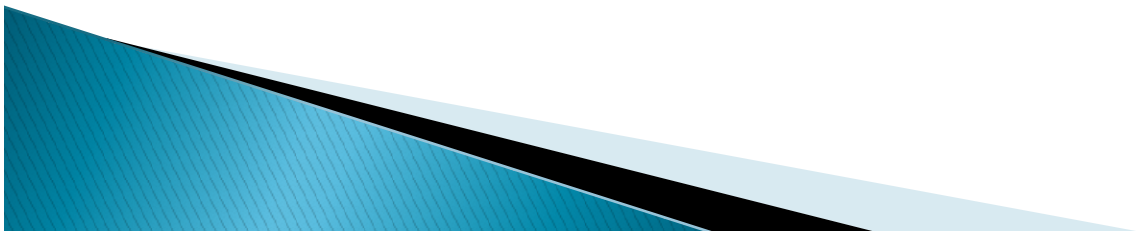
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

INTRODUCTION

- Energy is central to nearly every major challenge the world faces today. It ties together economic growth, social progress, and environmental sustainability.
- Globally, energy lies at the core of international policies aimed at improving opportunities, combating climate change and ensuring equality.
- There is no development without fuelling the engine of growth. Energy is critical and people with no sustainable access to energy are deprived of the opportunity to become part of national and global progress.
- Yet, one billion people around the world live without access to energy. More than 781 million people in 2016, or 39% of the world's population, do not have access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking.



TARGET

- Goal 7 of the SDGs aims to correct this enormous imbalance by ensuring everyone has access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services by the year 2030.

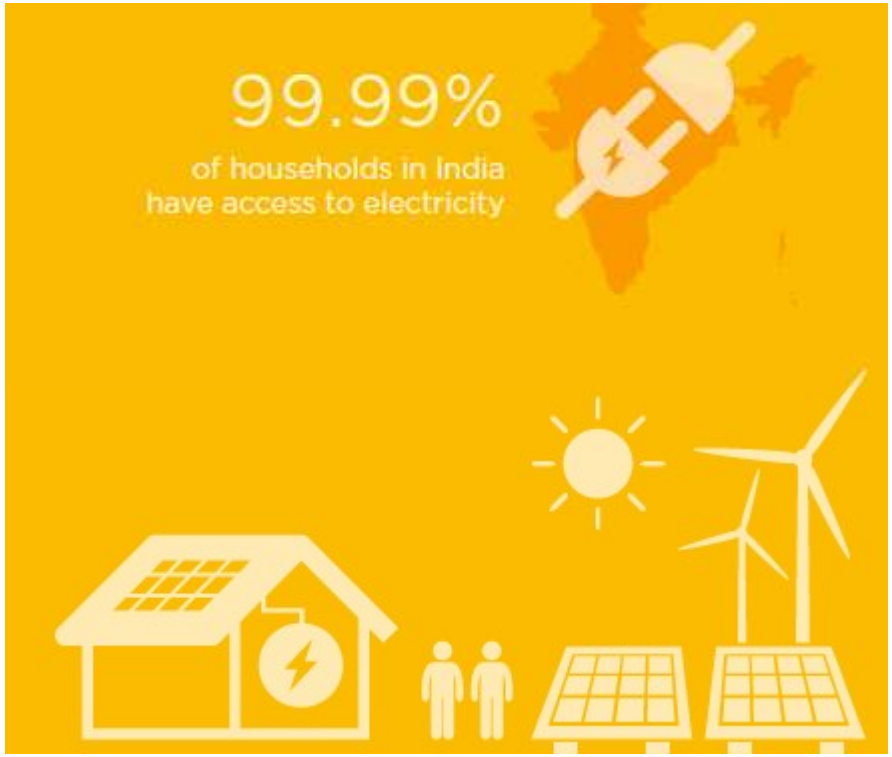
- To expand energy access, it is crucial to enhance energy efficiency and to invest in renewable energy. Asia has been the driver of progress in this area, expanding access at the twice the rate of demographic growth.

- Overall, the objective of SDG 7 is to attain energy security and efficiency by increasing sustainable per capita energy consumption, while also ensuring a reduction in emissions and pollution as per global and national targets.

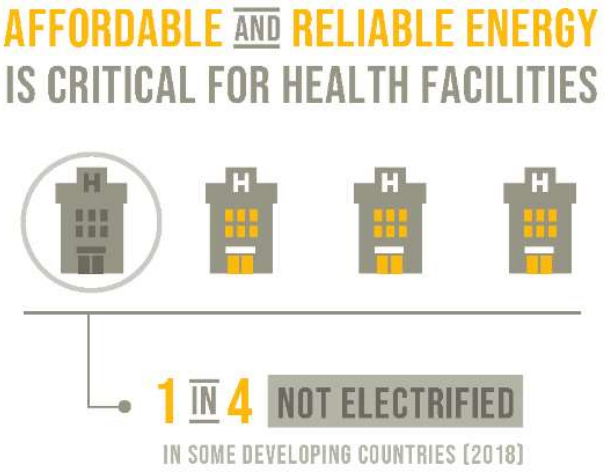
THE INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

- Equitable and universal access to affordable, reliable and clean energy is a prerequisite for socio-economic development in India.
- The Goal has three key components: universal access to electricity and clean cooking fuel, increasing share of renewable energy in the country's energy mix and improving energy efficiency, endorsed in the National Energy Policy.
- India is projected to be a significant contributor to the rise in global energy demand, around one-quarter of the total.
- The government's National Solar Mission is playing an important role in the work towards renewable energy, and interventions in rural electrification and new ultra-mega power projects are moving India towards achieving universal energy access.

