



**PROPOSED NEW NORMS UNDER DISCUSSION**

# Projects Delayed? Ministries Likely to Face Question Hour

Will have to provide detailed reasons for delay if cost exceeds estimate by 15%

**Anuradha Shukla**

**New Delhi:** The Centre is working on a new set of norms that will make it mandatory for ministries and departments to provide detailed reasons for execution delays in case a project's cost exceeds the original estimate by 15% for infrastructure projects, people familiar with the development told **ET**.

The proposed norms being discussed are aimed at making ministries and departments more accountable by introducing rigorous cost analysis while ensuring that projects are executed efficiently without unnecessary escalation in cost, they said.

Out of 1,873 infrastructure projects, 449 were hit by cost overruns amounting to ₹5.01 lakh crore and 779 projects were delayed till March 2024, according to the ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI). These infrastructure projects had a project cost of more than ₹150 crore.

The average time overrun in



these 779 delayed projects was 36.04 months.

There is a growing view within the government that monitoring of project implementation needs to be more stringent to ensure timely execution and avoid delays. There is a surge in requests from several ministries for additional funds without giving any substantive reasoning for the delay or providing estimated date of project completion.

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# Stage-wise Responsibility

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“This (delay in execution) needs to end. In the previous two budgets, at least Rs 50,000 crore was an additional burden due to project delays which could have been avoided,” a senior government official told ET.

The official added that preliminary inter-ministerial discussions were under-

way and a new framework is likely to be introduced by the end of this year.

The proposed framework will seek to assign responsibility to an official at each stage. Time taken to grant approval, release funds, for tendering and selection process and reason for any delay at each stage will have to be given by officials in charge.



# India needs a green computing infra



## A DAMODARAN

Senior visiting professor, ICRIER, New Delhi, and Ahmedabad University. Views are personal

With green energy likely to drive the hi-tech sector, such an infrastructure could transform cities that are facing water shortages into water-positive ecosystems

**WITH THE NATIONAL Democratic Alliance** once again back in power at the Centre, it is more or less clear that India's tech destiny in the coming years will be guided by the triad of semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), and quantum computing (QC). However, for the three-pronged push to be sustainable, the country needs a robust green computing infrastructure (GCI) which saves energy costs and uses water economically.

According to ClimaTiq, carbon emissions from cloud computing account for 2.5-3.7% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Given our progress in renewable energy, it is reasonable to assume that India's hi-tech sector will be largely driven by green energy in the coming years. Nevertheless, we face formidable challenges when it comes to water resources. Semiconductor fab units, on average, require two million gallons of water per day for washing and rinsing operations. Data centres (DCs), which are crucial ecosystems for QC and AI, consume, on average, 5-20 million litres of water per day depending on where they are located. A bulk of the water resources consumed by DCs is utilised for cooling operations.

India's average annual water availability stood at 1,123 billion cubic metres in 2020. This works out to be 13% of that of Brazil, the country with the largest endowment of renewable water resources in the world. Given our high water consumption levels, we have limited elbow room for taking up water-intensive projects, unless we

undertake a massive drive to recycle and augment freshwater resources. India's premier tech city, Bengaluru, faces a serious shortage of water resources. As recent reports indicate, the National Capital Region is also in the throes of a major water crisis.

### Data centre boom in India

India's emergence as a global data centre hub has been, by and large, fuelled by the country's big push on the digital public infrastructure front. With the Union Budget in 2022 granting "infrastructure" status to data centres, a healthy pipeline of long-term funds is expected to flow into this buoyant sector. Governments in states such as Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, and Maharashtra have come forward with assured power and round-the-dock water supplies to attract DCs. With the sector expected to expand at 18% compound annual growth rate in the coming six years, demand for power and water would increase substantially in India's tech cities.

### Water-positive data centres

In the US, hyperscale data centres operated by Google, Meta, and Microsoft use recycled water for cooling purposes. These entities have also

taken up research projects to replace water-based cooling with air cooling systems. A few "co-location" data centres in the US have come up with interesting innovations to minimise freshwater use in operations.

