



## ...to invest ₹65,000 cr in Andhra for 500 biogas plants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
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**RELIANCE INDUSTRIES SAID** it will invest ₹65,000 crore in setting up 500 compressed biogas plants in Andhra Pradesh, with the ground breaking for first of these taking place on Wednesday.

Andhra Pradesh IT & electronics minister Nara Lokesh laid the foundation stone of the first Reliance Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plant at Kanigiri in Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh, the company said in a statement.

"The project is being developed with a capital investment of ₹139 crore and is the first in a series of 500 projects involving a total capital outlay of ₹65,000 crore for AP," it said.

The plant will be developed with innovative technology and utilise Napier grass that would be developed on barren and waste lands to produce biogas.

The project will result in significant livelihood opportunities to the rural economy through payment of lease revenues to farmers, and a fixed price for the grass grown by them.



## **2<sup>nd</sup> edition of PNGRB's conclave concludes**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition PNGRB Conclave, themed on "Connecting Oil and Gas Markets" concluded at Gandhinagar. PNGRB and GSPC Group had organised "2<sup>nd</sup> National Conclave on Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Infrastructure: Connecting Oil and Gas Markets" from Mar 26-27 at The Leela, Gujarat. The Conclave featured six thematic sessions on shaping a cleaner, resilient energy future through gas vision planning, infrastructure development, consumer protection, pipeline modernisation, and strategic sourcing.

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## APPOINTMENTS

**MRPL** announced that Devendra Kumar has assumed charge as Dir. (Fin.) & CFO. With over 34 years of extensive experience in Finance & Accounts—including 15 yrs at ONGC Videsh Ltd. Devendra Kumar brings deep expertise in Business Development, Mergers & Acquisitions, Strategy, Capital Budgeting, Risk & Investment Analysis, Treasury, & International Business. A postgraduate in Management from IIM Ahmedabad (PGDM 1995) & an Electrical Engineering graduate, Devendra Kumar has held leadership roles across various onshore & offshore units within ONGC, including overseas assignments.



# Foundation stone laid for Reliance Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plant in Prakasam

METRO INDIA NEWS | AMARAVATI

In a significant push for clean energy and industrial development, Andhra Pradesh IT & Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh laid the foundation stone for Reliance New Energy's Integrated Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plant near Divakarapalli village, P.C. Palli Mandal, Kanigiri constituency. This milestone project, spanning 475 acres, marks the beginning of a major investment plan by Reliance in Andhra Pradesh, with a total investment of Rs.65,000 crore aimed at generating 2.5 lakh jobs across the state.

The event saw the presence of Reliance Industries Director P.M.S. Prasad, Reliance Industries Limited AP & TS Mentor P.V.L. Madhava Rao, and Reliance Bioenergy CEO Harindra K. Tripathi. Minister Lokesh emphasized that this initiative aligns with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's P4 Policy, aiming for a poverty-free Prakasam.

"This project is not just about energy but about empowering farmers and creating large-scale employment," Lokesh stated. The plant will



utilize Napier grass for biogas production, ensuring a stable income for farmers, with lease payments of Rs.15,000 per acre for government land and Rs.31,000 per acre for private land. Farmers will also receive a fixed price for the grass they cultivate, strengthening the agricultural economy.

Reliance's investment plan includes the establishment of 500 CBG plants across Andhra Pradesh, with Kanigiri emerging

as a central hub. Five CBG plants are specifically planned in this region, utilizing 500,000 acres of barren land across Prakasam, Anantapur, Chittoor, and Kadapa. Once fully operational, these plants will produce 1.1 million metric tons of organic fertilizer annually.

Lokesh assured that Andhra Pradesh is on the path to becoming a clean energy leader, with the first phase of the Reliance CBG project setting the

benchmark. He pointed out that this development fulfills a promise made during the Yuvagalam Padayatra to boost Prakasam's industrial and employment landscape.

Reliance is developing four major CBG hubs across India, with Prakasam playing a pivotal role. The government has already allocated 5,000 acres of land in the district, including 497 acres in Kanigiri, to support this initiative. Lokesh announced that the foundation stone for Kanigiri IIIT will also be laid soon, reinforcing the region's growth trajectory.

