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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- **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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Variations among connections across states

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- **Electrification across countries -**
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Source: Indian Express

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