It is noteworthy that data centres owned by Microsoft and Meta in the US have declared that they will be water-positive by 2030. They propose to achieve this by contributing to the revival of degraded wetlands in the localities in which they operate. With the help of algorithmically managed Internet of Things devices, everyday tasks at the data centre such as patching, monitoring, updating, scheduling, and configuration can all be managed remotely. Similarly, with the help of AI, data centre operators can improve monitoring of operations.

**In the US, hyperscale data centres operated by Google, Meta, and Microsoft use recycled water for cooling. They have also undertaken research projects to replace water-based cooling with air cooling**

### India's green computing infrastructure

Apart from promoting sustainable computing in DCs, AI, and QC units, India's GCI needs to be designed as innovation centres that test and calibrate water use technologies in a way that is appropriate for high ambient temperature. The focus should be on customising specific technologies such as "closed loop" and "direct chip cooling" to suit India's environmen-

tal conditions. More significantly, GCI units should facilitate the rehabilitation of degraded wetlands and lakes in water-deficient urban centres, thereby enhancing the supply of local public goods.

### Climate imperative

A more fundamental imperative for having a robust GCI in India is the growing emphasis on freshwater sustainability in the climate convention scheme of things.

One of the interesting adjuncts of the Conference of the Parties (COP) 28 held last December in Dubai was the "Freshwater Challenge" unveiled at an event with 15 ministers, hosted by the COP28 presidency. They joined the six countries that launched the initiative at the United Nations 2023 Water Conference in New York — Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Gabon, Mexico, and Zambia. The Freshwater Challenge aims to ensure that 300,000 km of degraded rivers and 350 million hectares of degraded wetlands are committed to restoration by 2030, and to protect freshwater ecosystems. In the wake of COP28, member countries of the convention have been placing emphasis on water conservation projects in nationally determined contributions.

Perhaps a more fundamental justification for having GCI units in India is their potential contribution to transform our hi-tech cities into water-positive ecosystems.





## **MAN INDUSTRIES' ₹1,850-CR ORDER FROM GLOBAL FIRM**

MAN INDUSTRIES ON Monday said it has secured a pipe supply order worth ₹1,850 crore from an international oil and gas player. This order entails supplying API 5L grade line pipes for an offshore LNG project through competitive international bidding.



## **MGL HIKES CNG PRICE BY ₹1.50/KG, PNG BY ₹1/SCM**



MAHANAGAR GAS ON Monday increased the price of delivered compressed natural

gas (CNG) by ₹1.50 per kg and that of domestic piped natural gas (PNG) by ₹1 per SCM in Mumbai and surrounding regions. The hike in prices will be effective from Monday. The revised CNG price inclusive of all taxes will be ₹75/kg and the PNG price will be ₹48/SCM.



# 10th round of OALP bidding for oil & gas assets likely in Aug

**SUBHAYAN CHAKRABORTY**

New Delhi, 8 July

The 10th round of bidding for oil and gas assets under the Centre's Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) is expected to commence next month, petroleum and natural gas ministry officials said.

OALP-X may be one of the biggest so far in terms of area covered and the number of blocks on offer, and is expected to double the area under exploration.

The winning bids for OALP-IX, the final deadline for which had been extended to May, will also be concurrently announced, they said.

"The government wants to expand the area under exploration fast. After the OALP-IX and X bid rounds are successfully completed, about 560,000 sq km area is expected to come under exploration by the end of the year," an official said.

India has an estimated sedimentary area of 3.36 million sq km comprising 26 sedimentary basins, of which 1.63 million sq km area is on land,

410,000 sq km is in the shallow offshore area up to 400 metres from the coast, and 1.32 million sq km in the deepwater area beyond 400 metres. Currently, an estimated 10 per cent of the sedimentary basins are under exploration.

The ninth round comprised 28 blocks with an area of approximately 136,000 sq

km. This includes 23

blocks based on expressions of interest (EOIs) received from companies between April 2022 and March 2023 and five blocks carved out by the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons.

The 28 blocks under the round are spread across eight sedimentary basins and include nine onland blocks, eight shal-

low water blocks, and 11 ultra-deep-water blocks. To date, 134 exploration and production blocks comprising an area of 207,000 sq km across 19 sedimentary basins have been awarded by the government.

