

Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurates IGL Corporate Office in New Delhi

IGL's initiative of providing PNG in villages is helping in bridging rural – urban divide, the oil minister said

NEW DELHI: Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India, on Tuesday inaugurated IGL's Corporate Office located at World Trade Centre in Naraji Nagar of New Delhi in the presence of Pankaj Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; Sandeep Kumar Gupta, CMD, GAIL (India) Ltd; Raj Kumar Dubey, Chairman, IGL; Kamal Kishore Chatwal, Managing Director, IGL; Mohit Bhatia, Director (Commercial), IGL; along with senior IGL officials.

Addressing the gathering, Puri emphasized IGL's contri-

bution in extending piped natural gas (PNG) connections to 250 villages in Delhi, benefiting over 1 lakh rural households. He said this initiative is helping provide urban amenities such as clean cooking fuel in rural areas, bridging the rural-urban divide. Each CNG station, PNG connection, and pipeline expansion contributes to reducing emissions, improving air quality, and strengthening India's clean energy future.

Appreciating IGL's adoption of modern technologies, Puri noted the use of SAP-ERP, GIS, advanced analytics, business intelligence dashboards,



Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri

integrated security and vehicle tracking systems, prepaid and self-billing apps, chatbots, e-billing, and automated meter reading. These innovations improve operational efficiency and customer service, setting

benchmarks for the sector.

Congratulating IGL on its new office, Puri said, "IGL's journey has been one of innovation, growth, and social impact. This new office reaffirms its commitment to expanding reach, strengthening operations, and advancing India's clean energy transition."

Along with Corporate Office, Puri also inaugurated supply of natural gas in 31 villages located in authorised areas of IGL. Furthermore, a new design for upcoming CNG Stations was also launched in addition to a customer experience campaign IGL CX 2.0 with

an objective to take customer experience to the next level. The manufacturing plant of IGL's JV, IGTL – engaged in meter manufacturing was also inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister during the event.

Earlier, welcoming the dignitaries, Kamal Kishore Chatwal, Managing Director, IGL stated that the inauguration of this Corporate Office marks another milestone in the journey of IGL. From a modest beginning in 1998, IGL today stands as a country's leading City Gas Distribution Company and playing a pivotal role in India's transition towards

a cleaner and greener energy future. As we step into this new chapter, we reaffirm our commitment to Excellence, Safety, Innovation, Customer focus and Sustainability in every facet of our operations and deliver on the national priority of increasing the share of natural gas in India's Energy Mix.

Mohit Bhatia, IGL Director (Commercial), thanked the dignitaries and stakeholders for their guidance and support, acknowledging their role in enabling IGL to achieve excellence and contribute to India's energy security and sustainable growth.

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OIL, GAIL (India) Ltd sign MoU to boost natural gas collaboration

The MoU was executed by Director (Marketing), GAIL (India) Ltd and Director (Operations), Oil India Ltd

NEW DELHI: Oil India Ltd (OIL) on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with GAIL (India) Ltd to strengthen cooperation across the natural gas value chain and unlock synergies for expanding access to cleaner energy across the country.

The MoU was executed by Director (Marketing), GAIL, and Director (Operations), OIL in the presence of Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG), AS, MoPNG, JS (GP), MoPNG, CMD-GAIL, and CMD-OIL.

On this occasion, Secretary, MoPNG, stated that the MoU is a timely step towards enhanc-

'MoU is a timely step towards enhancing domestic gas availability and ensuring its seamless access to demand centres across India'

ing domestic gas availability and ensuring its seamless access to demand centres across India. He emphasized that collaborations such as this between OIL and GAIL are crucial in realising the Government's vision of a gas-based economy and

in accelerating the country's energy transition.

Speaking on the occasion, CMD, GAIL stated that the collaboration would contribute to enhancing national energy security, expanding access to natural gas and supporting the Government's vision of cleaner, sustainable energy for all. CMD, OIL said that the MoU represents a significant step in leveraging OIL's upstream strengths alongside GAIL's proven expertise in marketing and gas distribution infrastructure to accelerate the country's progress towards a gas-based economy while creating value for all stakeholders.

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Oil India:

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- The MoU is a timely step towards enhancing domestic gas availability and ensuring its seamless access to demand centres across India. Collaborations such as this between OIL and GAIL are crucial in realizing the Government's vision of a gas-based economy and in accelerating the country's energy transition.

