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# SOUTH ASIA CLEAN ENERGY FORUM 2024

October 21-24, 2024 | Hyatt Regency Mansarovar, Jaipur, India

**Engage. Solve. Act.**



South Asia is one of the fastest developing regions globally and its growing energy demand will have significant implications for the global transition towards clean energy. Accelerating clean energy deployment in the region will boost industry, create new markets, and lead to increased regional trade and economic growth.

### ABOUT SACEF 2024

SACEF is the convening platform of USAID/India focused on clean energy transition in South Asia. SACEF 2024 will bring together key government officials, international agencies and energy experts from across the world.

The objective of the forum is to **Engage, Solve, and Act.**

- **Engage:** Meet government leaders and decision-makers like Energy and Transport Secretaries from South Asia
- **Solve:** Prioritize short and long-term solutions like commitments from partners for the Low Carbon Comfort and Cooling Coalition
- **Act:** Commit to actions to achieve clean energy goals, like facilitation of investment, implementation support and deployment

### KEY SESSION THEMES

- Transforming Regional Electricity Green Grids: South Asia and Beyond
- Leaders' Roundtable on Expanding Regional Cooperation across Clean Energy Value Chain
- Decarbonizing Public Transport in South Asia: Accelerating transition through E-buses
- Modernizing Distribution for Next Generation Utilities
- Commitment to a Low Carbon – Comfort and Cooling Future
- Financing Clean Energy Transition in South Asia
- Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS): An enabler for RE integration
- Empowering Women Entrepreneurs to Drive Rural Clean Energy Solutions
- Cyber Aware Digital Transformation
- Connecting the Dots for Round-the-Clock Renewable Energy Procurement
- Harnessing the Power of Media and Communications for the Clean Energy Transition

To know more about SACEF 2024 scan the QR code:







# BHUTAN

## GOVERNMENT SPEAKERS



**Dasho Karma Tshering**

*Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MoENR)*

Dasho Karma has worked with the Royal Government of Bhutan for more than 25 years. He worked in various capacities as an Engineer, Planner, Policy Maker, Electricity Regulator, an Administrator and as a Member of Parliament. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) since March 23, 2021, and Chairperson of the Board since June 28, 2022.



**Dasho Phuntsho Tobgay**

*Secretary, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MoIT)*

Dasho Phuntsho began his career in 1988 as a trainee officer with RIM, later joining the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1989. He held key roles in the Department of Revenue and Customs, including Sales Tax Commissioner, and served as Director General of the Department of Geology and Mines. With expertise in tax policy, audit, and infrastructure development, Phuntsho contributes significantly to national initiatives.



**Karma P Dorji**

*Director General, Department of Energy, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MoENR)*

Karma P. Dorji has been instrumental in Bhutan's renewable energy initiatives, focusing on the development and integration of green hydrogen as a sustainable energy source. Under his leadership, the country has launched a Green Hydrogen Roadmap, which outlines plans for hydrogen pilot projects aimed at reducing reliance on fossil fuels, especially in sectors such as transportation and industry



**Dasho Chhewang Rinzin**

*Managing Director, Druk Green Power Corporation Limited*

With a Bachelors and a Masters in Electrical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin, USA, Chhewang Rinzin heads Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd, the public sector generation utility of Bhutan, as its first Managing Director. With over 38 years of service to the Government of Bhutan, He has served in various capacities in Bhutan's power sector. Amongst the many portfolios held, He was an Adviser/Member in the first Interim Government (April - July 2013), the second Interim Government (August- October 2019), and the third Interim Government (November 2023 – January 2024).

**Sonam Tobjey**

Chief Executive Officer, Bhutan Power Corporation Ltd.

Sonam Tobjey began his career in Bhutan's Civil Service in 1990 and joined Bhutan Power Corporation in 2002. He served as Director of Finance and Accounts Services before becoming CEO in 2018. Sonam holds a Master's degree in Accountancy from the University of Canberra, Australia, and a Bachelor's degree in Commerce (Hons) from Shri Ram College of Commerce, New Delhi. He brings extensive experience in finance and leadership to BPC.

**Deki Choden**

CEO, Electricity Regulatory Authority, Bhutan

Deki Choden has a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology, Thammasat University, Thailand, and a Master's degree in Energy Systems and Management from the University of Flensburg, Germany, and she also completed a course in Energy Security in South Asia from Australian National University under the Australia Awards scholarship. She has over 20 years of experience in policy, planning and regulation of the electricity sector.

**Ugyen Norbu**

Chief Program Officer, Dept. of Surface Transport, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MoIT)

Ugyen serves as Chief Program Officer, focusing on transport planning, sustainable policies, and eco-friendly initiatives. With over a decade of experience in road safety and public transport, he plays a key role in shaping Bhutan's transport policies. Ugyen holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and a Master's in Transportation Engineering, contributing to the advancement of sustainable transportation in Bhutan.

**Sangay Tenzin**

Director, Controls and Protection Department, Bhutan Power Corporation, Ltd.

Sangay leads the Construction & Procurement Department at BPC, bringing over two decades of experience in the power sector. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Thammasat University, Thailand, and a Master of Business Administration from The Australian National University. Sangay has held various leadership roles at BPC, including Director of HR & Corporate Services, Chief Internal Auditor, and Project Manager in Urban Electrification.

**Dr. Lhendup Namgyal**

Gen. Manager, Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC)

Dr. Lhendup has been engaged in Bhutan's hydropower sector since 2001, focusing on the construction, operation, and maintenance of hydropower plants. He currently leads the Hydropower Research & Development Centre (HRDC) at DGPC, driving innovation in hydropower technology. He earned his PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of New Brunswick, Canada, in 2012.



**Dechen Pema Yangki**

Executive Engineer, Department of Energy, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MoENR)

Dechen Pema has 11 years of professional experience in renewable energy and energy efficiency. She specializes in energy data analytics, project planning and implementation, and GHG emission reporting and mitigation strategies. Dechen holds a Master's in Urban Climate and Sustainability from Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland, and a Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering from the College of Science and Technology, Bhutan. She was instrumental in developing Bhutan's National Energy Efficiency Policy in 2019.

**Karma Phuntsho**

Gen. Manager, Operation and Maintenance Service Center, Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd.

Karma brings extensive experience in the implementation and maintenance of hydropower plants. He currently leads the Operation & Maintenance Services Centre and previously headed the Dagachhu hydropower plant. He also has experience in energy trading and clean development mechanism activities. Karma holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from the University of Kerala, India, and a Master's in Energy (Power System Management) from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand.

**Kuenga Tshering**

Gen. Manager, Chukha Hydropower Plant, Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd.

Kuenga has been with Druk Green for 13 years, overseeing operations, maintenance, and resource management to ensure optimal plant performance. Throughout his career, he has held various leadership roles, demonstrating strong problem-solving and managerial skills in hydropower plant operations across Druk Green. He holds a Master's in Engineering (Mechanical) from Edith Cowan University, Australia.

**Karma Chhophel**

Gen. Manager, Distribution and Customer Services Division, Bhutan Power Corporation Ltd.

Karma has over 30 years of experience in Bhutan's power sector. He has been integral to the sector's growth, working with the Department of Power and later BPC since its inception in 2002. He oversees operations, maintenance, planning, and customer services across 19 Electricity Services Divisions, ensuring reliable, high-quality electricity for Bhutan's growing customer base.

**Jigme Dorji**

Sr. Engineer, Bhutan Power System Operator (BPSO)

Jigme is an electrical engineer specializing in power system operation and cross-border electricity transactions. With expertise in managing complex power systems and facilitating international energy exchanges, he plays a critical role at BPSO. He contributes significantly to optimizing Bhutan's power grid and enhancing regional energy cooperation.

**Tshering Yangdon**

Legal Officer, Electricity Regulatory Authority

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Tshering is a legal officer at the Electricity Regulatory Authority, specializing in regulatory frameworks and dispute resolution, with a focus on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). She is a passionate researcher, exploring the intersection of law and emerging energy innovations. Tshering holds an LLB from JSW School of Law, Bhutan.

**Tshering Dendup**

Transport Officer, Transport Planning and Development Division, DOST, MoIT

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Tshering Dendup is a Transport Officer at the Department of Surface Transport in Bhutan, a role he has held since June 2022. Previously, he served as a Transport Officer at the Road Safety & Transport Authority from January 2019 to June 2022. He holds a postgraduate degree in Public Administration from the Royal Institute of Management, completed in 2018, and an undergraduate degree from Sherubtse College (2013-2016).





