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India's power plan: Gas push or energy pragmatism?

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid down the gauntlet, calling for a coal-addicted India to shift to a gas-based economy. As part of this transition, Modi has promised to replace “red tape with red carpet” in order to lure foreign investment to unlock the country's gas and oil riches and connect the east and northeast of the country to the existing gas grid. Perhaps Modi's biggest pledge has been to provide every village in India with electricity by May 2019 – a bold promise indeed. Gas Matters spoke to Anupama Sen, senior research fellow at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, and discussed the challenges Modi faces in making his plan a reality – and if it can be achieved in the desired timeframe.



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