



FORUM OF INDIAN
REGULATORS



Indian Institute of
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Report on

FOIR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

*Conference for Member Bodies of the
Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR)*

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13 March 2026 | Kolkata

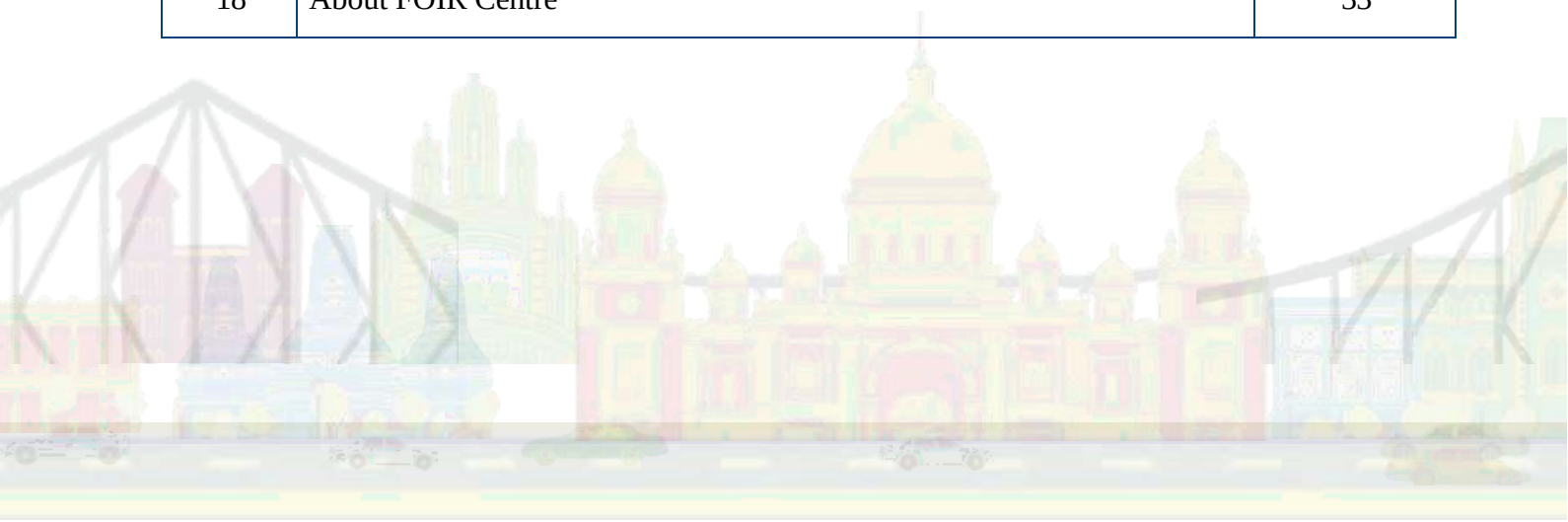


Next Generation Regulations: Tools, Talent & Technology



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR) Centre at the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) conducted the **FOIR Annual Conference 2026** on 13 March 2026 in Kolkata. Organised on the theme "**Next Generation Regulation: Tools, Talent and Technology**", the conference brought together regulators, policymakers, and domain experts from across sectors to deliberate on the evolving regulatory landscape and the growing role of digital tools, institutional talent, and technological innovation in governance.

The conference commenced with a Welcome Address by Dr. M. V. Rao (Chairperson, WBERC), who emphasised the importance of inter-institutional collaboration and the need for adaptive regulatory frameworks to address emerging sectoral and technological challenges. The Inaugural Address was delivered by Shri Jishnu Barua (Chairperson, CERC & Honorary Vice- Chair, FOIR), who highlighted the growing complexity of India's regulatory landscape, shaped by rapid advancements in digital technologies and AI. Shri Barua emphasised that regulation must shift from a reactive to an anticipatory approach. The address outlined three core pillars of next-generation regulation: tools, talent, and technology. He also stressed the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration through FOIR and expressed confidence that strong regulatory institutions are essential for efficient markets, responsible innovation, and public interest protection. Shri Barua also appreciated IICA for successfully organising the FOIR Annual Conference 2026.

The first presentation (online) on the India Energy Stack (IES) by Shri Prince Dhawan (ED, REC Ltd) outlined the IES, a "Digital Public Infrastructure" initiative for the power sector, aimed at shifting from siloed, utility-centric systems to an interoperable, data-driven, and consumer-centric ecosystem. It highlighted the sector's transition driven by the growth of Distributed Energy Resources, smart meters, and prosumers. This evolving landscape necessitates robust frameworks for real-time data exchange and regulatory oversight.

The second presentation on AI/ML Driven Consumer Indexing for Distribution Utilities, delivered by Dr Vivek Chandra (CGM (IT) MPPKVCL), focused on using AI and ML to address Consumer Indexing challenges in electricity distribution, which involve accurately mapping each consumer to their corresponding feeder and Distribution Transformer. Poor indexing, caused by manual processes, data errors, and network topology changes, leads to incorrect loss calculations, faulty outage notifications, and inefficient planning across DISCOMs.

Panel Discussion 1 on "Role of AI in Regulation" examined the application of artificial intelligence in regulatory decision-making, compliance monitoring, and evidence-based policymaking. The panel featured senior members like **Shri Ramesh Babu** (Member CERC), **Shri Raj Pratap Singh** (Former Chairperson, UPERC), **Shri Arunvir Vashista** (Former Member, RERA Punjab), and **Shri Anjani Kumar Tiwari** (Member, PNGRB), and was moderated by Prof. (Dr) Naveen Sirohi (Director, FOIR Centre, IICA). Panel Discussion 2 on "Smart Deregulation: Reducing Burden without Reducing Oversight" explored approaches to simplifying regulatory procedures while preserving robust oversight and transparency. The panel comprised former and current chairpersons from WBERC, UPERC, and OERC, and was moderated by Dr Sushanta Chatterjee (Chief (RA), CERC).

The conference concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Shri Harpreet Singh Pruthi (Executive Secretary, FOIR & Secretary, CERC), appreciating all dignitaries, regulators, experts, and participants for their valuable contributions to the conference.

PROGRAMME AGENDA

FOIR Conference on "Next Generation Regulation: Tools, Talent & Technology"
March 13, 2026 | Friday | Kolkata

March 13, 2026 (Friday)

09:45 AM – 09:55 AM	Group Photograph
09:55 AM – 10:00 AM	Welcome Address <i>Dr MV Rao, Chairperson, WBERC</i>
10:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Inaugural Address <i>Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson CERC and Hony Vice-Chair FOIR</i>
10:10 AM – 10:40 AM	Presentation on AI/ML Driven Consumer Indexing for Distribution Utilities <i>Dr Vivek Chandra, CGM (IT) MPPKVVCL</i>
10:45 AM – 11:15 AM	Presentation on India Energy Stack (online) <i>Shri Prince Dhawan, ED REC Ltd.</i>
11:20 AM – 12:20 PM	Panel 1 – Role of AI in Regulation <i>1. Shri Ramesh Babu, Member CERC 2. Shri Raj Pratap Singh, Former Chairperson UPERC 3. Shri Arunvir Vashist, Member RERA Punjab 4. Shri Anjani Kumar Tiwari, Member PNGRB 5. Prof (Dr) Naveen Sirohi, Director FOIR Centre IICA (Moderator)</i>
12:25 PM – 01:25 PM	Panel 2 – Smart Deregulation: Reducing Burden Without Reducing Oversight <i>1. Shri Sutirtha Bhattacharya, Former Chairperson WBERC 2. Shri Arvind Kumar, Chairperson UPERC 3. Shri P K Jena, Chairperson OERC 4. Dr Sushanta Chatterjee, Chief Regulatory Affairs CERC (Moderator)</i>
01:30 PM – 01:35 PM	Vote of Thanks <i>Shri Harpreet Singh Pruthi, Executive Secretary FOIR & Secretary CERC</i>
01:35 PM – 02:30 PM	Lunch
03:00 PM onwards	Site Visit
07:00 PM – 10:30 PM	Networking Dinner

