

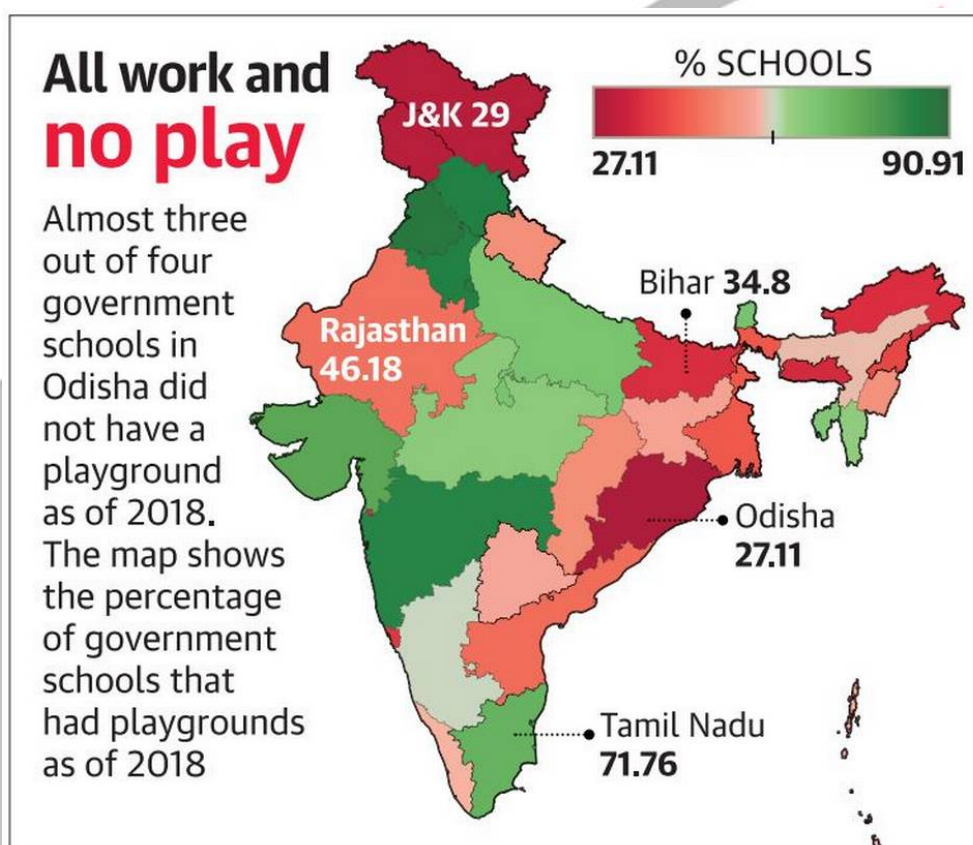


Unutilised Budgetary Funds in Education

Why in News

Recently, the [Parliamentary Standing Committee](#) on Human Resource Development (HRD) has presented a report on the **2020-2021 demand for grants for school education** in the Rajya Sabha.

- The report identifies **shortfalls in budgetary funding and utilisation**, resulting in **critical infrastructure gaps** in the government schools in India.



Key Points //

- **Reduction in Finance:**

- The budgetary allocations experienced a **27% cut from proposals** made by the School Education department.
- Similarly, **27% of reductions** have been observed in the fund needed for the **implementation of Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes**.
- Also, the government has spent only 71% of allotted funds for the core [Samagra Shiksha Scheme](#) until December 31, 2019.

- **Access to Electricity and Playground:**

- Almost **half of the government schools** in the country **do not have any electricity or playgrounds**.
 - **Only 56% of schools have electricity**, with the lowest rates in Manipur and Madhya Pradesh, where less than 20% have access to power.
 - **Less than 57% of schools have playgrounds**, including less than 30% of schools in Odisha and Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Overall Infrastructure:**
- A **dismal rate of progress has been observed in building classrooms, labs and libraries** to strengthen government higher secondary schools.
 - **Almost 40% of schools did not have a boundary wall**, endangering the safety of students and school property.
 - The **higher secondary schools experienced greater infrastructural gaps** compared to secondary schools and primary schools.
 - Also, **less than 5% of proposed infrastructure** facilities such as ramps and special toilets **for differently-abled students** have been completed in the government schools.

Recommendations

- **Additional funds for implementation of the core schemes** such as Samgra Shiksha Abhiyan.
- **Collaboration of HRD Ministry with the [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme \(MGNREGS\)](#)** to construct boundary walls and other infrastructure facilities.
- **Collaboration with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** to provide solar energy and other renewable energy sources so that schools have access to power.

[Source: TH](#)

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