

## Relevance and Implementation of *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana*; Special Reference to Maharashtra State

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### ABSTRACT:

Even today, there are many homes in India where LPG guns are not available. With this problem in mind, the central government has launched the *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana*. Under this scheme, free cooking gas is provided to all APL, BPL and ration card holders in the country. Under this the government provides free LPG gas connection, one filled cylinder and two burner stoves to the beneficiaries. Also, although the first refill is being provided free of cost to the beneficiaries by the government, it is necessary to check the utility of the distributed gas connection in view of the implementation of this scheme. Ahmednagar ranks first among the districts with the highest gas distribution in Maharashtra. Yavatmal is the second ranks of the district. It is followed by Nanded, Nashik and Beed districts. Also, the city of Mumbai has the highest low gas distribution in Maharashtra, followed by Mumbai Suburbs. This is followed by Thane, Wardha and Sindhudurg districts. Overall, excluding Mumbai city and Mumbai suburbs in 36 districts of Maharashtra, the distribution of gas under *Ujjwala Yojana* appears to be satisfactory in the rest of Maharashtra. While implementing the government scheme for the development of rural areas, it is seen that the government scheme is implemented keeping in view the objective of how you will get the benefit of voting without checking the usefulness of the scheme. The implementation of the first plan is delayed. If we look at the role of people in the context of government schemes in rural areas, it is clear that no scheme is being implemented. Considering the role of the government in implementing the scheme, the government needs to check the usefulness of the scheme as the new scheme is introduced. It is a fact that is always on the rise.

**Keywords:** Pradhan Mantri, *Ujjwala Yojana*, gas connection, Maharashtra

Clean Fuel Better Life By keeping these Objectives in mind In May 2016, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG), introduced the '*Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana*' (PMUY) as a flagship scheme with an objective to make clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to the rural and deprived households which were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, cow-dung cakes etc. Usage of traditional cooking fuels had detrimental impacts on the health of rural women as well as on the environment. The scheme was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi..PMUY provides financial support in terms of 50% of the total cost, or INR 1,600 (USD 25), to poor households

to help them purchase an LPG stove. The target under the scheme was to release 8 Crore LPG Connections to the deprived households by March 2020. On 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India handed over the 8<sup>th</sup> Crore LPG connection in Aurangabad, Maharashtra. The release of 8 Crore LPG connections under the scheme has also helped in increasing the LPG coverage from 62% on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016 to 99.8% as on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. Under the

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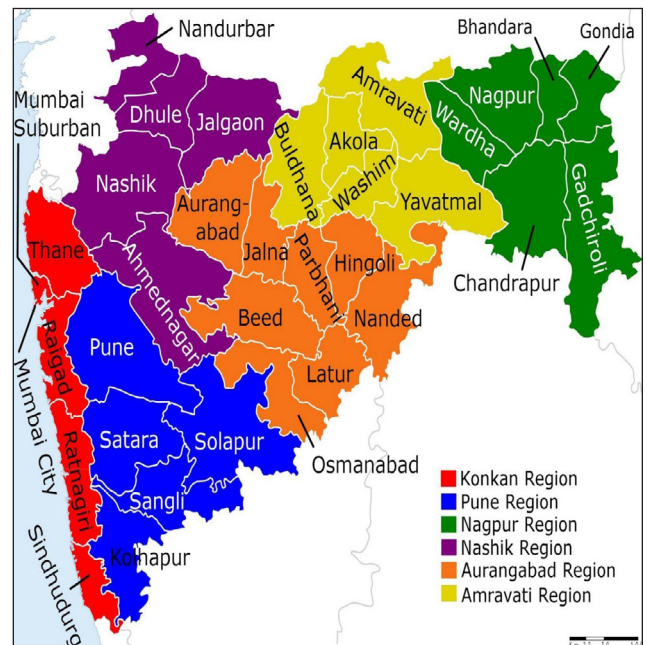


Union Budget for FY 21-22, provision for release of additional 1 Crore LPG connections under the PMUY scheme has been made. In this phase, special facility has been given to migrant families. Following the success of *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala 1 Yojana*, at present *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 2.0* has just started. Even today, there are many homes in India where LPG guns are not available. With this problem in mind, the central government has launched the *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana*. Under this scheme, free cooking gas is provided to all APL, BPL and ration card holders in the country. Under this the government provides free LPG gas connection, one filled cylinder and two burner stoves to the beneficiaries. Also, although the first refill is being provided free of cost to the beneficiaries by the government, it is necessary to check the utility of the distributed gas connection in view of the implementation of this scheme.

