

PNGRB panel for reforms to make free gas market

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, November 30

A HIGH-LEVEL EXPERT committee set up by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has called for sweeping structural reforms to create a free, competitive natural gas market in India, arguing that market-driven pricing and open access are essential for the country's clean energy transition.

In its report, Vision 2040 - Natural Gas Infrastructure in India, the panel led by former PNGRB chairperson DK Sarraf said a liberalised gas market would enhance transparency, spur investment, improve resource allocation and deepen liquidity.

A competitive system, it said, would remove current market distortions and attract new players across exploration, pipelines, LNG terminals and city gas distribution.

Natural gas, extracted from underground and offshore reservoirs, is used to generate power, produce fertiliser, turned into CNG to power vehicles, piped to household kitchens for cooking and serve as feedstock across several industries. Seen as a key transition fuel as India shifts from fossil fuels to renewables, its role in the energy mix is set to expand.

The government aims to

IN A NUTSHELL



■ Calls for liberalised pricing, open access in gas sector

■ Reforms aim to improve transparency and align with global gas hubs

■ Proposes ISO, entry-exit tariffs, and open LNG terminal access

■ Recommends RLNG resale freedom, day-ahead market

raise the share of natural gas in the country's energy basket to 15% by 2030, up from the current 6.2%.

India's present pricing framework - an assortment of government-regulated gas, market-linked domestic production and LNG imports - creates inefficiencies, the committee noted. It flagged resale restrictions in regasified LNG (RLNG) contracts, lack of an Independent System Operator (ISO), limited open access to infrastructure, and the absence of contract-path transmission tariffs and location-based taxation as major hurdles.

Although India is among the world's fastest-growing gas

markets, it still lacks a liquid trading hub for price discovery. A robust market would bring the country closer to global hubs such as Henry Hub, NBP and TTF, enable flexible contracting and support better hedging mechanisms, the panel said.

The panel suggested the creation of a neutral, not-for-profit ISO to manage pipeline capacity, system balancing, scheduling and settlements. The proposed ISO would ensure transparent, non-discriminatory access to the transmission network and curb monopolistic practices. It proposed a unified online platform for real-time pipeline capacity booking under PNGRB oversight, along with real-time bulletin board.



PNGRB expert panel for sweeping reform to unlock free gas market

'A competitive system would remove market distortions & attract new players in exploration, pipelines, LNG terminals & city gas distribution'

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: A high-level expert committee set up by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has called for sweeping structural reforms to create a free, competitive natural gas market in India, arguing that market-driven pricing and open access are essential for the country's clean energy transition.

In its report, Vision 2040 - Natural Gas Infrastructure in India, the panel led by former PNGRB chairperson D K Sarraf said a liberalised gas market would enhance transparency, spur investment, improve resource allocation and deepen liquidity.

A competitive system, it said, would remove current market distortions and attract new players across exploration, pipelines, LNG terminals and city gas distribution.

Natural gas, extracted from underground and offshore reservoirs, is used to generate power, produce fertiliser, turned into CNG to power vehicles, piped to household kitchens for cooking and serve as feedstock across several industries. Seen as a key transition fuel as India shifts from fossil fuels to renewables, its role in the energy mix



Seen as a key transition fuel as India shifts from fossil fuels to renewables, natural gas' role in energy mix is set to expand

is set to expand.

The government aims to raise the share of natural gas in the country's energy basket to 15 per cent by 2030, up from the current 6.2 per cent.

India's present pricing framework - an assortment of government-regulated gas, market-linked domestic production and LNG imports - creates inefficiencies, the committee noted. It flagged resale restrictions in regasified LNG (RLNG) contracts, lack of an Independent System Operator (ISO), limited open access to

Highlights

» The government aims to raise the share of natural gas in the country's energy basket to 15% by 2030, up from the current 6.2%

» Although India is among world's fastest-growing gas markets, it still lacks a liquid trading hub for price discovery

» The committee also proposed a Renewable Gas Certificate (RGC) mechanism for compressed biogas

infrastructure, and the absence of contract-path transmission tariffs and location-based taxation as major hurdles.

