

SATAT Scheme

The SATAT Scheme (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) is an initiative by the government of India with the objective of setting up Compressed Biogas production plants, and make it available for market use for automotives by inviting expression of interest through potential investors

The Scheme was launched in October 2018 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in collaboration with several oil related public sector units like Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation.

The scheme will help to maintain India's commitment towards reducing carbon emissions, fulfilling agreements such as the COP21.

This article will give details about the SATAT scheme within the context of the IAS Exam.

Overview of the SATAT Scheme

The SATAT scheme has been established keeping in view the following objectives:

- Making use of more than 62 million metric tonnes of waste generated every year
- Reducing dependence on imported fuel
- Creation of more jobs in the alternative fuels industry
- Reduction of carbon emissions and pollutants from burning of agriculture/organic waste

Bio-gas is a naturally produced gas through means of anaerobic decomposition from waste or other biomass sources.

A Compressed Biogas will have the same properties of commercially natural gas in terms of composition and energy potential. As a result, it can be used as an alternative energy source of automobile fuel.

The abundance of biomass in India makes it entirely possible to replace compressed natural gas in industrial and commercial spaces.

Benefits of the SATAT Scheme

Through the use of Compressed Biogas (CBG), the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation has the following advantages

- Wastes can be responsibly managed, effectively reducing carbon emissions
- Additional avenues of income for farmers
- Fostering an environment for rural entrepreneurship, economy and employment
- Providing support to achieving national-level climate change goals
- A safety net against crude oil/natural gas fluctuations

Implementation of SATAT

Proposals for setting up Compressed Biogas plants are through entrepreneurs is the primary implementation method of the scheme. The CBG produced at these plants will be transported in cylinders to fuel stations throughout the country.

The entrepreneurs would be able to separately market the other by-products from these plants, including bio-manure, carbon-dioxide, etc., to enhance returns on investment.

There are plans to set up about 5000 CBG plants across the country in a phased manner. The ultimate goal is to set up 5000 of such plants by 2025. These plants will be expected to produce about 15 million tons of Compressed biogas per annum. By setting up these plants, it is expected that 45,000 people will be employed.

Relevant Questions Regarding SATAT Scheme

How many Letter of Intents have been granted under the SATAT Scheme?

The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas has handed over the 100th Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Compressed Biogas (CBG) Entrepreneur (producer) under the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme.

Is Biogas profitable?

Biogas plants are beneficial for agriculture, environment and consumers of heat and electricity. Admittedly, the biogas plant itself does not require the employment of numerous staff, but the process of energy crops production can be a long-term source of income for many farms.