**Population Demographics of Maharashtra**

Districts by administrative divisions Maharashtra Occupies the western and central part of India and has a long coastline stretching nearly 720 kilometres along the Arabian Sea. The Sahyadri mountain ranges provide a physical backbone to the state on the west, while the Satpuda hills along the north and Bhamragad-Chiroli-Gaikhuri ranges on the east serve as its natural borders. Maharashtra has borne a long history of social reform while having stable governance right from the beginning. Evident from movements such as Jyotiba Phule’s *Satyashodak Samaj* in 1873 to the political assertion of underprivileged caste groups through the Peasant and Workers Party. Maharashtra has created an environment of progressive change and development for itself. Maharashtra is among the most economically developed states in the country along with being one of the largest. The state is also a primary financial centre and boasts of one of the country’s largest industrial economies. Mumbai, considered the country’s financial capital, is the state’s political capital and houses almost all major financial institutions. India’s major stock and commodity exchange markets and capital markets are located here. Maharashtra has 36 districts, divided into six revenue divisions for administrative purposes including Konkan, Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur.

The state has a long tradition of highly powerful planning bodies at district and local levels. Local self-governance institutions in rural areas include 34 *Zilla Parishads*, 355 *Panchayat Samitis* and 27,993 *Gram Panchayats*. Urban areas in the state are governed by 23 Municipal Corporations, 222 Municipal Councils. Maharashtra is the second largest state in India in terms of geographical area, spread over 3.08 lakh sq. km and in terms of population. The State’s population, which is 9.29 per cent of the entire country’s population, is 11.24 crore. While the national urban population average is 31 percent, 45 percent of Maharashtra’s population lives in urban areas. The state’s sex ratio at 925, is lesser than the national average of 940. An inter-State comparison of key indicators across some major states reveals that Maharashtra’s social attainments do not match its high income level.



**Fig. 1:** Location Map of the Study Area, Maharashtra state

**Objectives of the Proposed Study**

1. To study the current situation *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana* India and Maharashtra.
2. To study *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana*.
3. To evaluate the relevance and evaluation of the *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana* in Maharashtra.

**Major Research Question/Hypotheses**

Although the use of gas has increased due to the

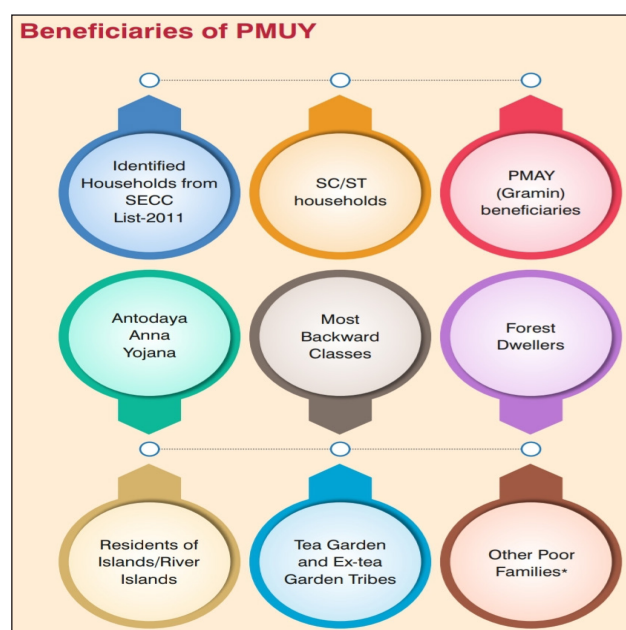
popularity of *Ujjwala Yojana* in Maharashtra, the rising price of gas seems to be raising questions about the future of this *Ujjwala Yojana*.

