

# मप्र को सौगात • बजट में होगी घोषणा, देश में खुलने वाले इस मॉल में होंगे हर राज्य के सिग्नेचर उत्पाद मप्र का पहला 'यूनिटी मॉल', गैल का ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन प्लांट भी खुलेगा

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भोपाल या कमर्शियल सिटी इंदौर में मध्यप्रदेश का पहला 'यूनिटी मॉल' खोला जाएगा। इसकी तैयारी शुरू हो गई है। एक या 2 मार्च को पेश होने जा रहे राज्य के बजट में इसकी घोषणा होगी। इस यूनिटी मॉल के लिए केंद्र सरकार से भी सहयोग मिलेगा।

मॉल में देशभर के अलग-अलग राज्यों मिजोरम, मणिपुर, नगालैंड जैसे पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों के साथ छत्तीसगढ़, बिहार, झारखंड व साउथ के राज्यों के के सिग्नेचर उत्पाद रखे जाएंगे, जो उसकी ब्रांडिंग होगी। इस मॉल का निर्माण राज्य सरकार कराएगी। बजट में इसके लिए बड़ी राशि का प्रावधान होने वाला है। इसके साथ ही भारत में प्राकृतिक गैस

की अग्रणी कंपनी गैल इंडिया का एक प्लांट भी मप्र में खुलने वाला है। यह किस जिले में खुलेगा, इसकी घोषणा भी बजट में होगी। हालांकि यह ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन के तहत बनेगा। बता दें कि एक फरवरी को पेश हुए बजट में केंद्र सरकार ने देश के हर राज्य में यूनिटी मॉल खोलने की घोषणा की थी। इस बार राज्य का फोकस कैपिटल एक्सपेंडिचर पर होगा।

पहली बार 4 बड़े अर्थशास्त्रियों को बुलाया राज्य बजट का फोकस तय करने के लिए पहली बार 4 बड़े अर्थशास्त्रियों को बुलाया जा रहा है। इनमें प्रधानमंत्री की आर्थिक सलाहकार परिषद की सदस्य शमिका रवि भी हैं जो सीनियर इकोनॉमिस्ट हैं।

# 'Gas Supply Secured for Peak Power Demand'

**F**uel supply for gas-based power plants has been secured for the anticipated peak demand, Power Minister **RK Singh** said on Sunday. If needed, section 11 of the Electricity Act, may be invoked in 15-20 days, Singh told ET in an interview on the sidelines of the G20 Energy Transition Working Group meeting in Bengaluru. Edited excerpts from an interview with **ET's Shilpa Samant**.

**Discussions for gas supply has been on for some time now for an anticipated peak power demand this year. Has there been an arrangement with GAIL (India) for the same?**

We have done arrangements for gas for peak demand. We have spoken to GAIL and they are ready to give us the required gas in the peak months. Our requirement would be 248 MMBtu of gas and which we will get from them. Up till now, because the price of the gas-based power unit is very high, we were not looking at it. Some gas-based stations of NTPC Ltd used to run for providing ancillary services. This time we said we will also have gas-based power available in the high-price segment of the power exchange. There are two segments – the one where the price is capped at ₹12 per unit. The other will be for



ET Q&A

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**RK SINGH** Minister of Power

gas, imported coal-based plants, and for renewable energy with storage.

**The government has given much focus to battery energy storage systems. If it remains commercially unviable globally, what will be India's stance?**

We won't compromise with our electricity requirement. Our demand is rising and you can imagine the demand of a country like India growing at 10.5%. This year I don't think the power demand growth will be less than 10%.

**How soon can we see a notification for re-invoking section 11 of the Electricity Act, considering winter may just be over and we may be heading towards seasonally higher**

**demand?**

If it is needed we will invoke it. If it is not needed, we won't. Depending upon the situation, I think we can see section 11 being invoked in the next 15-20 days.