# INDIA

## INAUGURAL CHIEF GUEST



**Hon'ble Shri Heeralal Nagar**

*Minister of State for Energy, Government of Rajasthan*

Hon'ble Heeralal Nagar is the Minister of State for Energy (Independent Charge) in the Government of Rajasthan. Representing the Sangod constituency, he has been elected to the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly in the 14th and 16th assemblies as a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party. He is focused on promoting renewable energy, enhancing power infrastructure, and ensuring sustainable energy solutions for Rajasthan.

## CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SPEAKERS



**Dr. Surendrakumar Bagde**

*Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)*

Dr. Surendra Kumar Bagde, an IAS officer from the 1993 Maharashtra cadre, serves as the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Appointed to this role in 2021, he has a distinguished career in public administration, previously holding various significant positions that include promoting investment across sectors in Maharashtra.



**Dr. Jaideep Gupta**

*Additional Member (Railway Electrification), Railway Board, Ministry of Railways*

Dr. Jaideep Gupta, an officer from the Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE), serves as the Additional Member (Railway Electrification) on the Railway Board, Indian Railways. With extensive experience in the field of railway electrification, he has previously held roles such as Dean at the Indian Railway Institute of Electrical Engineering (IRIEEN) and Additional General Manager (AGM) of Eastern Railway.



### **Ajay Talegaonkar**

Member (Economic & Commercial), Central Electricity Authority

Ajay Talegaonkar has made significant contributions to India's power sector, focusing on grid standards, renewable energy integration, and competitive bidding frameworks. He has also been involved in policy development, particularly around national electricity guidelines, and has actively engaged in academic initiatives to advance knowledge in power systems.



### **Lalit Bohra**

Joint Secretary, IC Division, Ministry of New And Renewable Energy (MNRE)

Lalit Bohra, an IRTS officer from the 1998 batch oversees significant programs like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for solar manufacturing, Green Energy Corridors, and the National Green Hydrogen Mission. Bohra holds an Electrical Engineering degree from IIT Bombay and an MBA in Finance from Birla Institute of Technology, Pilani. He has also been appointed as a Government Nominee Director on the board of Power Grid Corporation of India, contributing to India's clean energy transition



### **Gajendra Kumar**

Executive Director EE(M), Railway Board, Ministry of Railways

Gajendra Kumar serves as the Executive Director of Electrical Engineering (Maintenance) at the Railway Board, Ministry of Railways, India. He leads initiatives focused on maintaining and optimizing railway electrical systems, ensuring efficient and reliable operations. With expertise in electrical engineering, he plays a key role in advancing sustainable and modernized railway infrastructure to support India's transportation network.



### **Divyanshu Jha**

Deputy Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Divyanshu Jha currently serves as Deputy Secretary at Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India where he is leading the Rooftop Solar Program. His experience spans both State and Central Government, with key assignments in urban development, health policy, and renewable energy initiatives. He had held various important positions including Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate of Chatra, among others Director of Jharkhand State Aarogya Society. Mr. Jha is an Engineering Graduate (Computer Science) from IIT-Kanpur and a 2014-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre.



### **Milind Bhikanrao Deore**

Secretary, Bureau of Energy Efficiency

Milind plays a key role in promoting energy efficiency across various sectors, including railways, refineries, and electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs). He holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Finance from Savitribai Phule Pune University (2008-2010) and a Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.) in Chemical Engineering from Uttar Maharashtra Vidyapeeth (1996-2000).



**PNBV Chalapathi Rao**

Scientist, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

PNBV Chalapathi Rao is a dedicated Scientist-D at the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), focusing on advancing India's renewable energy initiatives. With expertise in solar energy, biofuels, and sustainable technology, he plays a crucial role in research and policy development. Chalapathi Rao is committed to driving innovation and supporting India's transition toward a clean energy future.

## STATE GOVERNMENT SPEAKERS

**Sudhansh Pant**

IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan

Sudhansh Pant, an Indian Administrative Service officer from the 1991 Rajasthan cadre, is currently the Chief Secretary of Rajasthan. He has previously held significant roles, including Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways. Pant brings extensive administrative experience, driving key state initiatives and ensuring effective governance.

**Ajay Jain**

Special Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh

Ajay Jain has played a significant role in advancing the state's renewable energy initiatives, particularly in solar and wind energy. Under his leadership, Andhra Pradesh has focused on expanding its renewable energy capacity, targeting 18 GW by 2022 and prioritizing projects like solar-wind hybrids and electric vehicle infrastructure. Jain has also overseen initiatives in power demand management and the establishment of smart metering systems across the state.

**Manu Shrivastava**

Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh

Manu Shrivastava, a 1991 batch IAS officer, has 31 years of experience, with 16 years dedicated to the energy sector. Holding B.Tech. and M.Tech. degrees in Electrical Engineering from IIT Delhi, he has led pioneering projects in solar energy, including the landmark 750 MW Rewa Project, which set a new benchmark in India's solar energy landscape. His expertise spans natural gas, electricity, and renewable energy.

**Alok**

Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan

Alok is a 1993-batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, currently serving as the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) of the Energy Department in Rajasthan. Before this, he had significant experience at the national level, including serving as an Additional Secretary at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the Ministry of Home Affairs. He has also worked with the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) during his central deputation.



### **Saket Kumar**

Managing Director, Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam and Secretary (Energy), Government of Haryana

Dr. Saket Kumar, an MD doctor and lawyer has served as Deputy Commissioner in several districts and led departments like Technical Education and Ayushman Bharat Mission. As Director General of Industries and Commerce, he developed the Haryana Enterprise and Employment Policy (HEEP-2020). A 2005 IAS officer, Dr. Kumar has received the Director's Gold Medal from LBSNAA, a Chief Secretary commendation for Ease of Doing Business, and a Chief Minister commendation for Ayushman Bharat.



### **Amit Kumar Agrawal**

MD, Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited (HVPNL)

Amit Kumar Agrawal is the Managing Director of Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited (HVPNL), where he oversees the state's electricity transmission infrastructure and grid operations. With a focus on enhancing power reliability and efficiency, he leads initiatives that strengthen Haryana's energy network, support renewable integration, and drive modernization efforts to meet growing energy demands sustainably.



### **Umesh Chand Joshi**

Joint Director, Department of Information Technology & Communication (DoIT&C), Government of Rajasthan

Umesh Chand Joshi is the Joint Director in the Department of Information Technology & Communication (DoIT&C), Government of Rajasthan. He holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. With over 20 years of experience in both corporate and government sectors, he has been instrumental in conceptualizing, developing policies, planning, implementing, and monitoring large-scale IT and e-Governance projects, including Rajeevika, ePanchayat, e-Mitra, and Raj Sahakar

## **PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS (PSUs)**



### **Vishal Kapoor**

CEO, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL)

Vishal is an accomplished professional with over 24 years of experience in cross-functional and multi-jurisdictional roles. He has a proven track record of leading large teams, developing strategies, and implementing high-impact policy frameworks. Before joining EESL, Vishal served as Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Power, where he led major power distribution reforms, private participation initiatives, and utility reforms, along with projects focused on IT, cybersecurity, and ease of doing business in the electricity distribution sector.





### **Ravindra Kumar**

Director Operations, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd.

Ravindra Kumar, currently the Director (Operations) at NTPC, has over 34 years of experience in the power sector. He began his career at NTPC as a Graduate Engineer Trainee in 1989 and has since held various roles in commissioning, operations, and project management. An engineering graduate from BIT Sindri, he previously served as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Director (Operations) at NTPC.



### **Sarit Maheshwari**

Chief Executive Officer, NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd

Sarit Maheshwari leads NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NTPCREL), focusing on expanding NTPC's green energy capacity with ambitious projects in solar, wind, hybrid energy, and green hydrogen. With over 30 years in the energy sector, he has managed diverse roles, including Head of Project at NTPC Korba and leadership positions in fuel management and gas power. His academic credentials include a Mechanical Engineering degree from Aligarh Muslim University, an M.Tech. in Power Generation from IIT Delhi, and an MBA in Marketing Management.



### **Prakash Chand Garg**

Chief Operating Officer (COO), Central Transmission Utility of India Ltd

Prakash Garg is COO of Central Transmission Utility of India Ltd. He was appointed Director of the Board in 2021. He is an electrical engineering graduate from JIWAJI University, Gwalior. In his 34-year career, he has worked in various capacities in EHV Substations and Transmission lines, both as an Operation & Maintenance executive and as a construction engineer. He also served as Executive Director of Western Region-II in POWERGRID. Before joining POWERGRID in 1991, he worked with NTPC for about four years.