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No.	Name	Org.	Designation
1	Shri Jishnu Barua	CERC	Chairperson
2	Shri Lt Gen Rana Pratap Kalita	AERC	Chairperson
3	Shri P V R Reddy	APERC	Chairperson
4	Shri Pankaj Joshi	GERC	Chairperson
5	Shri Nand Lal Sharma	HERC	Chairperson
6	Shri Yashwant Singh Chogal	HPERC	Chairperson
7	Shri Raj Kumar Chaudhary	JERC-J&K	Chairperson
8	Shri P. Ravi Kumar	KERC	Chairperson
9	Shri Soubam Ibopishak Singh	MnREC	Chairperson
10	Shri Pradeep Jena	OERC	Chairperson
11	Shri Hemant Verma	TERC	Chairperson
12	Shri R. Manivannan	TNERC	Chairperson
13	Shri Arvind Kumar	UPERC	Chairperson
14	Dr. Mallela Venkateswara Rao	WBERC	Chairperson
15	Shri Harish Dudani	CERC	Member
16	Shri Ramesh Babu	CERC	Member
17	Shri R.S. Dhillon	CERC	Member
18	Shri Harpreet Singh Pruthi	CERC	Secretary
19	Shri Indu Bhushan Pandey	UPERC	Member
20	Shri Vivek Ganodwale	CSERC	Member
21	Shri Ram Naresh Singh	DERC	Member
22	Shri Surender Babbar	DERC	Member
23	Shri Jatin N Thakkar	GERC	Member
24	Shri Shashi Kant Joshi	HPERC	Member
25	Shri Mahendra Prasad	JSERC	Member
26	Shri B. Pradeep	KSERC	Member
27	Shri S.J. Biyani	MERC	Member
28	Shri Gajendra Tiwari	MPERC	Member
29	Shri S.K Ray Mohapatra	OERC	Member
30	Shri Anjani Kumar Tiwari	PNGRB	Member
31	Shri Ravinder Singh Saini	PSERC	Member
32	Shri Arunvir Vashist	RERA Punjab	Member
33	Shri Binod Kr. Singh	RERA Punjab	Member
34	Shri Hemant Kr. Jain	RERC	Member
35	Shri Srinivasa Rao Cherukuri	TGERC	Member

No.	Name	Org.	Designation
36	Shri K. Raghu	TGERC	Member
37	Shri H.K Jagdeesh	KERC	Member
38	Shri Anurag Sharma	UERC	Member
39	Shri Prabhat Kishor Dimri	UERC	Member
40	Justice CV Nagarjuna Reddy	APERC	Former Chairperson
41	Shri Shishir Sinha	BERC	Former Chairperson
42	Shri. Umesh Naryan Panjiar	BERC	Former Chairperson
43	Shri Peter W. Ingty	MSERC	Former Chairperson
44	Shri S.C. Mahapatra	OERC	Former Chairperson
45	Shri U.N. Behera	OERC	Former Chairperson
46	Shri D. Radhakrishna	TERC	Former Chairperson
47	Shri M. Chandrasekar	TNERC	Former Chairperson
48	Shri R.P. Singh	UPERC	Former Chairperson
49	Shri Sutirtha Bhattacharya	WBERC	Former Chairperson
50	Shri R.N. Sen	WBERC	Former Chairperson
51	Shri D.K. Kamra	AERA	Former Member
52	Shri R.K Choudhary	BERC	Former Member
53	Shri S.K. Jayaswal	BERC	Former Member
54	Shri Arun Goyal	CERC	Former Member
55	Shri Subhash Sethi	DERC	Former Member
56	Shri Kr. Bhanu Partap Singh	HPERC	Former Member
57	Shri Rabindra Narayan Singh	JSERC	Former Member
58	Shri H.M. Manjunatha	KERC	Former Member
59	Shri M.D. Ravi	KERC	Former Member
60	Shri Aswini Kumar Das	OERC	Former Member
61	Shri G. Rajagopal	TNERC	Former Member
62	Dr. T. Prabhakara Rao	TNERC	Former Member
63	Shri Jiban Krishna Sen	TERC	Former Member
64	Dr S.K. Chatterjee	CERC	Chief (RA)
65	Ms. Rashmi Nair	CERC	Joint Chief (RA)
66	Shri Debasish Roy	CERC	Assistant Chief (RA)
67	Dr. Vivek Chandra	MPPKVCL	CGM (IT)
68	Shri Shashank Shukla	MPPKVCL	EE (MT)
69	Prof (Dr) Naveen Sirohi	IICA	Director, FOIR Centre
70	Shri Abhishek Kaushal	IICA	Senior Consultant
71	Shri Kaushal Kumar	IICA	Consultant

SPEAKERS PROFILE



Shri Jishnu Barua

Honorary Vice-Chairman, Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR) & Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)

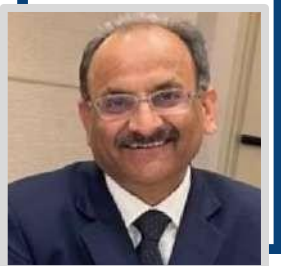
Shri Jishnu Barua joined as Chairperson, CERC, in March 2023. He is a former Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officer, and has served in important capacities in both State & Central Governments, including Managing Director, Assam Industrial Development Corporation, and Joint Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training (DOPT), Government of India. After this, he was posted as Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam, Power Department, during which he also served as Chairman of Distribution, Generation and Transmission Companies under the State Government.



Shri Mallela Venkateswara Rao

Chairperson, West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (WBERC)

Shri M.V. Rao joined as Chairperson, WBERC, in October 2022. He is a former IAS officer with over 34 years of experience in public administration, policy-making, and institutional leadership. He holds a PhD in Development Administration and has served in key roles, including Additional Chief Secretary, Director of Industries, and MD of West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation. He also chaired the West Bengal State Cooperative Bank and served on boards such as NABARD and IFFCO. At the national level, he led institutions like the National Institute of Rural Development and the National Fisheries Development Board, and worked with UNICEF. He is also an accomplished author on rural development and governance.



Shri Arvind Kumar

Chairperson, Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (UPERC)

Shri Arvind Kumar assumed charge as Chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (UPERC) on 17 July 2023. A 1988 batch IAS officer, he holds a B.Tech in Electrical Engineering and an M.Tech in Communication & Radar Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. During his distinguished administrative career, he has held key positions including Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, and in departments such as Medical, Health & Family Welfare, Revenue, and Home, Vigilance & Prisons in the Government of Uttar Pradesh. He has extensive experience in the energy and infrastructure sectors, having served as Managing Director of Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Limited, Principal Secretary (Energy), and Chairman of Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited. He also served as Additional Chief Secretary (Infrastructure & Industrial Development) and Infrastructure & Industrial Development Commissioner, playing a key role in shaping industrial policy and infrastructure growth in Uttar Pradesh.

SPEAKERS PROFILE



Shri P K Jena

Chairperson, Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC)

Shri P K Jena, a 1989 batch IAS officer of the Odisha cadre, assumed office as Chairperson of the Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) on 8 April 2025. With over 35 years of administrative experience, he has worked across diverse sectors including agriculture, rural development, transport, taxation, industrial development,

information technology, energy, water resources, and disaster management. He has held several key leadership roles in the Government of Odisha, including Chief Secretary, Chief Development Commissioner, Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary, and Principal Secretary of Energy, Water Resources, and Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Departments. Shri Jena is widely recognized for his expertise in disaster risk management, having successfully managed multiple severe cyclones in Odisha and ensuring zero human casualties during eight major cyclones from 2019 to 2024.



Shri Sutirtha Bhattacharya

Former Chairperson, West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (WBERC)

Shri S. Bhattacharya, a 1985 batch IAS officer, became Chairperson of WBERC in March 2019. He previously served as CMD of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited. At WBERC, he has emphasized adoption of modern technology in power regulation.

He has worked towards a transparent consumer friendly framework under the Electricity Act, 2003. He advocates balancing the interests of utilities and consumers while promoting efficiency and investment. He continues to drive reforms aimed at enhancing efficiency, sustainability, and consumer trust in the power sector.