It has been difficult to get foreign players to participate till now. OALP-VIII ran for a year till July 5, 2023.



**The Centre is planning to bring 560,000 sq km under oil exploration by the end of 2024**

# Modi-Putin meeting: Trade, energy, defence, investment on the agenda

**NEW TIES.** Kremlin says West closely monitoring PM Modi's visit to Moscow with a sense of jealousy

**Amiti Sen**  
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Russia on Monday for a two-day official visit at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin to attend the 22nd India-Russia annual summit, where the two will review a range of bilateral issues from boosting trade and reducing the current imbalance to cooperation in energy, education, defence and payment systems.

This is the first visit of the Indian PM to Russia since Moscow attacked Ukraine in February 2022, leading to a series of economic sanctions against that country from the US and the EU.

According to the Kremlin, the West is closely monitoring Prime Minister Modi's visit to Moscow with a sense of jealousy. "They are jealous. That means they are closely monitoring it..." Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said. The 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership'



**FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE.** Prime Minister Modi receives guard of honour upon arrival at the airport, in Moscow PTI

between India and Russia has advanced over the past 10 years, including in areas of energy, security, trade, investment, health, education, culture, tourism and people-to-people exchanges, Modi said in his departure statement on Monday.

#### 'MY FRIEND'

"I look forward to reviewing all aspects of bilateral cooperation with my friend President Vladimir Putin and sharing perspectives on various

regional and global issues. We seek to play a supportive role for a peaceful and stable region. Both sides are currently working on a series of outcome documents in a number of areas, which would be the result of the summit," he said. Modi is scheduled to attend a private dinner hosted by Putin upon arrival.

On Tuesday, Modi and Putin will hold restricted-level talks, which will be followed by delegation-level talks. He will then leave for Vi-

enna for the second leg of his two-nation tour.

The PM is also scheduled to meet the Indian community in Russia on Tuesday and lay a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier in Kremlin.

#### 'ASSESSING GROUPINGS'

The 22nd annual summit would provide an opportunity to the two leaders to review the whole range of bilateral issues, including defence, trade linkages, investment ties, energy cooperation, science & technology, education, culture, and people-to-people exchanges, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra recently said at a media briefing on the visit.

"They would share perspectives on regional and global developments of mutual interest. They would also assess the status of bilateral engagements in groupings such as BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, G20, East Asia Summit, and the UN," he said.

The issue of early discharge of Indian nationals who have been misled into the service of

the Russian army is also expected to figure in the discussions, Kwatra said.

India's growing trade deficit with Russia is likely to feature prominently on Modi's agenda. Following the West's sanctions on Russia to punish it for its attack on Ukraine, India's oil purchase from Russia, offered at a cheaper price, increased several fold, pushing its total imports from the country to about \$61 billion. However, its exports to Russia are at about \$4 billion, leading to a big trade deficit of more than \$56 billion. Kwatra said attempts have to be made to increase exports from India in all sectors, whether agriculture, manufacturing pharmaceuticals or services.

Investment ties between the two countries are also growing in sectors such as energy, banking, railways, and steel. At the bilateral meet, the two sides may also take forward the ongoing talks on allowing RuPay and Mir card transactions in both countries for easy payments, sources said.





## Vitol Asia, BP among bidders for Sri Lanka LPG terminal

**Reuters**

Colombo

Vitol Asia and Bharat Petroleum are among eight bidders for Sri Lanka's state-run LPG company and terminal as the nation looks to reduce losses incurred by government-owned enterprises under a \$2.9 billion International Monetary Fund programme.

The eight bidders can now submit proposals to Sri Lanka for the acquisition of shares in Litro Gas Lanka Ltd and Litro Terminals (Private) Ltd, Sri Lanka's Finance Ministry said.

Litro holds the largest market share in Sri Lanka's duopoly LPG market mostly focused on domestic gas supplies. Sri Lanka finalised the IMF programme last March, to reform its economy to emerge from its worst financial crisis in decades.

# The government's stake-selling agenda: If not now, then when?

*The market rally in PSU shares offers it a fine opportunity to raise resources by offloading its equity*



**SACHCHIDANAND SHUKLA**

is group chief economist at  
Larsen & Toubro.