### **Rajiv Kumar Porwal**

Director (System Operation), GRID-INDIA – National Load Despatch Center

Rajiv holds a degree in Electrical Engineering from MMM Engineering College, Gorakhpur, and a Master's in Power Electronics from IIT Delhi. With extensive experience in load despatch operations, he has played a key role in implementing phasor measurement units (PMUs) for system security and reliability. Before joining GRID-INDIA, he served as Executive Director at the Northern Regional Load Despatch Centre.



### **Vivek Pandey**

Senior General Manager, Grid-India

Vivek Pandey, an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, is deeply engaged in the operational stability and strategic planning of India's power grid. His expertise lies in energy systems management, focusing on integrating renewable energy sources, optimizing grid reliability, and supporting sustainable energy initiatives. With a strong technical background, he plays a key role in enhancing India's energy infrastructure, ensuring efficient power distribution, and advancing resilience across the national grid network.

**Ajay Kumar Sinha**

General Manager, Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited

Ajay Kumar Sinha, as Additional General Manager at SECI since December 2018, leads initiatives related to solar and rooftop projects under various government schemes. He is responsible for project conceptualization, stakeholder coordination, bid preparation, and managing Power Purchase Agreements. Ajay also oversees significant renewable energy projects, including a major floating solar project, and explores green hydrogen opportunities and renewable energy solutions for remote Himalayan areas.

**SC Saxena**

Director(MO), Grid Controller of India

With over 25 years of experience in power system operations and regulatory affairs, Samir Chandra Saxena now serves as the Director of Market Operations at Grid Controller of India Limited (Grid-India). He previously held the role of Executive Director at the National Load Despatch Centre, where he focused on market design and system operations. Saxena brings a wealth of expertise to his current role, overseeing initiatives that enhance grid efficiency and support India's evolving energy needs.

**Animesh Mishra**

Head - Sales, PR, Corporate Communications, EESL

Animesh Mishra leads EESL's efforts in scaling energy efficiency, overseeing programs like smart metering and EV infrastructure. His initiatives include developing an e-marketplace for energy-efficient products and expanding access to decentralized solar and efficient appliances to support India's sustainability goal.

**Chandrashekhar Reddy**

Southern Media Advisor, Bureau of Energy Efficiency

Chandrashekhar Reddy serves as the Southern Media Advisor for the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), where he focuses on promoting energy efficiency and conservation in southern states and Union Territories. He actively collaborates with state agencies, like those in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, to implement initiatives under Mission LiFE, aiming for sustainable practices and energy management.

## NON-GOVERNMENT SPEAKERS



**Aishwarya Kachhal**

Consultant SAREP

Aishwarya is a consultant with SAREP, World Bank and IFC. Earlier he was on the board of a public listed company a category leader in financing green transition and has helped large funds such as Partners group make large deals. In his twenty-year career, Aishwarya has been part of the founding team of two top 100 public listed companies in India, was the founder of an EV startup incubated at Harvard Innovation Lab and helped build several business and investment programs. Aishwarya is an alumnus of Harvard Business School.



**Arjun Gupta**

Chief Executive Officer, Smart Joules

Arjun is one of India's leading climate action entrepreneurs, committed to making sustainability the default choice. As the Founder & CEO of Smart Joules, he drives energy savings for large businesses through innovative cooling-as-a-service models and intelligent automation technologies. Under his leadership, Smart Joules has achieved 200,000 tons of CO2 savings and is ambitiously targeting 29 million tons by 2030, advancing India's sustainability efforts.



**Dr. Arun Kumar**

Emeritus Fellow, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee  
Department of Hydro and Renewable Energy

Dr. Arun brings over four decades of expertise in hydropower and pumped storage development, environmental management of water bodies, energy economics, and policy. He chairs the Hydro Research Committee of the Ministry of Power and serves as a member of the Central Advisory Committee of CERC. A fellow of multiple prestigious organizations, Dr. Kumar's work continues to shape India's renewable energy landscape. He also serves as an independent director of KSEB.



**Atul Mittal**

South Asia Director, Sistema.bio

Atul Mittal currently leads the South Asia division of Sistema.bio, a global social enterprise providing biogas solutions to smallholder farmers. With a background that includes roles at British Petroleum, Philips Electronics, and d.light solar, he brings a blend of corporate and social enterprise experience. At Sistema.bio, Mittal focuses on expanding access to biodigesters, which convert agricultural waste into biogas and bio-fertilizer, reducing reliance on chemical fertilizers and offering clean cooking solutions for farmers.





### **Ankit Rastogi**

General Manager, Renew

Ankit Ankit Rastogi is a dedicated professional in the renewable energy sector, focusing on strategic business development and policy. He leverages his expertise to drive strategic initiatives that promote sustainable energy solutions. With an experience of more than 15 years, Ankit has previously worked with Power Grid Corporation of India in areas like Corporate Strategy, Smart Grids, and Business Development. He holds a Masters' degree in Business Administration from IIM Lucknow and a BTech from MNNIT Allahabad.



### **Avik Roy**

Managing Director, Re-emerging World (Swayam Shikshan Prayog)

For over 15 years, Avik Roy has worked on business strategy and sustainable growth for emerging markets, with a focus on inclusive business models and impact assessment. He has led projects across 10 countries, engaging with global institutions and social enterprises to design innovative solutions for low-income communities. Formerly with ICI India and TCS, he joined Professor C.K. Prahalad's firm, The Next Practice, in 2005. Avik holds an MBA from IIM Kozhikode, where he earned the Gold Medal for Best All-Round Performance, and a Mechanical Engineering degree from Jadavpur University



### **Balawant Joshi**

MD, Idam Infra

Balawant Joshi, founder and Managing Director of Idam Infrastructure Advisory, has nearly 30 years of experience in the energy sector, including roles at Tata Power and Deloitte. He is the founder and secretary of the Indian Renewable Energy Federation and a member of IEEE and the Computer Society of India. An electrical engineer, he also holds degrees in finance and software technology.



### **Brajesh Kumar**

Chief Project Development & Commercial Officer – IPP Business, Gensol Electric Vehicles Pvt Ltd

During his career spanning over 20 years in the renewable energy sector, Brajesh has worked on strategic assignments and projects to business strategies, policies & regulations, mergers & acquisitions, project planning & development, etc. Before joining Gensol, he was associated with leading power sector organizations such as Apraava Energy (erstwhile CLP India), Cairn India, ABPS Infrastructure Advisory, etc. He is a qualified Mechanical Engineer from the Agra University. He holds a MBA degree from the National Power Training Institute.



### **Dr. Charu Jain**

Managing Trustee, Advit Foundation

Dr. Charu Jain is an environment and gender specialist with expertise in water management and community empowerment for environmental conservation, with a focus on gender and natural resource management. She combines strong research skills in environmental governance with hands-on experience working on village development and skill training. Proficient in project design, planning, monitoring, and evaluation, Dr. Jain ensures impactful project implementation and sustainable outcomes.

**Deepak Singh**

Lead Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank

Deepak Singh is the Lead Disaster Risk Management Specialist at the World Bank, focusing on building resilience and reducing disaster risks worldwide. With extensive experience in risk assessment, climate adaptation, and disaster recovery, he leads initiatives to strengthen communities and infrastructure against natural hazards. Deepak is committed to promoting sustainable development and enhancing global disaster preparedness.

**Devendra Chawla**

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Green Cell

Devendra Chawla, has a rich and varied experience of 26+ years. Recently, he was the MD & CEO of Spencer's Retail and Nature's Basket. Prior to that, he was associated with Walmart India as EVP & COO and was CEO of the Future Consumer Limited (FCL) and Group President - Food, FMCG, Brands Future Group. He also served as the CEO - Food and Business Head for private brands (Future Group). Devendra Chawla did his Bachelor of Engineering in Production from Pune University. He holds an MBA degree from Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Pune, and is an alumnus of the Harvard Business School via its Advance Management Program.

**Debmalya Sen**

India Lead, Advanced Energy Solutions, World Economic Forum

Debmalya is an energy sector professional with over 13 years of experience in both conventional and clean energy. He has held diverse roles in operations, project development, asset management, business development, and management consulting. Debmalya holds a Bachelor's degree in Instrumentation Engineering, a Master's in Thermal Power Plant Engineering, and an MBA in Finance from SP Jain School of Global Management, where he earned the Dean's List and the Global Citizenship Award.

**Dr Faruk Kazi**

Professor & Dean of Research & Development at VJTI

Dr Faruk Kazi received his Ph.D. degree from IIT Bombay in 2009. He is currently working as Professor & Dean of Research & Development at VJTI, Mumbai. He has extensively worked in the areas of digital architecture and cyber security of critical energy infrastructure. He has contributed to developing resilience framework for smart grid and other smart city verticals.

