

Steady rise in electricity-related fatality rates in India

Most accidents in 2025 occurred due to accidental contact with live wire

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Electricity-related accidents killed over 18,000 people in India in 2023. Electrocutation is the primary reason followed by lightning and electrical fire (Chart 1).

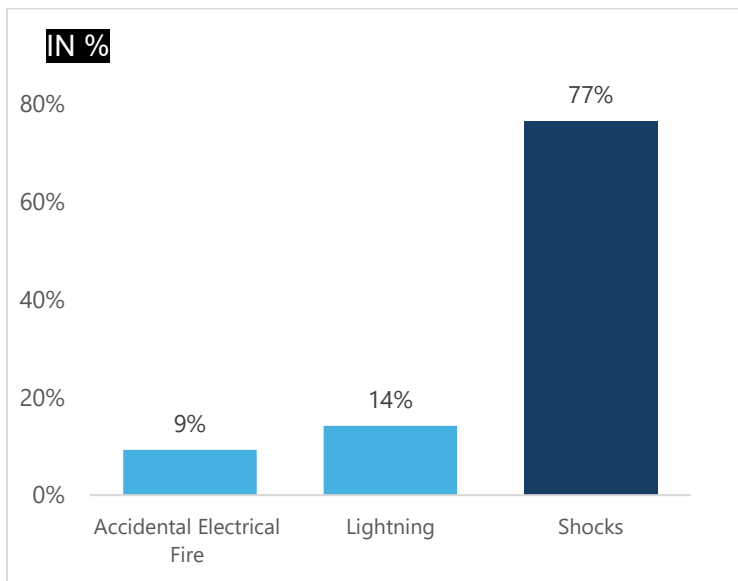


Chart 1: Type of electrical accidents in 2023 (Source: ADSI report)

Over the years, electrical fatality rate — the number of deaths per lakh population — has risen (Chart 2). In 2023, at least one person per lakh population died due to electrical accidents in India. In Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the U.K. and the U.S., the electrical fatality rate was between 0.01 and 0.04.

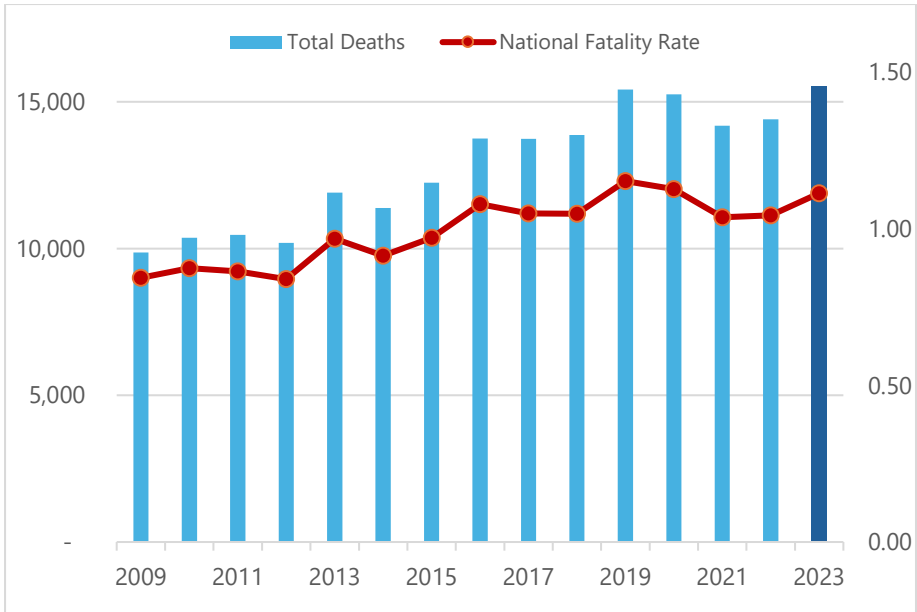
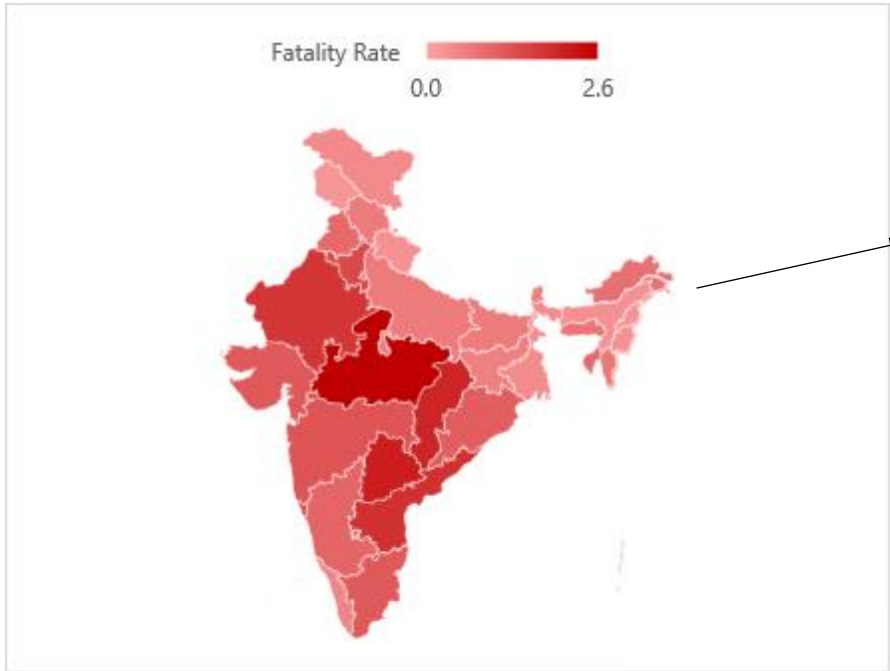


