



With growing awareness of the environmental harm caused by the use of fossil fuel, renewable energy sources are being explored rapidly across the globe. With the launch of the National Solar Mission in January 2010, large scale deployment of solar energy has been started. It also became clear that there is a need for increasing solar cell efficiency, reducing solar module costs, improving power conditioning technologies and finding new form factors for energy utilization. To this end, the Department of Science and Technology started Solar Energy Research Initiative with very generous funding. It has been my privilege to have been associated with this Initiative during this period.

One of the earliest projects in this programme was to start the DST – IEST Solar PV Hub at IEST Shibpur with an objective to set up state of the art facilities for PV device research as well as for module and power conditioning research. The Centre is expected to provide facilities to neighboring institutions as well as interact closely with relevant industries.

I am very happy to note that the DST – IEST Solar PV Hub has made excellent progress and has a number of achievements to show. The Centre has excellent fabrication and characterization facilities which are being used by a large number of Institutions from across the country. It has been interacting with several PV related industries and providing them with scientific back up. The Centre has been supported with generous grants by the DST. The Centre does have some manpower issues with a shortage of Faculty which must be approved by the Ministry of Education. I am happy to note that the Honourable Minister of Education Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal is taking personal interest in this Centre. With his vision and foresight, the Centre will have bright future.

I wish success to all the members of the DST– IEST Solar PV Hub and look forward to more achievements from the Centre.



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23-Oct-20

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Professor/Emeritus Professor, IIT Delhi (2009-2017)
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