

Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) Scheme

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About UJALA Scheme:

- In May 2015, the Indian government introduced the UJALA scheme, which is **also known as the LED-based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP), to promote energy efficiency in all households.**
- The UJALA scheme is the **world's largest zero-subsidy LED lamp distribution scheme.**
- It is **implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under the Ministry of Power.**
- Through the UJALA scheme, the government aims to save 85 lakh kWh of electricity and 15,000 tonnes of CO₂ by **replacing 77 crore traditional bulbs & CFLs and 3.5 crore streetlights with LEDs.**
- **Eligible Households:**
 - Every **domestic household having a metered connection from their respective Electricity Distribution Company** is eligible to get the LED bulbs under the UJALA Scheme.
 - The consumer **can purchase the LED on EMI payment** (monthly/bimonthly instalments in the electricity bill) **or on upfront payment by paying the full amount.**
- As part of its inclusive growth strategy to enable growth in lower-income communities, EESL has **also enrolled Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for the distribution of LED bulbs** under the UJALA programme.

- The **annual energy savings** from the scheme stand at 47,883 million kWh, with a reduction in peak demand by 9,586 MW and an **annual reduction of 3.87 crore tonnes in carbon dioxide emissions**.
 - These savings were **achieved through e-procurement and bulk purchasing**, which **allowed LED bulbs to be made affordable** for millions of households.
 - UJALA **succeeded in bringing down the retail price of LED bulbs** from INR 300-350 per bulb to **INR 70-80 per bulb**.
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Q1: What is an LED?

In the simplest terms, a light-emitting diode (LED) is a semiconductor device that emits light when an electric current is passed through it. Light is produced when the particles that carry the current (known as electrons and holes) combine together within the semiconductor material. Since light is generated within the solid semiconductor material, LEDs are described as solid-state devices. The term solid-state lighting, which also encompasses organic LEDs (OLEDs), distinguishes this lighting technology from other sources that use heated filaments (incandescent and tungsten halogen lamps) or gas discharge (fluorescent lamps).

Source: ET

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