Markets have been hitting new highs almost every week and the total wealth in equity assets has also risen to all-time highs. Not surprisingly, promoters are set for record stock dilution. As per media reports, promoters of over 200 companies have cumulatively sold stock worth around \$4 billion in the last two months alone, taking advantage of richer valuations and cashing-in on the equity they hold.

In this context, it is pertinent to note that the market capitalization of public sector undertakings (PSUs) has almost doubled from about \$404 billion in 2022-23 to \$804 billion currently. To put this number in context, total budgeted expenditure in the 2024-25 interim budget is about \$560 billion. PSUs have attained record high returns on equity and PSU profits are expected to be around 2% of gross domestic product (GDP). Almost every PSU and public sector bank (PSB) stock has seen a humongous rally, with these stocks significantly outperforming their private peers as well as the market.

This must be a rather pleasant outcome for the Government of India, which, as a 'promoter' in a different class altogether, has reaped the benefits so far in the form of chunky dividends, but needs far more money to create infrastructure, generate jobs and strengthen economic engines. Not very long ago, the country was trapped in a

vicious cycle of a twin-balance-sheet crisis, with the finances of corporates and banks both under stress. PSBs were reeling under a mountain of non-performing loans, with a few even being 'technically bankrupt'.

This prompted the government to initiate measures such as its 4'R's strategy of recognizing non-performing assets (NPAs) transparently, resolving and recovering value from stressed accounts, recapitalizing banks and reforming banks through an agenda of PSB reforms. Governance moves, capital infusion and bank mergers helped restore their financial health, though it took huge dollops of taxpayer money (over \$35 billion) and plenty of time to heal balance sheets. But it eventually helped improve confidence, shore up their capital base and reduce operational costs.

The big turnaround in PSU fortunes has been rewarded with the sharp rally in their stock prices and presents a ripe opportunity for the monetization of government stakes and putting the money back to work productively in the economy. The rally should also be attributed to massive governmental efforts that improved PSU financial performance. Monetization will help the fisc and generate resources to build growth-supportive infrastructure assets, a process that is known to have a high multiplier effect and create jobs in larger numbers—a key imperative in the current context.

Moreover, it will also improve liquidity in markets. We have seen a surge in market capitalization, but public shareholding in PSU stocks has remained low. This scenario provides an opportunity for state-held listed entities that still haven't met the market regulator's minimum public shareholding (MPS) norm to comply. The government's stake in many PSBs exceeds 75%, although Sebi requires the proportion to be reduced below that mark. In fact, a few banks such as Indian Overseas Bank, UCO Bank and Central Bank of

India have state shareholdings as high as 96%, 95% and 93%, respectively.

There are well known difficulties involved in the disinvestment process, including the involvement of multiple stakeholders, extended regulatory processes, global economic volatility, political opposition and accusations of the 'family silver' being sold off.

To overcome these challenges, market experts point out other ways of offloading stakes. For example, using the offer-for-sale (OFS) mechanism available to promoters, which could entail shorter time periods if done through a special window at stock exchanges. The government could also consider selling chunky stakes via block deals. Or it could explore selling small quantities in the secondary market. Of the \$50 billion odd that has been raised in the last 10 years from divestments, \$37.5 billion came from minority stake sales.

The government has set a divestment target of about \$6 billion for 2024-25, which is 67% higher than its revised target of \$3.6 billion for 2023-24. Note, the government's "miscellaneous capital receipts," which include realizations from disinvestment and other forms of asset monetization, exceeded the revised estimate of \$3.4 billion in 2023-24, of which proceeds from disinvestment totalled \$1.95 billion.

Interestingly, the interim budget did not classify disinvestment receipts as a separate head under the broad category of miscellaneous capital receipts. While this may be a procedural or classification shift, India's strategy to generate resources needs a quick qualitative swing to seize the moment. The Centre should not be content with just PSU dividends. Its revitalization of these entities was hard-earned. Stakes need to be sold. The government would also do well to use this as a signalling device to affirm the economic principle that the government should not be in the business of running businesses, especially non-strategic ones.

