

## Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence: Central Electricity Authority's Milestone Foundation Day

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA), an organization under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, marked a significant milestone on October 15, 2023, as it celebrated its 50th Foundation Day. This occasion not only commemorated the Authority's rich history but also provided an opportunity to reflect on its pivotal role in shaping India's power sector. Over five decades, the CEA has consistently demonstrated its commitment to ensuring a reliable and sustainable power supply to the nation, playing a crucial role in planning and managing the country's electricity needs.



(Source: PIB)

## Pioneering a Vision: Reliable 24x7 Power Supply

The CEA's mission is to ensure a reliable 24x7 power supply of adequate quality to all consumers in India. This vision is not merely a lofty goal; it's an essential foundation for the country's progress. As the demand for electricity continues to grow, the CEA has been at the forefront of the evolution of the power sector, adapting to new challenges and opportunities.

## Distinguished Guests and Key Stakeholders

The 50th Foundation Day celebration in New Delhi witnessed the presence of esteemed guests, including the Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R. K. Singh, Secretary, Power, Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Chairperson, CEA, Shri Ghanshyam Prasad, and other influential figures from both the government and the power industry. Their presence underscored the importance of this occasion and the recognition of the CEA's contributions.

**Addressing the Gathering: A Vision for Reforms:** Shri R. K. Singh, the Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, delivered an insightful address. He challenged the CEA officers to identify the necessary reforms in the power sector and have the will to execute them. Singh emphasized that the journey is ongoing, and there is a need to modernize and make the power system viable to meet new challenges.

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(Source: PIB)

## The Evolving Role of CEA

Minister Singh highlighted the evolving role of the Central Electricity Authority. He stressed that it should look ahead, identify necessary systems and technologies in the power sector, and provide informed advice to the government based on comprehensive analysis. This role includes staying updated with the latest technological advancements and understanding the entire power system, from generation to distribution.





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(Source: PIB)

## Comprehensive Approach to the Power Sector

Singh emphasized the importance of a comprehensive perspective, covering generation, transmission, and distribution. He urged CEA officers to gain hands-on experience by working in the field, stating that it's essential to enhance the overall performance of the power sector. The holistic approach ensures that the entire system works more effectively.

## A Vision for the Future: Electrifying the Economy

The Union Minister's vision for India's energy future is electrifying the entire economy while greening the electricity sector. This approach involves assessing the mix of solar and wind energy, analyzing future energy needs, and crafting a sustainable path forward. He called for breaking vested interests and providing enough electricity to power India's growth at 9% to 10%, fostering a brighter future.

**Ensuring Viability and Modernization:** Minister Singh stressed the importance of ensuring that power systems are viable. Viability is essential, and it involves ensuring cost-reflective tariffs and updating rules. He expressed concerns about the practice of some state governments promising free power, which can lead to future debts and affect the power system's viability.

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(Source: PIB)

## CEA's Role in India's Development

The Minister congratulated the CEA community for its role in India's development. He noted that in these 50 years, India has become the world's fifth-largest economy, and its power sector has outpaced that of some developed nations. He recognized that no development is possible without electricity, and the CEA has played a pivotal role in advancing the power sector.

**Compendium on Electricity Rules:** During the celebration, Minister Singh unveiled a compendium compiled by the CEA, which encompasses the Electricity Rules notified by the Ministry of Power under the Electricity Act of 2003. This comprehensive reference guide is designed to assist stakeholders, policymakers, regulators, industry professionals, and the public in better understanding and navigating the framework of electricity rules underpinning India's power supply.



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(Source: PIB)

## Adapting to Climate Change and Ensuring Resource Adequacy

The Power Secretary echoed Minister Singh's concerns, emphasizing that climate change has introduced uncertainty in weather patterns, leading to sudden demand spikes in power. This necessitates new demands on the CEA, particularly in the realm of resource adequacy. The sector needs to be prepared for catastrophic events and adapt to varying conditions, such as unexpected demand surges, extreme temperatures, and shifts in hydro power availability.

**Power Sector's Role in Bridging Divides:** The Power Secretary recalled the significant role of the power sector in bridging the rural-urban divide in India in the post-independence era. In recent years, the sector has witnessed numerous reforms, ensuring that all households are connected to electricity. The energy balance has been achieved, and efforts are ongoing to attain demand balance. Building upon the One Nation One Grid initiative, the vision now extends to "One Sun One World One Grid," aiming for global energy interconnectivity.

**Recognizing Excellence in the Power Sector:** As a part of the celebration, Minister Singh conferred awards for outstanding contributions to the power sector upon five exemplary officers of the CEA. These officers' dedication and expertise have significantly contributed to the advancement of India's power sector.

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The 50th-anniversary celebration of the Central Electricity Authority served as a platform to reflect on the sector's accomplishments, ongoing challenges, and a vision for a brighter, greener, and more electrified future for India. The CEA remains at the forefront of India's journey toward a sustainable and vibrant power sector. Its role in shaping the nation's energy landscape is pivotal, and the commitment to a reliable 24x7 power supply is an essential foundation for the country's progress. As the country moves towards a sustainable and greener energy landscape, the CEA continues to play a crucial role in ensuring a reliable and affordable power supply for all.

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