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"Ecogas Energy Allied Nature": Niteesha Salgaonkar's New Book Shows How Construction Waste Could Solve India's LPG Crisis

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Abstract: ***This paper examines the growing strain of India's dependence on liquefied petroleum gas for domestic cooking, especially in the face of rising costs and import reliance, while drawing attention to the parallel issue of unmanaged construction waste. It presents the central argument of Ecogas Energy Allied Nature, which proposes the conversion of construction debris into a usable cooking fuel through accessible and low cost methods. The discussion outlines how this approach reframes waste as a functional resource and offers households an alternative pathway toward partial energy independence. The work is positioned as a practical guide aimed at researchers, engineers, and institutional stakeholders, with an emphasis on applicability rather than abstraction. By bridging waste management and energy needs, the book contributes to ongoing conversations on sustainable energy transitions in India and highlights a locally grounded solution that aligns with both environmental concerns and everyday economic realities.***

Keywords: LPG dependency, construction waste, alternative cooking fuel, waste to energy, household energy solution

India runs on fire. In millions of kitchens across the country- urban and rural, rich and struggling-the blue flame of an LPG cylinder is the quiet engine of daily life. But that flame comes at a cost, and for a significant portion of Indian households, it is a cost that has become increasingly difficult to bear.

Into this conversation steps Niteesha Salgaonkar with a book that is equal parts practical manual and provocation: *Ecogas Energy Allied Nature*- subtitled, with characteristic directness, *"Eent Se Energy-Jab Construction Waste Bana Rasoi Ka Hero."* Bricks becoming energy. Construction debris becoming a kitchen hero. It sounds, at first, like a metaphor. It is not.

The Problem No One Wants to Say Out Loud

India's LPG dependency is one of those problems that sits in plain sight. The country imports a substantial share of its liquefied petroleum gas, making cooking fuel prices vulnerable to global crude markets, supply disruptions, and foreign exchange pressures. For low and middle-income households, a cylinder price hike is not an abstract economic event-it is a decision about whether to cook or cut spending elsewhere.

At the same time, India generates an enormous and largely unmanaged volume of construction and demolition waste every year. Broken bricks, rubble, debris- the byproduct of a country building at extraordinary speed-pile up on the edges of cities with no clear destination. Two problems, sitting side by side, largely unconnected in public policy discourse.

Salgaonkar's book argues they should be connected.

Turning Rubble Into Resource

The central thesis of *Ecogas Energy Allied Nature* is deceptively simple: construction waste, properly processed, can be transformed into a viable energy source capable of replacing or supplementing

LPG in domestic cooking. The book maps out this possibility not as a distant technological fantasy but as an actionable framework- one grounded in existing science, accessible materials, and the kind of low-cost innovation that India has historically been very good at when it chooses to be.

The title's Hindi subtitle says it plainly: when construction waste becomes the hero of the kitchen, something fundamental shifts. Waste stops being a liability and becomes an asset. A disposal problem becomes an energy solution. And a household that once depended on an imported, price- volatile cylinder gains a degree of energy autonomy it did not have before.

This is the intellectual move at the heart of the book- and it is a significant one.

Written for Those Who Can Make It Happen

Salgaonkar has been deliberate about her intended audience. This is not a book written for general readers looking for inspiration. It is written for the people who are positioned to actually implement its ideas: research students working on sustainable energy, engineers in the oil and gas sector, and the institutional libraries that serve both.

For research students, the book offers a well-documented entry point into the intersection of waste management and alternative energy- a field that is growing in academic importance as India pushes toward its clean energy commitments. For engineers, it provides a technical and conceptual framework that can be tested, refined, and scaled. For libraries, it fills a genuine gap: there is surprisingly little accessible literature in India that tackles the LPG question from a waste-to-energy angle at this level of specificity.

The decision to write the subtitle in Hindi is itself noteworthy. It signals that this knowledge is not meant to sit behind the walls of English-language academia. The ideas here are meant to travel- into engineering colleges in smaller cities, into government research departments, into

the hands of the people most likely to turn them into something real.

A Second Voice from the Same Author

Readers who encountered Salgaonkar through her social fiction *The Homes We Dream Of* may find this second book a surprising departure. One deals in human stories; the other in technical solutions. But the thread connecting them is consistent: both are concerned with people whose needs are not being adequately addressed by existing systems, and both ask what it would take to change that.

Where *The Homes We Dream Of* makes its argument through narrative empathy, *Ecogas Energy Allied Nature* makes its argument through applied knowledge. Together, they reveal a writer who refuses to be confined to a single register- and who understands that changing material conditions requires both the story that moves people and the manual that shows them how.

Why This Matters Now

India's energy transition is underway, but it is uneven. Solar panels are going up on rooftops in cities while villages still depend on firewood. LPG subsidies have been rationalised even as cylinder prices have climbed. The gap between energy policy as announced and energy reality as lived remains wide.

Books like *Ecogas Energy Allied Nature* matter in this context not because they will single-handedly solve the LPG crisis-no single book will-but because they expand the space of what is considered possible. They put a credible, documented idea on the table. They give researchers a starting point, engineers a framework, and policymakers a reference they did not have before.

Construction waste becoming cooking fuel. Rubble becoming resource. Eent se energy.

It is, when you think about it, exactly the kind of solution India is good at finding- if someone is willing to write it down first.

Ecogas Energy Allied Nature by Niteesha Salgaonkar is a recommended resource for research libraries, engineering institutions, and students working in sustainable energy and waste management. The book is available now- https://www.bribooks.com/bookstore/ecogas-energy-allied-nature-by-niteesha-salgaonkar/