



City Gas Distribution Network

Why in News?

- The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board recently invited bids for city gas distribution (CGD) networks in five geographical areas (GAs).
- It covered 27 districts across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal.
- Upon finalization of bids under these rounds, approximately 88 per cent of the country's area will be authorized for development of CGD Network
- It will provide access to natural gas to approximately 98 per cent of the country's population.

What is a City Gas Distribution Network

- It is an interconnected network of pipelines to supply natural gas in the form of piped natural gas.
- CBD sector has four distinct segments: Compressed Natural Gas predominantly used as auto-fuel and Piped Natural Gas used in domestic, commercial and industrial segments.
- Under Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006, PNGRB grants authorization to entities for developing a CGD network including a PNG network in a specified geographical area of the country.

Background

- As per WHO database released in May 2018, India has 14 out of 15 world's most polluted cities in terms of PM 2.5 concentration.
- India has made a commitment in COP21 Paris Convention in December 2015 that by 2030; it would reduce carbon emission by 33% of 2005 levels.
- Natural Gas (as CNG) is cheaper by 60 per cent as compared with petrol and 45 per cent with respect to Diesel.
- Similarly, Natural Gas (as PNG) is cheaper by 40 per cent as compared with market price.
- Natural gas, as domestic kitchen fuel, as fuel for transport sector and fuel for industries and commercial units, will play an imperative role in reducing carbon emission.

Benefit of CGD network are

- Uninterrupted supply of cooking fuel to households
- Combating industrial pollution
- Move towards gas based economy
- Reducing carbon emissions