*These are the author's personal views.*



## MAN Ind gets ₹1,850 cr order from intl firm for LNG project

**PTI**

NEW DELHI

MAN Industries on Monday said it has secured a pipe supply order worth Rs 1,850 crore from an international oil and gas player.

This order entails supplying API 5L grade line pipes for an offshore LNG project through competitive international bidding, MAN Industries said in a statement.

"MAN Industries demonstrates robust strength and market credibility through its latest achievement of securing the Rs 1,850 crore order from a top-tier international oil & gas company, marking



one of the largest orders of its kind in the company's history," it said.

The delivery of the line pipes is scheduled over the next 12 to 18 months. MAN Industries will also supply SAW pipes for this project.

With this, the company's order book will surpass Rs 4,000 crore.

MAN Industries (India) is the flagship company of the Man Group.





## CNG और PNG के बढ़ गए दाम

मुंबई। दिल्ली के बाद में अब मुंबई में सीएनजी के दाम 1.50 रुपये प्रति किलो बढ़ गए हैं। वहीं, पाइप के जरिए रसोई में पहुंचने वाली गैस यानी पीएनजी की कीमत 1 रुपये बढ़ गई है। मुख्य रूप से कच्चे माल की लागत बढ़ने से दाम बढ़ाए गए हैं। मुंबई और आसपास के शहरों में वाहनों के लिए सीएनजी और घरों में पाइप के जरिए खाना पकाने की गैस उपलब्ध कराने वाली महानगर गैस लि. ने कहा कि बढ़ी हुई कीमतें आठ जुलाई की मिड नाइट से लागू होंगी। कंपनी ने बयान में

कहा, "सीएनजी और पीएनजी की बढ़ती मात्रा को पूरा करने और घरेलू गैस आवंटन में कमी के कारण, एमजीएल अतिरिक्त बाजार मूल्य पर प्राकृतिक गैस ले रही है। इसके चलते गैस की लागत बढ़ गई है।" बयान के अनुसार, गैस लागत में वृद्धि को आंशिक रूप से पूरा करने के लिए एमजीएल ने मुंबई और उसके आसपास सीएनजी की कीमत 1.50 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम और घरेलू पीएनजी की कीमत एक रुपये प्रति मानक घन मीटर (एससीएम) बढ़ा दी है।



## **CNG and PNG prices hiked**

In a decision that might affect thousands of auto rickshaws and taxis in the city, the Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) has revised the prices of CNG and Domestic PNG. While the increase in delivered price of CNG is Rs 1.50 per kg, that of Domestic PNG is up by Rs 1.00 per standard cubic metre (SCM) in and around Mumbai. The prices will be effective from midnight of July 8, 2024. The MGL has increased the rate to meet the increasing volume of CNG and Domestic PNG segments, besides due to further shortfall in domestic gas allocation. Accordingly, the revised delivered prices inclusive of all taxes of CNG will be Rs 75.00/kg and Domestic PNG price will be Rs 48/SCM in and around Mumbai, an MGL release said. Even after the revision, MGL's CNG offers attractive savings of about 50% and 17%, as against petrol and diesel, respectively, at current price levels in Mumbai. Even after the increase, MGL's price of CNG and Domestic PNG are amongst the lowest in the country.

## मुंबई में सी.एन.जी. 1.50 रुपए महंगी हुई, पी.एन.जी. के दाम भी बढ़े

मुंबई, 8 जुलाई (एजेंसी): दिल्ली के बाद मुंबई में सी.एन.जी. के दाम 1.50 रुपए प्रति किलो बढ़ गए हैं, जबकि पाइप के जरिये रसोई में पहुंचने वाली गैस यानी पी.एन.जी. की कीमत 1 रुपए बढ़ गई है। मुख्य रूप से कच्चे माल की लागत बढ़ने से दाम बढ़ाए गए हैं।

