

## 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<br>excise<br>duty | Special<br>excise<br>aduty | Additional<br>excise<br>duty | Total | Share of<br>basic excise<br>duty in<br>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)

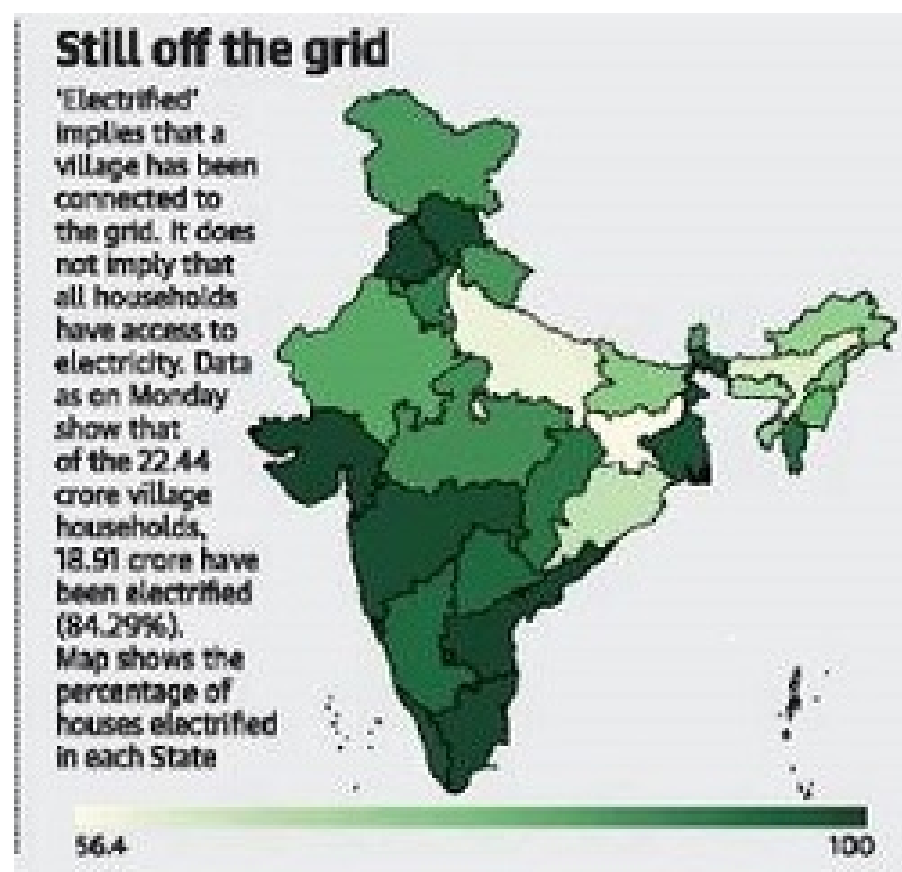
| Year of ASER | % of Children aged 6-14 enrolled | % of Children in Std 5 who can read Std 2 level text |              |                 | % of Children in Std 5 who can do simple division |              |                 |
|--------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------|-----------------|---|--------------|-----------------|
|              | 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](http://www.asercentre.org)

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*Variations among connections across states*

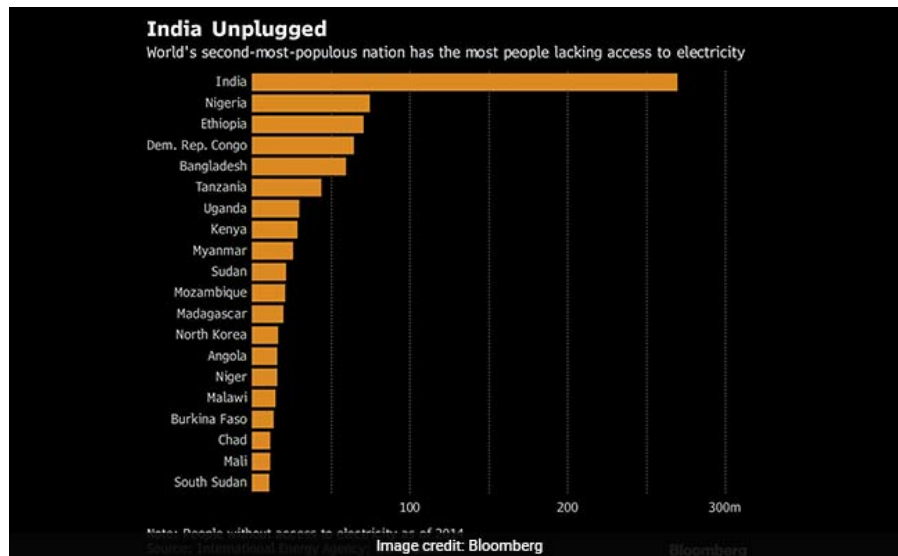
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- **Electrification across countries -**

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**Source: Indian Express**

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