Shri Raj Pratap Singh

Former Chairperson, Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (UPERC)

Shri Raj Pratap Singh is a distinguished civil servant from the 1983 batch with over four decades of experience in public administration, governance, and regulatory affairs. He served as the Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (UPERC) from 2018 to 2023, where he played a key role in shaping electricity regulations

in the state, focusing on tariff reforms, energy security, power market development, and clean energy transition. During his career, he held several key positions, including Agriculture Production Commissioner & Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, and District Magistrate of Lucknow. At the national and international levels, he served as Private Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, and Senior Advisor at the World Bank. An Electrical Engineering postgraduate from IIT Delhi, Shri Singh has represented India in numerous

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bilateral and multilateral forums across more than 30 countries. He currently serves as the State Election Commissioner of Uttar Pradesh since March 2024



Shri Ramesh Babu

Member, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)

Shri Ramesh Babu assumed office as a Member of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) on 21st May 2024. Before this role, he served as Director (Operations) at NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) from May 2020 until just before his appointment to CERC.

He holds a B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering

and an M.Tech in Thermal Engineering, both earned from NIT Srinagar and IIT Delhi, respectively. Over a span of more than 37 years at NTPC, his experience covers large-scale power plant operations, maintenance, renovations, & modernizations of ageing units, and initiatives aimed at improving efficiency, reliability, and systems performance in thermal power plants. As a CERC Member, his technical expertise contributes to regulatory oversight, tariff setting, operational excellence norms, and power sector policy implementation, particularly around technical and operational standards.



Shri Anjani Kumar Tiwari

Member, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)

Shri A.K. Tiwari has been serving as a Member of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) since December 1, 2021, contributing significantly to regulatory and tariff reforms in India's natural gas sector. He played a key role in implementing the Unified Tariff, a landmark reform aimed at creating a unified national gas

market and improving regional access to natural gas infrastructure. Before joining PNGRB, he had a notable career at GAIL (India) Limited, where he served as Director (Finance) and was a member of the Board of several group and joint venture companies. With over 44 years of experience in the Oil & Gas, Thermal Power, Hydel Power, and City Gas Distribution sectors, Shri Tiwari played a vital role in strengthening financial governance, improving transparency in reporting, and implementing innovative financial processes aligned with the company's long-term strategic vision. At PNGRB, he continues to help develop a resilient, transparent, and future-ready oil and gas infrastructure ecosystem in India.



Shri Arunvir Vashist

Member, RERA Punjab

Shri Arunvir Vashista assumed office as Member of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Punjab, on 5th March 2025. He has remained a judicial officer, joining the Punjab Judicial Services in 1992. He has served as a judge in various capacities till he retired as District and Session Judge, Chandigarh on 28th Feb 2025. During his distinguished

judicial service, he got the opportunity to head various tribunals and special courts like MACT, NDPS, Industrial tribunal, designated TADA courts, apart from having expertise as a judge

SPEAKERS PROFILE

dealing with criminal, civil, and arbitration matters. He graduated from DAV College, Chandigarh, in 1983 with a B.A. (Hons.) in English followed by LL.B. from Punjabi University, Patiala, in 1986.



Dr Sushanta Chatterjee

Chief (Regulatory Affairs), Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)

Moderator - Panel

Dr S. K. Chatterjee, currently serving as Chief of Regulatory Affairs at CERC, is a Fulbright Scholar and has been a research fellow at Harvard Kennedy School, USA. He holds a PhD in Management, an MBA in Finance, and a Master's in Economics & has extensive experience in the power sector and regulatory reforms, having been involved in regulatory developments in India since its inception in 1998. He has several books and publications to his credit. His areas of expertise include public policy, electricity regulation, and renewable energy. He has served on several committees constituted by the Ministry of Power, MNRE, and FOR concerning regulatory and renewable energy issues. Additionally, he has acted as a guest faculty at prominent institutions in India and abroad.



Prof (Dr) Naveen Sirohi

Director, FOIR Centre, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)

Moderator - Panel

Prof (Dr) Naveen Sirohi is the Director of the Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR) Centre at the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), a key hub for knowledge, research, and capacity building for regulators across India. With over 20 years of experience in banking, academia, and government, he has significantly contributed to strengthening regulatory capacity and financial governance. A banker-turned-academician, he is also the Founding Head of the School of Finance at IICA and previously served as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at the institute. He has conducted over 100 executive education programs for more than 5,000 corporate executives and government officials across India and abroad. His policy inputs were recognised in the Economic Survey 2021–22. Dr Sirohi holds a PhD in Commerce and has published research papers in reputable national and international journals. He is also a visiting faculty member at several reputed universities and government training academies, and he regularly contributes to academic and policy discussions.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS



Picture 1: Dr. MV Rao, Chairperson, WBERC, delivering the inaugural address at the FOIR Conference on “Next Generation Regulation: Tools, Talent & Technology,” setting the stage for discussions on AI-driven and future-ready regulatory frameworks.

The conference on **“Next Generation Regulation: Tools, Talent & Technology”**, jointly organised by the *Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR)* and the *Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)*, commenced with an inaugural address by *Dr M. V. Rao, Chairperson, WBERC*.

In his opening remarks, he extended a warm welcome to all distinguished dignitaries, including *Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson of CERC and Honorary Vice-Chair of FOIR*, as well as Chairpersons, Members, former regulators, and senior officials from various regulatory bodies. The address set the tone for the conference by emphasising the importance of collaboration and knowledge exchange among stakeholders in shaping the future of regulation in India.

Dr Rao highlighted the ongoing transformation of the power sector as India moves towards a more sustainable, efficient, and consumer-centric energy ecosystem. He underscored the need for regulatory frameworks to evolve in tandem with rapid technological advancements, particularly in areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML). These emerging tools, he noted, are already playing a critical role in enhancing demand forecasting, enabling grid optimisation, and facilitating the integration of renewable energy sources. The conference theme was described as both timely and forward-looking, reflecting the growing importance of leveraging advanced technologies to strengthen regulatory effectiveness and responsiveness.

The address also provided an overview of the conference agenda, which was designed to bring together insights from both technical experts and regulatory practitioners. Key sessions included discussions on AI/ML-driven consumer indexing, which focuses on improving the accuracy of consumer-network mapping through advanced analytics, and the India Energy Stack, a pioneering initiative aimed at building a digital public infrastructure for the energy

sector. In addition, panel discussions on the role of AI in regulation and smart deregulation were highlighted as important platforms for deliberating on the practical and policy dimensions of adopting technology-driven regulatory approaches.

A significant aspect of the address was the emphasis on the role of both experience and innovation in shaping the future of regulation. Dr Rao acknowledged the invaluable contributions of seasoned regulators; whose experience and institutional knowledge continue to guide reforms in the sector. At the same time, he recognised the importance of engaging with technology experts and young professionals, whose innovative ideas and technical capabilities are essential for driving the next phase of transformation. He encouraged participants to actively engage in discussions and share perspectives, fostering a collaborative environment aimed at developing progressive, adaptive, and future-ready regulatory frameworks.

Dr Rao also expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the organising teams from FOIR, CERC, and IICA, whose meticulous planning made the conference possible. These contributions, he noted, were instrumental in creating a conducive environment for meaningful dialogue and exchange of ideas.

In conclusion, the inaugural address underscored the central message of the conference, i.e., the future of regulation lies in effectively integrating technology, talent, and institutional capability to address emerging challenges and opportunities in the energy sector. By fostering dialogue among key stakeholders and focusing on innovative solutions, the conference aims to contribute to the development of a more resilient, transparent, and forward-looking regulatory ecosystem.



Picture 2: Shri Harpreet Singh Pruthi, Executive Secretary, CERC (left) presenting memento to Dr. MV Rao, Chairperson, WBERC (right)

WELCOME ADDRESS



Picture 3: Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson, CERC and Honorary Vice-Chair, FOIR, delivering the inaugural address at the FOIR Annual Conference 2026, held in Kolkata.

The conference on “**Next Generation Regulation: Tools, Talent & Technology**” featured a thought-provoking address by *Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson CERC & Honorary Vice-Chair FOIR*, that underscored the evolving landscape of regulatory governance in India and the growing need for collaboration, innovation, and capacity building. He acknowledged the presence of a distinguished group of domain experts, noting that such a gathering reflects the significance of the subject and the necessity of sustained dialogue among regulators. Shri Barua extended his appreciation to the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs and the Secretariat of the Forum of Indian Regulators for successfully organising the FOIR 2026 Annual Conference.