Although India is among the world's fastest-growing gas markets, it still lacks a liquid trading hub for price discovery. A robust market would bring the country closer to global hubs such as Henry Hub, NBP and TTF, enable flexible contracting and support better hedging mechanisms, the panel said.

The panel suggested the creation of a neutral, not-for-profit ISO to manage pipeline capac-

ity, system balancing, scheduling and settlements. The proposed ISO would ensure transparent, non-discriminatory access to the transmission network and curb monopolistic practices.

It also proposed a unified online platform for real-time pipeline capacity booking under PNGRB oversight, along with a real-time bulletin board integrating SCADA data to publish capacity, flows, maintenance schedules and outages.

To boost liquidity, the committee urged a ban on resale restrictions and destination clauses in RLNG contracts, allowing buyers to freely resell gas in response to market conditions - bringing India in line with mature markets in Europe and the US.

For liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminals, it recommended a transparent third-party access framework, including clear tariffs, rule-based operating procedures, 'use-it-or-lose-it' provisions and secondary capacity trading on authorised exchanges.

The panel backed a shift from route-based to entry-exit gas transportation tariffs. This structure - common in advanced markets - would allow shippers to book entry

and exit capacities independently, simplify flows across the grid and pave the way for a virtual national gas hub and an eventual Indian gas benchmark.

To strengthen market liquidity, the report called for greater participation of large consumers such as fertiliser, power, CGD, refinery and petrochemical companies on gas exchanges. It also sought the removal of caps on high-pressure, high-temperature (HP-HT) gas trading, phased inclusion of administered price mechanism (APM) gas, and the launch of Gas Release Programmes mandating a portion of domestic or LNG supplies be sold through exchanges.

The panel further recommended aligning gas and power markets by synchronising gas and power days and introducing a day-ahead gas market with four six-hour trading blocks to facilitate flexible bidding.

Highlighting ongoing decarbonisation efforts, the committee proposed a Renewable Gas Certificate (RGC) mechanism for compressed biogas.

A regulated, market-based trading system would allow obligated and voluntary entities to meet renewable gas blending targets through tradable certificates.

Panel Calls for Sweeping Reforms to Unlock Competitive Natgas Mkt

PTI

New Delhi: A high-level expert committee set up by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has called for sweeping structural reforms to create a free, competitive natural gas market in India, arguing that market-driven pricing and open access are essential for the country's clean energy transition.

In its report, the panel led by former PNGRB chairperson D K Sarraf said a liberalised gas market would enhance transparency, spur investment, improve resource allocation and deepen liquidity.



A competitive system, it said, would remove current market distortions and attract new players across exploration, pipelines, LNG terminals and city gas distribution.



PNGRB panel proposes sweeping reforms

New Delhi: A high-level expert committee set up by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has called for sweeping structural reforms to create a free, competitive natural gas market in India, arguing that market-driven pricing and open access are essential for the country's clean energy transition. In its report, the panel led by former PNGRB chairperson DK Sarraf said a liberalised gas market would enhance transparency. PTI

Oil panel suggests mkt-driven pricing

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, NOV. 30

A high-level expert panel set up by the oil regulator Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has called for structural reforms to create a free, competitive natural gas market in India, arguing that market-driven pricing and open access are essential for the country's clean energy transition.

The government aims to raise the share of natural gas in the country's energy basket to 15 per cent by 2030, up from the current 6.2 per cent.

In its report titled as 'Vision 2040 - Natural Gas Infrastructure in India', the panel led by former PNGRB chairperson D K Sarraf said a liberalised gas market would enhance transparency, spur investment, improve resource allocation and deepen liquidity.

"A competitive system would remove current market distortions and attract new players across exploration, pipelines, LNG terminals and city gas distribution," the report said.

