

# CNG boats to promote green fuel & cut pollution in Ganga

## Puri Flags Off Boat Rally As Part Of India's G20 Event In Varanasi

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**Varanasi:** This year when G20 presidency is with India, a CNG-driven boat rally was flagged off by Union petroleum & natural gas minister Hardeep Singh Puri at Namohat in Varanasi on Sunday as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative to cut India's carbon emission. Addressing the event, Puri said, "From February 6 to 8, an event 'Growth, Collaboration, Transition' is being organised at — India Energy Week — in Bengaluru as the first major event under India's G20 Presidency. The India Energy Week follows the PM's pledge at COP26 to cut India's emissions to net-zero by 2070. As part of this proposed event in Bengaluru, the CNG boat rally is organised in Varanasi to exhibit how PM's vision has resulted in conversion of high polluting diesel engines to CNG engines in boats floating in river Ganga in Varanasi," Puri further added.

Today 90% of these boats are powered by engines running on clean-burning CNG,

### CLEARING THE AIR

**1,800** | Number of registered boats | **647** | Number of diesel-power boats

**585** | Number of boats retrofitted with CNG engines

**₹ 75 lakh** | Cumulative savings of Rs 75 lakh for boatmen with CNG vessels since retrofitting began in December 2021  
**₹ 25,000** | Each boatman's annual estimated

savings

**₹ 2 lakh** | Levelised average cost of retrofitting borne by GAIL

**₹ 29 crore** | Outlay set by GAIL for retrofitting 18,000 boats



thanks to a retrofitting scheme launched by the oil ministry and being funded by state-run gas utility GAIL.

The company has retrofitted 585 of the 647 registered diesel-powered boats since the conversion began in December 2021. It is expected that with time the 1,153 registered rowing boats will also convert to CNG. GAIL has also set up a first-of-its-kind floating CNG station to make refuelling easy for boatmen and a second is being planned at Ravidas Ghat.

"It was PM Modi's wish to replace diesel boats with

CNG, he said adding, it is pleasant to see that over 580 diesel boats have been switched to CNG leading to an increase in income of boatmen apart from checking carbon emission. It has helped in checking noise and air pollution in the Ganga, he added.

"Varanasi has been witnessing the golden era of its rejuvenation envisioned by the PM. By keeping the heritage and culture preserved, the city has witnessed the rejuvenation of Kashi Vishwanath Dham and ghats along river Ganga while modern facilities are getting added

for boosting tourism", said Puri adding, "We are thankful to the PM for drawing a parallel line of energy transition and energy security with the transformation of Varanasi."

Expressing hope that the days would also come when boats in Ganga would float with green hydrogen, he said announcing to establish one more floating CNG refilling station at Ravidas Ghat. With the allotment of land by state government the petroleum ministry will start the process of establishing second CNG terminal along river Ganga. Speaking on the occasion Union minister of state for petroleum Rameshwar Teli termed the CNG boat rally as an exhibition of India's culture, heritage and energy transition. UP energy minister AK Sharma expressed gratitude for petroleum and natural gas of government of India for the project of converting diesel boats into CNG boats and also promotion green energy in the state. He assured that state government would keep extending all support to its future ventures.