

**“RTI Law in India  
&  
Its Impact on Development  
Trajectory of India”**

**by**

Shri Y K Sinha  
Chief Information Commissioner

**Central Information Commission, New Delhi**

# Historical Development of the RTI Law

- First RTI Law developed by Sweden in 1766.
- The right to information gained power when **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** was adopted in 1948 providing everyone the right to seek, receive, information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.
- The **International Covenant on Civil and Political rights 1966** states that everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression, the freedom to seek and impart information and ideas of all kinds.
- US (1966), Norway (1970), France and Netherlands (1978), Australia, New Zealand and Canada (1982), Denmark (1985), Greece (1986), Austria (1987) and Italy (1990).

# RTI Law in India

- Genesis of RTI law in India was recognized by Justice K. K. Mathew in **State of Uttar Pradesh vs. Raj Narain** (AIR 1975 SC 865 para 74).
- In 1986, through judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Mr. Kulwal v/s Jaipur Municipal Corporation case** - freedom of speech and expression provided under Article 19 of the Constitution.
- National Campaign for People's RTI – Formed in 1996; formulated initial draft of RTI law for the Government.
- Bill for current RTI Act passed on recommendations of National Advisory Council (NAC) in May 2005, and became fully operational on **October 12, 2005**.

# The RTI Act, 2005: Three Tier System

- Asst Central Public Information Officer/Central Public Information Officer.
- First Appellate Authority.
- Apex Appellate Authority for Second Appeals/Complaints-CIC.

# Role of Central Information Commission (CIC)

- Registration of Public Authorities:-
  - All entities qualifying as Public Authority (PA) are registered by the concerned Ministries/Departments with CIC.
- Submission of Quarterly Returns:-
  - Every PA is required to submit four quarterly returns for the annual assessment of their performance for the purpose of RTI Act.
- Suo-Motu Disclosure and Transparency Audit

# Challenges associated with the RTI

- **Misuse of the RTI Act.**
- **Low Public Awareness.**
- **Huge Backlog and Delay in Disposal of Cases.**
- **Poor implementation and enforcement by the PAs.**
- **Non-compliance in proactive disclosure by PAs [sec 4(1)(b)].**
- **Secrecy.**
- **Section 23 of the RTI Act-**

“Bar of jurisdiction of courts- No court shall entertain any suit, application or other proceeding in respect of any order made under this Act and no such order shall be called in question otherwise than by way of an appeal under this Act.”

- **Pendency of Cases.**

# Registration and Disposal of 2<sup>nd</sup> Appeals/Complaints

| <b>Year</b>    | <b>No. of Second Appeals/Complaints registered</b> | <b>No. of Second Appeals/Complaints Disposed</b> | <b>No. of Second Appeals/Complaints Pending as on 1<sup>st</sup> April</b> |
|----------------|--|--|--|
| <b>2019-20</b> | 22243  | 16720  | 35178  |
| <b>2020-21</b> | 19183  | 17016  | 38116  |
| <b>2021-22</b> | 19604  | 28793  | 29213  |
| <b>2022-23</b> | 19014  | 29210  | 19233  |

## Pending Second Appeals/Complaints of appellants, who have filed 10 or more Second Appeals/Complaints

| <b>Range</b>       | <b>Number of Second Appeals</b> | <b>Number of Appellants</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>10 to 20</b>    | <b>1246</b>                     | <b>90</b>                   |
| <b>21 to 30</b>    | <b>590</b>                      | <b>24</b>                   |
| <b>31 to 40</b>    | <b>308</b>                      | <b>9</b>                    |
| <b>41 to 50</b>    | <b>134</b>                      | <b>3</b>                    |
| <b>51 to 100</b>   | <b>565</b>                      | <b>8</b>                    |
| <b>101 to 200</b>  | <b>113</b>                      | <b>1</b>                    |
| <b>201 to 1000</b> | <b>437</b>                      | <b>1</b>                    |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>3393</b>                     | <b>136</b>                  |



# RTI vs. Right to Privacy

## Digital Personal Data Protection Bill:

1. Conceptually, RTI and the right to privacy are both complementary as well as in conflict to each other. While RTI increases access to information, the right to privacy protects it instead.
2. At the same time they both function, as citizen rights safeguarding liberty, against state's overreach. When the question of harmonizing the contradicting rights arises, a proper balance should be ensured.

## The Official Secrets Act, 1923:

1. Whenever there is a conflict between the two laws, the provisions of the RTI Act override those of the OSA.
2. Section 22 of the RTI Act states that its provisions will have effect notwithstanding anything that is inconsistent with them in the OSA.
3. Similarly, under Section 8(2) of the RTI Act, a public authority may allow access to information covered under the OSA, "if the public interest in disclosure outweighs the harm to the protected interest".

