

SHRI PRADIP KUMAR DAS, CMD, IREDA ADDRESS ON IREDA'S 35TH FOUNDATION DAY

Today, as we step into the 35th year of IREDA, it's an occasion to share the pride of being part of the only dedicated institution in the country which is financing Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency projects.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) was incorporated on this day in 1987 as a Public Limited Company. It received certificate of commencement of business with effect from 21st April, 1987. Our incredible journey is a testimony to the vision, commitment and entrepreneurship of our founders and past leaders. Let's take this moment to remember with gratitude all distinguished predecessors for their accomplishments.

IREDA has been active in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance for renewable energy through innovative financial mechanisms in multiple RE sectors: Wind, Hydro, Solar (Thermal/SPV), Biomass, Cogeneration, Waste to Energy, Energy Efficiency, Rooftop solar, Access to Energy, new and emerging energy and hybrid. IREDA has over the years sanctioned loans to projects aggregating to Rs. 92,062 crore, disbursed Rs. 59,125 crore and supported more than 16,365 MW of RE capacity till date. IREDA's leadership and prime role in the sector has been appreciated at senior levels in the Government and by various stakeholders.

In the COVID-19 phase, we have been resilient; we innovated, harnessed technology, recovered and made good progress. There were some alerts in our business records, but with determined efforts in the last three quarters, we have managed to turn it around. First half of 2020-21 has seen a significant reduction in NPA and record growth in profit. The Ratings have picked up once again.

Government of India has announced an equity infusion of Rs. 1,500 crore in IREDA in the budget of 2021-22. This has opened up a historic opportunity for us. We consider it as a reposition of trust in the company, which we accept with all humility, and will strive to rise to it. With the additional equity, IREDA would be able to extend additional loan facility of Rs. 12,000 crores. The equity will also help IREDA in borrowing at lower rate of interest, thus lowering the interest rates for developers. It would enable financing of around 4,500 MW of additional RE projects worth Rs. 18,000 to 19,000 crores. The business will generate employment of 13,500 jobs per year and reduce emissions of 85.5 lakh tons of CO₂.

IREDA has started consultancy services in developing renewable energy projects in line with Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. We have signed two back-to-back MoUs with SJVN and NHPC and more are in the pipeline. We will facilitate knowledge and technology transfer and provide consultancy & research services, which will contribute to driving sustainable development in true realisation of IREDA's role.

I am delighted to inform you that IREDA has received NITI Aayog concurrence to set up a subsidiary for being an Asset Management Company for the Alternative Investment Fund (AIF). AIF to tap large Institutional Investors who otherwise didn't have a platform to participate in RE Financing at project level. AIF will also help IREDA in financing new projects of those borrowers who are nearing the exposure limit. It will enable IREDA in earning sustainable & synergistic fee income/ non fund based income through Asset Management Company.

Considering the policy outlook and the national priorities, I am quite optimistic that IREDA will go from strength to strength. As the economy starts growing faster, we must stay prepared to proactively seize the business opportunities. It is time for us to collaborate, to innovate and leverage our mutual energy. Let's move ahead with utmost zeal and excitement and pledge our commitment to not only our customers but also to the greater vision of clean and green energy which in our own catchline- 'energy for ever'.

As we celebrate the 35th Foundation Day; my best wishes to you and your family members, as we jointly march into a great future.

Jai Hind!