The address highlighted that forums such as this provide an invaluable opportunity for regulators to collectively reflect on emerging challenges and opportunities in an increasingly dynamic economic and technological environment. It was noted that over the past three decades, India has witnessed the steady emergence and consolidation of independent regulatory institutions across sectors. These institutions have been established with clear objectives of promoting transparency, ensuring fair competition, safeguarding consumer interests, and facilitating market development. In doing so, they have played a vital role in supporting economic reforms, enhancing investor confidence, enabling competition in previously monopolistic sectors, and strengthening institutional governance.

The regulatory environment today is significantly more complex than in the past. Rapid advancements in digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, data-driven systems, and platform-based business models, have transformed the way markets operate. In this context, regulation must move beyond a reactive approach and adopt a more anticipatory, adaptive, and innovation-driven framework. The theme of the conference was thus described as highly relevant, capturing the need for a comprehensive shift in how regulatory institutions think, function, and engage with evolving market realities.

The address elaborated on the three core pillars of next-generation regulation, i.e., tools, talent, and technology. With respect to tools, the speaker noted that traditional regulatory mechanisms such as tariff setting and licensing must be complemented by more advanced and nuanced approaches, including real-time monitoring systems, AI-assisted compliance mechanisms, and digital grievance redressal platforms. On talent, the emphasis was placed on the central role of human capital in ensuring effective regulation. Modern regulatory professionals must operate across multiple disciplines, including law, economics, technology, behavioural science, and data analytics, supported by continuous capacity building and institutional learning.

In terms of technology, the speaker highlighted its transformative potential in enhancing the speed, accuracy, and scope of regulatory processes. Tools such as data analytics, digital monitoring systems, and real-time reporting platforms can significantly improve transparency and enable early identification of emerging trends. However, it was also emphasised that the adoption of technology must be guided by core principles of fairness, accountability, and consumer protection, particularly in the context of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

A key theme of the address was the importance of collaboration among regulators, especially as contemporary challenges such as digital transformation, data governance, and sustainability increasingly cut across sectoral boundaries. In this regard, the role of FOIR in facilitating inter-regulatory dialogue and cooperation was recognised as critical to strengthening India's overall regulatory ecosystem.

The welcome address was concluded by expressing confidence that the conference would generate valuable insights into emerging regulatory practices and help identify practical pathways for strengthening regulatory institutions in India. Emphasising the importance of continued learning, innovation, and collaboration, the address underscored that strong and credible regulatory institutions will remain essential for ensuring efficient markets, responsible innovation, and the protection of public interest in the years ahead.



Picture 4: Dr. MV Rao, Chairperson, WBERC (left), presenting a memento to Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson, CERC and Honorary Vice-Chair, FOIR (right).

PRESENTATION 1: INDIA ENERGY STACK

The first presentation, by *Shri Prince Dhawan (ED, REC Ltd)*, provided a comprehensive overview of the **India Energy Stack (IES)** as a transformative initiative aimed at building a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for the power sector, enabling a shift from siloed, utility-centric systems to a more interoperable, data-driven, and consumer-centric ecosystem. It highlighted that the electricity sector is undergoing a fundamental transition driven by the rapid growth of Distributed Energy Resources (DERs), proliferation of smart meters, and the emergence of prosumers i.e. consumers who also generate electricity. In this evolving landscape, the traditional centralised model of electricity distribution is gradually giving way to a decentralised, digitally enabled network, necessitating robust frameworks for real-time data exchange, coordination, and regulatory oversight.

At its core, the India Energy Stack is not a centralised platform or software product, but a set of open protocols, standards, APIs, and digital building blocks designed to enable seamless interoperability among stakeholders such as DISCOMs, consumers, generators, regulators, and service providers. Drawing parallels with successful digital infrastructures like UPI, Aadhaar, and GSTN, the presentation emphasised that large-scale innovation in the energy sector requires trusted digital rails, standardised communication layers, and secure, consent-based data exchange mechanisms. The IES follows a federated architecture, ensuring that data remains decentralised yet accessible, thereby balancing efficiency, scalability, and data privacy.

A defining feature of IES is its modular building block architecture comprising components such as Identity & Addressing systems, Registries & Directories, Interaction Protocols, Energy Credentials, and Energy Data Exchange. These elements collectively facilitate secure identification of assets and participants, standardised discovery and transactions, and trusted data sharing across platforms. The introduction of Energy Credentials, based on W3C Verifiable Credentials, represents a significant innovation by providing tamper-proof, portable digital identities for consumers and assets, eliminating repetitive KYC processes, and enabling seamless participation in schemes such as rooftop solar, demand response, and peer-to-peer (P2P) trading.



Picture 5: Online presentation by Shri Prince Dhawan, ED, REC Ltd, highlighting the role of digital public infrastructure, interoperability, and data-driven innovation in enabling a future-ready, consumer-centric energy ecosystem.

The presentation particularly emphasised the concept of Peer-to-Peer Energy Exchange, positioning it as the energy sector's equivalent of UPI. This model enables direct, digital transactions of electricity between consumers and prosumers, for example, a rooftop solar owner selling surplus power to a nearby user, thereby transforming electricity into a tradable, decentralised commodity. This shift marks a transition from "energy access" to "energy agency," empowering individuals and communities to actively participate in energy markets and even become micro-entrepreneurs. Pilot implementations involving utilities such as TPDDL, BRPL, and PVVNL demonstrate early progress, with plans for scaling across multiple states.

Another critical pillar discussed was the Energy Data Exchange, which addresses existing challenges of data silos, lack of standardisation, limited traceability, and duplicate data submissions. By enabling machine-readable, cryptographically signed, and consent-driven data sharing, IES lays the foundation for an open energy data economy. This allows stakeholders to access reliable, real-time, and verifiable data, facilitating AI/ML-driven analytics, improved decision-making, and innovative service delivery. Public datasets such as tariffs can be published in standardised formats (e.g., signed JSON), while sensitive data is shared securely through permission-based protocols, ensuring compliance with data protection frameworks.

The presentation also highlighted the importance of DER Visibility, addressing the current lack of visibility of assets such as rooftop solar systems, batteries, and electric vehicles. Through digital registries, unique asset identification, and real-time telemetry, IES enables grid operators to transition from reactive to proactive operations, improving load forecasting, grid stability, and resource optimisation. This capability is essential for integrating renewable energy at scale and supporting advanced mechanisms such as flexibility markets and time-of-day tariffs.



Picture 6: Excerpt from the official presentation by the India Energy Stack

From a regulatory standpoint, IES offers transformative potential by enabling machine-readable regulations, real-time monitoring, and evidence-based policymaking. Regulators can leverage standardised, high-frequency data to enhance transparency, improve comparability across jurisdictions, and design more adaptive and responsive regulatory frameworks. The integration of AI and ML tools further supports functions such as demand forecasting, tariff design, and compliance monitoring, marking a shift towards anticipatory and data-driven regulation.

The implementation strategy for IES follows a structured AAA approach i.e. Architecture, Accelerator, and Adoption.

- The Architecture phase focuses on defining technical standards and system design.
- The Accelerator phase provides sandbox environments, tools, and reference solutions to test real-world applications.
- The Adoption phase emphasises ecosystem-wide scaling, supported by policy initiatives and stakeholder engagement.

This phased rollout, including ongoing pilot projects and planned expansion over the next few years, ensures technical robustness, iterative learning, and institutional readiness.

The presentation also acknowledged key challenges, including stakeholder coordination, integration with legacy systems, cybersecurity risks, and the need for standardisation across diverse utilities and states. Addressing these issues will require institutional alignment, capacity building, and sustained collaboration between regulators, policymakers, and industry participants.

In conclusion, the India Energy Stack represents a foundational step towards creating a future-ready, digitally integrated energy ecosystem characterised by interoperability, innovation, and consumer empowerment. By enabling seamless data exchange, fostering new business models, and supporting data-driven regulation, IES has the potential to accelerate India's transition to a more efficient, transparent, decentralised, and participatory power sector. Its long-term success will depend on the effective convergence of technology, regulatory frameworks, and institutional capabilities, ensuring that the benefits of digital transformation are realised across the entire energy value chain.

