

Roundtable Discussion on 'Beyond Saubhagya: Next Steps for Power Sector Reforms in Uttar Pradesh'

13 February 2019 | 0930 – 1335 hrs

Audh 1, Fortune Park BBD, Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

The electricity landscape has rapidly evolved in Uttar Pradesh (UP) in recent years. More than 74 lakh new consumers were added to the electricity grid, since the roll-out of the Saubhagya scheme and the state has officially been declared as 100% electrified. Despite the growth prospects and increasing demand for electricity, the state owned discoms are hard-pressed by recurring losses, while attempting to service the burgeoning consumer base.

In order to assess the prospects – opportunities and threats for the power sector, CEEW conducted two studies, across 24 districts in UP, in 2018. The first was a follow up to the 2015 study on energy access, called the ACCESS survey. We studied the energy consumption in more than 3,000 households, spread over 250 villages in 18 districts across the state. The results of the ACCESS 2015 study drove the need to look beyond connections for enabling access to modern forms of energy. In 2018, we revisited the households to understand the changes in their energy consumption patterns, and to study the impact of government policies during intervening three years. The analysis from the gathered data provides a first-of-its-kind multi-dimensional and longitudinal view on energy access in the state. Our second study, carried out across 10 districts, complements the first, and highlights the challenges with metering, billing, and collection at the household-level in both rural and urban UP. This study also analyses the perception of households towards electricity theft and non-technical losses, and attempts to unpack the determinants of consumer compliance.

At the discussion, CEEW will present the findings from these two studies and steer a multi-stakeholder discussion titled 'Beyond Saubhagya: Next Steps for Power Sector Reforms in Uttar Pradesh'. The discussion seeks to bring together sector experts, officials of the discoms and electricity regulatory commission and civil society representatives, among others, to deliberate on this issue. The primary objective of the workshop is to chart a path for universally accessible, reliable, quality, affordable and clean power supply to the consumers in the years ahead. The first step to achieving this is to hear from key stakeholders, their views on the findings and help chart a work plan for the actors the sector for the short to medium term. The agenda for the event is as below.

Agenda

- 0930–1000 Registration, and Tea & Coffee**
- 1000-1010 Welcome Address by Karthik Ganesan, Research Fellow, CEEW**
- 1010-1030 Round of Introduction with participants**
- 1030-1040 Keynote Address by Shri Sanjay Goyal, Managing Director, Madhyanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited**
- 1040-1050 Special Address by Shri Vikas Chandra Agarwal, Director (Distribution), Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission**
- 1050-1145 Briefing Presentation on ‘Electricity Access in Uttar Pradesh from a multi-dimensional lens’ by Mr Sunil Mani, Research Analyst, CEEW**
- Briefing Presentation on ‘Consumer Compliance and Electricity Theft in Uttar Pradesh’ by Ms Kanika Balani, Research Analyst, CEEW**
- Q&A**
- 1145-1200 Tea & Coffee**
- 1200-1330 Roundtable Discussion**
- Guiding issues for discussion:**
- Universal, reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity supply – how have schemes (viz IPDS, UDAY, Saubhagya) contributed thus far?
 - Objective assessment of contributors to discom losses – sectors and actors
 - Challenges in reducing hard theft and metering, billing and collection losses in UP
 - Short and medium-term priorities for the state to ensure reliable, quality and affordable supply of electricity
 - Strengthening discom-consumer relationship to help improve consumer compliance and bringing down discom’s losses
- Moderator | Mr Karthik Ganesan, Research Fellow, CEEW**
- 1330-1335 Concluding remarks and Vote of Thanks by Ms Radhika Sharma, Program Associate (Energy Access), Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation**
- 1335 onwards Lunch**