

New Town, Bypass homes to get 1st shot at piped gas

Pipeline Along Kalyani Eway May Be Laid By Next Year

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Kolkata: The city is likely to get piped compressed natural gas (CNG) on a larger scale in 18 months from now. New Town residents will be the first to receive it, followed by the residential areas off EM Bypass, starting from Chingrighata to Garia.

Bengal Gas, a joint venture between Greater Calcutta Gas Supply and GAIL, hopes to supply CNG to New Town households in the next one-and-a-half years. From New Town, the supply line will gradually be expanded to Garia via EM Bypass, Anupam Mukhopadhyay, CEO of Bengal Gas and executive director of GAIL, said at an energy conclave organised by ASSOCHAM in the city on Wednesday.

"We hope to complete the

SUPPLY LIKELY IN 18 MONTHS

➤ **Expected timeline:** Supply likely to reach city in the next 18 months

➤ **First beneficiaries:** New Town residents will be the first to get the piped gas

➤ **Next in line:** The supply will be then extended to residential areas off EM Bypass, between Chingrighata and Garia

➤ **The link:** A trunk pipeline will be laid along Kalyani Expressway up to

Barrackpore near Wireless More within the next year

➤ **New Town connect:** By the middle of next year, the pipeline will reach New Town through Jessore Road via Barasat

➤ **Current stations:** Greater Kolkata region has 15 CNG stations which get supply from Panagarh

➤ **New spot:** In the next 2 months, the supply will come from Kalyani



laying of a trunk pipeline along Kalyani Expressway up to Barrackpore near Wireless More within the next year. This pipeline will cover a 32 km distance. The pipeline is already laid in a 7 km stretch along the expressway. We expect that by the middle of next year, the pipeline will reach New Town through Jessore Road via Barasat. The internal pipeline at New Town is already ready. Once the trunk pipeline reaches near the Haldiram outlet, we will be able to start the supply of

CNG in New Town," Mukhopadhyay told TOI.

As per plans, the pipeline will be expanded further from New Town. The laying of the pipeline is also completed in the stretch between Chingrighata off EM Bypass and Garia, according to Mukhopadhyay.

"We anticipate that we may face challenges in extending the pipeline in the stretch between Barasat and Airport Gate No 1. We have got a nod from PWD for the work, but digging up the road

in this congested area will become a problem and require permissions from other govt bodies," he said.

Currently, the Greater Kolkata region has 15 CNG stations which get supply from Panagarh. "In the next two months, the supply will come from Kalyani," Mukhopadhyay asserted.

Addressing the conclave, Barun Kumar Ray, additional chief secretary, Department of Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources, said, "The state is working with Bengal Gas to explore the opportunity of producing a large amount of gas from bio-waste."

State minister Md Ghulam Rabbani announced that Bengal would boost 20% of its total energy requirement from renewable sources by 2030, and that the govt was working on the solarisation of agriculture pumps. "The consumption of methane gas has increased substantially and it is expected to nearly double to touch 300 million standard cubic metres in the next two to three years, compared to the current 180 million standard cubic metres," said Mukhopadhyay.

Piped gas to reach New Town by March 2026

A STAFF REPORTER

Calcutta: Bengal Gas Company Limited, a joint venture of GAIL (India) Limited and Bengal's Greater Calcutta Gas Supply Corporation Limited, hopes piped gas will reach New Town by March 2026.

Bengal Gas has the mandate to develop the city gas distribution network in Calcutta and adjoining districts of North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly and Nadia catering to domestic, transport, industrial and commercial sectors.

The national gas grid, which connects Bengal with the rest of the country, has already reached Gayeshpur, near Kalyani, around 40 kilometres from Rajarhat.



Anupam Mukhopadhyay in Calcutta on Wednesday

Anupam Mukhopadhyay, CEO, Bengal Gas Company, said from Gayeshpur onwards, it's the company's job to build the rest of the infrastructure and bring piped gas to Calcutta.

"A city gas station is under construction and is expected to be completed by March. We will be able to charge our pipeline at that point," Mukhopadhyay said. Just like substations manage the voltages for the supply of electricity, the city gas station will look to regulate the pressure of supplied gas.

Mukhopadhyay said the pipeline has been laid in patches and two major stretches — along Kalyani Expressway to Barrackpore and Barasat to Airport — are yet to be covered.

"We are laying a pipeline along Kalyani Expressway and we are looking to reach up to Barrackpore. It could take at least six months. We can do it quickly but we need permission from the West Bengal Highway Development Corporation. From there onwards to Barasat, the pipeline is already laid. The pending patches are along the Kalyani Expressway and from Barasat to the Airport. Once permissions are made available, we hope gas will reach New Town in a year," Mukhopadhyay said.

Bengal Gas is operating 15 CNG stations in and around Calcutta and has laid 118 km of steel pipeline and about 330 km of MDPE pipeline within KMDA and Hidco area. The project involves laying a pipeline of a total of 795 km at an investment of ₹5,322 crore.



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Press Trust of India | Kolkata

2 min read Last Updated : Feb 07 2025 | 5:11 PM IST



GAIL (India) Ltd chairman and managing director Sandeep Kumar Gupta on Friday said significant progress in the Kolkata city gas distribution network has been achieved with pipelines now reaching the eastern metropolitan, paving the way for accelerated natural gas adoption in the city and adjoining districts in near future.

