



**GOVERNANCE  
AWARDS  
2018**  
30-11-2018

**EXCELLENT  
CONTRIBUTION AWARD**

*Ritu Maheshwari*, IAS

(District Magistrate, Ghaziabad)

For spearheading a much-needed transformation in power supply companies across the country

*A* 2003-batch IAS officer of the UP cadre, Ms Ritu Maheshwari studied electrical engineering at Punjab Engineering College. She is known to be a very proficient officer with a propensity to transform the locale or divisions she is accountable for. She has served as the Vice Chairperson of the Agra Development Authority, as Director, Medical Education/ Health & Family Welfare, District Magistrate in JP Nagar, Ghazipur, Pilibhit and Shahjahanpur. She also served as Vice Chairperson of the Meerut Development Authority, besides holding the post of Joint Commissioner (Meerut).

She was appointed Managing Director of the State-owned Kanpur Electricity Supply Co. (KESCO) in 2011, then a debt-ridden power supply company incurring a line loss of 30%, pushing it to the brink of liquidation. With uncollected dues of more than Rs 2,000 crore, the utility firm had reached a situation where it was unable to buy more power from the grid or invest in new transformers to replace faulty ones. Ms Maheshwari launched a dedicated drive against power thieves, to fix tampered with meters and make consumers pay bills on time. Her technology initiatives proved to be a game changer. The real-time visibility provided by the smart meters and software analytics alerted the authorities to un-monitored consumption, tampered with meters and unusually heavy load imbalances caused by power theft. As a result, there was a dramatic reduction in KESCO's distribution losses where a reduction in loss by 1% saves approximately Rs 1.85 billion.

It was on Ms Maheshwari's suggestion that the Urja Mitra (Friends of Energy) programme was launched across India in 2015. Under this, a mobile app was developed through which consumers would receive advance notification of power outages, enabling them to plan schedules accordingly. Another of her initiatives was to highlight the need for technological up gradations and digitisation of the power distribution system through hi-tech meters, wiring, transformers, and so on.



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