# Achieving Development through Good Governance

- Development and Good Governance
- Informed Citizenry is the key for balanced development
- Good Governance-
  - Transparency
  - Accountability
  - Containing Corruption
  - Informed Citizenry
- Role of the RTI Act- Seeking information, suo-moto disclosures

# Some Examples

- Some prominent examples of Suo-Moto disclosure of information by various Public Authorities leading to greater transparency, accountability, containing corruption and people's participation in development projects are :-
  - Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development (PR&RD)
  - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (P&NG)
  - Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

# Ministry of PR&RD

- Show casing of various development schemes/ initiatives on the website
- Details of the scheme
- Progress of the scheme

The screenshot displays the website of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The browser address bar shows the URL <https://panchayat.gov.in>. The main content area is titled "Schemes/Initiatives" and features six cards, each representing a different scheme or initiative:

- RGSA**: Developing and Strengthening the capacities of PRIs...
- INDIA@75**: Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an initiative of the Government of India...
- PANCHAYAT AWARDS 2021**: Outstanding performers among Panchayats all over the country...
- SPATIAL PLANNING**: A common Master Plan framework for the States/ Panchayats...
- SVAMITVA**: Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology...
- GPDP**: Preparation of PDP for economic development and social justice

Below the schemes section, there is an "Important Links" section with a grid of links:

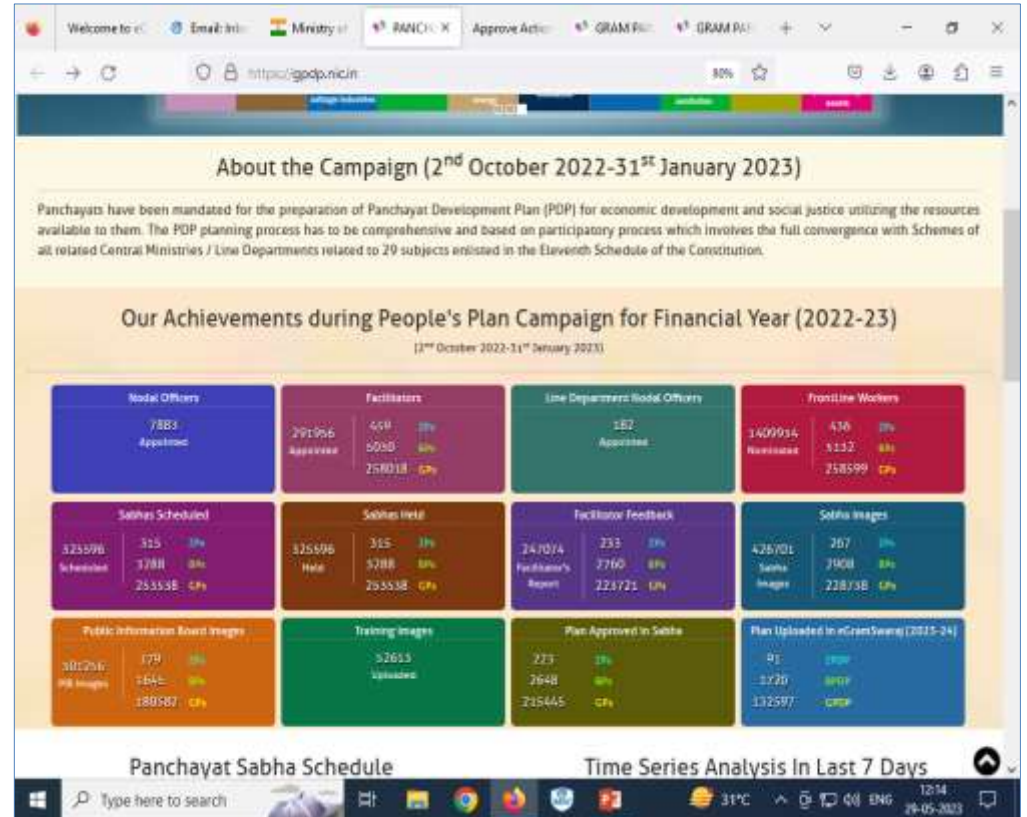
- RUTAG
- eGramSwaraj
- GPDP
- Citizen's Charter
- LGD
- Audit Online
- COVID-19 Dashboard
- SVAMITVA
- Gram Manchitra

On the right side, there is a "Tweets from @mopr\_goi" section showing a tweet from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date as 29-05-2023 and the time as 11:00.

# Gram-Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) Campaign

## Details about-

- Nodal Officers,
- Facilitators,
- Frontline workers,
- Meetings scheduled,
- Meetings held,
- Images of the meetings,
- Plans approved in Meetings,
- Plans uploaded on the portal



# GPDP: Details of the Meeting Held

The screenshot displays the GPDP (Gram Panchayat Development Plan) website interface. At the top, a green banner reads "SABKI YOJANA SABKA VIKAS" and "Zila Panchayat - AMANTAPUR, LGD Code - 458". Below this, an illustration shows a group of people in a meeting. The main content area includes an "About Panchayat" box with details for Amantapur, a calendar showing the meeting date as Jan 7, 2023, and status indicators for "Wider Antyodaya" (not supported), "Approve Plan Updates" (approved), and "Participator's Report" (submitted). Three key roles are listed: Sarpanch (Baya Chhanna), Panchayat Secretary (K. Divakar Reddy), and Facilitator (MD Anurupa Raj). Two columns list participating line departments and frontline officials from various departments like Agriculture, Health, and Education.

