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## **SPECIAL PLENARY SESSION**

# **INNOVATIVE POLICIES AND REGULATORY INTERVENTIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF DISCOMS**

## **SMART METERS IN AMI 2.0**

*Presented By*

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- Traditionally, in Power sector **generation and transmission** have attracted most of the attention, investment, and innovation.
- The rise of **Distributed Energy Resources (DERs), Electric Vehicles (EVs)**, and other technologies has brought **distribution to the forefront**.
- **Power distribution**, once on the sidelines, is now the **critical link** in the modern electricity value chain.
- The introduction of **AIDA** comes at the perfect time—aligning focus on **digital transformation** and the **evolving needs of the distribution business**.

- Historically, distribution was **operationally intensive**, managed through manpower and manual effort.
- The shift toward **technology-led operations** is redefining the sector.
- **Smart meters** form the **foundation for efficiency, automation, and transparency** across business functions.
- Enablement across key areas:
  - **Billing & Collections**
  - **Energy Auditing & Theft Detection**
  - **Load Forecasting & Outage Management**
  - **Demand Response & Asset Optimization**
  - **Network Reliability, Safety & Customer Satisfaction**
- Smart meters are emerging as the **central intelligence hub** for utilities of the future.

- To meet growing expectations, **smart meters must evolve** further in both hardware and software.
- Two critical intervention areas:
  - **Hardware Upgrades** – Hardware evolution must be **forward-looking**, as upgrades post-installation are **not feasible such as inbuilt BLE / Wi-Fi, Analog inputs/digital outputs ports**.
  - **Software Upgrades** – Already enabled seamlessly via **Firmware Over-The-Air (FOTA)** for updates even post-deployment.
- The future of power distribution will rely on **smart, connected, and upgradable metering infrastructure**.