**Gajanan S. Kale**

Chief Executive Officer, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd.

With over two decades of experience in the energy sector, he previously served as CEO of TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL) and TP Ajmer Distribution Ltd (TPADL). An M-Tech graduate in Integrated Power Systems from NIT-Nagpur, Kale has been with the Tata Power group since 2003. His expertise in operations, commercial transformation, and business process reengineering aims to drive growth and efficiency at Tata Power-DDL,

**Girish Balachandran**

Founder, ON PURPOSE

Girish Balachandran brings 20 years of international experience across the UK, EMEA, and South Asia, with a strong focus on leveraging communications for social change in India. His work has tackled issues such as early childhood education, childhood obesity, and under-5 vulnerability. Girish has also helped shape narratives to drive demand for renewables and has supported brands like Siemens and Nokia-Siemens Networks in building employee brand propositions post-merger.

**Harkesh Dabas**

Managing Director, William J Clinton Foundation

Harkesh Dabas is the Managing Director for the William J. Clinton Foundation in India, where he leads the Clinton Health Access Initiative's (CHAI) operations and partnerships in the country. His work includes overseeing key healthcare initiatives focused on improving access to essential medicines and health services. Before joining CHAI, Dabas served in the Indian Navy, holding leadership roles that involved strategic planning and policy execution.

**Jayashri Mali**

Clean Energy Product End User (Swayam Shikshan Prayog)

Jayshri Gorakh Mali has been connected to SSP for the past seven years. With experience in both business and agriculture, she has received training in agricultural practices and entrepreneurship. Jayshri is also a bio-digester user, showcasing her commitment to sustainable farming and energy solutions in her community.

**Jitender Agrawal**

Chief Executive Officer, Surya Roshni

Jitender is a seasoned global business leader with over 28 years of experience, including 14 years leading diverse businesses. As CEO of Surya Roshni's Lighting and Consumer Durable Business, he drives profitable growth and champions energy efficiency through innovative products and stakeholder engagement. An Electrical and Electronics Engineer from Mangalore University, Jitender has also completed a leadership development program at Wharton University, further strengthening his expertise in business leadership.

**Kalpana Sonkavade**

Clean Energy Micro-entrepreneur (Swayam Shikshan Prayog)

Kalpana Prakash Sonkawade, a resident of Antroli village in South Solapur, has a B.Sc. degree and has been associated with SSP for the past four years. She is engaged in business and holds the title of 'Swayam Sakhi'. Kalpana has completed 3-phase training and has sold 45 bio-digesters, promoting sustainable energy solutions within her community.



**Kushal Agrawal**

Partner, Lightrock India

Kushal is a founding team member at Lightrock, where he has led its growth from an AUM of \$10 million to over \$900 million in the past decade. He leads investments and strategy on energy access in emerging markets, serving on the boards of several companies across sectors. Before Lightrock, Kushal held roles at ITC and Zovi.com. He is a Chartered Accountant and an alumnus of Harvard Business School.

**Mangesh Lokhande**

Regional Manager - Infrastructure & Green Initiative, Infosys

Mangesh Lokhande is a Regional Manager at Infosys, based in Pune, with expertise in project management, sustainability, and energy conservation. He focuses on energy efficiency initiatives and the development of new infrastructure. Mangesh's skills include project design and execution, which he applies to advancing sustainable practices within Infosys.

**Mani Khurana**

Senior Energy Specialist, The World Bank Group

Mani Khurana is a Senior Energy Specialist at The World Bank Group, where she focuses on advancing sustainable energy solutions and strengthening energy access in developing countries. With expertise in renewable energy, policy, and project finance, she leads initiatives that promote clean energy transitions and resilience, helping countries achieve their energy and climate goals effectively.

**Mashal Dhawan**

President at Smart Energy Water

With over 14 years of experience, Mashal Dhawan leads initiatives at Smart Energy Water (SEW) focused on global marketing, customer outreach, and digital transformation. She has played a key role in expanding SEW's impact through innovative platforms that support sustainability in the energy and water sectors. Dhawan's work emphasizes platform innovation, brand building, and identifying new markets to meet evolving utility industry needs. She has an engineering background from Thapar University and advanced management training from IIM Calcutta.

**Nishant Arya**

Vice Chairman & MD, JBM Group Chairman, Linde + Wiemann SE & Co. KG

Nishant Arya is a dynamic business leader known for transforming JBM Group into a global conglomerate. A graduate in Business Administration from Bradford University, UK, with further studies at the London School of Economics, he has spearheaded innovative business models in energy storage, EV charging, and solar power. His strategic vision has created integrated zero-emission solutions, advancing JBM Group's green footprint globally.



### **Pawan Mathur**

Assistant Vice President, ITRON

With over 30 years of leadership experience, Pawan Mathur has a proven track record in establishing business operations, manufacturing facilities, and growth strategies that align with organizational goals. A seasoned business leader, he has consistently delivered top-line and bottom-line success in both domestic and international markets. Pawan's expertise spans business development, sales, marketing, product management, and forging strategic partnerships that drive long-term growth and operational excellence.



### **Pratyush Sinha**

Vice President, Special Projects At LOHUM Cleantech PVT Limited

Pratyush Sinha is the Vice President of Special Projects at Lohum Cleantech, a critical materials company based out of India. At Lohum, he oversees multiple departments including those related to R&D on lithium-ion cell degradation, software development, and market and policy research. In the past, Mr. Sinha ran an AI startup, building solutions for information management in the financial services industry. Mr. Sinha was trained as an electrical engineer at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur from where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees.



### **Pratyush Thakur**

Investment Director & Country Head (India), Blueleaf Energy

Pratyush is a serial entrepreneur, deal maker and business creator; In his 16+ years of corporate career, he successfully built businesses in complex organisational and market set-up. Managed several, equity and mezzanine investments as well as fund raising totalling more than \$700 million, including IPO. He has been recognised by several agencies amongst top leaders in India.



### **R P Singh**

Senior Vice President, Smart Energy Water

RP Singh is a transformational leader with two decades of experience in driving cloud-first and mobile-first strategies across the industry. Before leading SEW, he worked with companies such as IBM, Microsoft, Cisco, SAP, and Airtel. Known for his expertise in business management and sales, he specializes in scaling businesses with a people-first approach. His experience spans the Asia Pacific and Middle East regions, where he has built strategies for hyper-growth, regional entry, and strategic partnerships.



### **Rahul Aeron**

Vice President-Sales, Desiccant Rotors International Pvt. Ltd.

Rahul, a mechanical engineer with over 28 years of experience in the air engineering sector, leads sales at Desiccant Rotors International Pvt. Ltd. (DRI) in Gurugram, India. He drives innovative solutions for energy recovery, indoor air quality, and cooling systems globally. Passionate about designing energy-efficient ventilation solutions, Rahul is an active member of ISHRAE and ASHRAE, and has delivered numerous lectures on indoor air quality and ventilation practices.

**Ramesh Kumar Kuruppath**

Chief of Unit (PPIC), International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Ramesh Kumar Kuruppath has been with ISA since 2019, leading Programme & Projects Implementation for member countries. Under his leadership, ISA supports 44 countries and has trained professionals from 94 countries, focusing on universal energy access, security, and transition. He previously headed the Solar Division at the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) from 2013 to 2018, playing a crucial role in developing solar parks. With over 35 years in the power sector, including extensive experience at NTPC, he has been instrumental in planning, monitoring, and commissioning power plants, contributing significantly to sustainable global growth.

**Richa Mishra**

Journalist, The Hindu Business Line

Richa Mishra is the Chief of Bureau at The Hindu BusinessLine, where she leads coverage on various critical topics, especially in the energy sector. With over two decades of experience, she has developed a specialization in oil and gas journalism, extensively covering India's petroleum industry. In addition to her journalism career, she authored the book 'Unfilled Barrels: India's Oil Story', which explores the history and challenges of India's fossil fuel sector, detailing corporate conflicts and policy dynamics. Her reporting focuses on energy security, policy shifts, and the evolving landscape of India's energy needs.

**Rohit Sharma**

Head of Cyber Security / CISO, Adani Power Limited

Rohit has over 20 years of experience in managing cybersecurity and IT in the power sector. A certified Lead Auditor and Lead Implementer for ISO-27001, he has established and led cybersecurity programs for major organizations, including the largest power generation company in India. He has extensive hands-on experience with a wide range of security technologies across both IT and OT cybersecurity domains, and he set up a state-of-the-art Cyber Security Operations Center.