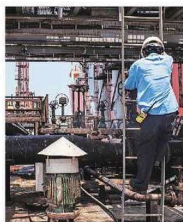
US energy giants eye India LNG network

Rituraj Baruah &
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NEW DELHI

US energy giants Exxon-Mobil Corp. and Chevron Corp. are eyeing entry into India's LNG infrastructure business, including terminals and pipelines, said two people in the know, even as the two nations look to thrash out differences over New Delhi's Russian oil imports.

"American energy companies such as Exxon and Chevron are looking at investing in the gas infrastructure space here and directly selling their product," said the first person quoted earlier, speaking anonymously. "The gas space in India has been growing significantly and the prospects are good with the government's plan to expand the adoption of natural gas, thereby attracting global interest."



India is the world's fourth largest LNG importer. BLOOMBERG

Their interest coincides with US pressure on India to cut Russian energy imports and increase American supplies. India, the world's fourth-largest LNG importer, meets about half of its natural gas requirement with shipments from the US and Qatar. The two are raising LNG capacities, and analysts expect an oversupply of

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US giants eye India's LNG infra market

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the fuel by 2028. The potential glut can be absorbed by India as the government targets increasing the share of gas in the country's total energy mix from around 7% to 15% by 2030.

So far, the US giants have been supplying liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Indian energy majors, including Indian Oil Corp. and GAIL (India) Ltd. Their potential entry into the gas infrastructure business will pit them against Indian public sector competitors.

"The issue of US-based companies showing their interest has emerged during ongoing talks at various levels over setting up oil and gas facilities in India. Discussions are underway with concerned stakeholders and line ministries to take the matter forward," said the second person quoted above, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Queries emailed to Exxon-Mobil, the US Embassy in New Delhi and the union ministries of petroleum and commerce remained unanswered till press time. A Chevron spokesperson said: "We do not comment on market rumour and speculation as a matter of long-standing policy."

"Given India's burgeoning energy demand, it's important to source energy, including LNG from all possible sources," said Gaurav Modi, partner and leader for energy at EY-Parthenon India. "Further, more than competition to incumbent players, more global players in fact may help developing the market as India's gas market is



The US giants have so far been supplying LNG to Indian energy majors, including Indian Oil Corp. and GAIL (India) Ltd.

still in a growing phase and has a considerably long time period to saturate."

India and the US have resumed negotiations on the trade pact after President Donald Trump imposed 50% tariffs on domestic exports to the American market. US tariff on India includes a 25% penalty on buying Russian oil, a sticking point repeatedly highlighted by the Trump administration.

Mint reported on 25 September that the US has asked India to give an assurance, possibly in writing, that it will taper its purchases of Russian oil and boost imports of American crude before a trade deal between the two nations can be finalized.

Despite increasing their sourcing of energy supplies from the US, Indian refiners have maintained imports from

Russia.

"The talks remain on track, and Indian negotiators are in discussions with their US counterparts to take the necessary steps to shape it into a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement," the first person said.

India currently has seven operational LNG

terminals with a cumulative capacity of 47 million metric tonnes per annum (mtpa) and about 25,000 km of gas pipelines supplying to city gas distributors and industries. The seven operational LNG terminals include Dahej and Kochi operated by Petronet LNG; Hazira terminal operated by global energy major Shell; Dabhol operated by Konkan LNG Ltd; Ennore operated by Indian Oil LNG Pvt Ltd; Mundra terminal operated by GSPCLNG Ltd; and Dhamra operated by Adani Total Gas

Ltd.

Petronet is the joint venture of state-run GAIL, Bharat Petroleum Corp., Indian Oil Corp. and Oil and Natural Gas Corp., while Konkan LNG is a subsidiary of GAIL. GSPCLNG is a joint venture of the Gujarat and Union government entities, along with Adani Enterprises Ltd.

Shell was the first global energy company to take complete control and operate an LNG terminal in India. French major TotalEnergies entered in a partnership with Adani Group.

According to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), an additional 10 mtpa gas capacity is nearing completion at Chhara and Jaffrabad. Several land-based terminals and floating storage and regasification units are in various stages of planning and implementation at Jaigarh, Gangavaram, Kakinada, and Krishnapattanam, which will add 19.2 mtpa capacity.

"Completion of these planned capacities and expansions will require additional pipeline infrastructure and major capital investments," the regulator noted in a December report.

India imported about 16 million tonnes of LNG, considered a cleaner fuel compared to crude oil and coal, in the January to August period, growing 10% over a year earlier, according to ship-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg. The US is among the top three suppliers of LNG to India, along with Qatar and the UAE.

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