PRESENTATION 2: AI/ML DRIVEN CONSUMER INDEXING FOR DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES

The second presentation, delivered by *Dr Vivek Chandra, CGM (IT) MPPKVVCL*, focused on the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to address the persistent challenge of Consumer Indexing (CI) in electricity distribution systems. Consumer indexing, defined as the accurate mapping of each consumer to the corresponding feeder and Distribution Transformer (DTR), is a critical prerequisite for energy accounting, loss estimation, outage management, and network planning. The presentation highlighted that most DISCOMs continue to face significant inaccuracies in indexing due to manual processes, frequent changes in network topology, data entry errors, and inconsistencies across systems such as GIS and consumer databases. These issues result in incorrect loss calculations, faulty outage notifications, and inefficient operational planning.

A key enabler for addressing this challenge is the rapid deployment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). The case study presented, based on Madhya Pradesh Poorv Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company Limited (MPPKVVCL), demonstrated the availability of large-scale, high-frequency data through smart meters integrated with Meter Data Management (MDM) systems, covering millions of consumers, feeders, and DTRs. This granular time-series data, such as 15-minute Block Load Survey data, provides a strong foundation for data-driven analytics. The presentation emphasised that the real value of AMI lies in applying AI and ML techniques to interpret this data and generate actionable insights.

The core concept introduced is the electrical signature, based on the principle that all consumers connected to the same DTR exhibit similar voltage behaviour patterns due to their shared electrical path. By analysing statistical and correlation-based features such as Pearson Correlation Coefficient, Entropy, Kurtosis, and Skewness, raw voltage time-series data is converted into meaningful indicators that define connectivity patterns. These features help identify relationships between consumers and network elements, enabling automated and accurate consumer indexing.



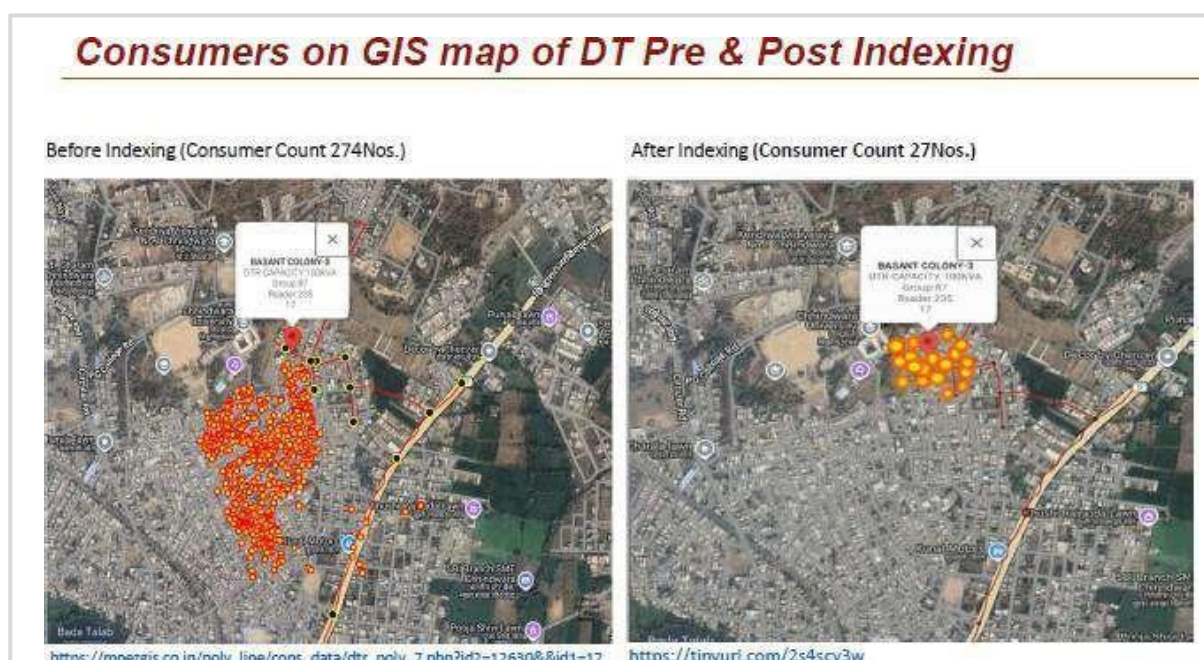
Picture 7: Dr Vivek Chandra, CGM (IT), MPPKVVCL, delivering the presentation at the FOIR Annual Conference 2026, held in Kolkata.

The presentation outlined two analytical approaches:

- The first approach is supervised learning, where labelled datasets with known consumer- to-DTR mappings are used to train models such as Random Forest, XGBoost, and LightGBM. These models demonstrated high levels of performance, with accuracy levels of around 95 to 97 per cent, along with strong precision, recall, F1-score, and ROC-AUC values, indicating reliable prediction of correct mappings. However, this approach depends on the availability of ground-truth data, which is often limited or difficult to obtain in large distribution networks.
- To address this limitation, the presentation introduced unsupervised learning techniques, particularly clustering algorithms such as K-Means and DBSCAN. These methods do not require labelled data and instead group consumers based on similarity in their electrical signatures. The process involves data preprocessing, including handling missing values, removing outliers, and smoothing signals, followed by feature engineering and clustering. This approach enables automatic identification of consumer-to-DTR relationships, making it highly suitable for large-scale deployment where baseline data may be unreliable.

The presentation also described the supporting IT ecosystem, which includes systems such as Meter Data Management (MDM), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Network and Consumer Databases (NGB), and AI and ML engines, along with field validation applications and Power BI dashboards. These dashboards provide feeder-wise and DTR-wise insights, including billing efficiency analysis, helping identify anomalies that indicate incorrect indexing.

Empirical results demonstrated significant improvements in network accuracy. In several cases, incorrect mappings, including unrealistic Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses and inflated consumer counts, were corrected using AI and ML analysis. This resulted in more accurate energy accounting, realistic loss estimation, and improved network representation. The solution was successfully implemented across multiple feeders, hundreds of DTRs, and tens of thousands of consumers, demonstrating strong scalability and effectiveness.



Picture 8: Excerpt from the presentation shared by Dr Vivek Chandra, CGM (IT) MPPKVVCL

The benefits of accurate AI and ML-driven consumer indexing are substantial. For DISCOMs, it enables better energy accounting, improved load management, efficient outage management, and enhanced detection of theft and tariff misuse. It also supports network optimisation, including improved voltage profiles and reduced technical losses. For consumers, it results in accurate outage communication, faster complaint resolution, and overall improved service quality. Accurate indexing also forms a strong foundation for advanced initiatives such as demand response, dynamic pricing, and integration with platforms like the India Energy Stack (IES).

The presentation also highlighted key challenges in implementation. These include data quality issues, such as missing or inconsistent readings, time synchronisation problems due to RTC drift, and incomplete smart meter coverage in some areas. Solutions such as Dynamic Time Warping (DTW) and system-based synchronisation mechanisms were suggested to address time alignment issues. Additional challenges include integration with legacy systems and the need for capacity building to ensure that field teams can effectively use and interpret AI-driven outputs.

In conclusion, the presentation demonstrated that AI and ML-driven consumer indexing is a reliable, scalable, and high-impact solution to a long-standing problem in the power distribution sector. By leveraging AMI data, advanced analytics, and integrated digital systems, DISCOMs can significantly improve the accuracy, efficiency, and intelligence of their operations. This approach supports the broader transition toward a digitally enabled, data-driven, and future-ready energy ecosystem.

PANEL 1: ROLE OF AI IN REGULATION

The discussion on the “**Role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Regulation**” brought together a distinguished group of experts from the fields of regulation, technology, and public policy, each contributing valuable insights on the evolving interface between AI and regulatory governance. The panel comprised **Shri Ramesh Babu** (*Member, CERC*), **Shri Raj Pratap Singh** (*Former Chairperson, UPERC*), **Shri Anjani Kumar Tiwari** (*Member, PNGRB*), **Shri Arunvir Vashista** (*Member, RERA Punjab*), and was moderated by **Prof (Dr) Naveen Sirohi**, *Director FOIR Centre IICA (Moderator)*. Their diverse professional backgrounds enabled a multidimensional discussion on how AI-driven tools are reshaping the design and implementation of regulatory frameworks in an increasingly complex and data-intensive environment.

The discussion began with an acknowledgement that traditional approaches to regulation, characterised by static rule-making, periodic compliance reporting, and reactive enforcement mechanisms, are becoming increasingly inadequate in addressing the challenges posed by rapidly evolving sectors. Panellists emphasised that the exponential growth in data generation, combined with the increasing interconnectedness of systems, requires regulators to transition towards dynamic, adaptive, and anticipatory models of governance. In this context, AI was identified as a transformative enabler, capable of processing vast volumes of real-time data, detecting patterns, and generating actionable insights that can support more informed and timely decision-making.

