



5 Years of UJALA and SLNP

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Why in News

The Union government's **Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)** and **LED Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP)**, marked their fifth anniversary on 5th January 2020.

- Both schemes have been spearheaded and implemented by **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, a joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- These programmes have bagged global awards like the **South Asia Procurement Innovation Award (SAPIA) 2017**, **CIO 100 award 2019**, the **Global Solid State Lighting (SSL) award of excellence**.

Key Points

Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All

- **About**
 - It was launched in **2015** with a target of replacing 77 crore incandescent lamps with LED bulbs and to nullify the high-cost of LEDs that acted as a barrier previously in the adoption of energy-efficient systems.
 - The scheme was implemented to set up a phase-wise LED distribution.
 - The **objective** is to promote efficient lighting, enhance awareness on using efficient equipment that will reduce electricity bills and preserve the environment.
 - It is the **world's largest domestic lighting project**.

- **Achievements**

- Through the UJALA initiative, over 36.13 crore LED bulbs have been distributed across India. This has resulted in an estimated **energy savings** of 46.92 billion kWh per year, **avoided peak demand** of 9,394 MW, and an estimated **greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction** of 38 million tons of CO₂ annually.
- The **reduced electricity bills** add to a household's disposable income and lifetime savings, thus improving the quality of life, generating prosperity in local communities and in expanding energy access to all.
- Apart from this, the Government of India initiated the **Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (GSA)** in **2018**, which was aimed at the **promotion of social harmony by appraising rural communities of various government welfare schemes and initiatives**. As a part of it, villages with poor households were able to buy LED bulbs for a special price under UJALA programme.

Street Lighting National Programme

- **About**

- It was **launched in 2015** and has been instrumental in replacing over 50 lakh street lights in over 500 cities in India.
- Under the programme, EESL **replaces the conventional street lights with LEDs at its own costs**, with no upfront investment by the municipalities, thereby making their adoption even more attractive.
- It is the **world's largest streetlight replacement programme**.

- **Achievements**

- Under the SLNP programme, over 1.03 crore smart LED streetlights have been installed till date, enabling an estimated **energy savings** of 6.97 billion kWh per year with an **avoided peak demand** of 1,161 MW and an estimated **greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction** of 4.80 million tons CO₂ annually.
- LED streetlights have been installed in various states across the country, helping generate approximately 13,000 jobs to support **Make in India initiative**.
- It has enabled citizens to **increase productivity at night** and **made roads safer** for pedestrians and motorists due to enhanced brightness and reduced dark spots.
- The power utilities of states where the installation of LEDs has been implemented **save up to 50% in electricity bills**.
- By **March 2020**, SLNP aims to **replace 1.34 crore conventional streetlights** in India with smart LEDs.

This goal will make a huge difference by enabling peak demand reduction of about 1500 MW, annual energy savings of 9 billion kWh and reduction in 6.2 million tons of CO₂ per year.

Source: PIB