Minister Lokesh criticized the previous government for failing to attract industries, stating that between 2019 and 2024, Andhra Pradesh lost several major investments. "Instead of bringing new companies, they drove away giants like Lulu, Amara Raja, and HSBC. In contrast, TDP has already signed investment agreements worth 8 trillion within weeks of returning to power," he said.

Lokesh highlighted Andhra Pradesh's industrial potential, pointing out that global giants like Reliance, NTPC, Arcelor-

Mittal, BPCL, Tata Power, TCS, and LG Electronics are eager to invest. He reiterated his commitment to creating 20 lakh jobs over the next five years as part of the government's vision for rapid economic growth.

Reaffirming the state's investor-friendly environment, Lokesh shared how Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's strong ties with Reliance date back to the era of Dhirubhai Ambani. The CM's foresight in predicting India's telecom revolution played a crucial role in Reliance's expansion. Lokesh recalled a recent meeting with Mukesh Ambani and Anant Ambani, where he assured them of policy support, resulting in the swift execution of the clean energy investment plan.

Lokesh also announced upcoming infrastructure projects, including the Kanigiri railway project, which will commence in August under the supervision of CM Chandrababu Naidu. Efforts are being made to complete the Veligonda irrigation project, ensuring water accessibility to farmlands.

# Green cess on purchase of petrol and CNG vehicles likely to further push EV adoption

File photo

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**New Delhi:** The cost of vehicles running on petrol and CNG is likely to increase in the near future, as the upcoming electric vehicle policy suggests implementing a green cess on the purchase of these vehicles to discourage their sales and promote electric vehicles. Sources in Delhi govt said that the draft policy proposed a cess of 1-2% on new petrol as well as CNG vehicles in the capital, along with subsidies and interest subvention schemes for electric vehicles. There is a 1% green cess already applicable on diesel vehicles.

Last year, 7,11,093 vehicles were registered in Delhi, of which 5,13,488 were petrol, 24,740 CNG, 45,589 were petrol/CNG, 12,285 were diesel, 67,874 were electric (battery-operated vehicles), 12,430 pure EV, and the remaining of other kinds of fuel. Delhi govt extended its Electric Vehicle

(EV) policy by an additional 15 days following its expiration. This extension is expected to be the final one, as authorities have already prepared a new draft policy.

The current EV policy offers a range of incentives, including a 25% purchase subsidy (up to Rs 5,500) for e-cycles, Rs 30,000 for e-rickshaws and e-carts, Rs 5,000 per kWh of battery capacity (capped at Rs 30,000) for two-wheelers, and Rs 30,000 for e-light commercial vehicles.

A senior official said that the upcoming policy would prioritise the adoption of electric buses and cars while discouraging petrol, diesel, and CNG vehicles through disincentives. Officials said the short extension was given to ensure continuity while the new framework was being implemented.

Officials said that alternatively, a cess of Rs 50 paise per litre might be imposed on petrol and CNG vehicles and 1 Re per litre on diesel vehicles. However, a final decision is



Sources in Delhi govt said the draft electric vehicle policy proposed a cess of 1-2% on new petrol as well as CNG vehicles in the capital

yet to be taken on it. It has also been proposed that for all vehicles older than 10 years, a green levy of Rs 2,000 on two-wheelers and Rs 10,000 on four-wheelers could be collected at the time of PUC testing. Sources, however, said that govt was not very keen on putting an extra financial burden on two-wheeler owners, and this might see changes.

For commercial vehicles

older than 10 years, there may be a levy of Rs 10,000 at the time of the fitness test. The department anticipates an annual revenue collection of roughly Rs 300 crore from these levies, which will be allocated towards developing and enhancing the infrastructure for electric vehicles. Another official said that while the revised policy included the proposed changes, the ultimate

decision regarding the enhanced cess rested with the cabinet's approval.

He said that the proposal, if approved by the cabinet, would be imposed on every new petrol and CNG vehicle sold in Delhi. "Buyers of any new automobile, including cars, scooters, or other vehicles running on petrol or CNG, will need to pay a small extra fee. This additional cost aims to encourage prospective purchasers to opt for electric vehicles as an alternative," he said.

The proposed policy aims to lower interest rates for vehicle loans across different categories. According to the proposal, commercial vehicles, including two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and four-wheelers, will benefit from a 3% interest rate reduction. Private vehicle owners seeking loans for two-wheelers and four-wheelers will receive a more substantial reduction of approximately 4% in interest rates.