### Methodology for the research work

Primary and secondary Source have been used for this research. The survey, descriptive and analytical method will be used for this research For this research.

### Eligibility criteria to avail connection under *Ujjwala*

The following elements are given priority in *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana* under the scheme are given as per the figure below.



**Fig. 2:** Beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

1. Applicant (woman only) must have attained 18 years of age.
2. There should not be any other LPG connection from any OMC in the same household.
3. Adult woman belonging to any of the following categories - SC, ST, *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* (Gramin), Most Backward Classes (MBC), *Antyodaya Anna Yojana* (AAY), Tea and Ex- Tea Garden tribes, Forest Dwellers, People residing in Islands and River Islands, enlisted under SECC Households (AHL TIN) or any Poor Household as per 14-point declaration.

### Documents required

1. Know Your Customer (KYC).
2. Aadhaar Card of applicant as Proof of Identity and Proof of Address in case applicant is residing at the same address as mentioned in Aadhaar (not mandatory for Assam and Meghalaya).
3. Ration Card issued by the State from which application is being made/ other State Govt. document certifying family composition/ Self-Declaration as per Annexure I (for migrant applicants)
4. Aadhaar of beneficiary and adult family members appearing in document at Sl. 3.
5. Bank Account Number and IFSC
6. Supplementary KYC to support the status of the family.

### PMUY Benefits

Cash assistance for PMUY connections is provided by Government of India - ₹ 1600 (for a connection 14.2kg cylinder/ ₹ 1150 for a 5 kg cylinder). The cash assistance covers: Security Deposit of Cylinder - ₹ 1250 for 14.2 kg cylinder/ ₹ 800 for 5 kg cylinder  
Pressure Regulator - ₹ 150

LPG Hose - ₹ 100

Domestic Gas Consumer Card - ₹ 25

Inspection/ Installation/ Demonstration charges - ₹ 75

Additionally, All PMUY beneficiaries will be provided with first LPG refill and Stove (hotplate) both free of cost along with their deposit free connection by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

### Current status of implementation of *Ujjwala Yojana* in India and Maharashtra

The PMUY, which was launched on May 1, 2016, in Ballia district in Uttar Pradesh with a target of providing 50 million gas connections in three years to families living below the poverty line, has already covered 33.41 million consumers in 712 districts. The government has allocated ₹ 80 billion as budgetary support through which each family is receiving ₹ 1,600.

The current status of *Ujjwala Yojana* in India can be summarized as follows Total Connections Released under *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana* as on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022, 90,000,000. Connections released under Ujjwala 2.0 as on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022, 10,000,000. The current status of *Ujjwala Yojana* in Maharashtra can be summarized as follows The objective of this scheme to provide 8 crore LPG connections to the families below the poverty line in Maharashtra has been achieved by the end of September, 2019. Under this scheme a total of 44.38 lakh LPG connections have been made available in the state. The Central Government has started the Prime Minister’s Poor Welfare Package Scheme in the Kovid-19 epidemic. Under this scheme, three refills of LPG cylinders were provided free of cost. Till August, 2020, 13.06 crore cylinder refills have been distributed in the country to the beneficiaries of *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana*, out of which 73.24 lakh refills have been distributed in the state.

With the overall revision of the target from five crore LPG connections to eight crore, year-wise targets were also revised (September 2017) to two crore LPG connections each for the year 2016-17 to 2019-20.

