

● **UPGRADATION**

New Mangalore port eyes more liquid cargo



ALL-SEASON. Marshalling yard at New Mangalore port

AJ Vinayak

The New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) celebrated its golden jubilee recently by inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for multiple projects valued at more than ₹1,200 crore. With a large chunk of these investments focusing on the oil, gas, petrochemicals and edible oil sectors, the port aims to expand its energy transport and logistics infrastructure business.

The foundation stone was laid for Aegis Vopak's ₹70 crore LPG evacuation terminal for transportation by rakes and GAIL Mangalore Petrochemicals Ltd's ₹20 crore paraxylene booster pumping station.

A ₹500 crore oil and gas storage facility developed by Aegis Vopak on 85,000 sq m, capable of handling 2 million tonnes of cargo per annum, was inaugurated.

Investments in edible oil and bitumen storage infrastructure received a boost with the dedication of two projects to the nation — the ₹100 crore bitumen and edible oil storage terminal by SSPP Petro Products Pvt Ltd and the ₹100 crore multi-purpose storage terminal for bitumen, chemicals and edible oils by Aegis Vopak Terminals Ltd.

The foundation stone was laid for the construction of a shed over rail lines no 1 and 2, at a cost of ₹72.6 crore, at NMPA's marshalling yard. The yard has five operational railway lines. Of these, the first two lines are used for the loading and unloading of fertilizers, foodgrains and general cargo. The absence of a roofing over these lines caused disruption in operation during the monsoon season.

PB Ahmed Mudassar, President of Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told *businessline* that most projects are primarily focused on storage infrastructure and the creation of terminals for the efficient transfer of liquid cargo. These developments have strengthened the port's capabilities in handling petroleum and complementary products in liquefied form. Collectively, the investments elevate Mangaluru as a region of strategic importance at the national level.

He said a key challenge faced by local entrepreneurs is the limited importance given to less-than-container-load cargo handling and container freight stations (CFS) for full container load. He attributed this to the limited number of consolidators equipped to manage such cargo and the limited incentives for setting up CFS. The port must introduce more incentives to attract and develop capable consolidators and interested CFS operators, he said.

Pipeline damage disrupts gas supply in Vadodara, nearly 3 lakh affected

Main gas pipeline was damaged during laying of new VMC drainage pipeline

Express News Service
Vadodara, November 30

CLOSE TO 2.75 lakh consumers of Vadodara Gas Limited (VGL) — a joint venture of GAIL Gas Limited and Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) to provide piped gas to the city — went without gas connection for the entire day on Sunday due to a major damage reported in the main steel pipeline near the Golden Chowkdi area of the city.

Officials of VGL and the fire department visited the spot on Sunday morning in order to assess the damage and carry out the repairs to restore the connections.

A senior VGL official told *The Indian Express* that the main gas pipeline suffered damage owing to an error of judgment during the laying of a new VMC drainage pipeline on Sunday morning.

"The reamer of the drainage network being laid by the VMC damaged the main steel pipeline of VGL that comes from Amaliyara to Vadodara and provides piped gas across the city... It was a new pipeline that the VMC was laying, and it was going over the gas pipeline. The



Repair work underway at Golden Chowkdi area of Vadodara on Sunday. EXPRESS

immediate gas leakage alerted the VMC officials about the damage caused to the pipeline." The official added that the work on assessing the damage and repairing the breach is underway. He said, "We have closed the gas supply until the

damage is repaired. We are opening up the damaged section, and the part will be replaced."

Later in the day, the VMC issued a statement stating that the gas supply would remain closed until Sunday midnight owing to the repair work.

As a result of the interruption in the piped gas supply,

restaurants and halls serving thalis for lunch saw a rush of customers on Sunday. Nirali Patel, a resident of Manjalpur, said, "We had planned a family lunch and had a few guests over, but we could not cook this morning, and so we decided to

head out for lunch... We had to wait for a table for almost an hour, which is more than the expected wait time at thali halls."

An owner of a Gujarati thali restaurant in Karelibaug told *The Indian Express*, "Usually, we stop serving thalis at 3 pm, and the last guest is taken in by 2.45 pm. But given the rush

today, we decided to continue serving beyond the closing time. Anticipating the rush, we had also asked our cooks to be prepared for a second round of preparing dishes. We prepared some different dishes after 2 pm to ensure that the

customers do not have to be turned away due to not having enough food to serve... We did run out of our Sunday special sweet dishes as we could not make that in a hurry, so we prepared some additional kheer instead."