मुंबई और आसपास के शहरों में वाहनों के लिए सी.एन.जी. और घरों में पाइप के जरिए खाना पकाने की गैस उपलब्ध कराने वाली महानगर गैस लि. (एम.जी.एल.) ने कहा कि बढ़ी हुई कीमतें 8 जुलाई की मध्यरात्रि से लागू हो गई हैं। कंपनी ने कहा, "सी.एन.जी. और पी.एन.जी. की बढ़ती मात्रा को पूरा करने और घरेलू गैस आबंटन में कमी के कारण एम.जी.एल. अतिरिक्त बाजार मूल्य पर प्राकृतिक गैस (आयातित एल.एन.जी.) ले रही है। इसके चलते गैस की लागत बढ़ गई है।"

उल्लेखनीय है कि राष्ट्रीय राजधानी और आसपास के शहरों के लिए इंद्रप्रस्थ गैस लि. ने 22 जून को दिल्ली में सी.एन.जी. की कीमत 1 रुपए प्रति किलोग्राम बढ़ाकर 75.09 रुपए कर दी थी। हालांकि, कंपनी ने पी.एन.जी. के दाम संशोधित नहीं किए और यह 48.59 रुपए प्रति एस.सी.एम. पर बनी हुई है।

कंपनी ने कहा, "मामूली वृद्धि के बाद भी एम.जी.एल. की सी.एन.जी. और घरेलू पी.एन.जी. की कीमतें देश में सबसे कम हैं।"





## मुंबई में सीएनजी डेढ़ रुपए महंगी हुई, पीएनजी के दाम भी बढ़े

मुंबई, 8 जुलाई (भाषा)।

दिल्ली के बाद में मुंबई में सीएनजी के दाम 1.50 रुपए प्रति किलो बढ़ गए हैं। जबकि पाइप के जरिए रसोई में पहुंचने वाली गैस यानी पीएनजी की कीमत एक रुपए बढ़ गई है। मुख्य रूप से कच्चे माल की लागत बढ़ने से दाम बढ़ाए गए हैं। मुंबई और आसपास के शहरों में वाहनों के लिए सीएनजी और घरों में पाइप के जरिए खाना पकाने की गैस उपलब्ध कराने वाली महानगर गैस लि (एमजीएल) ने कहा कि बढ़ी हुई कीमतें आठ जुलाई की मध्यरात्रि से लागू होंगी। कंपनी ने बयान में कहा, सीएनजी और पीएनजी की बढ़ती मात्रा को पूरा करने और घरेलू गैस आवंटन में कमी के कारण, एमजीएल अतिरिक्त बाजार मूल्य पर प्राकृतिक गैस (अध्यातित एलएनजी) ले रही है। इसके चलते गैस की लागत बढ़ गई है। बयान के अनुसार, गैस लागत में वृद्धि को आंशिक रूप से पूरा करने के लिए एमजीएल ने मुंबई और उसके आसपास सीएनजी की कीमत 1.50 रुपए प्रति किलोग्राम और घरेलू पीएनजी की कीमत एक रुपए प्रति मानक घन मीटर (एससीएम) बढ़ा दी है।

## मुंबई में सीएनजी डेढ़ रुपये महंगी हुई, पीएनजी के दाम भी बढ़े

मुंबई, (भाषा)। दिल्ली के बाद में मुंबई में सीएनजी के दाम 1.50 रुपये प्रति किलो बढ़ गये हैं। जबकि पाइप के जरिये रसोई में पहुंचने वाली गैस यानी पीएनजी की कीमत एक रुपये बढ़ गयी है। मुख्य रूप से कच्चे माल की लागत बढ़ने से दाम बढ़ाये गये हैं। मुंबई और आसपास के शहरों में वाहनों के लिए सीएनजी और घरों में पाइप के जरिये खाना पकाने की गैस उपलब्ध कराने वाली महानगर गैस लि. (एमजीएल) ने कहा कि बढ़ी हुई कीमतें आठ जुलाई की मध्यरात्रि से लागू होंगी।

कंपनी ने बयान में कहा, सीएनजी और पीएनजी की बढ़ती मात्रा को पूरा करने और घरेलू गैस आवंटन में कमी के कारण, एमजीएल अतिरिक्त बाजार मूल्य पर प्राकृतिक गैस (आयातित एलएनजी) ले रही है। इसके चलते गैस की लागत बढ़ गई है।

बयान के अनुसार, गैस लागत में वृद्धि को आंशिक रूप से पूरा करने के लिए एमजीएल ने मुंबई