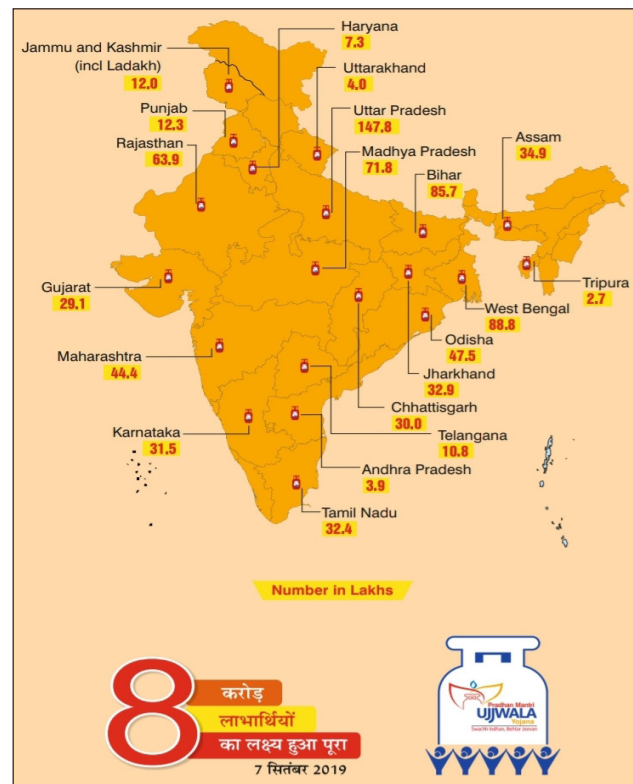


Fig. 3: Top 20 State’s With Maximum Connection Released under the scheme, *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana*

As on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, OMCs have issued 3.81 crore LPG connections under PMUY and 3.38 crore under E-PMU in 36 states/UTs. Overall, Uttar Pradesh has the highest distribution of 147.8 lakh gas connections in the country under *Ujjwala Yojana*. It is followed by West Bengal with 88.8 lakh, Bihar with 85.7 lakh, Madhya Pradesh with 71.8 lakh and Rajasthan with 63.9 lakh. Also, *Ujjwala Yojana* under Tripura has the lowest distribution of 2.7 lakh gas connections in the country. It is followed by Andhra Pradesh with 3.9 lakh, Uttarakhand with 4.0 lakh, Haryana with 7.3 lakh and Telangana with 10.8 lakh. In the country *Ujjwala Yojana* under Top 20 states with maximum connection realised under the scheme are given Fig. 3.

**Connections released under earlier PMUY Scheme in Maharashtra up to 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022**

Sl. No.	District	Connections released under earlier PMUY Scheme	Connections released under Ujjwala 2.0	Total connections released under PMUY
1	Palghar	112681	5174	117855
2	Ahmednagar	301831	5049	306880
3	Akola	109333	6813	116146
4	Amravati	131438	9474	140912
5	Aurangabad	143880	5003	148883
6	Bhandara	87207	3623	90830
7	Bid	206004	11505	217509
8	Buldhana	167685	12784	180469
9	Chandrapur	115836	5105	120941
10	Gadchiroli	131756	4572	136328
11	Nandurbar	99772	26527	126299
12	Dhule	107790	14016	121806
13	Mumbai City	171	12	183
14	Mumbai Suburban	1935	48	1983
15	Jalgaon	239171	12446	251617
16	Jalna	88260	10180	98440
17	Raigarh	61040	1210	62250
18	Kolhapur	170792	15200	185992
19	Nagpur	103321	3359	106680
20	Nanded	209678	29702	239380
21	Nashik	223634	5483	229117
22	Osmanabad	96465	5118	101583
23	Latur	129175	2943	132118
24	Parbhani	101925	17786	119711
25	Pune	147072	2352	149424
26	Ratnagiri	83718	3033	86751

27	Sangli	111169	943	112112
28	Satara	122761	3696	126457
29	Sindhudurg	50368	5667	56035
30	Solapur	150829	2693	153522
31	Thane	44772	2185	46957
32	Wardha	48810	402	49212
33	Yavatmal	286791	12008	298799
34	Washim	83249	10034	93283
35	Gondia	98112	10654	108766
36	Hingoli	48741	15198	63939
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4417172</b>	<b>281997</b>	<b>4699169</b>

**Source:** [www.pmuy.gov.in](http://www.pmuy.gov.in)

**Blue color:** Highest Connections released under earlier PMUY Scheme up to 31 Jan 2022.

**Red Color:** Low Connections released under earlier PMUY Scheme up to 31 Jan 2022.

Phase 1 in 4417172 and Phase 2 in 281997 and total of 4699169 gas connections have been distributed of till 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 through Ujjwala Yojana in Maharashtra. Ahmednagar ranks first among the districts with the highest gas distribution in Maharashtra. Yavatmal is the second ranks of district. It is followed by Nanded, Nashik and Beed districts. Also, the city of Mumbai has the highest low gas distribution in Maharashtra, followed by Mumbai Suburbs. This is followed by Thane, Wardha and Sindhudurg districts. Overall, excluding Mumbai city and Mumbai suburbs in 36 districts of Maharashtra, the distribution of gas under *Ujjwala Yojana* appears to be satisfactory in the rest of Maharashtra.

