

Mapping Power

The Political Economy of Electricity in India's States

edited by Navroz K. Dubash, Sunila S. Kale,
Ranjit Bharvirkar

Electricity is critical to enabling India's economic growth and providing a better future for its citizens. In spite of several decades of reform, the Indian electricity sector is unable to provide high-quality and affordable electricity for all and grapples with the challenge of poor financial and operational performance.

To understand why, *Mapping Power* provides the most comprehensive analysis of the political economy of electricity in India's states. With chapters on fifteen states by scholars of state politics and electricity, this volume maps the political and economic forces that constrain and shape decisions in electricity distribution. Contrary to conventional wisdom, it concludes that attempts to depoliticize the sector are misplaced and could worsen outcomes. It suggests that a historically grounded political economy analysis helps understand the past and devise reforms to simultaneously improve sectoral outcomes and generate political rewards.

These arguments have implications for the challenges facing India's electricity future, including providing electricity to all, implementing government reform schemes and successfully managing the rise of renewable energy.

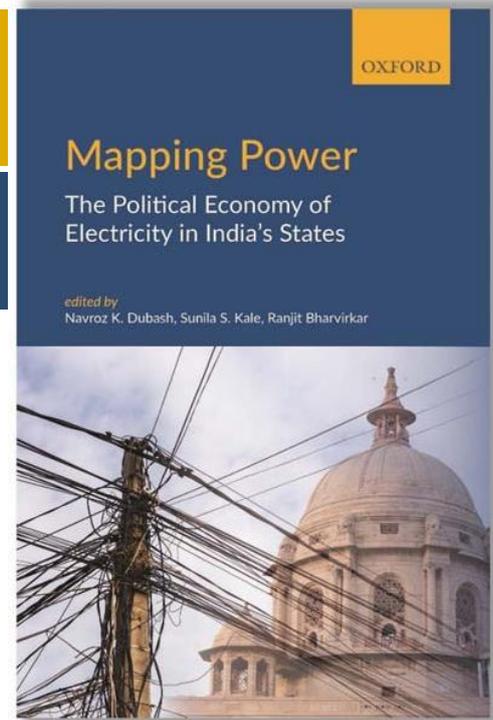
About the Book

About the Editors

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9780199487820 | Hardback | INR 1195

"As a Minister of Power, I had [...] first-hand experience of the political economy of the power sector. This book is one of the few to deal with this important subject and what it means for the future of the sector."

— **Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation and former Minister of Power**

"Over the past quarter of a century, India has tried to reform its power sector [...]. Success has been mixed because this reform is as much political as it is technocratic. [...] This anthology is the first systematic and analytical assessment of what has been accomplished and what now needs to be done."

— **Jairam Ramesh, Member of Parliament and former Union Minister**

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