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**T**he stunning pace of development of the world has resulted in much of the growth taking place without any consideration for the sustainability of the environment. A major source of this unpleasant side effect has come from the extensive use of fossil fuels as a source of energy. The advent of renewable options, especially in the form of wind energy has come at an opportune time though. "Traditional fossil fuels such as coal and petroleum require disturbing the earth to mine and extract them," says Dr R Christodas Gandhi, Chairman and Managing Director, Tamilnadu Energy Development Agency, "Wind on the other hand is readily available to be utilised."

Looking to recreate the successful, widespread adoption of wind energy in Europe, policy makers introduced several incentives initially to promote the uptake in the industrial community. "The investments that came in were primarily driven by the accelerated depreciation that came with it," says Dr Gomathi Nayagam, Executive Director, Centre for Wind Energy Technology. "In fact, nearly 95 percent of the installed capacity can be attributed to investors looking to utilise this incentive." This unhealthy bias is a marker of the low levels of awareness present in the minds of the public and policy makers with respect to wind energy. "It is therefore important for us to celebrate an occasion such as Global Wind Energy day to reach the general public," says Madhusudan Khemka, Managing Director, Regen Powertech. With the future power consumption trends of the country in the hands of the public, it is essential to make them understand both the environmental and economical benefits of renewable energy sources. "The increasing fuel prices have put an end to the era of cheap power production," says Ramesh Kymal, Gamesa Wind Turbines Pvt Limited.

"Owing to its immediate availability for harnessing, logistical obstacles are also avoided, making wind power impossible to ignore," says Ramesh, "And hence it is important that we bring wind energy up to 15 percent of our power production by 2020."

Moving ahead, new territories that are likely to be ventured into are home-based power generation on small scales with the help of smaller sized turbines that and the re-powering of existing fields. "Several technical advances have been made since the initial forays of wind power into the country," explains Dr Gomathi, "And we now have equipment which function with upto three times the efficiency. In addition, the development of smaller turbines will also help bring towns and villages into the grid by having them participate in the generation process."

The mood is optimistic in the wind energy camp and rightly so. With the promise of cleaner and limitless energy carried by the winds, the future certainly looks a lot brighter.

# Riding the WIND

**JOINING HANDS UNDER THE INDIAN WIND TURBINE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION'S BANNER, SEVERAL NOTABLE PEOPLE FROM THE INDUSTRY WERE PRESENT TO OFFER THEIR PERSPECTIVES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF WIND ENERGY. WE HEAR ABOUT THEIR VISION FOR THE FUTURE...**

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