



City Gas Distribution Project in West Bengal

Why in News?

The [Prime Minister](#) laid the foundation stone for a new [City Gas Distribution \(CGD\) project](#) in Alipurduar, West Bengal marking a significant step in expanding India's [CGD network](#).

Key Points

- **City Gas Distribution Project:**
 - **About:** Under the **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act 2006**, PNGRB grants authorization to the entities for developing a CGD network in a specified Geographical Area (GA) of the country.
 - Over 2.5 lakh households are expected to benefit from this project, which **aims to deliver clean, safe, and affordable piped natural gas** while generating employment opportunities across the region.
 - The project aligns with the government's **Minimum Work Programme (MWP)** targets.
 - City gas services have expanded **from just 66 districts in 2014 to over 550 in 2025**, reaching even rural areas and small towns.
 - **Benefits:**
 - The initiative will reduce reliance on [Liquefied Petroleum Gas \(LPG\)](#) cylinders, offering a more secure and convenient gas supply.
 - Expansion of [Compressed Natural Gas \(CNG\)](#) stations will make **eco-friendly fuel** more accessible for vehicles.
- **Impact of Other Clean Fuel Government Initiatives on West Bengal:**
 - [Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana](#):
 - The Ujjwala Yojana (launched in 2016) was praised during the event for **promoting the use of clean fuel in households**.
 - The scheme has improved the health and dignity of poor women by freeing them from hazardous indoor air pollution caused by traditional cooking methods.
 - LPG distributors have **risen from 14,000 to over 25,000**, greatly improving rural access to clean cooking fuel.
 - **Urja Ganga Project:**
 - The Urja Ganga Project (**launched in 2016**) to cater energy requirements of five states namely Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.
 - The initiative **marked a transformative leap in strengthening gas infrastructure** across eastern India, significantly improving regional energy access.
 - It also generated widespread employment opportunities, ranging from pipeline construction to grassroots-level gas distribution.

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▪ Infrastructure Boost in West Bengal:

- Key central government infrastructure projects include:
 - Purva Expressway and Durgapur Expressway
 - Modernisation of [Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port](#)
 - Expansion of Kolkata Metro
 - Upgradation of New Jalpaiguri Station
 - New train services along the Dooars route

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