

## **Press Conference - 12<sup>th</sup> City Gas Distribution Bidding Round**

12th October 2023, New Delhi

In a major step towards coverage of 100% Geographical area for development of CGD network and creating awareness of the 12<sup>th</sup> City Gas Distribution (CGD) Bidding Round, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) held a press conference on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 at the Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi.

Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Hardeep S Puri launched the 12<sup>th</sup> CGD Bidding Round in the presence of Chairperson, PNGRB, Secretary, MoP&NG and addressed the press conference.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Puri, emphasised on the progress made by PNGRB and MoPNG since 2014. It was stated that with the focus of government to increase the share of gas in country's energy basket, 98% of India's population and 88 % of area has already been covered for CGD development in last 11 rounds. The Govt has released new CGD sector gas allocation policy to reduce the basic cost of gas to CGD entities. The development of gas sector and its allied industries are expected to create a robust gas ecosystem with multiple opportunities.

Speaking at the occasion, the Chairperson, Shri Anil Kumar Jain, said that the current focus of PNGRB is to create a vibrant and sustainable gas infrastructure in the whole of the country. The launch of this bidding round for Himalayan States is a step towards providing a cleaner fuel in the fragile ecosystem of these States.

The speakers at the event included Shri Pankaj Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Shri Jain also welcomed the steps being taken by PNGRB to develop gas infrastructure in country

Currently, there are 300 GAs authorised by PNGRB covering around 88 per cent of the country's geographical area and 98 per cent of its population. PNGRB has also authorized around 32,203 Kms of natural gas trunk pipelines in the country out of which around 22,191 Kms of pipeline are currently operational. In order to further expand the reach of natural gas in the country, PNGRB is in the process of inviting electronic bids from interested parties for 12<sup>th</sup> CGD bidding round offering 7 Geographical Areas (GA) covering five North East states viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland & Sikkim and UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The electronic bids would be invited from 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, the last date for submission of bids is 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and PNGRB intends to finalise the award by March, 2024.

After completion of 12<sup>th</sup> CGD bidding round, almost entire part of the country, except Mizoram (as the election date was announced on 09.10.2023), Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep will be covered under the City Gas Distribution network providing access to cleaner cooking fuel to households, other industrial and commercial facilities as well as fuel for transportation.

This amounts to a giant leap by the PNGRB towards improving the share of natural gas in the country's energy mix. India's current share of Gas in the Energy mix stands at 5.78 %, which is slated to increase to 15% by 2030 thereby creating a Gas based economy.