

National PNG Drive 3.0

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Government Policies and Interventions*

Why in News?

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) launched National PNG Drive 3.0 on 1 October 2026.

- **Objectives** –
 - To expand the use of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in households
 - To improve utilisation of existing City Gas Distribution (CGD) infrastructure.

Key Targets of Drive 3.0

- Add 50 lakh new domestic PNG connections by FY 2026-27.
- Convert 40 lakh connected-but-unbilled connections into active users.
- Register 50 lakh additional users.
- Focus on semi-urban and rural areas, residential complexes and government colonies.
- Improve utilisation of existing CGD infrastructure.

Current PNG Status

- As of June 30, 2026, India had around 1.74 crore PNG consumers.
- Of these, about 1.15 crore were billed consumers, showing a significant gap between connections and actual usage.
- India has around 6.9 lakh inch-km of laid PNG pipeline, capable of supporting about 1.3 crore additional connections.

Importance of PNG

- PNG is a cleaner-burning fuel compared with several conventional fuels.
- Promotes cleaner and reliable energy access.
- Supports India's energy-transition and net-zero objectives.
- Can reduce dependence on LPG for suitable household applications.

- **Key Challenges**

- Low consumer awareness in emerging CGD areas.
- High upfront installation costs.
- Slow installation processes.
- Gap between connected consumers and active/billed consumers.
- Need for adequate gas supply and installation materials.

- **Government Support**

- CGD companies will get 200 SCM of lower-priced APM natural gas for every additional billed domestic-PNG connection beyond the area-specific target.
- The incentive aims to encourage faster expansion and adoption of domestic PNG (D-PNG) connections.

Reference

[The Hindu| National PNG Drive 3.0](#)

