

# Energy Access Monitor

April 2017

## Trending topics

### Rural Electrification



- Ministry of Power crosses 13,000 village electrification milestones
- Rural Electrification eyes Rs 10,000 crore renewables lending push
- Sivasagar is one of the 12 districts of India to have received this award

### RE Technology



- Young Entrepreneurs found a Genius Way to Light up 300 Villages in Bihar

### Cooking energy access

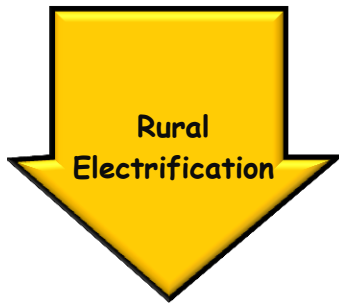


- Modi Push for Safer Kitchens Makes India number 2 LPG importer

### Financing Energy Access



- India, UK agree on priority areas for energy cooperation



**Ministry of Power crosses 13,000 village electrification milestones.** The government has surpassed the milestone of electrifying nearly 13,000 villages out of the 18,452 un-electrified ones. According to Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), the Ministry of Power has achieved a remarkable milestone of electrifying more than 13,000 villages out of the 18,452 un-electrified villages and as on April 6, a total of 13,174 villages have been electrified under the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojna (DDUGJY).

The goal is to light up the balance 4,441 villages by May1, 2018. The REC is the nodal agency for implementation of DDUGJY. According to Garv portal on rural electrification, there are 837 uninhabited villages. In addition to strengthening and augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution (ST&D) infrastructure in rural areas, including metering at distribution transformers, feeders and consumers also fall under this scheme.

**Rural Electrification eyes Rs 10,000 crore renewables lending push.** Rural Electrification Corp. (REC), a state-owned backer of India's power sector, plans to lend billions of rupees to clean-energy projects and equipment makers this fiscal year as part of an expanded push into renewables that will also see it issue green bonds overseas. According to Mr P V Ramesh, chairman of REC, the non-banking financial company is aiming to triple its clean-energy lending and is expecting to set aside nearly Rs10,000 crore (\$1.5 billion) for renewable energy in the financial year ending 31 March. REC's renewables strategy underscores a push by companies associated with conventional power to shift resources toward clean energy. The move, which supports Prime Minister Narendra Modi's climate goals, also comes as some coal-fired electricity generators struggle to service debts.

### Lending shift

- ♣ The chairman also said that they are looking at mobilizing resources from raising green bonds in Europe and social impact bonds in Scandinavia. Tesla Inc., the maker of electric vehicles, is another company that REC would be interested in backing should it decide to establish a presence in India.
- ♣ The shift in lending at REC takes place against a backdrop of an expansion in clean energy led by the Prime Minister of India and his promise to install 175 gigawatts (GW) of renewable capacity by 2022.
- ♣ Between April 2016 to February, India added 8 GW of new renewable energy, reaching total installed capacity of 51 GW, according to government data. Meanwhile, thermal capacity grew by 8 GW in the same period, 36% lower than the previous year.

**Sivasagar is one of the 12 districts of India to have received this award.** In all, 2,209 villages out of the 2, 829, which were left out in the earlier Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Programme, have been successfully covered under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDU-GJY) till April 20 last, and the electrification programme is active in the remaining 578 villages also.

Further, 25, 64,556 houses out of 48, 15,919 have also been provided with electricity connection. The remaining 22, 51,363 (47%) numbers of houses are planned to be provided connections in a phase-wise manner.

Significantly, the rate of electrification in Assam is 76.38 per cent, against the national rate of 71.90 per cent, stated the press release.

It may be mentioned that the village electrification programme under the DDU-GJY has been carried out by the Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd. (APDCL) all over the State with much success under the guidance of the Chairman (APDCL/APGCL/AEGCL), Managing Director of APDCL, and all the working engineers, the release concluded.

[News Nation](#), 6 April 2017 | [Mint](#), 20 April 2017 | [assamtribune.com](#), 22 April 2017



**Young Entrepreneurs found a Genius Way to Light up 300 Villages in Bihar.** *Husk Power Systems (HPS)* is a powerful example of how rural innovation can help in electrification of rural areas. Here, the innovation is simple as well as effective at the same time.

- ♣ Rice and wheat husks, sugarcane stalks, and other farm waste is collected and burnt.
- ♣ The gas produced in this process is then used to run a generator, which in turn produces electricity.