और उसके आसपास सीएनजी की कीमत 1.50 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम और घरेलू पीएनजी की कीमत एक रुपये प्रति मानक घन मीटर (एससीएम) बढ़ा दी है।

इस वृद्धि के बाद सीएनजी की संशोधित कीमत सभी करों सहित 75 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम होगी। वहीं मुंबई तथा उसके आसपास घरेलू पीएनजी की कीमत 48 रुपये प्रति एससीएम होगी। उल्लेखनीय है कि राष्ट्रीय राजधानी और आसपास के शहरों के लिए इंद्रप्रस्थ गैस लि. ने 22 जून को दिल्ली में सीएनजी की कीमत एक रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम बढ़ाकर 75.09 रुपये कर दी थी। हालांकि, कंपनी ने पीएनजी के दाम संशोधित नहीं किये और यह 48.59 रुपये प्रति एससीएम पर बनी हुई है। कंपनी ने कहा, उपरोक्त संशोधन के बाद भी, एमजीएल की सीएनजी मुंबई में मौजूदा मूल्य स्तर पर पेट्रोल और डीजल की तुलना में क्रमशः लगभग 50 प्रतिशत और 17 प्रतिशत सस्ती है...।

## रसोई गैस के लिए 'ईकेवाईसी' की प्रक्रिया आसान बनाए केंद्र : सतीसन

तिरुवनंतपुरम (भाषा)। केरल कांग्रेस ने सोमवार को कहा कि रसोई गैस उपभोक्ताओं को गैस एजेंसियों में 'पंजीकरण प्रक्रिया' (केवाईसी) पूरी करने के केंद्र सरकार के कथित निर्देश से कई लोगों, विशेषकर वरिष्ठ नागरिकों और महिलाओं को परेशानी हुई है। केरल विधानसभा में विपक्ष के नेता वी.डी. सतीसन ने केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी को लिखे पत्र में कहा कि मौजूदा व्यवस्था के कारण गैस एजेंसियों पर उपभोक्ताओं की लंबी कतारें लग रही हैं और उन्हें असुविधा हो रही है।

■ केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी को लिखा पत्र

उन्होंने इस प्रक्रिया को आसान बनाने के लिए वार्ड स्तर और अक्षय केन्द्रों पर एक विशेष प्रणाली स्थापित करने का सुझाव दिया। पत्र में कहा गया, पता चला है कि केंद्र सरकार ने

गैस कनेक्शन के लिए मस्टरिंग (केवाईसी) को अनिवार्य कर दिया है, ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि रसोई गैस सिलेंडर वैध ग्राहकों को ही मिले। हालांकि, वैध ग्राहकों की पहचान के लिए केवाईसी अनिवार्य है, लेकिन संबंधित गैस एजेंसियों पर प्रक्रिया पूरी करने के फ़ैसले से आम रसोई गैस सिलेंडर धारकों को असुविधा हो रही है। इसमें कहा गया, जैसा कि आप जानते हैं, रसोई गैस धारकों में से अधिकांश महिलाएं हैं, और इस शर्त के कारण उन्हें पंजीकरण कराने के लिए गैस एजेंसियों के सामने घंटों लंबी लाइनों में खड़ा रहना पड़ता है। इससे उनके दैनिक जीवन पर बहुत बुरा असर पड़ा है। इस फ़ैसले के कारण बुजुर्ग और बीमार लोग भी बहुत मुश्किल में हैं।



## दिल्ली के बाद मुंबई में सीएनजी महंगी हुई

मुंबई, (पंजाब केसरी): दिल्ली के बाद में मुंबई में सीएनजी के दाम 1.50 रुपये प्रति किलो बढ़ गये हैं। जबकि पाइप के जरिये रसोई में पहुंचने वाली गैस यानी पीएनजी की कीमत एक रुपये बढ़ गयी है। मुख्य रूप से कच्चे माल की लागत बढ़ने से दाम बढ़ाये गये हैं। मुंबई और आसपास के शहरों में वाहनों के लिए सीएनजी और घरों में पाइप के जरिये खाना पकाने की गैस उपलब्ध कराने वाली महानगर गैस लि. (एमजीएल) ने कहा कि बढ़ी हुई कीमतें आठ जुलाई की मध्यरात्रि से लागू होंगी। कंपनी ने बयान में कहा, "सीएनजी और पीएनजी की बढ़ती मात्रा को