## **Reliance New Energy to set up 500 CBG units in AP**

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**Hyderabad:** The Andhra Pradesh government has partnered with Reliance Industries' division, Reliance New Energy Ltd, on Wednesday to set up the first of 500 compressed biogas (CBG) plants planned across the State. The plant, spanning 475 acres, is being developed at an outlay of ₹139 crore and will have a capacity of 100 tonnes. The project will create over 2.5 lakh jobs. OUR BUREAU



## RIL lays foundation for first of 500 CBG plants in Andhra

Reliance Industries on Wednesday kicked off work on the first of its planned ₹65,000 crore investment in compressed bio-gas (CBG) hubs in Andhra Pradesh by laying the foundation stone for an integrated CBG plant by Reliance New Energy near Divakarapalli village in Kanigiri. Spanning 475 acres, this state-of-the-art CBG plant is being established with an investment of ₹139 crore and a production capacity of 100 tonnes. This project is the first of Reliance's 500 CBG plants across the state, with a total investment of ₹65,000 crore. The company is targeting the creation of around 250,000 jobs through its total investment plans. **BS REPORTER**



## **RIL to Invest ₹65,000 cr to Set up 500 CBG Plants in Andhra Pradesh**

**MUMBAI:** Reliance Industries will invest ₹65,000 crore to establish 500 CBG plants across Andhra Pradesh, the company said on Wednesday. Around 500,000 acres of barren and waste lands in Prakasam, Anantapur, Chittoor, and Kadapa will be utilised for this purpose. Once all the plants are fully operational, they will produce 40 lakh tonnes of green, clean CBG and 1.1 million metric tonnes of organic fertiliser annually. —**OUR BUREAU**



# US tariff on Russian oil could inflate India's import bill

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ  
New Delhi, April 2

**RUSSIAN SHIPMENTS OF** crude oil to India, that have rebounded in March after falling in February due to the US sanctions, are expected to slow down further if the US imposes tariffs on countries buying Russian oil.

Furthermore, India's import bill could rise significantly if Russian oil does come under tariffs as the country will lose its access to discounted barrels.

"Suppose Russian crude is priced out due to tariffs or tighter compliance risks, we anticipate a gradual but steady reallocation towards WTI, Brazilian pre-salt barrels, and a resurgence in West Asian term flows," said Sumit Ritolia, lead research analyst, refining & modeling at Kpler.

He highlighted that if secondary tariffs are imposed and actuality is coming hard on Russian crude, India's oil import bill could rise significantly, potentially by \$3-6/bbl per replacement barrel, depending on origin. "This would impact refiner margins, retail fuel pricing unless mitigated via new term contracts or discounts," he said.



Even with longer haul and shadow fleet reliance, Russian barrels remain \$3-8/bbl cheaper than West Asian or US grades on a landed-cost basis. If tariffs are levied on Russian oil, India is highly likely to experience a rise in its overall oil import costs.

"The discounted Russian barrels have played a crucial role in managing India's energy expenditure. Replacing this significant volume with potentially more expensive

alternatives from West Asia or the US will inevitably lead to an increase in the country's import bill, with potential ramifications for inflation and the broader economy," said Simarjeet Singh, assistant professor, finance & accounting, Great Lakes Institute of Management.

Indian refiners continue to pick a significant volume of Russian crude, owing to its relative economics as compared to other crude oil grades. India imports around 35%

of its crude oil from Russia, and a major tariff action tied to US tariff would mean a scramble to replace this massive oil flow.

"A tariff action prompted flow rejig could therefore mean buying of more traditional origin crude grades for Indian refiners," said Pulkit Agarwal, head of India content (cross commodities) S&P Global Commodity Insights.

With Venezuelan crude already under US tariffs and Russian flows potentially facing similar restrictions, Indian refiners are likely to diversify oil supplies further primarily from the US, Brazil, West Africa, and West Asia.

The country has already been seeing a sharp rise in volumes from the US touching 289,000 barrels per day in March, up from 113,000 bpd last year, according to data from Kpler, global real-time data and analytics provider. "WTI and Mars blends are attractive for Indian complex refiners and offer stable arbitrage windows from the US Gulf Coast," Ritolia said.

India has also been gradually increasing its intake of Brazilian grades like Tupi and Búzios which are cost-competitive and suit Indian refining slates.