Natural gas, extracted from underground and offshore reservoirs, is used to generate power, produce fertiliser, turned

into CNG to power vehicles, piped to household kitchens for cooking and serve as feedstock across several industries. Seen as a key transition fuel as India shifts from fossil fuels to renewables, its role in the energy mix is set to expand.

India's present pricing framework — an assortment of government-regulated gas, market-linked domestic production and LNG imports — creates inefficiencies, the committee noted. It flagged resale restrictions in regasified LNG (RLNG) contracts, lack of an independent system operator (ISO), limited open access to infrastructure, and the absence of contract-path transmission tariffs and location-based taxation as major hurdles.

Although India is among the world's fastest-growing gas markets, it still lacks a liquid trading hub for price discovery. "A robust market would bring the country closer to global hubs such as Henry Hub, NBP and TTF, enable flexible contracting and support better hedging mechanisms," the panel said.

The panel suggested creation of a neutral, not-for-profit ISO to manage pipeline capacity.



Making biogas programme happen in India

A RESEARCH BY WORLD BIOGAS ASSOCIATION

Globally, humans produce over 105 billion tonnes of organic waste each year from food waste, animal manures and slurries, crop residues and human sewage. Currently, only 2 per cent of these organic wastes undergo treatment.

Left untreated, these wastes release methane, a short-lived greenhouse gas that is 86 times more potent than CO₂ over 20 years, significantly contributing to climate change. Untreated waste also pollutes rivers and oceans, harms the biodiversity they support and disrupts essential weather patterns, further intensifying climate change.

Capturing and recycling organic wastes is, therefore, critical to meeting the Global Methane Pledge and other climate commitments.

At full potential, Anaerobic Digestion (AD) can deliver half of the Global Methane Pledge, avoid nearly 0.15°C of global warming and cut Global Greenhouse Gas emissions by 11 per cent by 2030.

To reach this potential, significant accelerated growth of the biogas industry is required. To catalyse global action, WBA launched its groundbreaking #MakingBiogasHappen programme in 2024, with support from the Global Methane Hub (GMH), TotalEnergies and GHD, along with legal advisors at DLA Piper. In January, WBA delivered phase I of the programme:

• **Global Biogas Regulatory Framework (GBRF):** a comprehen-



sive regulatory framework encompassing the necessary policies, reg-



ulations and standards for creating a high-performing biogas industry. The framework can be adapted by any country to address challenges and grow the industry at a national, State, or local level.

• **Anaerobic Digestion Certification Scheme (ADCS) International:** which the world's first biogas specific international certification scheme. The scheme sets the

minimum health and safety, environmental and operational standards for AD facilities. It also aims to incentivise the plant operators by increasing revenue through maximising operational efficiency.

WBA has entered phase 2 of the programme which aims to implement the #MakingBiogasHappen programme, translating these tools into state-level action plans.

Through a Memorandum of Understanding between WBA and the Department of New and Renewable Energy in Madhya Pradesh, we are collaborating to create a Biogas Action Plan which will provide a practical roadmap for sustainable and achievable growth of the biogas sector.

This Action Plan will serve as a blueprint on how these tools can be used. They will include:



We will work in partnership with State Government to implement the tools from phase I (GBRF and ADCS) to create Biogas Action Plans which will help support growth of the industry by:

• Translating GBRF into state-level policy and regulatory recommendations that create an enabling

environment for investment.

- Modelling the supply chain.
- Modelling of skills needs to identify opportunities for capacity building and job creation.
- Technology benchmarking to support adoption of efficient and high-performing technology.
- A clear roadmap for implementation.
- Adapting ADCS International certification to India context maximising revenue and ensuring the industry is built safely and sustainably.

These Action plans will be developed in close consultation with industry to ensure alignment of priorities.

Why do Countries/States need action plans?

