

UPSC Civil Services Examination

UPSC Notes [GS-III]

Topic: UJALA Scheme

The UJALA scheme was launched by PM Narendra Modi on 1st May 2015 under the government of India. This scheme is considered as the world's largest program. The Ujala Scheme was established by replacing the Bachat Lamp Yojana is a joint initiative of Public Sector Undertaking of the Government of India, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under the Union Ministry of Power and the Electricity Distribution Company.

The highlights of this scheme have been discussed in the table below:

Name of the scheme	UJALA Scheme
Full form	Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All
Date of launching	1st May 2015
Government Ministry	Ministry of Power

Objective of UJALA Scheme

The UJALA scheme also known as the LED-based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP) aims to promote the efficient usage of energy for all i.e., its consumption, savings and lighting. According to the UJALA scheme, LED bulbs would be distributed by the Electricity Distribution Company at subsidized rates to every grid-connected customer with a metered connection.

Implementation of UJALA scheme

Implementation of the UJALA scheme was done successfully in terms of investment and risk factors. The scheme was implemented as a joint contribution of EESL and DISCOM. Some of the outputs that were put forward by the UJALA scheme were:

- Replacing 200 million ordinary light bulbs by LED bulbs.

- Load reduction of 5000 MW.
- To reduce the emissions caused by greenhouse gases by 79 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Why LED bulbs?

The UJALA scheme focuses on the distribution of LED bulbs because the light-emitting diode (LEDs) provide better light output by consuming only one-tenth of the energy as compared to any ordinary bulb. This scheme also aims in distributing 20W LED tube lights to the consumers which are 50% more energy-efficient than the regular 40W tube lights. But, the high cost of these LEDs has been a barrier to the adoption of such efficient lighting systems. The DELP on-bill financing scheme proposes to overcome this cost barrier as these LED bulbs are highly efficient in the reduction of load, consumer bills, the greenhouse gas emissions and in saving the electricity.

UJALA Scheme in Malacca, Malaysia

After the successful implementation of UJALA scheme in India, this model was also implemented in Malacca, Malaysia on 6th September 2017. The UJALA scheme was launched by the then Chief Minister of Melaka for the benefits of people of that region. The major focus area of this scheme was the reduction in the consumption of electricity to decrease the burden on the consumers. It also focused on the preservation of the environment at a global level.

As per the UJALA scheme, each household in Malacca will be provided with 10 high-quality 9-watt LED bulbs at a cost of RM 10.