**SABKI YOJANA SABKA VIKAS**  
Zila Panchayat - AMANTAPUR  
LGD Code - 458

**About Panchayat**  
State Name : ANDHRA PRADESH  
Zila Panchayat : AMANTAPUR  
Address of Panchayat : Amantapur  
Pin Code : 512001

**Date of Meeting**  
Jan 7, 2023

**Wider Antyodaya** not supported for Panchayat

**Approve Plan Updates**

**Participator's Report**

**Sarpanch**  
Name : Baya Chhanna

**Panchayat Secretary**  
Name : K. Divakar Reddy

**Facilitator**  
Name : MD Anurupa Raj  
Designation : Dy CEO

**Line Departments Participated in Sabba**

- 1) Department of Agriculture
- 2) Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- 3) Department of Drinking Water
- 4) Department of Education
- 5) Department of Fisheries
- 6) Department of Health
- 7) Department of Horticulture
- 8) Department of Khadi
- 9) Department of Panchayat Raj
- 10) Department of Power

[View List](#)

**Frontline Officials of Departments**

- D. Satish, District Manager, Department of Khadi
- Dr.C. Suresh Chandra Reddy, Joint Director, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- Dr. Ramakrishna Prasad, DM and HO, Department of Health
- D.S.Venkaiah, Superintending Engineer, Department of Power
- D. Venkateshwarlu, Superintending Engineer, Department of Drinking Water
- K. Srinivasulu, District Educational Officer, Department of Education
- K. Shankar, Deputy Director, Department of Fisheries
- Padma Lakshmi, Deputy Director, Department of Horticulture
- V. Bhagyanath, Superintending Engineer, Department of Panchayat Raj
- Y. Ramakrishna, Joint Director, Department of Agriculture

[View List](#)

# GPDP: Facilitator's Report in the Meeting

**Facilitator's Report**

District : ANANTAPUR

Facilitator Name : HO Errutha (G)      Sabha Held On : 07-05-2023      Feedback Type : Floorng

Number of people present in District Sabha/Meeting : 135

| Department Name                              | Facilitator Name       | Is Available | Delivered Presentation |
|--|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Department of Agriculture                    | P. Ramasethi           | ✔            | ✔                      |
| Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying  | Dr. T. Suresh Babu     | ✔            | ✔                      |
| Department of Art and Culture                | N/A                    | ✘            | ✘                      |
| Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals     | N/A                    | ✘            | ✘                      |
| Department of Disaster Management            | N/A                    | ✘            | ✘                      |
| Department of Drinking Water                 | D. Venkatesh Babu      | ✔            | ✔                      |
| Department of Economics & Statistics         | N/A                    | ✘            | ✘                      |
| Department of Education                      | K. Saranya             | ✔            | ✔                      |
| Department of Finance                        | N/A                    | ✘            | ✘                      |
| Department of Fisheries                      | K. Sundar              | ✔            | ✔                      |
| Department of Food and Supply                | N/A                    | ✘            | ✘                      |
| Department of Forest                         | N/A                    | ✘            | ✘                      |
| Department of Handloom and Textile           | N/A                    | ✘            | ✘                      |
| Department of Health                         | Dr. Suresh Babu Prasad | ✔            | ✔                      |
| Department of Health & Family Welfare        | N/A                    | ✘            | ✘                      |
| Department of Higher and Technical Education | N/A                    | ✘            | ✘                      |
| Department of Horticulture                   | Ramesh Babu            | ✔            | ✔                      |

# GPDP: Approved Action Plan

Approved Action Plan Report

Plan Year: 2023-2024  
 State: ANDHRA PRADESH  
 District Panchayat & Equivalent: ANANTAPUR

SECTION 1 : Plan Summary

| Total Amount Allotted (In Rs.) |    |           |           |    |    | Total Planned Outlay (In Rs.) |           |    |        |           |           |   |   |           |           |
|--------------------------------|----|-----------|-----------|----|----|-------------------------------|-----------|----|--------|-----------|-----------|---|---|-----------|-----------|
| Tied                           |    |           | Untied    |    |    | Tied                          |           |    | Untied |           |           |   |   |           |           |
| SC                             | ST | General   | Total     | SC | ST | General                       | Total     | SC | ST     | General   | Total     |   |   |           |           |
| 0                              | 0  | 179012922 | 179012922 | 0  | 0  | 197932238                     | 197932238 | 0  | 0      | 179012922 | 179012922 | 0 | 0 | 197932238 | 197932238 |