**Sanjay Singh**

Group General Manager, REMCL

Sanjay Singh, a member of the IRSEE-99 batch, oversees power planning and procurement at REMC Ltd., offering advisory services to Indian Railways on regulatory matters and Open Access. With a degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kharagpur and a postgraduate diploma in management, he has over 20 years of experience in traction distribution, railway coach design, and electric locomotive maintenance. Recognized for his contributions to railway electrification, he has been honored by the Railway Minister and received the General Manager's award twice.

**Satish Mandhana**

Senior Managing Director and Chief Investment Officer, Eversource Capital

Satish Mandhana is Senior Managing Director and Chief Investment Officer at EverSource, leading investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and green growth. With over 40 years of experience, he has helped create new platforms such as IDFC. He has also been associated with JK Paper Limited, GE Capital, SRF Limited, and Eicher Limited as part of his operating experience. Satish holds an MBA from the Faculty of Management Studies.



**Shilohu Rao**

Senior Vice President (Support), Goods And Services Tax Network

With 24+ years in e-governance and digital transformation, Shilohu Rao has been instrumental in India's GST implementation and is a "Trusted Partner of GST." He led capacity-building for cyber law, trained over 1,000 professionals, and created the Digital India Learning Portal. His work, including developing the DIVYA app, has earned international recognition for advancing India's digital landscape.

**Shiv Kataria**

Senior Key Expert, R&D, Siemens

Shiv Kataria, a Senior Key Expert in R&D at Siemens, drives OT security initiatives with a focus on strategic planning, risk governance, and cross-functional collaboration. He enhances resilience and mentors teams, aligning cybersecurity efforts with business goals and fostering innovation through programs like the Next47 Accelerator. Shiv's work emphasizes proactive security strategies to protect critical infrastructure and support industry advancements.

**Simmi Sareen**

Partner, Sustana Cooling India Fund

Simmi is the co-founder of Climake, a platform that facilitates access to capital for climate tech startups. Climake focuses on investment advisory, innovative financing structures, and collaborative research in climate finance. Simmi is also a partner at Sustana Cooling India Fund, which is raising a \$100 million venture equity fund to invest in energy-efficient cooling technologies and startups in India, driving innovation in sustainable cooling solutions.

**Sriram Rangarajan**

Executive Vice President, CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd.

With a background spanning over 28 years in the consumer appliance industry, Sriram Rangarajan has built a reputation for driving significant business growth and enhancing profitability. His leadership emphasizes strategic planning, team empowerment, and sustainable development, qualities that have guided him through transformative roles. Before joining CG Power, he served as the CEO of Butterfly Gandhimathi Appliances Ltd. and was Vice President for Fans at Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd., and he held a general management role at Whirlpool of India Ltd.

**Suhas Sutar**

Vice President - ESS Business, Replus

With over 20 years of experience in electrical network design, power distribution, renewables, and energy storage, he currently leads the stationary Energy Storage Business at Replus, delivering MW-scale BESS projects in India and internationally. Previously, he spearheaded the BESS business at Mahindra Susten, where he delivered India's largest PV+BESS microgrid project (6MW/18MWh) for GPCL in Modhera, Gujarat.



### **Sunil Singhvi**

Group Head, Public Policy, Secure Meters

Sunil, a graduate in Electrical Engineering from MNIT Jaipur, has over 41 years of experience in the energy sector. He has worked with Hindustan Petroleum and BHEL before joining Secure Meters in 1991, where he now serves as Group Head of Public Policy and is part of the leadership team. Sunil, also President of the Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers Association, has played a pivotal role in Secure Meters' growth and led the rollout of smart meters in the UK, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, and other countries.



### **Swetha Ravi Kumar**

Executive Director, FSR Global Council

Swetha Ravi Kumar serves as the Executive Director of FSR Global, where she leads initiatives on policy dialogue, research, and training to advance sustainable energy practices. She focuses on strengthening knowledge exchange across the Global South and North, with projects in areas like smart grids and renewable energy transitions. Swetha holds a Master's degree in Sustainable Energy Engineering from KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden and has completed an Advanced Management Program at IIM Bangalore. Her previous experience includes roles in sustainability, technology, and finance in organizations like FMO and Fraunhofer ISE



### **Tabassum Momin**

Project Manager, Swyam Shikshan Prayog

Tabassum Momin has over 25 years of experience focused on agriculture, entrepreneurship, and energy. Her work emphasizes women's empowerment, food security, and sustainable practices. She delivers training on leadership and digital skills, specializing in the WCRF model, bio-digester projects, and value chains in dairy and pulses.



### **Dr. Tanushree Bhattacharjee**

Senior R&D Manager, GRIDsentry

Dr. Tanushree Bhattacharjee, a Senior R&D Manager at GRIDsentry, leads cybersecurity product development for power infrastructure. She focuses on creating solutions for anomaly detection, threat modeling, and network security in substations. With a Ph.D. from Jamia Millia Islamia, her work supports secure, efficient digital substation and microgrid implementations using advanced simulation techniques



### **Upmanyu Patil**

Director, Swyam Shikshan Prayog (SSP)

Upmanyu is the Program Director of the wPOWER program awarded by USAID/India for SSP and completed over 1000 women entrepreneurs until 2015, to launch small businesses around innovative clean technologies in Maharashtra and Bihar. He has been working with Swyam Shikshan Prayog since 1994 and he is a trained civil engineer with management background. His experience includes strengthening large scale interventions that involve community institutions and PRIs in water, environmental sanitation, energy and rural development.

**Vaibhav Chaturvedi**

Senior Fellow, Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW)

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Vaibhav Chaturvedi specializes in climate policy, energy transitions, and sustainable development. His research focuses on low-carbon pathways, renewable energy, and climate change mitigation strategies for India. Vaibhav is dedicated to providing data-driven insights that inform policy and support India's sustainable growth and climate goals.

**Vikram Gandotra**

Director (Industry & Policy), Siemens

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Vikram Gandotra is recognised in the Power T&D industry for his passion in introducing newer technologies to improve operations in Power Utilities. He has degrees in Electrical Engineering and Business Administration. He has a rich experience of over 30 years covering all areas in the Power Transmission & Distribution domains. He has worked on several projects for improvement of the networks of Power Utilities in India and abroad.





## GOVERNMENT SPEAKERS



### **Dr. Ram Prasad Dhital**

*Chairman, Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) of Nepal*

Dr. Ram Prasad Dhital brings over two decades of progressive experience in implementing hydropower, renewable energy programs, and electricity regulation at national and international levels, serving in executive and advisory capacities. He currently serves as the Chairman at the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) Nepal. He holds a Master's and Ph.D. in Renewable Energy Engineering and a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering.



### **Suresh Acharya**

*Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MOEWRI)*

As Secretary of Nepal's Ministry of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation (MOEWRI), Suresh Acharya oversees efforts to enhance sustainable energy, manage water resources efficiently, and strengthen irrigation infrastructure. With a strong background in public administration, he is committed to fostering renewable energy growth, implementing policy reforms, and supporting Nepal's journey toward energy independence and water resilience.



### **Gopal Prasad Sigdel**

*Secretary, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS), Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport (MOPIT)*

Gopal Prasad Sigdel, Secretary of the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, Government of Nepal, is a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) fellow with a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Germany. With over 24 years of experience, he has expertise in infrastructure project planning, design, and implementation, particularly in transport and irrigation. His extensive background supports Nepal's infrastructure growth and sustainable development goals.



### **Dinesh Kumar Ghimire**

*Former Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation*

Dinesh Kumar Ghimire chairs Vidyut Utpadan Company Limited, Rashtriya Prasharan Grid Company Limited, and Hydroelectricity Investment and Development Company Limited. With over 30 years in Nepal's power sector, he has led bilateral negotiations on water and power with India, China, and Bangladesh, promoted renewable energy, and taught engineering. Ghimire holds an M.Tech. from IIT Roorkee and a B.E. from Rajasthan University.

**Babu Raj Adhikari**

Joint Secretary (Technical), Investment Board of Nepal (IBN)

Babu Raj Adhikari leads the technical wing of the Investment Board of Nepal, focusing on PPP projects and hydropower development. He holds a B.E. in Civil Engineering from the University of Roorkee and an M.Sc. in Hydropower Development from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Prior to joining IBN, he worked as a Senior Divisional Engineer at the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation, playing a pivotal role in drafting key legislation, including the Electricity Act, Water Resources Act, and cross-border power trade guidelines.

**Mon Devi Shrestha**

Secretary, ERC

Mon Devi Shrestha, Secretary of the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC), is instrumental in shaping Nepal's energy regulations and policies. She works to create a fair, transparent, and efficient energy sector, ensuring reliable access and fostering sustainable practices. Her leadership aims to build a robust regulatory framework that aligns with Nepal's long-term energy and environmental objectives.