**Last year, we had a major issue in the logistics for coal supply in the summer season. Have you and the railway ministry worked out the evacuation of coal if such a scenario arises this year?**

We have constant dialogue with railway and concerned ministries for coal evacuation. Our reserves for coal have grown and now we are already at 31.6 million metric tonnes. I would say that we are okay. We have 440 rakes per

day dedicated to the power sector, and we are building up adequate stocks for the peak season. We are expanding the production in captive coal mines. We have also already brought out a rule that no distribution company is allowed to do any load shedding.

**Do you think imported coal will continue in the long term as commercial coal is expected to add to the supply in a few years?**

Once our logistics improve, with more sidings and more lines, the supply will get better. It should take a couple of years but logistics issues need to be sorted out.

**Hydro power is important this year for grid stability and peak demand. Has hydro sector taken a backseat in the advent of the Joshimath issue and perception building thereafter?**

That perception is wrong. Joshimath land dissidence is not because of hydropower plant. There is no connection whatsoever. The issue started even before NTPC's power plant was conceived. The project work started in 2009 whereas the problem in Joshimath started in 1975. I think the project will continue because it has nothing to do with the issue and it is 15 kilometers away from where the

houses got cracks and between the project and Joshimath there are numerous villages that do not have such issues.

**With the sovereign green bonds issue going on, have you identified the projects on which the proceeds will be spent?**

We have some renewable energy projects already. We have offshore wind energy projects. For the offshore projects we will continue with them with or without green funds. We will need some funds for project-linked incentives which will be from the Budget. Green funds will go as loans and viability gap funding for battery energy storage is from the Budget.

**Is the government considering other reforms in the power sector?**

All the reforms we have made in the power sector have resulted in the improvement in aggregate technical and commercial losses by 5 percentage points in FY22 to 17%. There are a few things that must be done. Power tariff has to be cost reflective. Whatever subsidy has to be given that needs to be given separately so that tariff is reflective of the cost. This provision is there in the National Tariff Policy.



# Govt plans strategic gas reserve

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infrastructure would include more LNG terminals and large underground salt caverns.

"Either we can create a new LNG facility for storing the gas or use exhausted gas wells, where production has been stopped. But the problem with those wells is that there is a loss of efficiency. Only about 60% of the gas-filled into the well is recovered at the most," the second person said.

Several countries have built gas storage systems to ensure supply security. The US accounts for nearly a third of global gas storage, while Russia, Ukraine, Canada and Germany together account for another major portion. China also has gas storage facilities.

Queries sent to a spokesperson for the Union petroleum ministry remained unanswered till press time.

India is likely to see a few more terminals come up, and locations around Haldia and Paradip ports on the east coast, among others, are being considered, the second person



Several countries have built gas storage systems to ensure supply security. **REUTERS**

added. Currently, India has five LNG terminals at Dahej, Hazira, Dabhol, Kochi and Ennore. A floating LNG terminal is also coming up at Jaigarh in Maharashtra. The Kochi LNG terminal is yet to be connected to others through the national gas grid, and once connected, that would also boost LNG supplies across the country, the person added.

Developing a strategic LNG reserve would take several years, and gas companies would also wait for international prices to cool before filling these reserves. Indian companies

have long-term LNG contracts amounting to 22 million tonnes per annum. The quest for securing LNG supplies accelerated after Russia's Gazprom defaulted on promised supplies to GAIL in May, prompting a chase for supplies across the globe and turning towards expensive spot purchases. Gazprom stopped supplies as spot prices of gas far outpaced the price pegged under long-term contracts. Other state-run oil and gas companies have also enhanced their efforts to secure more and more long-term contracts for LNG.

India imports 85% of its energy needs, and it is the fourth-largest LNG importer. On 26 January, *Mint* reported that state-run Indian Oil Corp. Ltd and GAIL are in talks with the UAE's Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. for a long-term LNG supply deal. India is also planning LNG pipeline connectivity with Myanmar, and Bangladesh.

The ISPRL is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Oil Industry Development Board under the Union petroleum ministry.