

India's energy transition will be 'healthy mix' of all commercially viable sources: Pradhan

By TIOL News Service

NEW DELHI, MAR 03, 2021: MINISTER

of Petroleum and Natural Gas Mr Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday said that India's approach to cleaner energy and low carbon economy will attach high priority to maximising deployment of all energy sources available within the country.

Addressing the Clean Energy Conclave at Global Bio-India 2021, Mr Pradhan said clean energy will play a large role in fuelling the growth of the Indian economy to manage the ambitions and needs of the population.

"Our approach for cleaner energy and low carbon economy will be guided by a well-defined energy transition road map. This essentially means it will be a healthy mix of all commercially viable energy sources," said the minister.

"We will attach high priority for maximising deployment of energy sources, including biofuels, emerging fuels such as hydrogen, available within the country," he added.

He said that next-generation infrastructure is being built based on energy availability and accessibility, its affordability, usage efficiency, sustainability for combating climate change and security for mitigating global uncertainties.

He said India's shift to a 'gas-based economy' will see natural gas emerge as a significant transition fuel as the government plans to increase its share from the current 6 per cent to 15 per cent by 2030 with the 'one nation one gas-grid' scheme, and setting up Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) regasification terminals, among others.

Mr Pradhan also spoke about biofuel programmes in the country which are creating a

"balance between our environment and economic development."

The government is setting up 12 2G-ethanol plants across 11 States at an estimated cost of Rs. 14,000 crore.

"These bio-refineries will significantly contribute towards the ethanol blending programme for achieving 20 per cent ethanol-blending in petrol by 2025," said the minister.

The government is also encouraging setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, used cooking oil, and short gestation crops. They also plan to roll-out 5,000 compressed biogas plants across India in a phased manner by 2023 with an investment potential of USD 20 billion under the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation scheme.