**Arjun Kumar Gautam**

CEO, Hydroelectricity Investment and Development Company Limited (HIDCL)

Arjun Kumar Gautam is a highly accomplished civil engineer with a BE-Civil degree and a Gold Medal from NIT Surat, India, and an MSc in Hydropower Development from NTNU, Norway. With extensive experience in national and multinational corporations such as Essar Power and GMR Energy, he currently leads the Engineering Department at HIDCL, overseeing various hydropower projects in Nepal, driving sustainable energy development in the region.

**Binod Bhattarai**

Senior Divisional Engineer, MOPIT

Binod Bhattarai is a Senior Divisional Engineer at the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport (MOPIT) in Nepal. With extensive expertise in infrastructure development, he focuses on planning, designing, and implementing transport projects that enhance connectivity and safety.

**Achyut Babu Ghimire**

Director - Distribution and Consumer Services Directorate, Nepal Electricity Authority

Achyut Babu Ghimire serves as the Director of the Planning and Technical Services Department under the Distribution and Consumer Services Directorate at the Nepal Electricity Authority. With a focus on power distribution and technical services, he plays a pivotal role in enhancing Nepal's electricity infrastructure, promoting efficient energy distribution, and advancing consumer services to support sustainable energy development, supply and demand and coordinating power trade with neighboring countries such as India.

**Ranju Pandey**

Director - Power System Management Department at the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA)

Ranju Pandey serves as the Director of the Power System Management Department at the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA). She holds a Master's degree in Energy and Environment Management from the University of Flensburg, Germany, and a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the Institute of Engineering, Pulchowk Campus in Nepal. Her role involves managing Nepal's power grid operations, including balancing supply and demand and coordinating power trade with neighboring countries such as India.

**Dr. Kundan Pokhrel Majagaiya**

Senior Officer, Alternative Energy Promotion Center, Nepal

Dr. Kundan Pokhrel Majagaiya excels in renewable energy, climate management, and energy efficiency. He focuses on clean energy access, carbon mitigation, and adaptation, driving policies for a just transition to sustainable energy. With strong statistical expertise, Dr. Majagaiya shapes data-driven solutions that support Nepal's renewable energy goals, enhance energy efficiency, and build climate resilience, fostering inclusive, impactful climate action.

## NON-GOVERNMENT SPEAKERS

**Rajan Rayamajhi**

Chairman, thee GO Clean Energy P. Ltd.

Rajan Rayamajhi is the Chairman of thee GO and an ardent advocate of sustainable transportation. He is the Founder/Executive Chairman of 5 companies dedicated to providing Nepal with eco-friendly mobility solutions. Under his leadership, Thee-Go has introduced various electric vehicles tailored to Nepal's unique needs, including budget-friendly cars, electric vans, and even pickup trucks designed for local terrain.



# MALDIVES

## GOVERNMENT SPEAKERS



**Ajwad Mustafa**

*Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy (MCCEE), Maldives*

Ajwad Mustafa serves as the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy, and chairs the Utility Regulatory Authority. He oversees the Ministry's executive functions, implementing key policy directives across sectors such as environmental protection, energy, water, sewerage, and infrastructure projects. Ajwad holds an MSc in Energy Economics and Policy from the University of Surrey, UK, and is instrumental in advancing sustainable development initiatives in the Maldives.



**Mariyam Shahana**

*Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation*

Mariyam Shahana serves as the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation in the Maldives. In this role, she oversees critical transport and infrastructure initiatives. Shahana's work focuses on building a sustainable and efficient transport network that supports both economic development and public welfare in the Maldives.



**Aminath Seeza**

*Assistant Director, Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy*

As an Assistant Director in the Energy Department at the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Technology in the Maldives, she oversees the Energy Efficiency Labeling Program, initiated in 2021. Her primary responsibility is to monitor the program, which currently includes three electrical appliances. She aims to expand appliance registration under the program, driving market transformation and contributing to the Maldives' efforts to reduce its carbon footprint through enhanced energy efficiency.



**Hamiyya Latheef**

*Deputy Director General Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation*

Hamiyya Latheef, with a Master's in Social Policy and a background in health management and human rights, leads initiatives to streamline land transport services in the Maldives. Her role includes overseeing vehicle registration, licensing, and strategic planning, while driving innovations to improve public access to Ministry services, reflecting her dedication to efficient service delivery.

**Rizna Ahmed Rasheed**

Assistant Engineer, Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy

Rizna Ahmed Rasheed is the Project Coordinator for the Climate and Clean Air Coalition under the UNEP-funded project "Strengthening Implementation of Energy Efficiency Programmes in the Cooling Sector." She is currently spearheading the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Labeling program 'Hakathari' across the Maldives. Rizna holds a B.Sc. in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from the Sri Lankan Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT), Malabe, Sri Lanka.

**Fathimath Fizna Yoosuf**

Director, Utility Regulatory Authority

Fathimath Fizna Yoosuf is working as a director in the Planning and Market development section of Utility Regulatory Authority where she manages works related to market research and development strategies for utility services. She is also involved in the development of technical standards for the electricity sector, approval of technical designs and compliance monitoring. She has over 10 years of experience working in the regulatory environment of the energy sector in Maldives.

**Dr. Ali Azwar**

Deputy Managing Director, State Electric Company Limited (STELCO)

Dr. Ali Azwar brings over two decades of experience at STELCO, where he serves as Deputy Managing Director and Executive Director of the Board. He holds a Doctorate in Public Policy with a focus on Renewable Energy Policy from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. His research emphasizes the diffusion of renewable electricity technologies (RETs) in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), specifically exploring the challenges faced by the Maldives in accelerating RET adoption.

**Ibrahim Afrah**

Engineer, State Electric Company Limited (STELCO)

Ibrahim Afrah is a seasoned mechanical engineer with over 13 years of experience in the electric power industry. He holds a Master's in Safety, Health, and Environment Engineering and has managed both a 70 MW power plant and a 110 MW power grid. With strong leadership and a focus on safety and compliance, Ibrahim has led teams of over 70 staff, significantly enhancing operational efficiency and safety standards at FENAKA.

**Mohamed Ivan**

Engineer, FENAKA

An electrical engineer specializing in the transmission and distribution networks across 153 islands, Ivan ensures reliable power operations for Fenaka. His expertise lies in managing complex electrical systems in remote locations, optimizing network efficiency, and supporting sustainable energy solutions.

**Mohamed Irufan Hussain**

Senior Engineer, Fenaka Corporation Limited

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With over five years of experience in the Maldives' energy sector, Mohamed Irufan Hussain specializes in power systems, distribution networks, microgrids, and renewable energy. He has a strong academic background from Monash University Malaysia, where he earned a Master's degree in Advanced Engineering in Renewable Energy and a Bachelor's degree in Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering, graduating with First Class Honours.





# SRI LANKA

## GOVERNMENT SPEAKERS



### **A K N Wickramasinghe**

*Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power & Energy*

A K N Wickramasinghe, an executive officer in the Sri Lanka Administrative Service (SLAS) since 1998, brings over 20 years of experience in public administration across various sectors. Currently, he is focused on policy formulation in the power and energy sector, working to ensure a reliable and sustainable energy framework that supports both economic growth and environmental stewardship in Sri Lanka.



### **S A D A P Samaraweera**

*Director General (Engineering), Ministry of Power & Energy, Colombo*

Samaraweera has over 24 years of experience in designing and developing complex electrical systems, with a specialization in power systems and renewable energy. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master's degree in Building Services Engineering, both from the University of Moratuwa. His extensive expertise contributes to advancing Sri Lanka's energy infrastructure and renewable energy initiatives.



### **J.I.D. Jayasundara**

*Director General Technical, Ministry of Transport and Highways, Sri Lanka*

Mr. J.I.D. Jayasundara holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and a BSc Honors in Electrical Engineering from the University of Moratuwa. With a distinguished career in Sri Lanka's public transport sector, he has served as Director of the Sri Lanka Transport Board and General Manager of the Sri Lanka Railway Department. His leadership reflects a strong commitment to advancing the nation's transportation infrastructure.



### **J M Athula**

*Director General, Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA)*

J M Athula has been the Director General of Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA) since 2022. He is the former Director of Renewable Energy at SLSEA and an Engineering graduate of the University of Peradeniya. He did his Master of Engineering at the University of Moratuwa, and is also a Chartered Engineer of the Institute of Engineers of Sri Lanka (IESL).

