

ENERGETICA INDIA



SPDA appoints New Director General

Shri Shekhar Dutt will be responsible for promoting the organizational vision of increasing the focus on solar energy generation and advocating sustainable development

Solar Power Developers Association (SPDA), the national association representing India's upcoming solar power generators and developers, has announced the appointment of Shri Shekhar Dutt as the Director General, with effect from March 2015.

At SPDA, Shri Dutt will be responsible for promoting the organizational vision of increasing the focus on solar energy generation and advocating sustainable development. He will be at the forefront of drafting the industrial policies and proposals and will share his invaluable expertise on various governmental and corporate initiatives. He will also provide guidance to the team for developing the enabling policy framework and regulatory regime for the solar sector. Additionally, he will lead delegations to various Ministries and Departments of Central as well as concerned State Governments. Furthermore, he will also represent SPDA at various prestigious sessions on solar and renewable energy sector at national & international forums.

Prior to joining SPDA, Shri Dutt was the Governor of Chhattisgarh for four and a half years since January 2010, in addition to being the Chancellor of eleven State Universities and visitor of six private universities. Before this, between 2007 & 2010, Shri Dutt also served as the Deputy National Security Advisor wherein he addressed the issues concerning Strategic Defence and National Security. He also served as the Defence Secretary, Government of India between 2005 & 2007, wherein he was instrumental in transforming the procurement policies and modernizing the armed forces. Prior to that, he was the Secretary Defence Production, where his role encompassed overseeing and facilitating production of military land, sea and air systems. Shri Dutt has also held numerous prestigious positions during his vast career span, namely Director General at Sports Authority of India, Secretary, Ministry of Health, in the Madhya Pradesh Government, he was Principal Secretary at the Tribal Welfare, as well as Principal Secretary at Departments of School Education, Sports & Youth Wel-

fare. Prior to that, he was Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Defence. Shri Dutt originally started his career as an army officer in 1967. Shri Dutt fought the 1971 Indo Pak War and was awarded the Sena Medal for gallantry. He has close to five decades of administrative experience and during his tenure across these esteemed positions, Shri Dutt has been propagating development across sectors.

Commenting on his appointment, Shri Shekhar Dutt said, "I am happy to be associated with SPDA. It will be my endeavor to contribute towards the association's objective of promoting solar energy as a solution for India's energy security needs and developing this nascent sector. I look forward to working with SPDA as we embark on this exciting journey."

Welcoming Shri Dutt on board, Vineet Mittal, President of Solar Power Developers Association (SPDA) said, "We are extremely honored to welcome Shri Shekhar Dutt as the Director General at SPDA. We continuously strive to effectively communicate the challenges of our members and

assist Indian government in fulfilling its ambitious solar target. Shri Dutt's appointment will further help us tap the ministries towards bringing these issues in notice and increasing the usage of solar energy in India. His extensive experience of over five decades across ministries and forward-thinking outlook will help us build a strong presence and adopt best practices in this dynamic market."

Besides SPDA, Shri Dutt is also associated with numerous organisations and is a member of renowned national agencies. He is a member of the Executive Council (EC) of the Indian Institute of Public Administration

(IIPA), Advisory Board of the Centre for Joint Warfare, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, Advisory Board of Gujarat Technical University, Ahmedabad for e- Raksha, Advisory Board of South Asia Foundation, Governing Board of the University of Engineering and Management (UEM), Kolkata. Additionally, he is also the Chairman of Angika Development Society for Education.

Given his keen interest in the field of higher education and vast experience in the defence ministry, Shri Dutt has also authored two books in 2014, namely 'Reflections on Contemporary India' and 'India's Defence and National Security'. An ex-Chhattisgarh

Governor and an IAS officer, Shri Shekhar Dutt is a 'Development Policy and Planning' post graduate diploma holder from University of Swansea, United Kingdom.

About Solar Power Developers Association (SPDA)

Solar Power Developers Association (SPDA) is a national association representing India's upcoming solar power generators and developers. With increasing focus on solar energy generation, the independent organization is working to create an environment conducive for the development of this nascent sector and promote solar energy as the solution for

Shri Shekhar Dutt, Director General at Solar Power Developers Association (SPDA)



ENERGETICA INDIA: Please introduce us to Solar Power Developers Association (SPDA)

SHRI SHEKHAR DUTT: India is an energy deficient country and its demand for energy is constantly on rise. Therefore, it has to grow fast. We have a capacity created by thermal, hydro, gas, oil, atomic, wind and solar. However, all these capacities put together are insufficient for the growing demands of the country. Therefore, we have no option but to increase our capacities of generating power. We have to be conscious that we don't pollute the environment while catering to the energy needs. While energy capacities have to be increased, the attempt should be more on clean energy sources. Nature has provided India with abundant solar energy; the need is to harness it in the most efficient manner possible and link it up to the available energy distribution system.