पूरा करने और घरेलू गैस आवंटन में कमी के कारण, एमजीएल अतिरिक्त बाजार मूल्य पर प्राकृतिक गैस (आयातित एलएनजी) ले रही है। इसके चलते गैस की लागत बढ़ गई है।" बयान के अनुसार, गैस लागत में वृद्धि को आंशिक रूप से पूरा करने के लिए एमजीएल ने मुंबई और उसके आसपास सीएनजी की कीमत 1.50 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम और घरेलू पीएनजी की कीमत एक रुपये प्रति मानक घन मीटर (एससीएम) बढ़ा दी है।

इस वृद्धि के बाद सीएनजी की संशोधित कीमत सभी करों सहित 75 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम होगी।

# तेल व गैस की 10वें दौर की नीलामी अगस्त में !

शुभायन चक्रवर्ती  
नई दिल्ली, 8 जुलाई

तेल व गैस परिसंपत्तियों की 10वें दौर की नीलामी अगले महीने शुरू होने की उम्मीद है। तेल व प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि यह नीलामी केंद्र की खुली एकरेज लाइसेंस नीति (ओएएलपी) के तहत होगी। ओएएलपी 10 के तहत अन्वेषण के लिए अभी तक के सर्वाधिक बड़े क्षेत्र में से एक क्षेत्र और ब्लॉक को शामिल किया जा सकता है। इसमें अन्वेषण का क्षेत्र दोहरा होने की उम्मीद है।

ओएएलपी नौ के लिए निविदा जारी करने की अंतिम समयसीमा मई तक विस्तारित की गई थी। इसके बारे में आगे भी घोषणा की जाएगी। एक अधिकारी ने बताया, 'सरकार अन्वेषण के तहत क्षेत्र का तेजी से विस्तार करना चाहती है।

ओएएलपी 9 और ओएएलपी 10 की निविदाओं का दौर सफलतापूर्वक जारी होने के बाद इस वर्ष के अंत तक करीब 5,60,000 वर्ग किलोमीटर क्षेत्रफल आ सकता है।' भारत में करीब 33.6 लाख वर्ग किलोमीटर तलछट (सेडीमेंटरी) क्षेत्र है और इसमें 26 तलछट बेसिन हैं।

## पाइपलाइन बिछाने का कार्य जारी रखने के निर्देश

फरीदाबाद। उपायुक्त विक्रम सिंह ने विधायक नयनपाल रावत के साथ सागरपुर डीघ प्रहलादपुर के ग्रामीणों और बीपीसीएल के अधिकारियों की संयुक्त रूप से बैठक ली। बैठक में उन्होंने प्याला से जेवर तक पाइपलाइन बिछाने का कार्य सुचारू रूप से जारी रखने के निर्देश दिए, जिसमें ग्रामीणों से विशेष सहयोग की अपील की। लघु सचिवालय में आयोजित बैठक की अध्यक्षता करते हुए उपायुक्त विक्रम सिंह ने विस्तार से प्याला बीपीसीएल से जेवर तक पाइप लाइन बिछाने का कार्य की प्रगति रिपोर्ट ली। यह पाइप लाइन प्याला सागरपुर, डीघ प्रहलादपुर से होकर गुजर रही है। इसके मुआवजे को लेकर ग्रामीणों ने उपायुक्त से मांग की, जिसके तहत उपायुक्त ने ग्रामीणों के साथ संबंधित कंपनी के प्रतिनिधियों की संयुक्त बैठक ली। बैठक में ग्रामीणों ने मांग की कि गेहूं, गेहूं का भूसा व मूंग फसलों का मुआवजा वितरित किया जाए, तीसरी फसल धान की रोपाई शुरू हो चुकी है जिसका मुआवजा दिलायें, सर्कल रेट बढ़ने के साथ भूमि मुआवजा में भी बढ़ोतरी इत्यादि मांगे प्रस्तुत की।