

# IRADe's 20th Anniversary: Celebrating two decades of Impact and Innovation



*From left to right: Prof. Kirit Parikh, Chairman of IRADe, Shri Suman Bery, Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog, Prof. Jyoti Parikh, Executive Director, IRADe, Shri Tarun Kapoor, Adviser to Prime Minister, Prof. Deepak Nayyar, Emeritus Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University and Council Member of IRADe*

30 October 2023

India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi

*An Evening Celebrating 20 Years of Impact!*

## Celebrating Two Decades of Impact: Reflections on IRADe's 20th Anniversary



**IRADe's 20th Anniversary celebration**, held on 30 October 2023, at the India International Centre (IIC), was a momentous occasion that brought together thought leaders, scholars, educators, and practitioners from diverse fields to reflect upon the institute's impactful journey. Expressing deep gratitude for the unwavering support of the participants, the gathering highlighted significant milestones across IRADe's

focal areas of work, encompassing climate change, clean energy transition, sustainable development, agriculture, food security, poverty alleviation, and gender equality.

Going beyond a mere commemoration, the gathering provided a valuable opportunity for collective reflection to share in the institute's remarkable journey and celebrate the collaborative efforts that have propelled IRADe to its current success. The evening exemplified a shared commitment to the institute's cause and a collective acknowledgment of the positive impact made over the past two decades.

Dr. Suresh Prabhu, Council Member, IRADe, and former Union Minister, Government of India, also graced the occasion in the earlier part.



## Special Addresses and Gratitude: Highlights from IRADe's 20th Anniversary Celebration



**Prof. Kirit Parikh, Chairman of IRADe**, welcomed participants and shared insights into the institute's genesis, emphasising its unique multidisciplinary approach. He highlighted the importance of considering local realities and implementing a multistakeholder perspective in developing policies, citing examples like the challenges of solar pumps for farmers. Prof. Parikh also outlined IRADe's impactful

studies, from influencing government targets for the Paris Agreement to promoting electricity trade among South Asian countries. He concluded by expressing gratitude for the attendees and touched on IRADe's contributions to urban resilience, shaping a transformative narrative on climate change.



**Prof. Jyoti Parikh, Executive Director of IRADe**, extended a warm welcome to the participants and collaborators, and asserted the importance of national perspectives in the global climate narrative. Emphasising India's unique emissions scenario per capita and cumulative contributions, she highlighted the need to view climate change as a problem that arises due to stock of emissions. The discourse extended to

the economic influence of regional power trade with Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh, showcasing broader impacts. Prof. Parikh underlined the success of increasing power trade. She also addressed the gender and energy access nexus, advocating for diverse clean energy solutions, including promotion of electric cooking. Concluding with gratitude to sponsors and volunteers, she emphasised the collaborative effort in shaping a positive narrative for sustainable change. She thanked all sponsors, collaborators, and council members, most of all, dedicated IRADe staff.



**Shri Tarun Kapoor, Advisor to the Prime Minister,** conveyed congratulations to IRADe and highlighted the institute's impactful studies, particularly in areas like electric vehicles, connectivity with neighbouring countries, and other areas which could significantly increase renewable energy in the grid, surpassing 40-50 per cent in the next decade. He discussed

challenges in grid management, storage, and the potential of pumped storage. Shri Kapoor also touched on the broader energy landscape, including the transport sector, cooking solutions, and the role of green hydrogen in industries, all areas in which IRADe is active. He underscored the importance of thoughtful planning to ensure energy security, affordability, and sustainability.



**Prof. Deepak Nayyar, Emeritus Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University and Council Member of IRADe,** extended his congratulations on the institute's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Commending the leadership of founders Prof. Kirit and Prof. Jyoti as institution builders, Prof. Nayyar underscored IRADe's vital work at the nexus of research and policy, particularly in crucial domains like energy transitions

and climate change. He expressed concern about the existing gap between research and policy implementation, urging for a transformative shift in the policy landscape and enhanced collaboration with the rich human resources in India that work at this intersection.



As the chief guest at IRADe's 20th Anniversary celebration, **Shri Suman Bery, Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog**, praised the substantial contributions made by Prof. Kirit Parikh and Prof. Jyoti Parikh, the founders of IRADe, over the past two decades. He underscored the importance of integrating economic considerations into energy discussions and emphasised the need for a least-cost approach

in adopting technology-based solutions. Reflecting on his longstanding association with Prof. Kirit Parikh, Shri Suman Bery highlighted their interactions since the late seventies and commended Prof. Parikh's unassuming dedication to public policy. Recognising IRADe's impactful and thoughtful contributions, he highlighted the institute's crucial role in navigating the evolving energy landscape, particularly during the ongoing transitions from public to private sector dominance and changing regional energy advantages in India.

The celebration brought together institute's invaluable contributions and discussed the future trajectory of research and policy at the intersection of climate change, sustainable development, and energy transition. Emphasising the critical role of think tanks, the event highlighted how independent thinking fosters collaboration, addresses challenges, and shapes policies for a sustainable future. As ideas and experiences were exchanged, the celebration reaffirmed IRADe's commitment to bridging the gap between research and policy, making it a significant milestone in the institute's ongoing journey toward positive societal impact. The programme concluded with the recognition of the staff members who have dedicated more than a decade to IRADe.



## Annexure

### Programme Schedule:

6:30 PM	Registration and gathering over tea
7:00 PM	Welcome address by Prof. Kirit Parikh, Chairman, IRADe
7:05 PM	Progress Report by Prof. Jyoti Parikh, Executive Director, IRADe
7:15 PM	Address by Council Members
7:25 PM	Address by Chief Guest
7:35 PM	Drinks and Dinner