It's a simple innovation, but the system has had a huge impact on people in rural Bihar. By supplying low-cost electricity to villages, one of the biggest outcomes has been the setting up of a night school for children.

Today, HPS runs successfully in 300 villages in the state. A counter on their website [www.huskpowersystems.com](http://www.huskpowersystems.com) says that their technology has helped save 9,244,800 litres of Kerosene that would have otherwise been expended through conventional modes of generating electricity and this grassroots project is also constantly expanding.

In India, they have partnered with HSBC and the Samta Samridhi Foundation to set up the Husk Power University. Its training centres are currently in Patna, Barauni, Bettiah and Padrauna, where students will learn "both the technical and business sides of operating a plant". This widens the base for opportunities to learn about sustainable technology, and empowers individuals at the grassroots level to take action on issues like India's energy crisis.



**Figure 1: Husk Power System's plant in Bihar (Image Source: [The Hindu Business Line](#))**

Internationally, Husk Power Systems intend to set up five plants in Uganda, and 10 in Tanzania, in order to share their model of sustainable energy practices.

[youthkiawaaz.com](http://youthkiawaaz.com), 29 April 2017



**Modi Push for Safer Kitchens Makes India number 2 LPG importer.** India topped Japan as the world's second-largest importer of liquefied petroleum gas as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pledge to provide cooking gas cylinders to the poor and wean them off polluting fuels drove up consumption. Imports of LPG, mostly used as cooking fuel, soared 23 percent during the financial year that ended March 31 to 11 million tons, according to data from oil ministry's Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell.

Japan's imports slipped 3.2 percent during the same period to 10.6 million tons, according to its finance ministry. China remains the world's top importer. The present government in May 2016 embarked on a drive to provide free cooking gas connections to women from extremely poor households, aimed at reducing the use of polluting fuels such as wood and dried cow dung that, according to the World Health Organization, causes 1.3 million premature deaths in India every year. This push led to a record distribution of 32.5 million new cooking gas connections during the year.

- ♣ Free gas connections coupled with at least two other government programs have taken India's active LPG user count to about 200 million, about 60 percent more than Japan's entire population.
- ♣ According to Ong Han Wee, who heads the LPG team at Singapore-based Facts Global Energy, India aims to increase LPG usage to cover 80 percent of its households by March 2019, against 72.8 percent as on April 1. Japan on the other hand is cutting back on LPG as a cooking fuel and is moving to cheaper alternatives such as natural gas.
- ♣ According to an oil product analyst at industry consultant Energy Aspects Ltd., the target of adding 50 million new LPG users will boost demand for the fuel by 10 percent for the next two years.

As per the statistics provided by Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, India's consumption of LPG during the year to March 31 was 21.55 million tons, registering a 9.8 percent growth from the previous year. Demand for the fuel may touch 35 million tons by 2031-32 due to an increase in the penetration of cooking gas connections in rural areas. The nation added 21 million new users in the past year under a program to increase access for the poor to LPG.

[www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com), 24 April 2017



**India, UK agree on priority areas for energy cooperation.** India and the UK will focus on innovation in smart technology to reduce power sector losses and clean energy finance for bolstering bilateral energy ties. In the first India-UK Energy for Growth Dialogue in New Delhi on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017, Power and Renewable Energy Minister Piyush Goyal and UK's Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Greg Clark agreed on priority areas for further collaboration in the energy sector. According to a statement released by power ministry, the agreed areas include

innovation in smart technology to improve performance and reduce losses in India's power sector, financing for clean energy; decentralized energy scale up and sustainability; and support to states in renewable energy planning and deployment.

- ♣ The two countries will also focus on work to accelerate deployment of renewable energy and its integration with the grid;
- ♣ Support for increased energy efficiency; and
- ♣ Enhanced energy access for strengthening ties.

The dialogue takes forward the commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Theresa May for an enhanced energy partnership between the countries. The two countries had signed a MoU on cooperation in the energy sector during the visit of Prime Minister of India to the UK in November 2015.

On April 4, the two countries reaffirmed their commitment to anchor investment up to 120 million pound each in a joint fund which aims to raise around 500 million pound, and has the potential to unlock much more in the future. It was announced that the fund will focus its initial investments on India's rapidly growing energy and renewables market. India and the UK also recognised the importance of combating climate change and mobilising finance from a variety of sources, instruments and channels to mitigate its effects alongside generating economic opportunities.

[indiatoday.intoday.in](http://indiatoday.intoday.in), 7 April 2017