A detailed action plan that has taken a consultative approach will:

- Provide policy and regulatory coherence. Alignment with other departments/industries. Biogas is not only an energy solution, but also requires alignment with agriculture, waste management, circular economy, water management, etc policies.
- Unlock investment by providing clarity and signalling Government's commitment to biogas.
- Provide a clear pathway for action, enabling implementation of policies and regulations.
- Provide stakeholder buy-in, promoting collaboration and shared ownership.
- Enable monitoring, evaluation, and accountability - ensuring the action plan can adapt to evolving needs.

Opec+ retains pause on oil supply hikes



Freezing production for three months buys Opec+ some time while it assesses risks.

REUTERS

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its partners (Opec+) will stick with plans to pause production increases during the first quarter, delegates said, amid growing signs of a surplus in

global oil markets. Key members led by Saudi Arabia confirmed the three-month supply pause during a videoconference on Sunday, according to the delegates, who asked not to be identified as the talks are private. While the hiatus indicates some caution by Opec+ after they rapidly revived oil production earlier this year, it still leaves world markets on track for a massive excess in early 2026, which may pressure prices.

Oil futures have declined 15% this year to trade near \$63 a barrel in London, as booming supply from the Americas in tandem with the Opec+ hike exceeds demand growth. The International Energy Agency in Paris predicts a record glut in 2026, while Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. see futures heading lower. Freezing production for three months buys Opec+ some time while it assesses heightened geopolitical risks to supplies from members, as well as renewed efforts to end the war in Ukraine.

BLOOMBERG

Green hydrogen: Fast fashion could help bump up demand

A boom in its use for clean synthetic inputs might make a difference



DAVID FICKLING
is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering climate change and energy.



Can we count on clean hydrogen adoption by the petrochem industry? **BLOOMBERG**

Rich countries have been left in the dust by China in the clean energy industries that have dominated the past decade or so: solar panels, wind turbines, lithium-ion batteries, and electric vehicles. Still, you might have hoped they would take the lead in technologies of the future, such as clean hydrogen. Not so.

In Europe and North America, the approach—which once seemed a sort of skeleton key to clean up hard-to-decarbonize industries such as steel, chemicals, shipping and aviation—looks like a failure. In the space of a few days in July, BP, Woodside Energy Group and Fortescue pulled out of hydrogen projects in Australia and the US that had been valued in the billions. BloombergNEF now expects Europe to be producing just 1.2 million metric tonnes of a promised 10 million tonnes a year in 2030.

To the extent that there is any life in the sector, it comes from blue hydrogen, typically produced by splitting fossil gas and then pumping the waste carbon dioxide underground to drive oil out of depleted wells. Cleaner green hydrogen, made by using renewable power to split molecules of water, is barely limping along.

China, however, is a significant exception. It accounts for over half of the roughly 506,000 metric tonnes of green hydrogen production capacity in operation globally right now. A further 2.86 million tonnes is under construction worldwide, with 45% of the total in China.

Hardly a week goes by without another project going into operation. A pipeline that broke ground last month will be able to carry gas from a renewables-rich area northwest of Beijing to the industrial city of Tangshan, more than 700km away. Another was approved in July to move hydrogen from wind farms in Inner Mongolia to a chemicals plant in Beijing. In total, more than 500 hydrogen projects have been launched this year, and the sector will be a target for growth under the next five-year plan starting in 2026.

It would be nice to say that all this activity was going to decarbonize the many areas of heavy industry that still dominate China's carbon footprint. Don't count on it, however. A more likely outcome is that much of it ends up in S15 pantsuits and S10 trainers on Shein and Temu (e-commerce sites). That's because the primary use of hydrogen at the moment is in the refining and chemicals industries, where it is used to clean out impurities and produce raw materials for plastics and polymers. Such plants consume about 43% of the 100 mil-

lion tonnes currently produced. Almost all of that is from grey hydrogen, which is the most polluting form, made from unabated fossil gas, coal and refinery products.

The unstoppable rise of electric vehicles is likely to make these plants even more hungry for it, though you need a quick chemistry lesson to understand why.