A central theme of the discussion was the critical role of trust in the deployment of AI within regulatory systems. While AI technologies offer significant potential to enhance efficiency, accuracy, and scalability, their adoption must be accompanied by strong governance frameworks that ensure transparency, accountability, and fairness. Panellists highlighted the importance of explainable AI, noting that regulatory decisions must remain interpretable and justifiable, particularly in contexts where they directly impact consumers and market participants. Without adequate mechanisms for algorithmic transparency, there is a risk that AI-driven processes could be perceived as opaque or biased, thereby eroding public confidence in regulatory institutions.



Picture 9: Discussion on the Role of AI in Regulation, where experts deliberated on leveraging data-driven technologies, ensuring transparency, and building adaptive regulatory frameworks for the digital era.

The discussion also underscored the foundational importance of data in enabling AI-driven regulation. Panellists observed that many regulatory processes continue to rely on unstructured and non-standardised data formats, such as PDFs, spreadsheets, and manual submissions, which significantly limit the scope for advanced analytics. Transitioning to machine-readable data, supported by standardised formats and interoperable systems, was identified as a critical prerequisite for leveraging the full potential of AI and ML applications. The development of digital public infrastructures, such as sector-specific data exchanges and protocol-based systems, was seen as a key step towards enabling seamless data sharing and improving regulatory intelligence.

Another important dimension of the discussion was the evolution of regulatory tools and methodologies. Traditional instruments, including tariff setting, licensing, and compliance audits, are increasingly being supplemented by AI-enabled solutions, such as automated monitoring systems, real-time compliance dashboards, and predictive risk assessment models. These tools allow regulators to move from ex-post enforcement to continuous and proactive oversight, enabling the early identification of anomalies, potential violations, and emerging risks. However, panellists cautioned that while automation can enhance efficiency, it should not lead to an over-reliance on technology at the expense of human judgment and contextual understanding, which remain essential components of effective regulation.

The issue of capacity building within regulatory institutions emerged as a critical concern. The integration of AI into regulatory processes requires the development of new skill sets, including expertise in data science, statistical analysis, and technology management, alongside traditional competencies in law, economics, and sectoral knowledge. Panellists emphasised the need for creating multidisciplinary teams and investing in continuous learning and development programs to equip regulatory personnel with the necessary capabilities to design, implement, and oversee AI-driven systems. This transformation also involves fostering a culture of innovation and experimentation, where regulators are encouraged to adopt new tools and approaches while maintaining a strong focus on public interest.

Inter-agency collaboration was identified as another key enabler for the effective adoption of AI in regulation. Given the cross-cutting nature of issues such as data governance, cybersecurity, and digital platform regulation, panellists highlighted the importance of coordination among different regulatory bodies, government departments, and industry stakeholders. Collaborative approaches can facilitate the development of harmonised standards, enable the sharing of best practices, and ensure a more coherent and consistent regulatory response to emerging challenges. Such coordination is particularly important in sectors where technological convergence is blurring traditional boundaries.

The panel also engaged in a nuanced discussion on the potential risks and limitations associated with the use of AI in regulatory contexts. Concerns were raised regarding algorithmic bias, which can arise from flawed or unrepresentative data, leading to unintended discriminatory outcomes. Issues related to data privacy and cybersecurity were also highlighted, particularly in the context of large-scale digital systems that handle sensitive consumer information. Panellists stressed the need for robust risk management frameworks, including regular audits of AI systems, implementation of data protection measures, and adherence to relevant legal and regulatory standards. Ensuring the resilience and security of AI-enabled systems was identified as a critical priority for regulators.

Another important insight from the discussion was the recognition that AI should be viewed primarily as a decision-support tool rather than a replacement for human regulators. While AI can significantly enhance analytical capabilities and operational efficiency, final decision-making authority must remain with human institutions to ensure accountability, ethical consideration, and context-sensitive judgment. Panellists emphasised the importance of maintaining a balanced approach, where technology and human expertise complement each other in the regulatory process.

In conclusion, the panel discussion highlighted that the integration of AI into regulatory frameworks represents a fundamental shift in the way regulation is conceptualised and implemented. By enabling data-driven, real-time, and predictive approaches, AI has the potential to significantly enhance the effectiveness and responsiveness of regulatory systems. However, its successful adoption depends on the establishment of strong institutional frameworks, investment in capacity building, and the development of ethical and governance standards that ensure transparency, fairness, and public trust. Ultimately, the transition towards AI-enabled regulation requires a holistic approach that combines technological innovation, policy evolution, and institutional readiness, positioning regulators to effectively navigate the complexities of an increasingly digital and interconnected world.



Picture 10: Group photograph (Panel 1). Panel Members (from left to right): Prof (Dr) Naveen Sirohi, Director FOIR Centre, IICA (Moderator), Shri Ramesh Babu, Member CERC, Shri Raj Pratap Singh, Former Chairperson UPERC, Shri Anjani Kumar Tiwari, Member PNGRB, Shri Arunvir Vashist, Member RERA Punjab

PANEL 2: SMART DEREGULATION: REDUCING BURDEN WITHOUT REDUCING OVERSIGHT

The second panel discussion focused on the theme of “**Smart Deregulation: Reducing Burden Without Reducing Oversight**”. The panel comprised **Shri Sutirtha Bhattacharya** (*Former Chairperson, WBERC*), **Shri P K Jena** (*Chairperson, OERC*), **Shri Arvind Kumar** (*Chairperson, UPERC*), and was moderated by **Dr Sushanta Chatterjee** (*Chief (Regulatory Affairs), CERC*). With extensive expertise spanning power sector operations, regulatory compliance, digital systems integration, and policy execution, the panellists collectively examined the gap between conceptual innovation and real-world implementation, particularly in the context of emerging tools such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and digital infrastructure platforms.

The discussion began with a candid acknowledgement of the persistent implementation gap that characterises many reform initiatives in the power sector. While policies and frameworks supporting digital transformation and data-driven decision-making have been widely articulated, their translation into practice remains uneven across utilities and regions. Panellists pointed out that several initiatives often remain confined to pilot projects, with limited success in scaling to full operational deployment. This phenomenon, sometimes referred to as “*pilot fatigue*,” reflects deeper structural challenges, including limited institutional capacity, lack of clear accountability mechanisms, and insufficient alignment between policy intent and execution capabilities.



Picture 11: Discussion on implementation and sectoral challenges, where experts explored scaling digital innovations, strengthening data quality, and enhancing institutional readiness for effective, technology-driven regulation.

A major theme of the discussion was the critical importance of data quality as the foundation for any technology-enabled solution. Panellists emphasised that while tools such as AI/ML offer significant potential to improve efficiency and accuracy, their effectiveness is inherently dependent on the availability of clean, consistent, and comprehensive data. In many DISCOMs, data continues to be fragmented, outdated, or inconsistently recorded, thereby limiting the reliability of analytical outputs. The example of consumer indexing was cited as a case in point, where inaccurate or incomplete data leads to flawed energy accounting, loss estimation, and network planning. Addressing these issues requires a systematic focus on data standardisation, validation mechanisms, and the establishment of robust data governance frameworks.

The role of smart meters and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) was extensively discussed as a key enabler of digital transformation in the power sector. Panellists agreed that smart meters represent a game-changing intervention, providing high-frequency, granular data that can support a wide range of applications, including load forecasting, outage management, and demand response programs. However, it was also noted that the benefits of AMI can only be fully realised when there is comprehensive coverage and effective integration with backend systems. Partial implementation limits the scope of analysis and reduces the overall impact of digital initiatives. The discussion highlighted the need for a holistic approach, where infrastructure deployment is complemented by investments in analytics capabilities and organisational readiness.

Another important aspect of the discussion was the issue of institutional resistance and change management. Panellists observed that the adoption of new technologies often faces challenges at the operational level due to factors such as a lack of technical awareness, resistance to change, and the absence of clear incentives for adoption. Field-level personnel may be hesitant to transition from familiar manual processes to technology-driven systems, particularly in the absence of adequate training and support. To address this, panellists emphasised the importance of capacity building, stakeholder engagement, and the creation of a supportive environment that encourages innovation and experimentation within organisations.

