration of intermittent energy sources. Simultaneously, the financial condition of distribution companies and the affordability of electricity remain important concerns.

Understanding these interrelated challenges is essential for developing policies that balance economic efficiency, environmental sustainability and social equity. The conference will encourage research-based discussions to identify practical approaches for building a resilient, financially sustainable and inclusive power sector in India.

KEY ISSUES FACING INDIA'S POWER SECTOR

India's power sector faces key challenges, including financial stress of DISCOMs, distribution losses, tariff concerns, infrastructure gaps and operational inefficiencies. The growing share of renewable energy further demands better grid infrastructure, energy storage and system flexibility. Addressing these issues through institutional reforms, technological innovation and inclusive policies is essential for ensuring a reliable, affordable and sustainable power sector.