The petroleum that emerges from oil and gas wells is a mix of myriad molecular chains of hydrogen and carbon. Oil refineries sort and split all these molecules to maximize quantities of the medium-length chains used in petrol and diesel, and also the shorter ones used by the petrochemicals industry.

As electric cars and trucks take more and more market share, we'll end up with an ever-growing surplus of petrol and diesel, but the global consumption of plastics is likely to keep growing far longer. That means refineries are going to need to crack more and more medium-chain molecules into shorter-chain ones. Doing that is going to require extra hydrogen.

Turning the world's green hydrogen into takeaway boxes and water bottles feels like a disappointing outcome, relative to a future where hydrogen is used to achieve the really dramatic greenhouse gas emission reductions we need in the production of steel, cement, fertilizer and the like.

It shouldn't, however. On current form, dirty grey hydrogen is likely to be cheaper than the blue and green variants until 2050 at least, according to BloombergNEF.

If we want green hydrogen to ever reach the scale and price reductions needed to change that picture, it's first going to have to be adopted *en masse* by the biggest consumer of hydrogen, the petrochemicals industry. If dislocations in the refining business caused by the decline of the internal combustion engine helps speed up that process, so much the better.

In short, any hope for the future of green hydrogen goes through China and its petrochemicals industry.

The foamy plastic insole in your trainers might not sound like much of a climate solution—but if it can help turn clean hydrogen from a pipe dream into a viable industry on the strength of mass-market consumer demand, it might be the best hope we've got.

©BLOOMBERG

OPEC+ agrees to maintain pause in oil output hikes

REUTERS
London/Moscow,
November 30

OPEC+ AGREED TO leave oil output levels unchanged for the first quarter of 2026 at its meetings on Sunday as the group slows down its push to regain market share amid fears of a looming supply glut.

The meeting of OPEC+, which pumps half of the world's oil, comes during a fresh US effort to broker a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine, which could add to oil supply if sanctions on Russia are eased.

If the peace deal fails, Russia could see its supply curbed further by sanctions. OPEC+ groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies led by Russia.

Brent crude closed on Friday near \$63 a barrel, down 15% this year.

"The message from the group was clear: stability outweighs ambition at a time when the market outlook is deteriorating rapidly," said Jorge Leon, a former OPEC official who now

OIL DIPLOMACY

■ 8 OPEC+ nations have agreed to maintain pause in their output hikes for 1st qtr of 2026

■ OPEC+ meet comes during fresh US effort to broker Russia-Ukraine peace deal

■ If peace deal fails, Russia could see supply curbed further



works as head of geopolitical analysis at Rystad Energy.

OPEC+ has paused oil output hikes for the first quarter of 2026 after releasing some 2.9 million barrels per day into the market since April 2025, and Sunday's meeting reaffirmed that decision, OPEC said in a statement.

The group still has about 3.24 million bpd of output cuts in place, representing around 3% of global demand. The Sunday meetings did not alter those.

OPEC said the OPEC+ group had approved a mechanism to

assess members' maximum production capacity to be used for setting output baselines from 2027, against which members' output targets are set.

OPEC+ has been discussing the issue for years and it has proved difficult because some members such as the United Arab Emirates have increased capacity and want higher quotas.

Other members such as African countries have seen declines in production capacity but are resisting quota cuts. Angola quit the group in 2024 over a disagreement about its production quotas.

Putin's visit to focus on opportunities for Indian exports, defence, energy ties

MAJOR CONCERN. India's long-time grievance of widening trade deficit is set to be addressed

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

Bridging India's widening trade deficit is set to top the discussion agenda during Russian President Vladimir Putin's two-day visit to the country, with a strong focus on new export opportunities for Indian businesses even as Moscow hopes to secure its defence and energy partnership amid US tariffs, said sources.

"During the visit, Putin's high-power delegation of senior Ministers and a large business contingent representing multiple sectors will discuss new opportunities for Indian businesses to sell to Russia in a roadshow and hold dedicated sessions on cooperation in areas such as pharmaceuticals, healthcare and food supplies," a source tracking the matter told *businessline*.