The discussion also highlighted the need for greater standardisation and interoperability across systems. Currently, different utilities often operate using diverse platforms, data formats, and processes, which creates barriers to integration and scalability. Initiatives such as the India Energy Stack (IES) were recognised as important steps towards establishing common protocols, data standards, and interoperable architectures that can enable seamless interaction between different stakeholders. By providing a unified framework for data exchange and transaction management, such platforms can facilitate the scaling of innovative solutions and reduce the complexity associated with system integration.

A recurring theme in the panel was the challenge of moving from pilot projects to large-scale deployment. While pilot initiatives are essential for testing new concepts and technologies, their success often depends on the ability to develop clear implementation roadmaps, define performance metrics, and ensure regulatory support for scaling.

Panellists noted that many promising solutions fail to progress beyond the pilot stage due to the absence of structured adoption strategies and the lack of coordination among stakeholders. Regulators were seen as playing a critical role in addressing this issue by providing policy clarity, enabling regulatory sandboxes, and creating incentives for technology adoption.

The role of regulators in facilitating implementation was discussed in detail. Panellists emphasised that regulators must go beyond their traditional functions of rule-making and compliance enforcement to become active enablers of innovation and sectoral transformation. This includes supporting the development of digital ecosystems, encouraging experimentation through sandbox frameworks, and ensuring that regulatory processes are aligned with the evolving needs of a technology-driven environment. At the same time, regulators must maintain a strong focus on accountability, ensuring that utilities and service providers adhere to established standards and deliver on their commitments.

The panel also addressed concerns related to cybersecurity and risk management, particularly in the context of increasing digitalisation. As power systems become more interconnected and reliant on digital platforms, they also become more vulnerable to cyber threats and data breaches. Panellists stressed the importance of incorporating robust security protocols, conducting regular risk assessments, and establishing clear incident response mechanisms to safeguard critical infrastructure. Ensuring the resilience of digital systems was identified as a key priority, requiring coordinated efforts across technical, operational, and regulatory domains.

In conclusion, the panel discussion highlighted that the successful implementation of technology-driven reforms in the power sector requires a comprehensive approach that goes beyond the adoption of new tools. It necessitates addressing underlying challenges related to data quality, institutional capacity, standardisation, and change management, while also fostering a culture of innovation and accountability. The transition from pilot projects to scalable solutions depends on the alignment of policy frameworks, technological capabilities, and organisational readiness. Ultimately, the discussion underscored that achieving a truly digital, efficient, and responsive energy ecosystem will require sustained efforts from all stakeholders, supported by strong regulatory leadership and a clear vision for the future.



Picture 12: Group Photograph (Panel 2). Panel Members (from left to right): Dr Sushanta Chatterjee (Chief (Regulatory Affairs) CERC, (Moderator)), Shri Sutirtha Bhattacharya (Former Chairperson, WBERC), Shri P K Jena (Chairperson, OERC), Shri Arvind Kumar (Chairperson, UPERC)

VOTE OF THANKS

The Vote of Thanks delivered by **Shri Harpreet Singh Pruthi, Secretary CERC & Executive Secretary FOIR**, marked a thoughtful and gracious conclusion to the conference on “*Next Generation Regulation: Tools, Talent & Technology*”. In his address, he expressed sincere appreciation to all distinguished dignitaries, regulators, subject matter experts, and participants whose insights and active engagement contributed to the success of the event. He acknowledged the presence and guidance of senior leadership from key regulatory institutions, emphasising that their experience and vision continue to shape the evolution of India’s regulatory landscape.

Shri Pruthi extended special thanks to all the guests and keynote speakers, including senior representatives from the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs), and other institutions, for setting the tone of the conference with their forward-looking perspectives. He recognised the valuable contributions of the presenters, particularly those who spoke on emerging areas such as the India Energy Stack (IES) and AI/ML-driven consumer indexing, noting that these sessions highlighted the growing importance of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), data-driven decision-making, and advanced analytics in modern regulatory frameworks.

He also appreciated the panellists and moderators of both panel discussions, who facilitated engaging and insightful deliberations on critical themes such as the role of Artificial Intelligence in regulation and the need for smart deregulation in a rapidly evolving energy ecosystem. He noted that these discussions underscored the importance of adaptive regulation, institutional readiness, and the integration of technology with policy frameworks to address emerging challenges in the sector.



Picture 13: Shri Harpreet Singh Pruthi delivering the Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude to dignitaries, speakers, and participants for their contributions to the success of the FOIR Conference.

A significant part of his address was devoted to acknowledging the efforts of the organising institutions, namely the Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR), the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), and supporting teams from associated organisations. He commended their meticulous planning and coordination in successfully bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders on a common platform for meaningful dialogue and knowledge exchange. He also extended gratitude to the venue hosts for their hospitality and seamless arrangements, which contributed to the overall experience of the participants.

Shri Pruthi highlighted that the conference had successfully fostered collaborative learning, exchange of best practices, and forward-looking discussions on leveraging technology, talent, and innovative tools for strengthening regulatory effectiveness. He emphasised that the insights generated during the sessions would play a crucial role in guiding future policy directions and in building a more transparent, efficient, and consumer-centric energy sector.

In concluding his address, he reiterated his appreciation to all participants for their active involvement and encouraged continued engagement and collaboration beyond the conference. He expressed confidence that such platforms would remain instrumental in driving the transition towards a digitally enabled, resilient, and future-ready regulatory ecosystem in India.

TESTIMONIALS

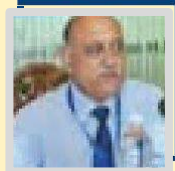


While I leave Calcutta after attending the Annual FOIR conference, I wish to thank you so much for the excellently arranged conference and for the nice & comfortable boarding and lodging of all the participants. It was indeed a great and memorable event for me and others who participated in the engaging conference.

~Surender Babbar (Member, DERC)

Extremely thankful to team IICA & team CERC for wonderful arrangements and exceptional hospitality.

~Kr Bhanu Partap Singh (Former Member, HPERC)



Chairman CERC, Prof Sirohi, Mr Abhishek & Mr Kaushal. Thanks for making the conference memorable. Much appreciated!

~Subhash Sethi (Former Member, DERC)

It is really great to attend this conference meeting with old friends. Excellent arrangements by the team. The hospitality extended is so good, and thank everyone who has made this event a great success and memorable.

~Chandrashekhar Muthswamy



The FOIR Conference in Kolkata was very well organized, both technically and logistically.

~Umesh Narayan Paniyar

Heartiest congratulations to FOIR and IICA for arranging the wonderful conference. We are grateful for the wonderful hospitality. They had brought in every possible bit to make this visit memorable and cherishable.

~Upendra Behera



It was a memorable FOIR conference with excellent arrangements and good contemporary content. Congratulations to the CERC and IICA teams for putting it together.

~Arun Goyal CERC Former Member

TESTIMONIALS

Congratulations to FOIR for organising a very successful conference. Thank you to FOIR for the excellent and thoughtful arrangements.

~PW Ingty



The most successful event, the Technical Presentations panel discussions, covered the most important and contemporary subjects. I thoroughly enjoyed the sessions. The Seminar set the tone for preparing Regulators to adopt the latest developments. I congratulate FOIR teams in CERC and IICA for successfully organizing the event. My sincere thanks to Mr Jishnu Barua, Chairman, CERC, Dr M. V. Rao, and Dr Naveen Sirohi, Director, FOIR, Abhishek Kaushal of IICA, for organising the lively event and making our visit useful and comfortable.

~Rabindra Nath Sen

The FOIR meet has been a very interesting and useful one involving regulators from various disciplines sharing ideas to enhance the efficiency of the regulatory function, keeping abreast with the latest technology advancements and the AI revolution.

Thanks to Shri Jisnu Barua Sir, Chairman CERC and team, Dr Naveen Shirohi, Director FOIR and the team of IICA for making the programme thought-provoking and exploring. We learned and enjoyed every moment of the programme and site visits. Thank you once again.

~Soubam Ibopishak Singh



My heartfelt thanks to Dr Sirohi of IICA and their team for excellent hospitality and arrangements, along with excellent discussion.