**Kanchana Siriwardana**

Deputy Director General (Tariff and Economic Affairs) at Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka

Kanchana has been with the PUCSL since 2006 and held this directorial position from 2010 to 2023 before becoming the Deputy Director General for Industry Services. Kanchana has a strong background in utility regulation and energy economics, with previous research experience at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand. He holds multiple degrees, including an MPhil and BSc in Electrical Engineering from the University of Moratuwa, a Master's in Regional Development Planning from the University of Colombo, an MBA in Finance, and an LLB from the University of London

**Hasanka Hadun Kamburugamuwa**

Deputy Director (Tariff and Economic Affairs) at Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka

With over a decade of experience, Hasanka is responsible for financial regulation in the electricity and petroleum sectors. He holds an MSc in Electrical Installations and a BSc in Electrical Engineering from the University of Moratuwa, and he is also a Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) charter holder. His role involves setting regulatory mechanisms to ensure transparency and cost-effectiveness in electricity generation, transmission, and distribution in Sri Lanka

**Dr. Narendra De Silva**

General Manager, Lanka Electricity Company (Pvt) Ltd (LECO)

Dr. Narendra De Silva has over two decades of experience in Sri Lanka's power sector. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Moratuwa and a PhD in Power Electronics from Heriot-Watt University. As General Manager at LECO, Dr. Silva plays a pivotal role in advancing the country's power infrastructure and enhancing the efficiency of power distribution systems.

**Eng. S H Midigaspe**

Deputy Managing Director, State Electric Company Limited (STELCO)

Eng. S H Midigaspe brings over 30 years of experience as an engineer at the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB), Sri Lanka's major electricity utility. Currently the Coordinating Deputy General Manager at CEB's General Manager's office, he has extensive expertise in generation, transmission, energy planning, and renewable energy. His career began as an operations engineer at a remote hydropower station, and he has held key roles such as Chief Engineer in Generation Planning and Renewable Projects, contributing significantly to the country's energy development.

**Madhura Gamage**

Additional General Manager-Engineering, Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited (LECO)

Madhura Gamage, a graduate in Electrical Engineering from the University of Moratuwa, has been with Lanka Electricity Company (LECO) since 1996. Throughout his career, he has held key roles such as Senior Electrical Engineer, Chief Engineer, and Deputy General Manager (Planning and Regulatory). Currently, as Additional General Manager-Engineering, he oversees LECO's core engineering functions and leads strategic initiatives to drive the organization forward.



## OTHER INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS



**Dr. Adarsh Nagarajan**

Principal Researcher and Group Manager, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

Adarsh Nagarajan leads advanced power systems research at NREL, focusing on power systems design, planning, and grid integration of distributed energy resources (DERs). With expertise in modeling, control, and dynamics of energy storage and low-inertia systems, he supports utilities in integrating solar, storage, and EVs. Adarsh is an IEEE Senior Member and has authored 30+ technical publications.



**Alexander Hogeveen Rutter**

Energy Sector Lead, Third Derivative (RMI)

Alexander Hogeveen Rutter is the Electricity Sector Lead at Third Derivative (RMI), where he drives initiatives focused on accelerating clean energy technology adoption. He specializes in forging impactful partnerships and driving sustainable technology forward. With extensive experience in the climate and energy sectors, Alexander focuses on leveraging innovative solutions to address the pressing challenges of decarbonization and environmental resilience.



**Bartosz Przywara**

Counsellor, Delegation of the EU to India

Bartosz Przywara is a Counsellor for Energy, Climate Action, and Environment at the Delegation of the European Union to India. He engages in EU-India collaborations to advance sustainability and climate initiatives, with a focus on clean energy and green transition projects. His work includes participating in dialogues on renewable energy and supporting India's low-carbon development strategies, such as green hydrogen and carbon reduction in the steel sector.



**Catharina Sikow-Magny**

First Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh

Catharina Sikow-Magny, former Director for Green Transition & Energy System Integration at the European Commission's DG Energy, played a pivotal role in advancing EU policies on renewable energy and decarbonization. With a Master's in Economics from Aalto University, she now teaches at the Florence School of Regulation, focusing on sustainable energy systems.



**Christine Brandstätt**

Assistant Professor, Copenhagen School of Energy Infrastructure

An Assistant Professor at the Copenhagen School of Energy Infrastructure (CSEI), Christine brings expertise in energy market design and sustainable infrastructure. Currently, she also holds a fellowship at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, where she engages in research on regulatory frameworks for smart grids, renewable integration, and cross-border energy systems. Her work includes numerous policy-focused publications on energy economics, contributing to the European dialogue on energy transition strategies and market innovations.



**Edwin Koekkoek**

First Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh

Edwin Koekkoek is the Team Leader for Green Inclusive Development and Social Protection at the Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh. Previously, he served as the First Counsellor on Energy and Climate Action at the EU Delegation to India, where he worked on EU-India cooperation in areas like clean energy and climate action. With over seven years of experience in the Netherlands' Ministry of Environment and an 11-year tenure at the European Parliament Secretariat, he has an extensive background in environmental policy and sustainable development.

**Jal Desai**

Researcher, National Renewable Energy Lab

Jal Desai is a Researcher at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, specializing in renewable energy technologies and grid integration. His work focuses on advancing sustainable energy solutions, with expertise in solar energy, energy storage, and grid modernization. Jal is committed to developing innovative research that supports clean energy transitions and enhances the resilience of energy systems.

**Meredydd Evans,**

Principal Researcher, Pacific Northwest National Lab

Meredydd Evans is a Principal Researcher at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, where she focuses on energy efficiency, clean energy policy, and climate change mitigation. With expertise in sustainable building technologies and low-carbon strategies, she leads research to advance global energy solutions. Her work supports the development of innovative policies that promote sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.

**Dr. Nasser Al Shahrani**

Chief Operations Officer, Gulf Coordination Council Interconnection Authority

Dr. Nasser Al Shahrani has over 25 years of experience in power system operations and planning. As Chief Operations Officer at the GCC Interconnection Authority, he plays a key role in managing regional power interconnection systems. Dr. Al Shahrani holds a B.Sc. in Electrical Power Engineering from King Fahad University of Petroleum and Minerals, an MBA from the University of Bahrain, and a Doctorate in Business Administration from Swiss Business School. He has authored over 25 papers on system operations and market operations in regional and international conferences.

**Phuong Thanh Tung,**

Senior Program Officer, ASEAN Energy Centre

Tung Phuong, a Senior Officer at the ASEAN Centre for Energy, leads initiatives under the USAID Southeast Asia Smart Power Program, focusing on the ASEAN power grid, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. He oversees the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation, promoting regional energy integration. Tung holds degrees from Nanyang Technological University, NUCB Business School, and HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management.

# US GOVERNMENT SPEAKERS



**Eric Garcetti**

*Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of India*

Eric Garcetti, appointed as the U.S. Ambassador to India in March 2023, previously served as the Mayor of Los Angeles for two terms from 2013 to 2022. With a background in political science and international affairs, Garcetti has experience addressing urban planning, climate resilience, and public transport expansion during his time as mayor. As Ambassador, he focuses on enhancing U.S.-India cooperation in technology, defense, and climate change while building cultural and economic ties between the two nations



**Steve Olive**

*Mission Director USAID/India and Bhutan*

Steve Olive, a Senior Foreign Service Officer, is the Mission Director for USAID's Regional Development Mission for Asia. With a career spanning over 20 years, he has held leadership roles in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, focusing on areas like post-earthquake reconstruction, food security, and natural resource management. His previous positions include Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for USAID's Latin America Bureau, Deputy Mission Director in Kenya, and key roles in Haiti, Peru, and Nicaragua. Steve holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Hawaii.



**Aaron Schubert,**

*Director, Indo Pacific Office, USAID/India*

Aaron covers activity design, localization, and diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA). He previously served as the director of the USAID Southern Africa Health Office. He has also served as the Director of the USAID Regional Office of Public Health in Bangkok, the Deputy Director of the USAID Pakistan Health Office, and as a health development officer in India. Before joining USAID, Aaron worked with UNICEF-Rwanda as a health project officer, supporting the Ministry of Health's efforts to scale up pediatric antiretroviral treatment. He holds BAs in political science and history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MA in sustainable international development from the Heller School of Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University.



**Damon DuBord**

*Energy Chief, EEST US Department of State*

As the Econ/Energy Unit Chief at the U.S. Department of Energy, Damon DuBord leads efforts in economic and energy policy analysis. Damon has also served as the Deputy Counselor for Trade and Investment at Embassy Ottawa, with previous assignments in Mozambique, Washington, and Mexico. Before joining the Foreign Service, He worked for the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kazakhstan. He is dedicated to advancing national energy objectives through strategic planning and data-driven insights.