Overall, a large number of gas connections have been distributed in Maharashtra, studying the current state of gas distribution under the *Ujjwala Yojana* in Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, Mumbai City and Mumbai Suburban districts have the lowest distribution of gas connections under *Ujjwala Yojana* due to high urbanization in both the districts. The city has a large population and is the capital of the state. So this place has a large number of private offices of many government and multinational companies, as well as various organizations. Also, due to the large scale manufacturing industry, it is evident that there is a large working class population in the area. Mumbai is the financial capital of the country. Due to the high financial viability of the place, and the fact that there is

no other means of cooking other than gas, the gas connection is available in every household from the very beginning, which shows that the number of gas connections under *Ujjwala Yojana* is less in these two districts. In Thane, Wardha and Sindhudurg districts also the distribution of gas connections under *Ujjwala Yojana* was found to be low as there is a lot of wood available for cooking in these districts and it is cheaper and free as it is cheaper to cook on gas. Also, Ahmednagar, Nanded, Nashik and Beed districts have the highest number of gas connections under *Ujjwala Yojana*. It is now becoming less available. Also, due to increasing urbanization in these areas, the tendency of people to get gas connection has increased and it has been observed that the same criteria is applicable in other parts of Maharashtra also. Also, as kerosene is no longer available for cooking, the number of gas connections in Maharashtra has increased significantly. Overall, considering the current family economic background in Maharashtra, the number of middle class is large and the economic well-being is good. Also, *Ujjwala Yojana* seems to have been a great success in speeding up the cooking and stopping the housewives from neglecting the cooking.

According to the 2011 census of Maharashtra, the proportion of wood, kerosene and gas used for cooking can be stated as follows. In 2001, the proportion of wood used for cooking in the state was 46.6 percent. It has come down to 42.6 per cent. In 2001, 15.2 percent of households used kerosene. It has come down to 6.5 per cent in 2011. This fuel has been replaced by LPG gas. In 2001, 29.7 percent households in Maharashtra used LPG. It has increased to 43.4 per cent in the last ten years. At the same time, LPG consumption has increased.

## CONCLUSION

The Prime Minister's *Ujjwala Yojana* was announced by the Central Government with the objective of taking care of women's health and their empowerment. Under this scheme, a record number of free domestic gas connections have been achieved across the country. Therefore, the beneficiary family was very happy to get the benefit of *Ujjwala Yojana*. Nandurbar district was once the leader in Maharashtra with the lowest number of gas connections but this identity has been lost

due to *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana*. Despite the success of the scheme, women in rural areas prefer to cook on the stove due to the rising cost of LPG cylinders. Although the *Ujjwala* scheme has benefited the families below the poverty line in rural areas, the beneficiaries of the scheme are workers and daily wage earners. They work two to three days a week. In return for the work they receive, they have to spend their wages on subsistence and health and other matters. Most importantly, due to the large amount of wood available in rural areas for burning, it is not possible for households in rural areas to incur increased costs for gas. So, the actual beneficiaries say that they are using wood to light the fire, but the beneficiaries do not forget to mention that they will fill the cylinders when the rates are reduced. Some of the beneficiaries are seen cooking on stoves and tea and gas. While implementing the government scheme for the development of rural areas, it is seen that the government scheme is implemented keeping in view the objective of how you will get the benefit of voting without checking the usefulness of the scheme. The implementation of the first plan is delayed. If we look at the role of people in the context of government schemes in rural areas, it is clear that no scheme is being implemented. Considering the role of the government in implementing the scheme, the government needs to check the usefulness of the scheme as the new scheme is introduced. It is a fact that is always on the rise.

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