SECTION 2 : Sectoral View

| S.No. | Sector         | Planned outlay |       |           |           |         |       |           |           |
|-------|----------------|----------------|-------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|-----------|
|       |                | Scheme         |       |           |           |         |       |           |           |
|       |                | Tied           |       |           |           | Untied  |       |           |           |
| SC    | ST             | General        | Total | SC        | ST        | General | Total |           |           |
| 1     | Drinking water | 0              | 0     | 89505461  | 89505461  | 0       | 0     | 34000000  | 34000000  |
| 2     | Roads          | 0              | 0     | 0         | 0         | 0       | 0     | 163032238 | 163032238 |
| 3     | Sanitation     | 0              | 0     | 89505461  | 89505461  | 0       | 0     | 0         | 0         |
| Total |                | 0              | 0     | 179012922 | 179012922 | 0       | 0     | 197932238 | 197932238 |

SECTION 3 : Scheme View

| S.No. | Scheme Name | Component Name | Amount Allotted |    |         |        |    |    | Planned outlay |          |          |        |         |       |   |   |   |          |          |
|-------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|----|---------|--------|----|----|----------------|----------|----------|--------|---------|-------|---|---|---|----------|----------|
|       |             |                | Tied            |    |         | Untied |    |    | Tied           |          |          | Untied |         |       |   |   |   |          |          |
|       |             |                | SC              | ST | General | Total  | SC | ST | General        | Total    | SC       | ST     | General | Total |   |   |   |          |          |
| 1     | Own Funds   | Own Funds      | 0               | 0  | 0       | 0      | 0  | 0  | 0              | 78500290 | 78500290 | 0      | 0       | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 | 78500290 | 78500290 |



# Ujjwala Scheme for Household LPG

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- Free Gas Connections.

The screenshot shows the official website for the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 2.0. The header includes the logo of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, and the text 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 2.0'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for 'Home', 'About PMUY', 'Apply for New Ujjwala 2.0 Connection', 'Consumers' Informational Corner', 'Gallery', 'FAQs', 'Contact Us', and 'English'. The main content area features the title 'About PMUY' and 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 2.0' with the tagline 'Swachh Indhan Behtar Jeevan'. A paragraph explains that in May 2016, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG) introduced the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) as a flagship scheme to provide LPG connections to rural and deprived households. A section titled 'The scheme was launched on 1st May 2016 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha Pradesh by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi.' is followed by four key milestones in orange boxes:

- The target under the scheme was to release 8 Crore LPG Connections to the deprived households by March 2020.
- On 7th September 2019, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India handed over the 8th Crore LPG connection in Aarengal, Madhya Pradesh.
- The release of 8 Crore LPG connections under the scheme has also helped in increasing the LPG coverage from 62% on 1st May 2016 to 99.8% on 1st April 2021.
- Ujjwala 2.0: Additional allocation of 1.8 Crore LPG Connections under PMUY Scheme with special facility to migrant households. The scheme was launched in Madhya Pradesh by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi.

# Ujjwala Scheme- Overview

## General Information on PMUY Scheme:-

- Eligibility Criteria
- Document Required
- Benefits to the Customers
- Forms
- Where to apply for LPG Connection
- Dedicated link for availing the benefit

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
भारत सरकार  
Government of India

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 2.0

Home About PMUY Apply for New Ujjwala 2.0 Connection Consumer Information Corner Safety FAQs Contact Us English

General Information on PMUY Scheme

- > Eligibility Criteria
- > Documents required
- > Benefits to customers
- > Forms