Opportunities will also be outlined at the Russia-India Forum in sectors, such as IT



STRATEGIC PARTNERS. The Russian President is keen to continue supplying oil to India and also discuss the sale of additional units of the S-400 air defence missile system

and digital services, agriculture and processed food, human resources and education, by Russian Ministers covering key sectors such as economic development, industry and trade, agriculture, health and digital development and communication, the source added.

"There will also be struc-

tured business-to-business meetings for targeted business alliances," said the source.

SUMMIT TALKS

Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will hold talks during the visit, are expected to give a push to the negotiations for the pro-

New Delhi has been insisting that addressing the deficit should be given priority

posed India-EAEU free trade agreement that comprises Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, said the source.

With US tariffs of 50 per cent, which include 25 per cent penalty for purchase of Russian oil, making it difficult for Indian exporters to send shipments to the country, Russia and other members of the EAEU bloc, including Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, are promising options for market diversification.

In FY25, India's imports from Russia totalled \$63.84 billion, while exports were at \$4.88 billion, widening the trade deficit to about \$59 billion.

New Delhi has been insisting that addressing the defi-

cit should be given priority.

Putin's visit to India on December 4-5 after four years is significant, with US President Donald Trump's recent imposition of sanctions on two of the country's largest oil companies and levy of penalty on India for purchasing oil from Moscow.

The Russian President is keen to continue supplying oil to India, and also discuss the sale of additional units of the S-400 air defence missile system. He is also expected to discuss more avenues for trading in local currency to avoid the West's sanctions.

OIL PURCHASE

"As India has continued its oil purchases from Russia despite US pressure, it is only fair that Moscow, too, makes an attempt to increase imports from India, which remains abysmally low. The Russian President's visit with top Ministers and businesses is geared towards increasing sourcing from India," said an industry official.



Will Oil India be luckier?

Recently, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri tweeted "Energy Maharatna @OilIndiaLimited has commenced a

landmark offshore drilling campaign in the Kerala-Konkan Basin by spudding the first well. An inspirational stride in our energy journey guided by the vision of PM Sh @narendramodiJi.

This frontier Category-III basin holds immense potential, and the planned 6,000-metre deep well to be drilled 20 nautical miles offshore will be among the deepest offshore wells in Indian waters.

It would be historic, if OIL succeeds, but it is not easy. Both ONGC and Reliance have made attempts in the region; Reliance wanted its attempt to be seen as research and development work, given the costs involved. People in the upstream business say that it's too early to celebrate as a lot depends on the availability of technology and

whether the find will fetch returns.



OPEC+ keeps 2026 oil output unchanged

LONDON/MOSCOW:

OPEC+ countries agreed to maintain group-wide oil output quotas for 2026 in a meeting on Sunday, and also agreed on a mechanism to assess members' maximum oil production capacity, OPEC said in a statement.

Eight OPEC+ countries, holding a separate meeting on Sunday, also have an agreement in principle to maintain a pause in their output hikes for the first quarter of 2026, an OPEC+ source and a person familiar with OPEC+ talks told *Reuters*. The meeting of OPEC+, which pumps half of the world's oil, comes during a fresh US effort to broker a Russia-Ukraine peace deal, which could add to oil supply if sanctions on Russia are eased. If the deal fails, Russia could see its supply curbed further by sanctions.

OPEC+ groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies led by Russia. OPEC+ has paused oil output hikes for the first quarter of 2026 after releasing some 2.9 million barrels per day into the market since April 2025. The group still has about 3.24 million bpd of output cuts in place, representing around 3% of global demand, and the Sunday meeting did not alter those.