**Naren Chanmugam**

Director, Environment and Resilience Office, USAID/Nepal

Naren Chanmugam is the Director of the Environment and Resilience Office, at USAID/Nepal. He arrived in Kathmandu on in August 2023. Prior to joining USAID/Nepal, Naren was the Economic Growth Office Director at USAID/Somalia. Other USAID posts he has served include Bangladesh, Kosovo, Armenia and East Africa Regional, South Sudan, Power Africa, and Asia /Near East Bureau. Prior to USAID, He has worked at the World Bank and International Food Policy Research Institute. He studied Agricultural Economics at the University of Maryland (BS) and Cornell University (MS).

**Tripta Singh**

Senior Energy Advisor, Asia Bureau, USAID/Washington

Tripta Singh is the Senior Energy Advisor at USAID's Bureau for Asia, based in Washington, DC, overseeing energy programs in the Indo-Pacific. With over 20 years of experience, she has led energy partnerships and provided policy recommendations on climate change, energy efficiency, and access to modern energy. Tripta holds an M.Phil from Delhi School of Economics, a master's in environmental policy from Ohio University, and a bachelor's degree from Miranda House College, Delhi.

**Bhaskar Rajah**

Energy Team Lead, Indo-Pacific Office, USAID/India

Bhaskar was a serial entrepreneur in the IT technology space and a pioneer in wind energy in the 1990's. After 15 years in the private sector joined the American Foreign Service as an Educational Affairs and Public Diplomacy Officer. In 16 years with the US Department of State, Bhaskar served in Hamburg, Germany, Uganda, Bangladesh, and in the U.S. Consulates in Chennai, Mumbai, and Kolkata. He has been a management consultant advising companies and local governments on disruptive emerging energy and information technologies before joining USAID earlier this year.

**Monali Zeya Hazra**

Senior Regional Energy Specialist and Mission Environment Officer, Indo Pacific Office, USAID/India

Monali Zeya Hazra is a post-graduate in Environmental Management from Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management, Kolkata. With around 25 years of experience, she has managed several USAID's clean energy programs including renewable integration, regional power trade, cleaner fossil, distribution reforms, and smart grids. Prior to USAID, She has led the Industry and Environment Team at the Centre for Science and Environment



**Apurva Chaturvedi**

Senior Clean Energy Specialist, Indo-Pacific Office, USAID/India

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Apurva has 20 years of experience in clean energy and power sector. She has the experience of designing, leading, and managing several clean energy programs at USAID. Her area of expertise is strategy formulation and program design & management. She is currently leading the power distribution, smart grids, e-mobility, energy efficiency, clean energy financing and private sector engagement portfolio of USAID's energy portfolio in India. Prior to USAID she worked for British Council, British High Commission, as Project Manager-Climate Change for four years. She has done her Masters in Microbiology with specialization in Environment microbiology and a Post Graduate Diploma in Intellectual Property Rights.

**Shanker Khagi**

Energy Specialist, USAID/Nepal

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Shanker has over thirty years of experience working in infrastructure, energy, and environmental issues. Over the past fifteen years he has been engaged in Nepal's energy sector and regional energy, designing and managing USAID's support to the energy sector in Nepal and the South Asia Region. As USAID/Nepal's energy specialist he currently manages USAID's Urja Nepal Program. His work focuses on developing Nepal's energy sector and its capacity to deliver reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for Nepal. Shanker has academic degrees in Energy Systems and Engineering

**Rozanne Croos Moraes**

Project Development Specialist (Energy), USAID/Sri Lanka and Maldives

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Having joined the USAID/Sri Lanka and Maldives mission in 2021, Rozanne currently manages the Mission's energy portfolio and is the Mission Liaison for the US DFC. She joined USAID with a decade of experience in the private sector in managing renewable energy projects in Sri Lanka and East Africa. She has a degree in Mechanical Engineering, an MBA in Management of Technology and is a Chevening CRISP Fellow.

# SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL ENERGY PARTNERSHIP (SAREP) SPEAKERS



**Namrata Mukherjee**

Chief of Party

Namrata brings a wealth of experience in policy and regulatory affairs within the power sector, with a focus on areas such as power generation, transmission, and distribution, as well as renewable energy—including solar, wind, small hydro, and biomass. Additionally, she specializes in renewable energy policies, particularly in relation to green certificate mechanisms and tariffs across Europe and the USA. Her climate policy experience includes knowledge of carbon markets, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) frameworks, and the EU-ETS, where she has engaged with methodologies under the Kyoto Protocol and UNFCCC.



**Rajiv Ratna Panda**

Objective Lead, Enhancing Regional Energy Markets

Rajiv is an international energy expert, electrical engineer, research, energy & climate policy and strategy professional with nearly two decades years of expertise and experience in Cross Border Energy Trade (CBET), Regional Energy/Power Grid Integration strategy, Regional Power/Energy Markets (REMs); Policy, Regulatory, Legal, Technical, Operational, Planning, Investment, Political-Economy, Geopolitical aspects of CBET & REM, Regional Institution building, Clean Energy Transition, Sustainable Development, Climate Change (CC), Energy Security & CC strategies and in working at grassroots level in social-politico-economic aspects in rural (India) areas.



**Atul Dhir**

Objective Lead, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Atul is an international development energy programs manager with over 13 years' experience in managing and implementing a broad range of action-oriented partnerships on clean energy with country governments, private sector, and international development partners like European Union (EU), United States Energy Association (USEA), and Asian Development Bank (ADB). He has diversified experience in developing and supporting in-country engagements, deploying clean energy projects, developing operational partnerships, and designing, implementing, and monitoring technical assistance initiatives on clean energy transition programs in South Asia.



**Vivek Bhardwaj**

Objective Lead, Storage and Green Hydrogen Specialist

Vivek Bhardwaj is a green hydrogen and energy storage specialist at RTI. He has done feasibility studies & carbon accounting for green hydrogen and its derivatives in like ammonia, methanol, and biogenic sources of fuel across industries like fertilizers, shipping, power generation, mobility & steel. In energy storage segment, using capacity expansion models he is supporting Indian states in estimating Utility BESS and behind the meter requirements. Before joining RTI, he has been in the frontline of renewables, working with the world's largest equipment manufacturers across energy storage, sand to silicon solar panels, and specializing circular polymers.

**Ajay Rawat**

Objective Lead, Modernizing Utilities

Ajay's focus areas under SAREP include: smart-metering- implementation and data analytics, deployment of AI/ML and Blockchain technologies to improve O&M efficiency of utilities, strengthening planning and operations capacity of transmission utilities/LDCs; Developing Centers of Excellence (COEs) on advanced technologies and smart-grid, capacity building of utilities. He is an Electrical Engineer and Masters in Energy Management. He has a more than 15 years of qualitative experience in consulting, research, and project management. He's well versed with Technical, Commercial and Regulatory aspects of Power Markets

**Mayank Bhardwaj**

Objective Lead, Mobilizing Investments

Mayank is an energy and infrastructure expert with more than 15 years of experience in financial appraisal, transaction advisory, PPP and mobilising investments. His past experience is with organisations like Sterlite Power, Ernst & Young and Reliance Infrastructure. He has undertaken numerous transactions both in the fields of PPP as well as fundraising and has extensive experience in financial modelling, structuring, due diligence, investor interactions, preparation of termsheets/transaction related documents and finalisation.

**Tanmay Tathagat**

Director, Environmental Design Solutions

Tanmay Tathagat leads Environmental Design Solutions (EDS), a consulting firm specializing in climate change policies, energy-efficient building design, and green building certifications. With over three decades of experience, he has contributed to the development of India's Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) and programs like Eco-Housing and MAITREE. Tanmay brings a unique, integrated approach to sustainable policy development, working closely with governments to implement impactful initiatives for the built environment.

**Vikas Gaba**

Partner and Lead - Power and Utilities, KPMG India

With over 20 years of experience, Vikas drives strategies for growth and performance in the Power and Utilities sector, overseeing projects worth over USD 85M across South Asia, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Vikas collaborates with diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, development institutions like the World Bank and ADB, and private sector entities, to enhance KPMG's market presence and deliver impactful initiatives in energy and infrastructure.

**Anish De**

Global Sector Head - Energy and Natural Resources, KPMG India

Anish De is the Global Sector Head for Energy and Natural Resources at KPMG India, where he leads strategies for energy transition, sustainability, and resource optimization. With extensive experience in energy consulting, he advises clients on policy, innovation, and infrastructure development to support clean energy goals. Anish is committed to driving sustainable growth across the energy and natural resources sectors globally.



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