Where to Apply for LPG Connection  
Find your nearest LPG Distributor

Indane Locate Us

Bharatgas Locate Us

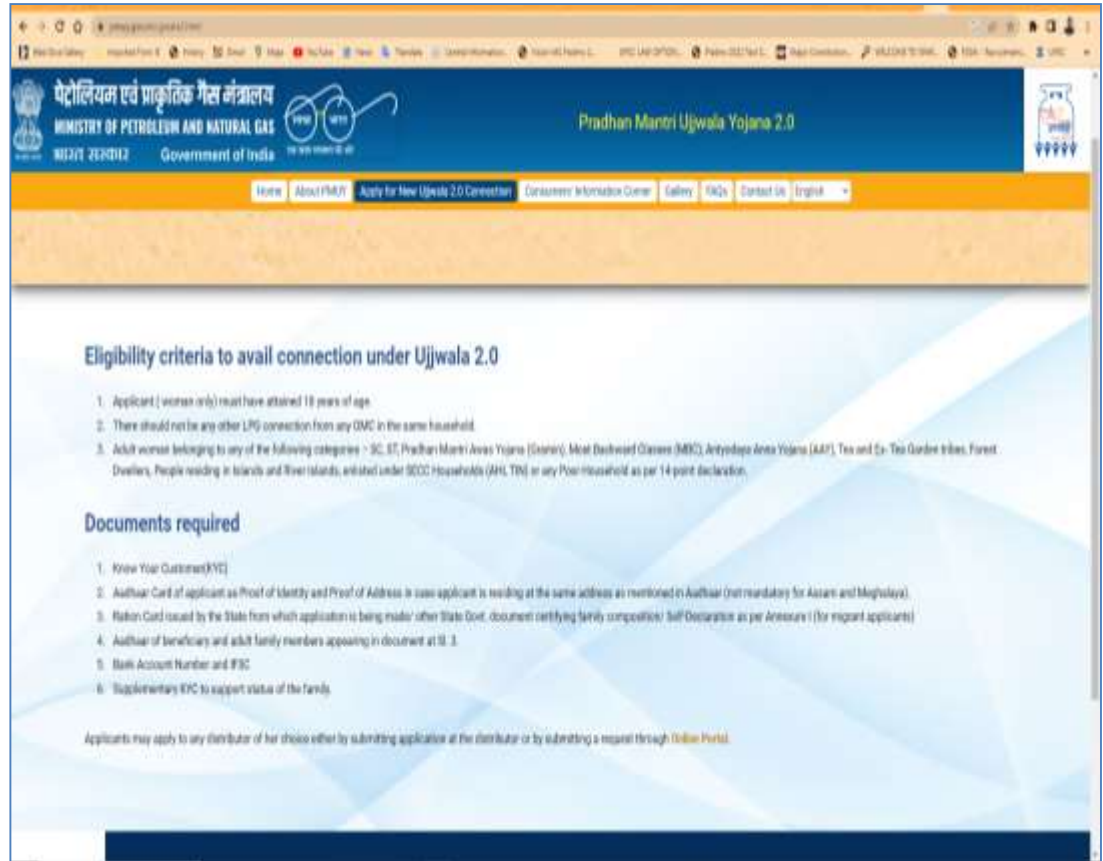
DDA Locate Us

Apply for PMUY Connection

Click here

# Ujjwala Scheme- Eligibility Criteria

- Show causing of eligibility criteria to avail connection.
- Details of documents required
- Dedicated link for applying for the scheme.



The screenshot displays the official website for the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 2.0. The header includes the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas logo and the Government of India emblem. A navigation menu at the top contains links for Home, About PMUY, Apply for New Ujjwala 2.0 Connection, Consumer Information Center, Gallery, FAQs, Contact Us, and English. The main content area features a section titled "Eligibility criteria to avail connection under Ujjwala 2.0" with a list of three conditions: 1. Applicant (woman only) must have attained 18 years of age. 2. There should not be any other LPG connection from any DMC 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 Awas Yojana (AAY), Tea and Ex- Tea Garden tribes, Forest Dwellers, People residing in Islands and River Islands, notified under SCCH Households (AH, TN) or any Poor Household as per 14 point declaration.

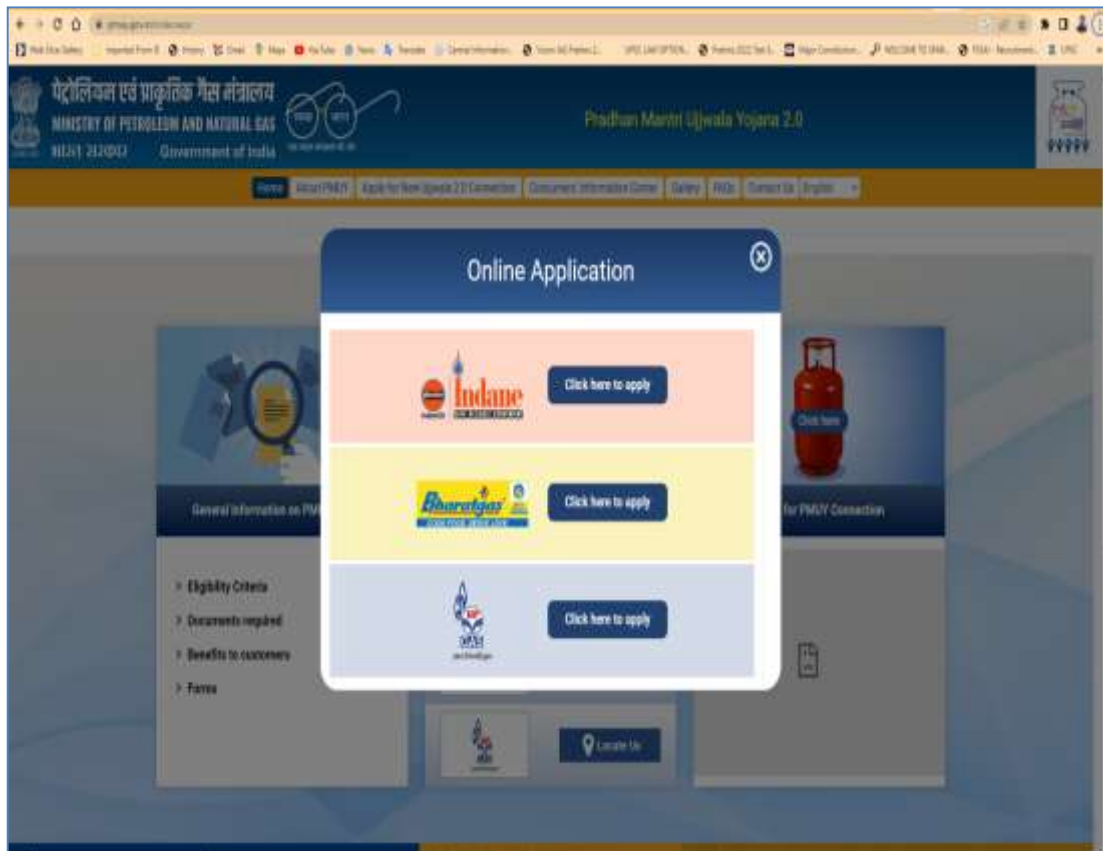
Below this, a section titled "Documents required" lists six items: 1. Know Your Customer (KYC), 2. Aadhaar Card of applicant as Proof of Identity and Proof of Address (if user applicant is residing at the same address as mentioned in Aadhaar (not mandatory for Assam and Meghalaya)), 3. Ration Card issued 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 1, 2, 3, 5. Bank Account Number and IFSC, 6. Supplementary EPC to support status of the family.

