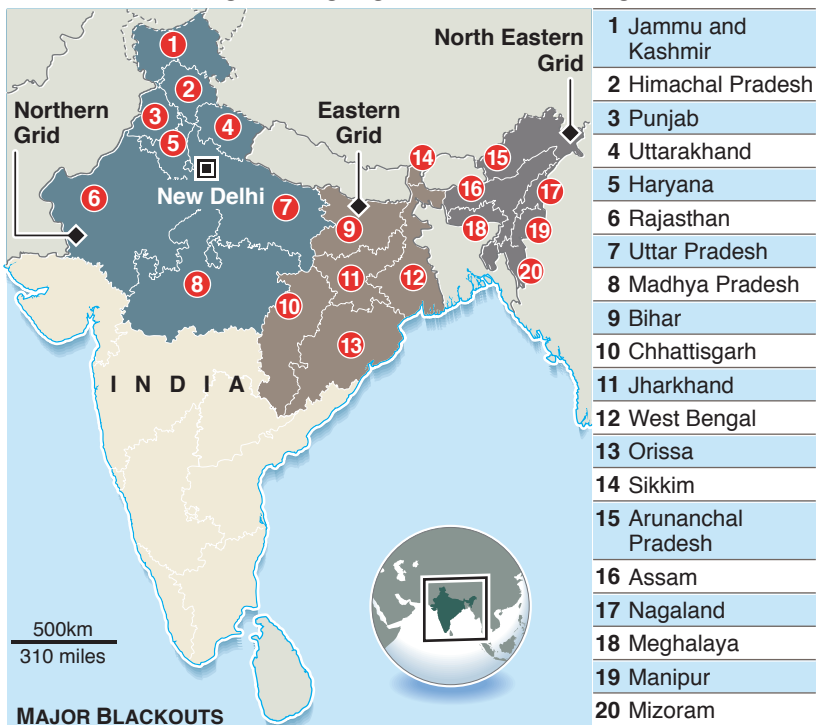


World's largest blackouts

Up to 650 million Indians across 20 states were left without power for a second day as three grids in the north of the country failed.

Overloading of the ageing infrastructure is being blamed



■ **Nov 2009, Brazil/Paraguay:** Storms near Itaipu hydroelectric dam cause power cut affecting 60 million in Brazil and seven million in Paraguay

■ **Jan 2008, China:** Winter storms cause damage to grids in 17 provinces where blackouts affect 30 million people. Outage lasts almost two weeks in city of Chenzhou – 11 technicians reported to have died trying to restore power

■ **Nov 2006, Germany:** High-voltage line switched off to allow cruise ship to pass underneath triggers overloading of lines and outages for 10 million people across western Europe

■ **Sep 2003, Switzerland:** Short circuit in power line causes blackouts that hit 95% of Italy, leaving 55 million people without power for up to 18 hours

■ **Aug 2003, U.S.:** Power line problems in midwest trigger breakdowns that cut power to more than 50 million in Ontario, Canada and eight U.S. states

■ **Mar 1999, Brazil:** Lightning strikes substation in São Paulo state leaving 97 million people without power for up to five hours