FACTS


99.99%
of households in India
have access to electricity


61.40%
households in India use
clean cooking fuel - LPG


AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE ENERGY
IS CRITICAL FOR HEALTH FACILITIES
1 IN 4 NOT ELECTRIFIED
IN SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (2018)

ACTION TAKEN

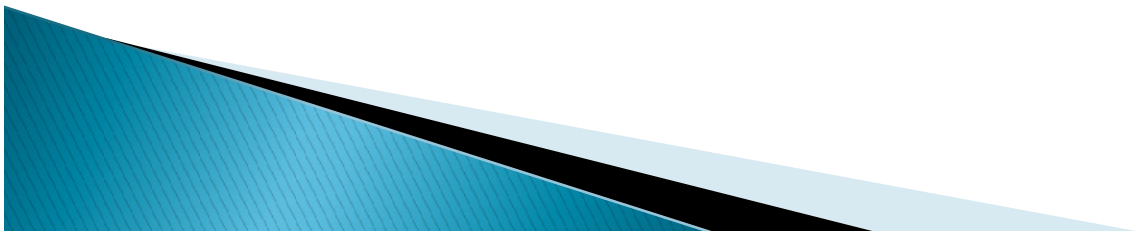
- India has already electrified all its villages, and almost all households (barring only 0.01 per cent of households).
- The targeted programme, Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya), aims explicitly at saturating electricity connections in the remaining households
- Assistance is provided through various schemes such as Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS), Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana among others, for improving transmission and distribution network and services.

- The National Electricity Plan 2018 also reinforces the government's commitment to transforming the Indian electricity sector with a target of 275 GW of renewable energy by 2027.

- To shift the dependence from traditional and polluting biomass cooking fuels, the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched to improve women's health and empower them with asset ownership.

- The promulgation of the Environmental Conservation Act in 2001 and the initiation of the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE) in 2008 have heralded India's long-held concern on energy efficiency. The focus on lowering energy intensity and CO2 emission has also got further institutional shape with the setting up the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

- India has facilitated the establishment of the International Solar Alliance jointly with France, which provides a common platform for 121 countries to work on innovative policies, financial instruments and capacity-building measures to undertake more ambitious solar energy programmes.



CHALLENGES

- India's Total Primary Energy Demand (TPED) is expected to grow by 63 per cent by 2030, with its share in world's TPED climbing up from 6.4 per cent in 2017 to 9.1 per cent. Concomitantly, India's contribution to world's energy-related total CO2 emission is expected to rise from 6.7 per cent to 10.6 per cent. Therefore, achieving low-carbon energy security is critical for India.

- The lack of sufficient human resources, capabilities and funds for supporting renewable energy is a critical challenge in this sector. Further, expanding the supply of electricity at a faster rate to meet the current and future demands of industry, commerce and households is another challenge facing India today.
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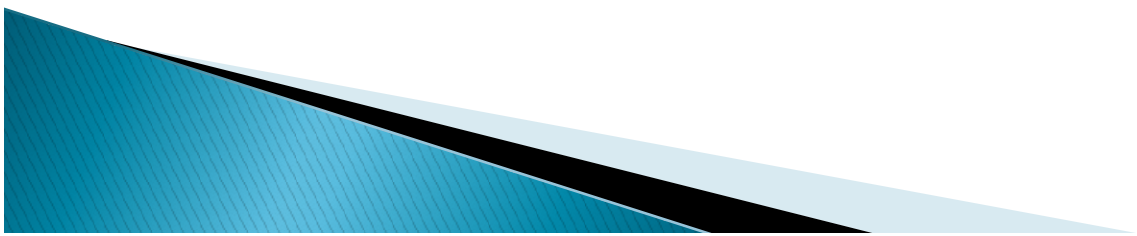
- Regional inequalities: The current process of developing renewable energy projects consists of identifying project locations, procuring land, and obtaining permits from various agencies within the state and central governments.

- This process varies significantly from state to state in terms of its effectiveness. Streamlining this process and making it uniform across the country can reduce the cost of financing the projects and improve their viability.



CONCLUSION

- While the environmental footprint is a major challenge for all regions, poor energy access is mainly an issue for developing nations.
- Energy is a key factor for ensuring prosperous economic development, and so access to energy is critical for increased well-being of poorer nations.
- The backdrop for this goal is that parts of the world's population today suffer due to lack of access to electricity. Many least developed countries (LDCs) use little energy, and the little that they use is mainly served by burning locally available wood on open fires.
- This is problematic because it contributes to deforestation, which, in turn, contributes to climate change and desertification. In addition, pollutant soot represents a major health hazard, causing respiratory diseases.