Chart 2: Deaths due to electrical accidents █ and electrical fatality rate – the number of deaths per lakh population █ – in India (Source: ADSI reports)

Amongst States, the four-year average electrical fatality rate varied widely, ranging from as low as 0.2 in some States to as high as 2.6 in others (Map 3).



In the map, the darker the color, the higher the four-year average electrical fatality rate

Map 3: Four-year average electrical fatality rate, State-wise (Source: ADSI reports)

Until 2013, the Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India report showed the break-up of electrical deaths in more than 50 megacities. In 2013, around 13% of the total electrical deaths in India occurred in megacities (Chart 4). These cities also had a higher proportion of deaths due to electrical fires (~25%) and a smaller share of deaths from shocks (~11%).

Particulars	Population (in lakhs)	Shocks	Fire*	Total
Megacities [Population > 10 lakhs]	1,607	1,074	414	1,488
All India	12,288	10,218	1,690	11,908
Megacities as % of Total	12.9%	10.5%	24.5%	12.5%

*Electrical Fire

Chart 4: The absolute number and share of electrical deaths in mega-cities (Source: ADSI report 2013)

According to the Chief Electrical Inspectorate of the CEA, in 2025, 61% of accidents occurred in distribution networks, followed by non-industrial consumer premises at 30% (Chart 5).