At the bottom, a note states: "Applicants may apply to any distributor of her choice either by submitting application at the distributor or by submitting a request through [Helpline Portal](#)."

# Dedicated link for availing the benefit

Online Application Link for various connections like:

1. Indane
2. Bharatgas
3. HP gas





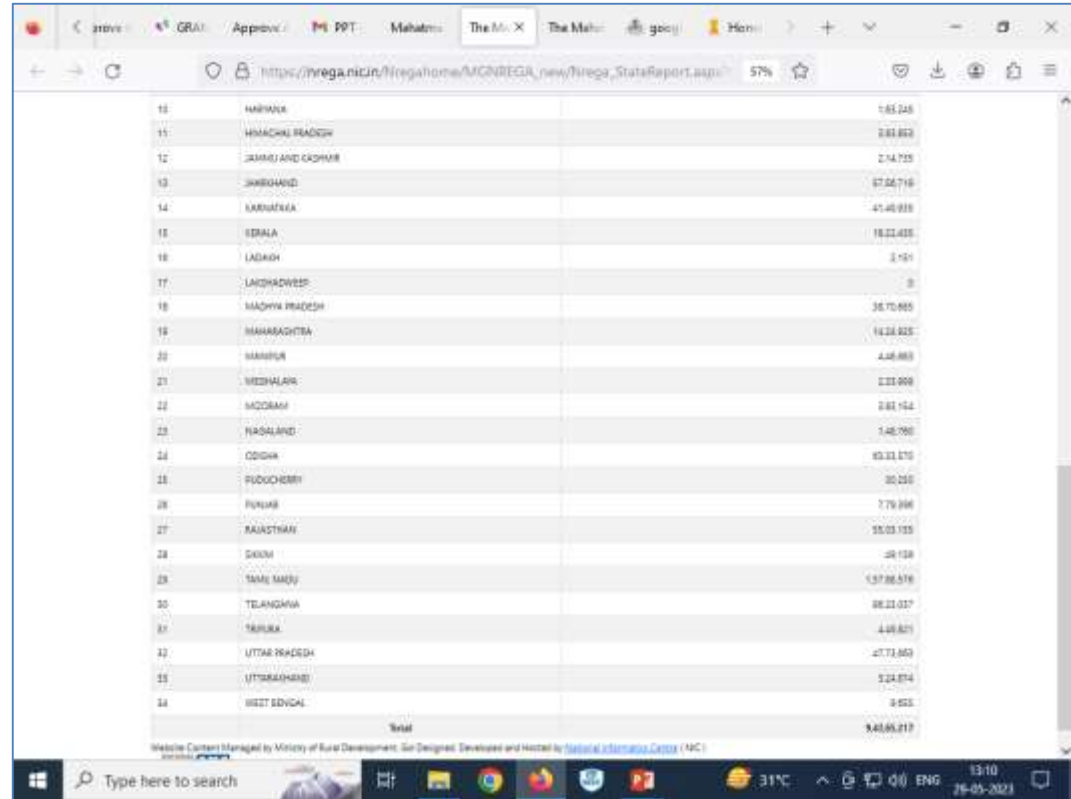
# MGNREGA- Details of DBT Transfers

State-wise details of the Direct Benefit Transfer transactions (in numbers) have been shown on the website



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State-wise details of the Direct Benefit Transfer transactions (in numbers) have been shown on the website



