

## Himachal Pradesh – First Smoke-free State in India

*1.38 lakh free LPG connections provided under PMUY in HP*

*100% of households in HP have LPG connections*

(Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas)

April 23, 2022

*“The government in Himachal Pradesh expanded the beneficiaries of Ujjwala Yojana with Grihini Suvidha Yojana, which helped millions of sisters.”*

*- Prime Minister Narendra Modi*

### Introduction

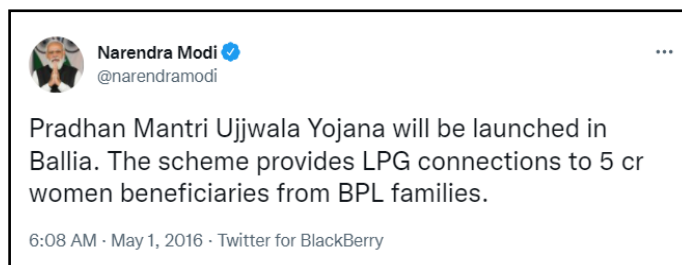
Himachal Pradesh is the first ‘smoke-free state’ in India and this milestone has been achieved due to the effective implementation of Central Governments’ Pradhan Mantri ‘Ujjwala Yojana’ (PMUY) and ‘Himachal Grihini Suvidha Scheme’ of the Himachal Pradesh government. Now, 100% of households in Himachal Pradesh have LPG connections in their houses.

In Himachal Pradesh, with an expenditure of Rs. 21.81 crore, 1.38 lakh free domestic connections have been given under the PMUY. Another 3.23 lakh free gas LPG cylinders have been given in the state at a cost of Rs. 120 crore under the Grihini Suvidha Yojana.



### Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

- The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 1, 2016 from Ballia district in Uttar Pradesh to provide clean cooking fuel to poor households and the target to provide Eight crore deposit free LPG connections was achieved in September, 2019.
- To cover remaining households under PMUY, **Ujjwala 2.0** was started on 10th August, 2021 on pan India basis to provide additional one crore LPG connections.



As on January 31, 2022, government has achieved the target of providing **One crore LPG connections under Ujjwala 2.0**.

- Further, the Government has approved to release of additional 60 lakh LPG connections under Ujjwala 2.0 on existing modalities.
- With the implementation of PMUY, [approx. 1 lakh people have got employment through the LPG distribution system all over India as of February 23, 2022](#).
- The LPG coverage has increased from 61.9 % to near saturation level in last five years.
- As part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package, more than 14 crore free LPG refills were provided to the PMUY beneficiaries during COVID-19.

### Salient features of PMUY:

- LPG connection is released in the name of adult woman of the poor family, subject to the condition that no LPG connection exists in the name of any family member of the household and fulfilling other terms and conditions.<sup>i</sup>
- Initially, the beneficiaries under PMUY were identified either from Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) list or from seven other identified categories. Subsequently, Government extended the benefit to all left out poor families under PMUY subject to fulfilment of terms & conditions.<sup>ii</sup>



### Mukhya Mantri Grihini Suvidha Yojana

Launched on May 26, 2018 with the concerted efforts of the Central and State governments, the Mukhya Mantri Grihini Suvidha Yojana aims to free women of Himachal Pradesh from the indoor pollution by providing free LPG connections to families with no gas connection.

The objective of launching the Mukhya Mantri Grihini Suvidha Yojana was to provide free gas connections to those families who were not covered under the Centre's Ujjwala scheme. The state government started this scheme on the lines of PMUY. The Ujjwala Yojana being run by the Central Government and the Mukhya Mantri Grihini Suvidha Yojana of the State Government have proved to be a boon for the women of Himachal.

### **Major Achievements of PMUY in Himachal Pradesh:**

- **1.38 lakh free LPG connections have been released to Himachal Pradesh under the PMUY.**
- [Up to 3 free refills have been provided to each PMUY beneficiary under Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Package](#) from April to December 2020

- Per capita consumption of LPG i.e., cylinders refilled by PMUY beneficiaries in Himachal Pradesh for the year 2020-21 and 2021-22 is 5.21 and 4.07 which has consistently been more than the national average of 3.6.
- The Government has taken several steps to encourage better consumption of LPG by PMUY beneficiaries, which include deferment of loan recovery from subsidy amount, swap option from 14.2 kg to 5 Kg to reduce upfront cash outgo, option of 5 Kg Double Bottle Connection (DBC), conducting Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat to convince the beneficiaries to use LPG on sustained basis, mass awareness camps etc.

On May 28, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries around the country through Video Conferencing. PM listened to the views of the beneficiaries of this scheme and shared his perspective on how the Ujjwala Yojana has strengthened the lives of the poor, marginalised, Dalits and Tribal communities.<sup>iii</sup>



Government of India has taken several other steps to ensure that all households in the country have access to clean cooking fuels, which include hassle free connections, 5 kg cylinders, secondary connections for an existing domestic LPG consumer, option to apply online for new connection including PMUY and release of e-subscription vouchers, organizing LPG panchayats and public awareness campaigns involving State/UT Governments, etc.

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#### Video References:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Fk4QSbfscA>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vuh-Gv2y5vQ>

#### Twitter Reference:

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#### References:

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- PIB Press Release on [Subsidy paid to consumers by the OMCs under PAHAL scheme of Ujjwala Yojana](#) dated March 28, 2022.
- [Ujjwala Yojna and Grihini Suvidha Yojna proves boon for women of Himachal](#) dated January 2, 2022.
- PIB Factsheet on [Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana](#) dated November 2, 2021.
- PIB Press Release on [PM to launch Ujjwala 2.0 on 10th August](#) dated August 8, 2021.
- PIB Press Release on [7.23 Crore Connections released under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana](#) dated June 24, 2019.
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- [https://himachalservices.nic.in/economics/pdf/Economic\\_Survey\\_eng2020-21.pdf](https://himachalservices.nic.in/economics/pdf/Economic_Survey_eng2020-21.pdf)
- <https://blog.mygov.in/himachal-grihini-suvidha-yojna/>
- <https://popbox.co.in/Video-Conferencing.html>

### Further reading

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- <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/himachal-pradesh-declared-first-smoke-free-state-in-country/articleshow/20882330.cms?from=mdr>

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<sup>i</sup><https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1575403>

<sup>ii</sup><https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1575403>

<sup>iii</sup><https://popbox.co.in/Video-Conferencing.html>