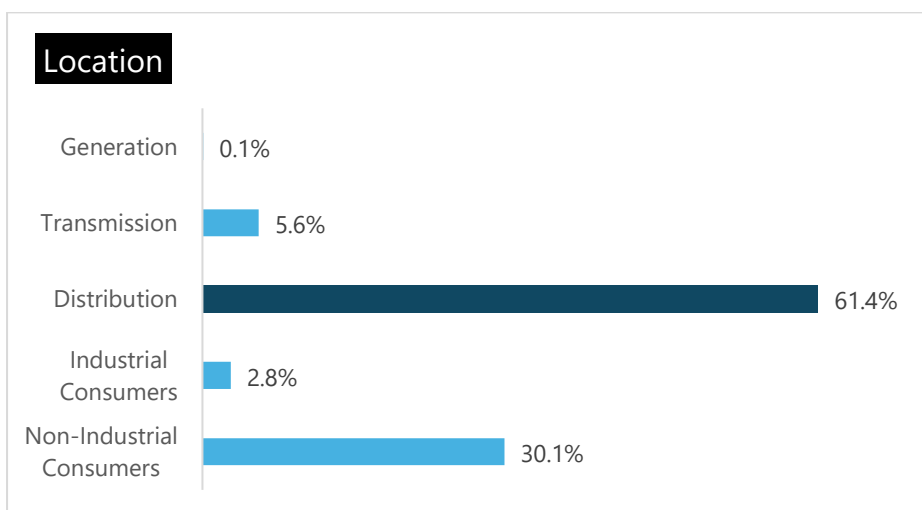


Chart 5: The share of locations of electrical accidents (in %, Source: CEA)

Given that most accidents occurred at the distribution level, we examined data from select distribution companies (DISCOMs). DISCOMs reported that more than 90% of the victims were general public (Chart 6).

States	DISCOM/ Contract staff	Consumers/ Public	Total	Consumers/ Public %
Gujarat	19	377	396	95%
Karnataka	13	242	255	95%
Kerala	19	222	241	92%
Rajasthan	54	832	866	94%
Maharashtra	42	826	868	95%
Andhra Pradesh (one DISCOM)	9	135	144	94%
Telangana (one DISCOM)	12	276	288	96%

Chart 6: Number of victims who were staff and part of the general public in select DISCOMs (Source: DISCOM petitions)

Most accidents in 2025 occurred due to accidental contact with live wire (35%) and neglect in safety measures or lack of supervision (15%), as shown in Chart 7. This shows poor attention to safety by the DISCOMs and low awareness among the public.

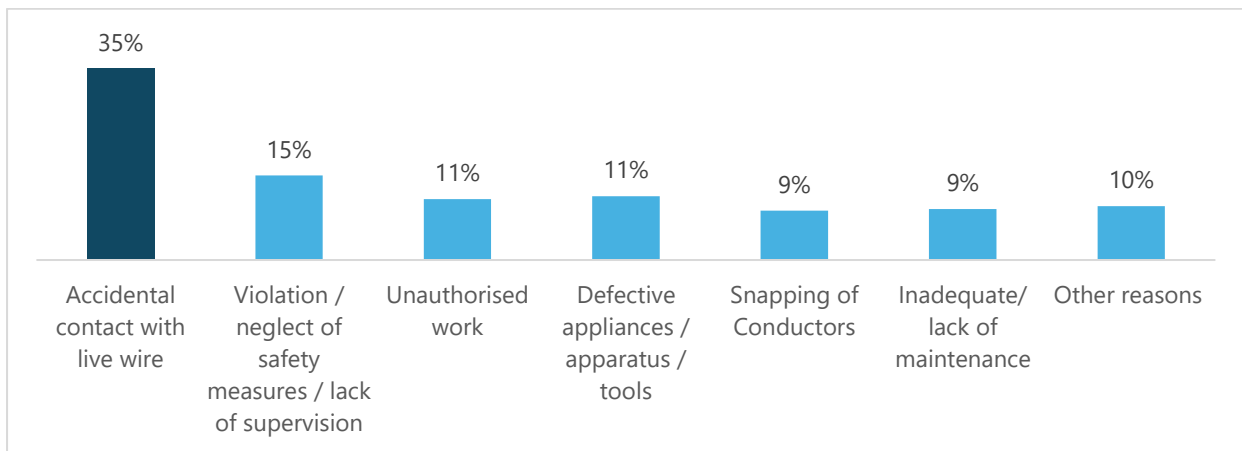


Chart 7: The share of various causes of electrical accidents (in %, Source: CEA)

The authors are with Prayas (Energy Group) and thank Swapnil Patil for data visualisations.

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