The development comes after prolonged delays due to challenges in navigating fisheries-rich districts of Midnapore, critical for pipeline routing for the Jagdishpur-Haldia-Bokaro-Dhamra pipeline.

"The pipeline has reached Kolkata, so city gas distribution will get accelerated. Earlier we had to transport it," Gupta told PTI on the sidelines of the Institute of Internal Auditors India 32nd AGM.

Asked about a timeline, he said, "We stand by the minimum work programme under which all the city gas distribution entities have to work. The work programme is decided by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board. So, they will be working all in line with that work programme."

City natural gas distribution is executed by Bengal Gas Company Limited, a joint venture of GAIL (India) Limited and Greater Calcutta Gas Supply Corporation Limited (GCGSCL, a company of GoWB), to develop the City Gas Distribution (CGD) network in Kolkata (CGD network in Kolkata city and parts of adjoining districts of North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, and Nadia).

The GAIL chairman also expressed confidence that the Kolkata-Haldia pipeline, along with the stalled Dhamra-Haldia link, would see renewed momentum, with completion targeted by next year.

Speaking about capex plans, the GAIL chairman said, "This fiscal, we are expecting to do Rs 10,000 crore. But this trend will increase to about Rs 12,000 crore for the next 2-3 years from FY'26 onwards due to new projects, as we are expecting new pipelines to be authorised to us."

Gupta projected maintaining a robust growth trajectory for gas transmission, citing an 11 per cent year-on-year rise in demand driven by industrial shifts to cleaner fuels and expanding city gas distribution (CGD) networks.

"We expect to maintain this growth trend," Gupta said.

The GAIL chairman also said he does not foresee any immediate softening of gas prices amid the crude price decline trend. However, he predicted softening prices in the medium term, citing upcoming LNG projects in the US.

(Only the headline and picture of this report may have been reworked by the Business Standard staff; the rest of the content is auto-generated from a syndicated feed.)

নতুন রূপে শহরে ফিরছে হলুদ ট্যাক্সি



এই সময়: কলকাতা শহরের হেরিটেজ এবং ঐতিহ্যকে ধরে রাখতে অ্যাপ-ক্যাবের হাত ধরে শহরে ফিরছে

নয়া মডেলের হলুদ ট্যাক্সি। 'এনএ মোবিলিটি' নামে কলকাতার এক সংস্থা এই ব্যাপারে উদ্যোগী হয়েছে। সদ্য-সমাপ্ত বিশ্ববঙ্গ শিল্প সম্মেলনে (বিজিবিএস) রাজ্য পরিবহণ দপ্তরের সঙ্গে এ নিয়ে সমঝোতাপত্র স্বাক্ষর করেছে সংস্থাটি। সব কিছু ঠিকঠাক চললে আগামী মাসেই শহরের পথে দেখা মিলবে এই নয়া মডেলের এসি হলুদ ট্যাক্সির।

ট্যাক্সি বলতে কলকাতার মানুষ চেনে হলুদ রঙের অ্যাক্সাসাডরকেই। এই গাড়ি তৈরি করত হিন্দুস্তান মোটর্স। সেই গাড়ির উৎপাদন বন্ধ হয়ে গিয়েছে অনেকদিনই। হিন্দুস্তান মোটর্স তাদের কারখানা গুটিয়ে হুগলির হিন্দমোটর ছেড়ে চলে গিয়েছে। তাই অ্যাক্সাসাডরের বদলে হলুদ ট্যাক্সি কলকাতার পথে আনতে এই সংস্থাটি মার্কুতির সঙ্গে চুক্তি করেছে। তাদের 'ওয়্যাগন আর' মডেলকেই এই হলুদ ট্যাক্সিতে রূপান্তরিত করে বাজারে

আনা হচ্ছে। সুত্রের খবর, ১৫ বছরের মেয়াদ পেরিয়ে যাওয়ায় যে সব হলুদ ট্যাক্সি বাতিল হচ্ছে, তাদের ইচ্ছুক চালকদের দিয়েই চুক্তির ভিত্তিতে এই হলুদ ট্যাক্সি চালাতে চায় সংস্থাটি। সেই কারণে সংস্থাটি নিজস্ব অ্যাপ-ক্যাব এখনই খুলছে না। বরং চালকরাই পছন্দমতো অ্যাপ-ক্যাব সংস্থাগুলির অধীনে চালাবে এই ট্যাক্সি। গাড়ির জন্য চালককে ওই সংস্থাকে ভাড়া দিতে হবে।

বেসরকারি উদ্যোগ

সংস্থার পক্ষ থেকে জানানো হয়েছে, প্রথম দফায় ৫০টি ট্যাক্সি শহরের পথে নামছে। নিজস্ব পরিকাঠামো তৈরি হয়ে গেলে প্রতি মাসে একশোটি করে হলুদ ট্যাক্সি পথে নামাবে 'এনএ মোবিলিটি' নামে সংস্থাটি। হলুদ রঙের এই নয়া ট্যাক্সির গায়ে থাকবে ভিক্টোরিয়া মেমোরিয়াল, হাওড়া ব্রিজ, মনুমেন্টের ছবি। সুত্রের দাবি, এই মুহূর্তে ১৯টি সিএনজি পাম্পিং স্টেশন রয়েছে। এ ছাড়াও সরবরাহ ঠিক রাখতে নিজস্ব ক্যাপাটিভ প্লান্টের জন্য সংস্থাটি বেঙ্গল গ্যাসের সঙ্গে চুক্তি করতে চলেছে।