OPEC said the group had approved a mechanism to assess members' maximum production capacity to be used for setting output quotas from 2027. AGENCIES

OPEC+ expected to hold oil output steady



London: OPEC+ will likely leave oil output levels unchanged at its meetings on Sunday, said four OPEC+ sources, as the group slows down its push to regain market share amid fears of a looming supply glut. The meeting of OPEC+, which pumps half of the world's crude oil, comes during a fresh US effort to broker a Russia-Ukraine peace deal, which could add to oil supply if sanctions on Russia are eased. Ministers have started a series of online meetings, according to two sources. If the peace deal fails, Russia could see its supply curbed further by sanctions. Brent crude closed on Friday near \$63 a barrel, down 15 per cent this year. REUTERS



OPEC+ holds 2026 group-wide oil output steady

London/Moscow: Eight OPEC+ members have paused oil output hikes for the first quarter of 2026 after releasing some 2.9 million barrels per day into the market since April 2025, and Sunday's meeting reaffirmed that decision. **REUTERS**

पीएनजीआरबी की समिति ने मुक्त, प्रतिस्पर्धी गैस बाजार के लिए बड़े संरचनात्मक सुधारों का सुझाव दिया

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस नियामक बोर्ड (पीएनजीआरबी) की एक उच्चस्तरीय विशेषज्ञ समिति ने भारत में एक मुक्त, प्रतिस्पर्धी प्राकृतिक गैस बाजार बनाने के लिए बड़े संरचनात्मक सुधारों की सिफारिश की है। समिति का कहना है कि देश में स्वच्छ ऊर्जा बदलाव के लिए बाजार आधारित मूल्य और मुक्त पहुंच जरूरी हैं। अपनी रिपोर्ट विजन 2040 - नैचुरल गैस इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर इन इंडिया में पीएनजीआरबी के पूर्व चेयरपर्सन डी के साँफ की अगुवाई वाली समिति ने कहा कि एक उदारीकृत गैस बाजार पारदर्शिता बढ़ाएगा, निवेश को बढ़ावा देगा, संसाधन आवंटन में सुधार करेगा और तरलता को गहरा करेगा। इसमें कहा गया है कि एक प्रतिस्पर्धी प्रणाली मौजूदा बाजार की कमियों को दूर करेगी और खोज, पाइपलाइन, एलएनजी टर्मिनल और शहर गैस वितरण क्षेत्र में नए खिलाड़ियों को आकर्षित करेगी। समिति ने कहा कि भूमिगत और अपतटीय भंडारण से



निकाली गई प्राकृतिक गैस का इस्तेमाल बिजली उत्पादन, उर्वरक बनाने, सीएनजी और पीएनजी में बदलने और कई उद्योगों में फीडस्टॉक के तौर पर किया जाता है। भारत के जीवाश्म ईंधन से नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा में स्थानांतरित होने के साथ इसे एक अहम बदलावकारी ईंधन के रूप में देखा जा रहा है। सरकार का लक्ष्य 2030 तक देश में कुल ऊर्जा में प्राकृतिक गैस का हिस्सा मौजूदा के 6.2 प्रतिशत से बढ़ाकर 15 प्रतिशत करने का है। समिति ने कहा कि भारत का मौजूदा मूल्य ढांचा- जिसमें सरकार द्वारा विनियमित गैस, बाजार से जुड़ा घरेलू उत्पादन और एलएनजी आयात शामिल है, दक्षता को प्रभावित करता है।



गैस बाजार के लिए बड़े सुधारों का सुझाव

नई दिल्ली। पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस नियामक बोर्ड की एक उच्चस्तरीय विशेषज्ञ समिति ने भारत में एक मुक्त, प्रतिस्पर्धी प्राकृतिक गैस बाजार बनाने के लिए बड़े सुधारों की सिफारिश की है। समिति का कहना है कि देश में बाजार आधारित मूल्य और मुक्त पहुंच जरूरी हैं। अपनी रिपोर्ट में बोर्ड की समिति ने कहा कि एक उदारीकृत गैस बाजार पारदर्शिता बढ़ाएगा, निवेश को बढ़ावा देगा।