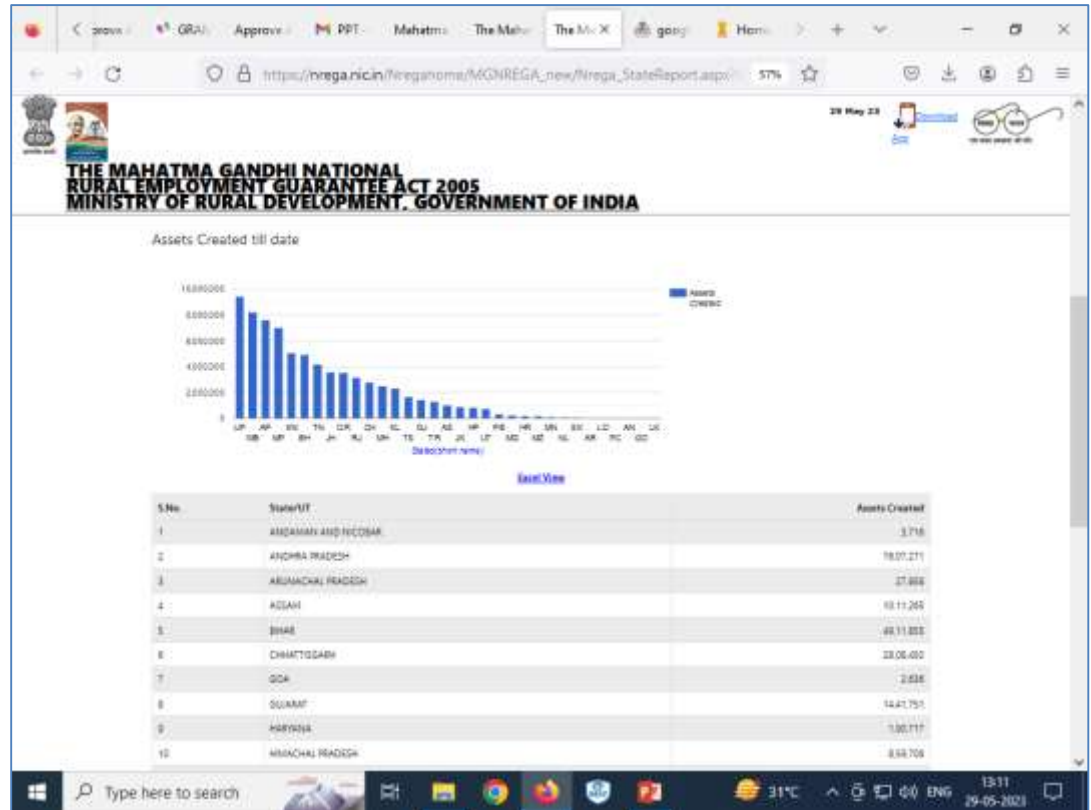
The screenshot displays a web browser window with a table of MGNREGA DBT transfer details. The table lists 28 states and a total, with columns for state name and transaction count. The total number of transactions is 9,40,96,217.

| State               | DBT Transfers (in numbers) |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 11 HARYANA          | 1,85,248                   |
| 15 HIMACHAL PRADESH | 2,83,882                   |
| 12 JHARKHAND        | 2,14,725                   |
| 13 JHARKHAND        | 57,66,716                  |
| 14 KARNATAKA        | 45,46,933                  |
| 16 KERALA           | 18,22,435                  |
| 18 LADAKH           | 2,191                      |
| 17 LAJCHHAWDEE      | 0                          |
| 19 MADHYA PRADESH   | 35,70,880                  |
| 19 MAHARASHTRA      | 14,22,825                  |
| 20 MIZORAM          | 4,48,869                   |
| 21 MIZORAM          | 223,900                    |
| 22 MIZORAM          | 2,81,124                   |
| 23 NAGALAND         | 1,48,790                   |
| 24 ODISHA           | 83,33,120                  |
| 26 PUNJAB           | 30,220                     |
| 28 PUNJAB           | 7,79,386                   |
| 27 RAJASTHAN        | 35,03,133                  |
| 28 RAJASTHAN        | 29,128                     |
| 29 RAJASTHAN        | 1,57,86,576                |
| 30 RAJASTHAN        | 88,23,017                  |
| 31 RAJASTHAN        | 4,49,820                   |
| 32 RAJASTHAN        | 27,73,860                  |
| 33 RAJASTHAN        | 5,24,874                   |
| 34 RAJASTHAN        | 8,453                      |
| Total               | 9,40,96,217                |

Website Content Managed by Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India. Designed, Developed and Hosted by National Informatics Centre (NIC)

