

ALL INDIA POWER ENGINEERS FEDERATION



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Good Bye 2025

The wounds of this year will sting for years to come, yet from the heat of struggle will also emerge the tale of relief.

The year 2025 that is passing is not just a calendar page in the history of the power sector that will turn tomorrow and everything will be forgotten. This year has left wounds etched in memory (especially in Uttar Pradesh and Chandigarh) that will not heal easily with time.

The year 2025 will be remembered for the long struggle against privatization. In this very year, the Central Government once again introduced the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025. This Bill is a document marking the beginning of the end of the entire power sector. Since 2014, this is the sixth time the Government of India has introduced the Electricity (Amendment) Bill. We have stopped this Bill five times before, and with the new year approaching, we have this firm resolve: we will stop it for the sixth time as well.

Uttar Pradesh.

- Today marks the completion of 399 days of the struggle against the privatization of Purvanchal and Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam. This movement, in opposition to attempts at privatization based on fear and lies, stands as an example of “struggle against power for the sake of truth.”
- The year 2025 will also be known for the cowardly tradition started by the Power Corporation management of locking all gates of Shakti Bhawan to prevent protests. In 2025, a dictatorial order was issued in which the management took upon itself the authority to directly dismiss or terminate any employee or engineer from service without issuing a charge sheet or conducting any inquiry. Such a dictatorial order perhaps does not exist in any other state in the country.
- To ease the path for privatization, more than 25,000 extremely low-paid contract workers were removed in this year. There was no single reason for the removals—whenever desired, a new reason was found. False FIRs under Disproportionate Assets were lodged against key office-bearers of the Sangharsh Samiti to create an atmosphere of fear. Thousands of regular employees were transferred to remote locations, salaries withheld for five to six months in the name of facial attendance, forced installation of smart meters to end concessional electricity benefits, and so on.
- All this is merely a glimpse of efforts to create an atmosphere of fear to crush the peaceful movement. Orders are routinely issued that anyone attending a meeting will be sacked.
- Despite all this, on the last day of 2025, the movement completed 399 days. With the sunrise of 2026, the movement will enter its 400th day.
- The Vidyut Karmchari Sanyukt Sangharsh Samiti, Uttar Pradesh, says: We do not know what will happen ahead, but today we are fighting, we will fight, and we will fight till our last breath.

Chandigarh

- The year 2025 began very unfortunately when, amid police force and the sound of boots, in the midnight hours of 31 January and 01 February, the profit-making Chandigarh Electricity Department was handed over to a private company. Overnight, the government department’s power employees in Chandigarh were handed over to a private employer. The struggle of Chandigarh’s power employees, who fought with great bravery and valour, has been recorded in history. Along with it, this tale has also been recorded: the Chandigarh Electricity Department, which earned an annual profit of ₹200 crore, was sold for a mere ₹700 crore, while its assets alone are worth approximately ₹22,000 crore.

Maharashtra

- Power employees in Maharashtra continued to fight throughout 2025 against the granting of parallel licences for electricity distribution in major cities to private companies. Due to the opposition, the Maharashtra government has not yet been able to grant parallel licences, but towards the end of the year, it issued orders for franchising 13 circles. This despite knowing that the franchisee model has failed across the country, and especially in Maharashtra. Handing over 13 circles on franchise basis is shameless collusion with private business houses.

• **Punjab**

A new trend has begun in Punjab and Uttarakhand. In 2025, the Punjab Government decided to sell assets of the power sector to raise funds. The Uttarakhand Government liked this very much. As the year drew to a close, the Uttarakhand Government also decided to sell lands of hydroelectric projects. In Punjab, all office-bearers of the Engineers Association, including the General Secretary, were transferred to remote locations. Punjab is today at boiling point. The bureaucracy in Punjab is bent on destroying the power sector. The bugle of movement has already been sounded in Punjab. If the Punjab Government does not understand, it is certain that the fire of Punjab's movement will reach the throne of power.

• **Uttarakhand**

Uttarakhand too is on the path of movement. The year 2025 will be remembered for turning electricity into a tool of politics and for the story of destroying the same tool ie electricity sector.

• **Himachal Pradesh**

Attempts to suppress the organisations of employees and engineers who raised their voice in Himachal Pradesh, charge sheets to employee leaders, movements, protests—this is a glimpse of 2025.

• **Odisha**

Odisha was the first state where electricity was privatized. Two experiments with privatization in Odisha had already failed earlier. The American company AES fled after just one year, and after 16 years of complete failure of Reliance Power, the Regulatory Commission cancelled its licence. During COVID, licences of all four distribution companies were given to Tata. The Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission has now taken suo motu cognizance and issued notices to all four Tata Power companies. No final decision has come yet, hearings are ongoing, and in every hearing, the Regulatory Commission has severely reprimanded Tata Power.

• **Jammu & Kashmir**

In 2025, relieving news came from Jammu & Kashmir. It felt as if a cool breeze had blown from the Kashmir Valley. The long-awaited process of regularising engineers from ad-hoc to permanent began in Jammu & Kashmir. This is the result of the prolonged struggle of the engineers there, JK EEGA

• **Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan**

Orders had been issued to hand over ongoing projects to joint ventures in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Power Engineers in Madhya Pradesh went on a one-day strike in protest. The result of the struggle came, and at the beginning of 2025, the Madhya Pradesh Government decided that no joint venture would be formed and the Amarkantak project would be given to the Madhya Pradesh Power Generation Company itself. In Rajasthan too, the struggle against joint ventures continued. Although no final order has been issued yet, the result of the struggle is that NTPC has now agreed to hold 49 percent equity, but NTPC is still demanding management control. The struggle continues.

The Knock of the New Year

Anyway, as the new year knocks on the door, it is not merely a new date, but an opportunity for new thinking, new commitment, and new direction.

As 2025 departs, the lines of Dushyant Kumar... which will be needed the most in 2026...

**Who says there cannot be a hole in the sky?
Just throw one stone with all your heart, friends.**

Inquilab Zindabad.

Shailendra Dubey
Chairman