**DEPARTMENT OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

**THE TRIBUNE (30-08-2016, TUESDAY)**

**POLITICAL Issues of India (PI)**

**Now, plan for Power for all!**

**About**: A village is considered electrified if its public places and 10 percent of households have access to power. This has led to the NDA government showing exaggerated figures of electrified villages.

1. ***POWER TO ALL, 24x7 by 2019.*** : Around 300 million people in India’s villages are still without power. That is why Prime Minster Modi was so keen about the electrification of villages in his recent Independence day speech.
2. ***SMALL & MICRO ENTERPRICES:*** Even simple crafts like pot making could be mechanised by electrically could be mechanized by electrically powered potter’s wheel.
3. ***EXAGGERATED Figures of electrified villages:*** According to the 2011 census, 96.7 percent villages are connected , but 33 percent households or 8 crore out of 24 crore households do not have electricity.
4. ***MAIN CAUSES:*** It is that the distribution of power is under the domain of the state electricity boards/discoms (power distribution companies) which are difficult to reform. The supply of fuel, logistics, generation of power and transmission, however fall under the Central Government.
5. ***TECHNICAL & COMMERCIAL LOSSES (T&C):*** The technical & commercial losses (T&C) of state discoms are very high, around 25 percent. The renamed Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Scheme aims at reducing T&C losses due ti illegal tapping of lines, faulty electric meters that understate actual consumption and also contribute to reduced collection of revenue.
6. ***MAKE AVAILABLE POWER 24X7 :*** To make it available the transmission grid will have to spread widely and effectively from power producers to distributers.
7. ***POWER BACKUP:*** Around 10 million Indian households are using backup (UPS) storage batteries to cope with the power distributions. All UPS storage batteries had to be imported at high cost and diesel generator sets require cost diesel. If there is regular power supply, a lot of money will be saved.