# MGNREGA – Details of Assets creation

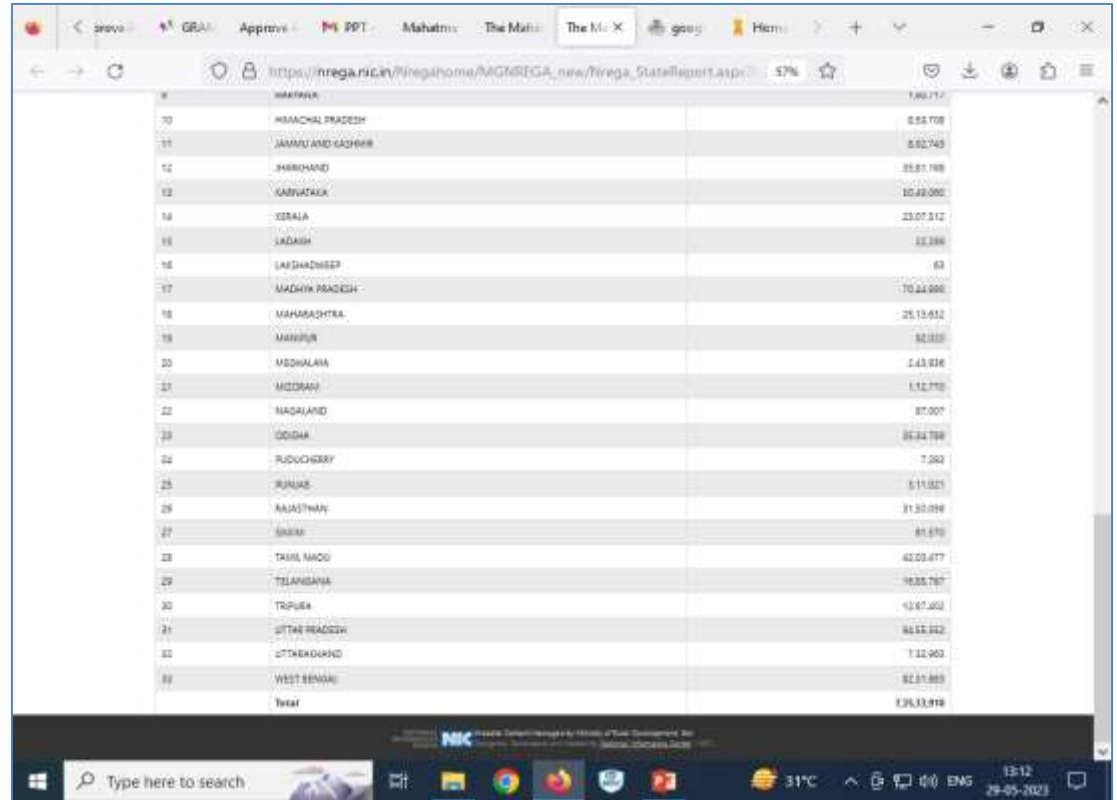
State-wise details of Assets created till date have been shown on the website





# MGNREGA – Details of Assets creation

State-wise details of Assets created till date have been shown on the website



| Sr | STATE          | Assets      |
|----|----------------|-------------|
| 6  | ANDHRA PRADESH | 1,80,714    |
| 7  | ANDHRA PRADESH | 8,55,708    |
| 11 | JHARKHAND      | 8,82,743    |
| 12 | JHARKHAND      | 25,87,188   |
| 13 | KARNATAKA      | 10,49,000   |
| 14 | KERALA         | 23,07,312   |
| 15 | KARNATAKA      | 13,288      |
| 16 | KARNATAKA      | 63          |
| 17 | MADHYA PRADESH | 70,24,900   |
| 18 | MAHARASHTRA    | 25,15,432   |
| 19 | MADHYA PRADESH | 82,830      |
| 20 | MADHYA PRADESH | 2,43,836    |
| 21 | MADHYA PRADESH | 1,12,770    |
| 22 | MAHARASHTRA    | 87,007      |
| 23 | GUJARAT        | 85,34,788   |
| 24 | MADHYA PRADESH | 7,280       |
| 25 | MADHYA PRADESH | 5,11,825    |
| 26 | RAJASTHAN      | 31,30,098   |
| 27 | GUJARAT        | 81,570      |
| 28 | TAMIL NADU     | 42,03,477   |
| 29 | TELANGANA      | 18,85,787   |
| 30 | TRIPURA        | 43,87,403   |
| 31 | UTTAR PRADESH  | 84,55,842   |
| 32 | UTTAR PRADESH  | 7,12,903    |
| 33 | WEST BENGAL    | 82,51,869   |
|    | Total          | 1,36,33,918 |

# Conclusion

The RTI Act was implemented to ensure social justice, transparency and to make governments accountable to its actions. The last 17 years have seen a great deal of progress, though there is still some way to go in realizing the objectives set out in the Act. **The glass is half-full!**

A more effective implementation of the RTI Act will help in empowering citizens to participate in the various developmental schemes of the government, hence the citizen-centric governance.

Informed citizenry will lead to containing corruption and thereby achieving good governance through improved transparency and accountability.

**Thank You!**