

## Clean Cooking Fuel in India

### Why in news?

In the recently conducted India Energy Week exhibition the Indian oil has launched Surya Nutan which could be the sustainable solution for clean cooking fuel.

### What is clean cooking fuel?

- Clean fuels and technologies are those that attain the fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and carbon monoxide (CO) levels recommended in the WHO global air quality guidelines (2021).
- Modern and clean cooking fuels are fuels with very low levels of polluting emissions when burned. Examples include biogas, LPG, electricity, ethanol, natural gas, and solar power (BLEENS).
- Pellets used in specialised biomass stoves can also be a clean fuel.

### What is the need for clean cooking fuel?

- Provides energy access to poor people of the country.
- Reduces health issues and premature deaths.
- Helps India achieve its net zero targets by reducing [carbon](#) emissions.
- Boost GDP by reducing the economic burden resulting from the use of unsustainable fuels.

### What are the challenges to India's clean cooking transition?

- **Cylinder refill being costly** - Over 50 % of the households that received new LPG cylinders did not choose to refill due to high costs of refill.
- **Cylinder distribution networks** - Lack of access to the cylinder distribution networks especially in rural India.
- **Lack of choice** - The government only promotes LPG cylinder leaving out the alternatives such as electric cooking (e-cooking), especially [solar](#) photovoltaic (PV) connected e-cooking.

### What are the measures taken for clean cooking fuel?

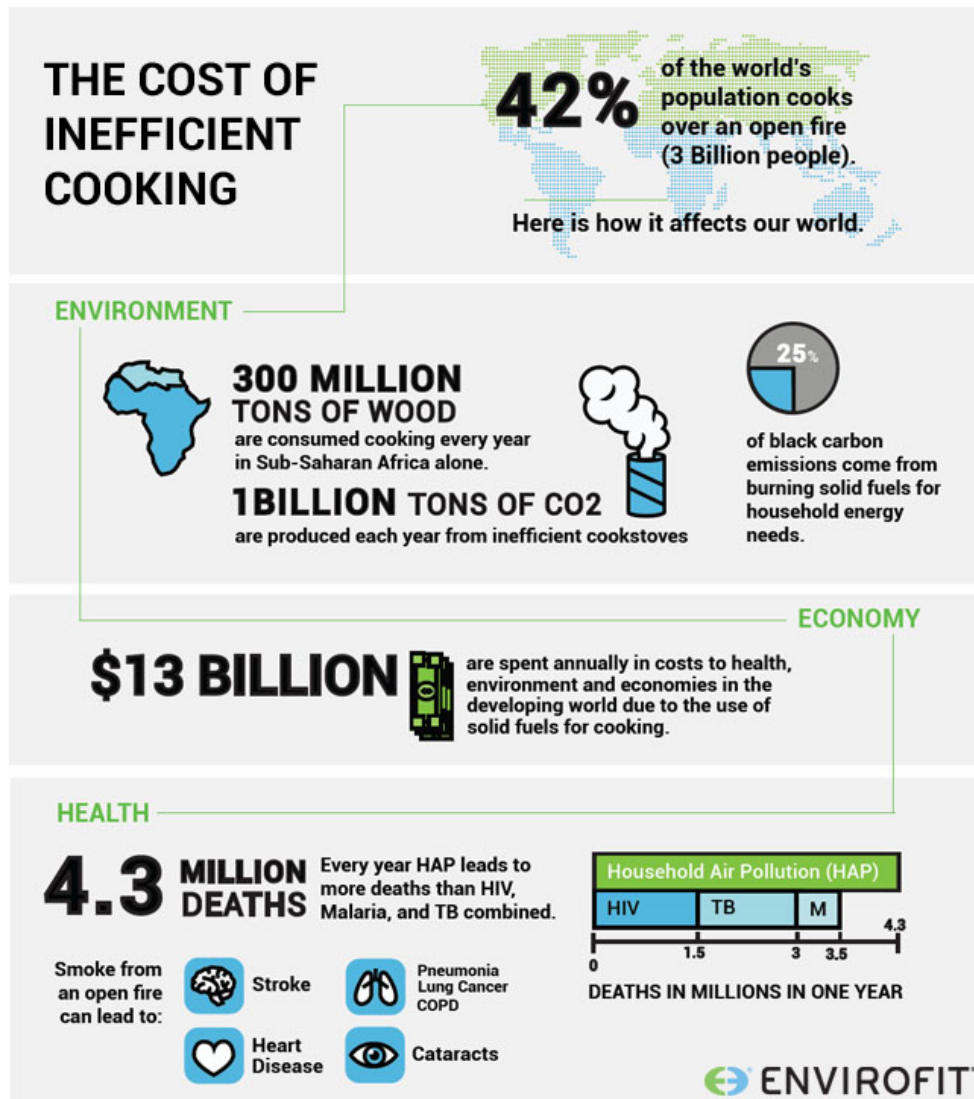
- **Rajiv Gandhi Gram LPG Vitrak Yojana (RGGLV scheme)** - Was launched in 2009 to provide clean cooking fuel.
- **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** - It aimed to replace solid and other biomass-based polluting cooking fuels used in urban and rural households in India with Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).
- Launched in 2016 and replaced the RGGLV scheme.
- **Piped natural gas (PNG)** - The government has been actively promoting PNG, which

is a more economically viable fuel than LNG.

- **Go Electric campaign** - It encourages the use of electric vehicles and electric cooking.
- **Energy Efficiency Services Limited** - Working towards better utilization of renewable [energy](#) in cooking sector.
- **Surya Nutan** - It is an indigenous, stationary, rechargeable and kitchen-based indoor solar cooking platform.
- Developed by **Indian Oil Corporation** and Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Works in hybrid mode, using both solar energy as well as an auxiliary energy source.
- **The Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme (ESMAP)** - It announced clean cooking fund for assistance through technical support and investments in developing nations.
- The programme is by World Bank.
- In India, this programme is being developed through the **Modern Energy Cooking Services programme**.

### **What are the impacts of unclean fuels?**

- The air quality index will further be worsen.
- Cause adverse long-term health impacts.
- Impact GDP due to sickness and loss of productivity.
- Wooden fuel leads to deforestation.



## Quick facts

### Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)

- EESL was founded in 2009 and promoted by Ministry of Power.
- EESL is a **Joint Venture** of four reputed public- sector undertakings such as
  - NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) Limited,
  - Power Finance Corporation Limited,
  - REC (Rural Electrification Corporation) Limited and
  - POWERGRID Corporation of India Limited.
- EESL focuses on solution-driven innovation **without taking support of any subsidy** from the Government.
- EESL is a Super Energy Service Company (ESCO), which enables consumers, industries and governments to effectively manage their energy needs through energy efficient technologies.

## References

1. [Down To Earth | Measures Taken For Clean Cooking Fuel](#)
2. [Down To Earth | Challenges For Clean Cooking Fuel](#)
3. [EESL | About EESL](#)



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