~Jiban Krishna Sen, former Member TERC

We wish to thank the entire FOIR group for successfully organizing its annual meet at Kolkata.

We immensely enjoyed our stay and tour of the city.

~Arunvir Vashista (Member, RERA Punjab)



Thanks also to IICA team and especially Dr Sirohi for organising the FOIR meet - excellent presentations and panel discussions.

~Ravinder Dhillon (Member, CERC)

TESTIMONIALS

We convey our sincere thanks to the FOIR working group led by Hon'ble Chairperson CERC, and his team, IICA team, for excellent arrangements during the Annual Conference of FOIR and excellent hospitality. We are going back to Delhi with sweet memories of the Kolkata

FOIR Conference



~Raj Kumar Choudhary



Congratulations to team FOIR, IICA for making this event memorable. KUDOS!

~Shishir Sinha

My special thanks also to Prof. Sirohi, Shri Abhishek, Shri Kaushal of IICA, and Rashmi Nair and other FOIR staff for the facilitation, support, and coordination extended by them.

~Jatin N Thakkar (Member (Judicial), GERC)



Thanks to Naveen Sirohi for your painstaking efforts in making this conference a success.

~Harpreet Singh Pruthi (Secretary, CERC & Executive Secretary, FOIR)

PHOTO GALLERY



ABOUT FOIR

The **Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR)** is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, established on February 4, 2000, with the Registrar of Societies, National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Memorandum of Association and the Rules and Regulations governing the Forum are set out in Schedule-I and Schedule-II respectively. FOIR serves as an institutional platform aimed at promoting cooperation, coordination, and capacity-building among regulatory bodies in India, while fostering a shared understanding of regulatory principles and practices.

The genesis of FOIR can be traced to the emergence of independent regulatory institutions in India during the post-liberalisation period. The establishment of the Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) in 1996 marked the beginning of sectoral regulatory reforms, followed by the creation of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and several State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. As the number of such bodies grew, regulators recognised the need for a common platform to deliberate on evolving challenges, harmonise regulatory approaches, and exchange knowledge and experiences.

In this context, a meeting of key regulatory commissions was convened in New Delhi in February 1999 to discuss the modalities for creating a collaborative forum. The proposal received wide acceptance, and as more regulatory authorities were established under various legislative frameworks, they became part of FOIR's expanding network. Although the Forum originated within the electricity sector, its constitution was intentionally designed to be inclusive and not confined to any single domain, thereby allowing participation from regulators across diverse sectors of the economy.

Over the years, FOIR has evolved into a significant platform for inter-regulatory dialogue and institutional strengthening. It facilitates discussions on regulatory frameworks, policy developments, and best practices, while also supporting research, training, and knowledge dissemination initiatives. By encouraging consistency, transparency, and efficiency in regulatory processes, FOIR contributes to the development of robust and credible regulatory institutions in India, ultimately supporting sustainable economic growth and protecting public interest.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

 भारतीय विमानपत्तन आर्थिक विनियामक प्राधिकरण Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India			 भारतीय विवाला और शोधन अधकता बोर्ड Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India		
AERA			IBBI		
					
APERC	APSERC	AERC	BERC	CERC	CSERC
					
CCI	DERC	FSSAI	GERC	HERC	HPERC
					
JSERC	JERC (Goa & UTs)	JERC (J&K & Ladakh)	KERC	KSERC	MPERC
					
MERC	MnERC	MSERC	MzERC	NERC	OERC
					
PNGRB	PSERC	RERC	RERA	SSERC	TNERC
					
TSERC	TRAI	TERC	UPERC	UERC	WBERC

ABOUT IICA

The **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)**, established in 2008 under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, is a premier think tank and capacity-building institution dedicated to strengthening corporate governance, policy, and regulatory frameworks in India. Headquartered in Manesar, Haryana, IICA plays a vital role in bridging the gap between government, regulators, corporates, and academia.

IICA functions as a multi-disciplinary institution engaged in research, training, advocacy, and consultancy across diverse domains of corporate affairs. It supports the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in policy formulation, implementation, and review of corporate laws, while also fostering an enabling ecosystem for responsible and sustainable business practices. Through its initiatives, IICA contributes to enhancing transparency, accountability, and efficiency in India's corporate sector.

The Institute operates through specialized Schools and Centres focusing on areas such as corporate law, corporate governance, finance, insolvency and bankruptcy, ESG, competition law, and business environment. It conducts a wide range of capacity-building programmes, including short-term training, long-term certification courses, degree programmes in collaboration with leading institutions, and executive education for professionals, government officials, and industry leaders.

With a strong emphasis on knowledge creation and dissemination, IICA undertakes policy-oriented research, consultancy projects, and stakeholder engagement initiatives. Its state-of-the-art campus and integrated knowledge infrastructure support advanced learning, innovation, and collaboration. The Institute also works towards developing skilled professionals such as independent directors, insolvency experts, valuers, and ESG practitioners to meet the evolving needs of the corporate sector.

Driven by a vision to become an Institution of National Importance, IICA continues to expand its academic, research, and advisory capabilities while promoting global partnerships and digital learning. Through its holistic approach, the Institute is committed to shaping the future of corporate governance and contributing to India's sustainable economic growth.



ABOUT FOIR CENTRE

The **Forum of Indian Regulators (FOIR) Centre** at the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) serves as a dedicated platform for strengthening regulatory capacity, promoting collaboration, and advancing policy-oriented research across India’s regulatory ecosystem. The Centre operates to support regulators in addressing the complexities of modern markets and ensuring the protection of consumer interests.

The FOIR Centre has been established, pursuant to a formal agreement between IICA and FOIR, to act as a knowledge and coordination hub, undertaking research, organising seminars, workshops, conferences, and training programmes, and publishing newsletters and reports. It also provides administrative support, including preparation of annual reports, documentation of meetings, and compliance-related functions.

Through its initiatives, the FOIR Centre at IICA plays a pivotal role in capacity building, academic advancement, and strategic policy development for regulators in India. By fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange, the Centre contributes to strengthening regulatory governance and promoting a transparent, efficient, and resilient economic framework.

IICA TEAM



Prof (Dr) Naveen Sirohi
Director, FOIR
Centre IICA



Mr. Sahil Kumar
Research Associate IICA



Mr. Abhishek Kaushal
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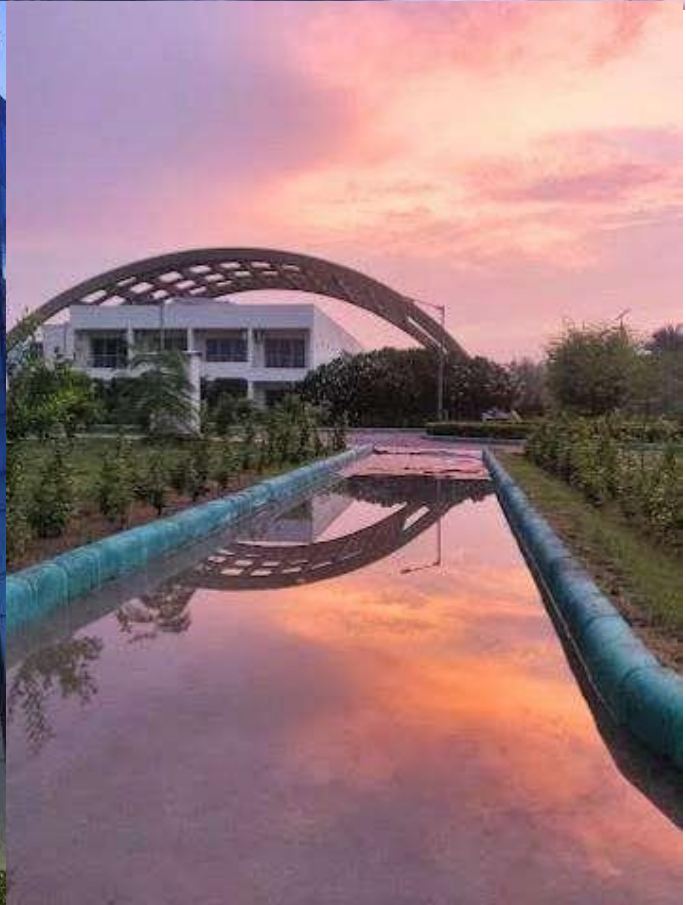


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