Solar Power Developers Association (SPDA) is a national association representing India's upcoming solar power generators and developers. With increasing focus on solar energy generation, the association is working to create an environment conducive for the development of this nascent sector and promote solar energy as the solution for India's energy security needs. SPDA's initiatives are focused on policy, strategic, financial, legal, regulatory and technical issues in the energy

sectors. Contribution of members of SPDA in terms of installed and under development project in the country is more than two third of the total capacity in the country. Through its work, SPDA effectively communicates the voices of its members in the Indian market.

ENERGETICA INDIA: What will be your major focus for SDPA?

SHRI SHEKHAR DUTT: At SPDA, my focus will be on promoting the organizational vision of increasing the focus on solar energy generation and advocating sustainable development. I will be involved in drafting the industrial policies and proposals and will provide expertise on various governmental and corporate initiatives. I will also lead the team for developing the enabling policy framework and regulatory regime for the solar sector. Additionally, I will be responsible for leading delegations to various Ministries and Departments of Central as well as concerned State Governments and will also represent SPDA at various prestigious sessions on solar and renewable energy sector at national & international forums.

ENERGETICA INDIA: What are the current challenges for solar power developers in India?

SHRI SHEKHAR DUTT: Solar industry in India is witnessing a major shift and India's Jawaha-

ral Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM), a major initiative by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy' (MNRE), for deploying 20GW of solar power by 2022 is commendable. The mission plans to reduce the cost of solar power generation in the country by achieving grid tariff parity by 2022. We believe to fulfil the ambitious solar target, which will require huge fund investment and a conducive policy environment, both at the central and state levels. The other challenges being faced by solar developers in India at present are:

- Regulatory Issues – Besides policy initiatives, there are certain regulatory issues that is becoming a challenge for many of the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) in the country, such as Renewable Generator Obligation, Accelerated Depreciation, non-level playing fields between IPPs and PSUs being the prominent ones
- Land Scarcity – The per capita land availability of land is very low in India and land acquisition is a huge issue. Dedication of solar power harnessing land area near substations for exclusive installation of solar cells is a pre-requisite which needs to be looked into and instead connecting solar power generation plants with the nearest sub-station should be

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Present members and associates of SPDA

1. Acme Solar	11. SunEdison	23. Madhav Infra Projects Limited
2. Adani Power	12. Aditya Birla	24. Tripower Solar Private Limited
3. Welspun Renewables Energy	13. Azure	25. ABB Solar Inverters
4. Kiran Energy	14. Sunborne	26. Trisquare Switchgears Pvt. Ltd
5. ReNew Power	15. Solaire Direct	27. iPLON India Pvt. Ltd.
6. IL&FS Energy	16. Saisudhir	28. Statcon Power Controls Ltd
7. First Solar	17. Today Energy	29. Hero Future Energies Ltd
8. Mahindra Renewable Energy	18. Fortum	
9. Green Infra Limited	19. TPM Consultants	
10. Punj Lloyd	20. Jakson Power Solution	
	21. Infra Esselgroup	
	22. Bridge to India	

considered. Further, there is an abundant waste lad which should be seen for possible location of large solar power generation plants.

- Bankability & funding - India's inadequate financing capabilities at present is highly responsible for slow development pace of solar energy in the country. Additionally, heavy technology importing penalties are also levied on Indian solar companies, which further hinder the growth of the sector.
- Better Infrastructure – There is a need for a better financing infrastructure, models and arrangements for the industry to spur the PV industry and consumption of the PV products.
- Priority Sector Tag – Currently, the solar industry is missing the tag of being a priority sector in India which is important for its effective growth & development.

Enumerated are the solutions that needs immediate attention for the holistic growth and development of the solar industry:

- Relaxation of 'Minimum Alternate Tax' (MAT) to enable new markets
- RGO to be exclusive of 'Renewable Purchase Obligation' (RPO) – so that it adds depth to the market
- Level playing field between 'Public Sector Undertaking' (PSU) thermal generators and 'Independent Power Producers' (IPPs) in the solar sector
- Procurement of power through competitive bidding under 'National Solar Mission' (NSM) Phase II Batch II Tranche I
- Agencies like Multi-lateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) need to provide credit enhancement to safeguard the interest of the investors and increase equity. Additionally, green bonds need to be allowed by the government

Profile of Shri Shekhar Dutt

A veteran with close to five decades of administrative as well as ministerial experience, his current role entails promoting the organizational vision of increasing the focus on solar energy generation and advocating sustainable development through SPDA. He will be at the forefront of drafting the industrial policies and proposals and will share his invaluable expertise on various governmental and corporate initiatives. He will also lead the team for developing the enabling policy framework and regulatory regime for the solar sector. Additionally, he will be responsible for leading delegations to various Ministries and Departments of Central as well as concerned State Governments and will also represent SPDA at various prestigious sessions on solar and renewable energy sector at national & international forums.

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- Infrastructure Investment Trust is a great initiative which reduces taxation, exempts from dividend and at the same time provides returns to its holders.
- The government needs to focus on the solar industry and address the need for focused, collaborative and goals driven R&D to help India attain technology leadership in PV ◀◀