



Electrical Engineering Department, L D College of Engineering, Ahmedabad organized an expert talk cum awareness seminar on “ Energy Swaraj Yatra - A Big Leap Towards Greener World” by Prof. Chetan Singh Solanki, Professor, IIT, Bombay and Founder of Energy Swaraj Foundation. The seminar was held on 18th January, 2021 amidst all SoP due to the pandemic. PG students and faculty members were participating offline whereas for the benefit of other participants which included UG students, industry personnel, students and faculty from other institutes etc. it was broadcast on YouTube as well as Facebook.

Prof. Chetan Singh Solanki has been referred to as “Solar Man of India” by Times of India, The Hindu and India Today. Some people also know him as “Solar Gandhi” due to his remarkable work in the field of solar energy. He is an educator, innovator, researcher, entrepreneur and author. He is widely felicitated nationally as well as internationally.

Following Gandhian ideals, Prof. Solanki has envisaged the idea of Energy Swaraj wherein locals generate and consume their own energy. He has undertaken an 11 years long Energy Swaraj Yatra from 2020 to 2030 to create a public movement for establishing Energy Swaraj. Efforts will also be made to spread the same in other countries as well.



Dr. Solanki has a bus which is customized to demonstrate the concept of Energy Swaraj. He is travelling and living in a solar-powered electric bus or solar bus. It will not be a ‘vanvas’ but a ‘solarvas’, he says. The bus has solar panels on its roof. The bus can run on diesel or solar energy (it can run upto 35 - 45 km on solar). The bus also functions as a small house consisting of a sitting area, a washroom, a pantry, work area, storage space and a folding bed. It has CCTV for security. The bus is fitted with all possible gadgets and household appliances like induction plate for cooking, lights, fans, inverter based AC, charging points for mobiles, laptops, two TV sets, etc. All the power supply required for these gadgets and appliances are drawn from the solar panels fitted on top of the bus.

He also gave the mantra - **“AMG - Avoid, Minimize, Generate”**. He feels this principle will prove to be very helpful in the efficient utilization and management of energy requirements. Dr. Solanki expects this yatra will be the seed for creating a public movement for the adoption of solar energy solutions on a very large scale, sufficient to mitigate climate change.

It was a pleasure for all faculty, students, NGOs and industry persons to interact live with Prof. Chetan Singh Solanki. There were around 40 participants offline including faculty and PG students. The online participation crossed 400 with more than 250 views on YouTube at that time.