

धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान  
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Dharmendra Pradhan



राज्यमंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस  
भारत सरकार

नई दिल्ली-110 001  
MINISTER OF STATE (I/C)  
PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
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**MESSAGE**

India is widely acknowledged today as the next engine of global economic growth. This is expected to translate into a steep increase in its energy consumption. Oil & gas currently account for over one-third of India's energy basket. As the fourth largest consumer of energy in the world, India is an attractive market for international oil & gas exporters as well as oil & gas companies keen to partner Indian companies in the sector.

The Government of India has adopted a multi-pronged approach to rapidly transform the country's economy. Programmes like *Make in India*, *Digital India*, *Skill India*, *Smart Cities*, and *Start-up India* are all being undertaken in mission mode to create an economically vibrant, resurgent India. Under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, the oil & gas sector is also geared to meet the challenge of making energy accessible and affordable across socio-economic divides.

In this context, the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the PETROTECH series of International Oil & Gas Conferences and Exhibitions presents a vibrant opportunity to all stakeholders to connect and be a part of the growth story of India.

PETROTECH has always been a platform for national and international experts in the oil & gas industry to exchange views and share knowledge, expertise and experiences across upstream, midstream and downstream sectors. This time, I am hopeful that the deliberations would address the larger issues of universal access to energy, the challenges in discovering and producing oil & gas from 'difficult' areas, the opportunities in unconventional hydrocarbons, increasing the share of renewable energy in the energy mix, and boosting the gains from energy efficiency.

As part of India's growing engagement in the energy domain with countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Middle East, Europe as well as the US, we are inviting ministerial delegations from as many as 70 countries to attend PETROTECH-2016.

I expect PETROTECH-2016 to have enriching deliberations that would go a long way in addressing global energy concerns. I extend a whole-hearted welcome to our distinguished guests and invitees, speakers, delegates, exhibitors and visitors who are converging at New Delhi to be a part of this great energy movement, and wish the event all success.

(Dharmendra Pradhan)