

India Electrified - The Fact and Exaggeration

What is the issue?

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- Recently, the Union government had declared that all villages across India have been electrified.

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- While all villages have been electrified, as much as 17% of the 18 crore rural households remain without power connections.

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What is the current electrification scenario?

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- **Village Electrification** - With electricity reaching Manipur Leisang village recently, every village in India is said have been successfully electrified.

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- This hence completes the mission of the union government piloted “Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana” (DDU-GJY).

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- Significantly, more than 18,000 villages have been electrified since 2014.

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- But this doesn't mean all rural houses have been provided with power connections, as merely 10% coverage is sufficient to call a village electrified.

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- **Household Electrification** - As much as 17% of the 18 crore rural households remain without power connections.

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- Hence, the government has already initiated its “PM Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana” (Saubhagya), which aims for universal household electrification.

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- It is indeed a big achievement that every village has been electrified, but the task ahead for electrifying all houses is far bigger a challenge.

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- Additionally, India's rural poverty is so striking that the poorer households may not be able to sustain an electric connection even under heavy subsidy.

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What does the statistics say?

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- **Progress over the years -**

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Duty structure (₹ per litre)

Item	Basic excise duty	Special excise duty	Additional excise duty	Total	Share of basic excise duty in total (%)
Petrol	7.66	6	7	20.66	37.07
Diesel	10.69	6	1	17.69	60.42



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- **Quality of supply** - As per government sources, as of December 2017, only six out of 30 states had 24 hour-power supply in rural areas.

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- Over 50% of electrified rural households in UP, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal don't even get 12 hours of supply in a day.

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- **Households without a connection** - UP tops the list with a striking 44% of the population living without electricity.

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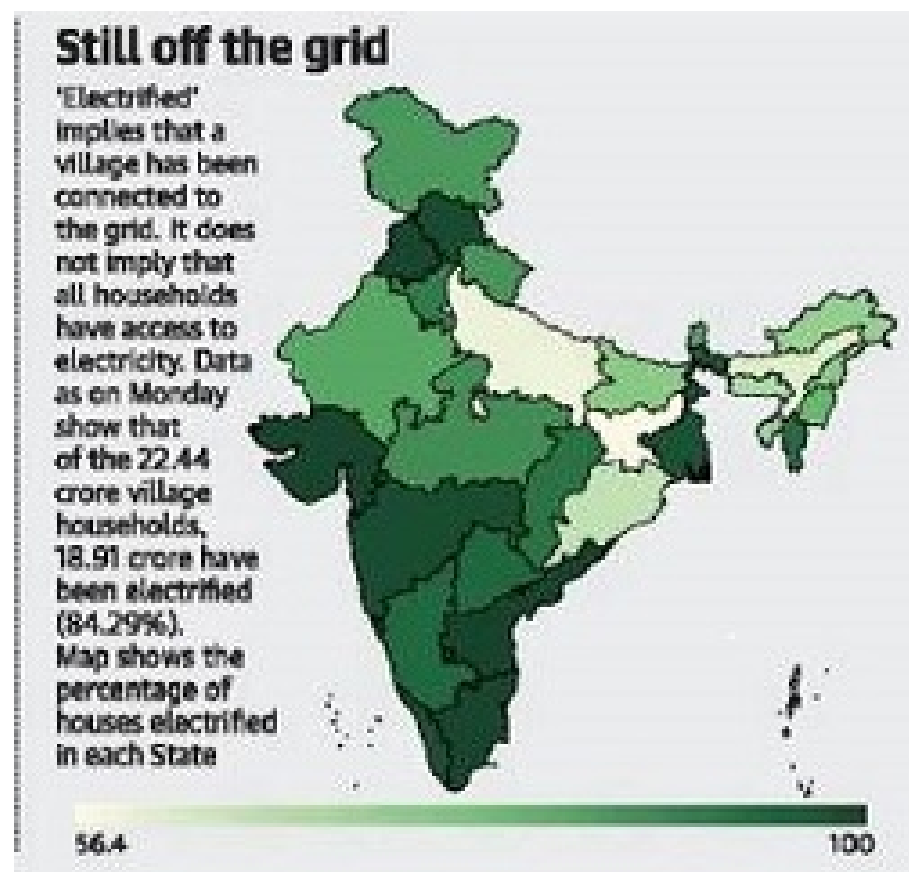
TABLE : LEARNING LEVELS IN INDIAN SCHOOLS (RURAL)

Year of ASER	% of Children aged 6-14 enrolled	% of Children in Std 5 who can read Std 2 level text			% of Children in Std 5 who can do simple division		
	in School	All Schools	Govt Schools	Private Schools	All Schools	Govt Schools	Private Schools
2006	93.4	53.1	51.4	60.8	-	-	-
2007	95.8	58.9	56.7	69.0	42.5	41.0	49.4
2008	95.7	56.3	53.1	67.9	37.1	34.4	47.1
2009	96.0	52.9	50.3	63.1	38.1	36.1	46.2
2010	96.6	53.7	50.7	64.2	36.2	33.9	44.2
2011	96.7	48.3	43.8	62.7	27.6	24.5	37.7
2012	96.5	46.9	41.7	61.2	24.9	20.3	37.8
2013	96.7	47.0	41.1	63.3	25.6	20.8	38.9
2014	96.7	48.1	42.2	62.5	26.1	20.7	39.3
2016	96.9	47.8	41.6	62.9	26.0	21.1	37.9

Note: ASER 2017 focuses on age group 14-18 and ASER 2018 is still forthcoming
Sources: ASER 2016 and ASER Trends over Time, available on website www.asercentre.org

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Variations among connections across states

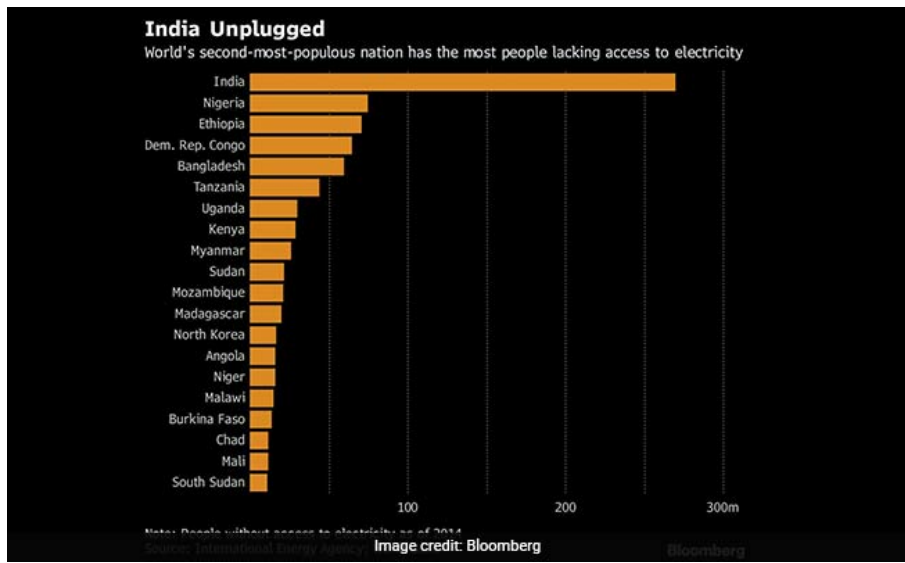
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- **Electrification across countries -**

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Source: Indian Express

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