



GAIL (India) Limited has been conferred with the prestigious Mahatma Award 2025 for CSR Excellence, an honour that celebrates organizations who have made a lasting difference in the fields of social responsibility, sustainability, and inclusive development. . The award was presented by Amit Sachdeva, Gandhian, Indian Lawyer and founder, Mahatma Awards, widely known as the CSR Man of India, and A Annamalai, Director & Secretary, National Gandhi Museum. The honour was received by C&MD, Sandeep Kumar Gupta; Ayush Gupta, Director (HR); and Anoop Gupta, ED (CSR & HR), along with CSR Team.

GAIL bags “Mahatma Award 2025” for CSR Excellence



GAIL (India) Ltd., has been conferred with the prestigious Mahatma Award 2025 for CSR Excellence, an honour that celebrates organizations who have made a lasting difference in the fields of social responsibility, sustainability, and inclusive development. Instituted in the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi's values,

the Mahatma Awards are among the highest honours in the domain of CSR and sustainability, mentored by Mrs. Rajshree Birla, Chairperson, Aditya Birla Center for Rural Development and Communication Initiative, recognizing outstanding contributions towards nation-building and community development.

Gazprom plans LNG venture in Kakinada

Top executives of Gazprom, Kakinada Seaports to meet this week

Rituraj Baruah &
Manas Pimpalkhare

NEW DELHI

Gazprom, a Russian state-owned energy giant facing US sanctions, is in talks to build a 5 million tonne LNG regasification terminal at Kakinada port on India's east coast, as part of plans to invest in Indian ports and gas infrastructure.

Executives of Kakinada Seaports Ltd, Gazprom, and representatives of the Russian Federation embassy in New Delhi are expected to meet this week to discuss the modalities of the proposed \$600 million investment, four people said.

"Gazprom is looking to invest in port and LNG assets in India. Currently, it is in talks to set up an LNG terminal at Kakinada port," one of them said.

"There is global interest in India's maritime space. Among them, Russian entities including Gazprom have been actively scouting for maritime and port assets in India," added an Indian government official aware of Gazprom's talks with Kakinada Seaports. All four people spoke on the condition of anonymity.



ENERGY PIVOT

THE move comes amid US sanctions and strained India-US ties

EXPERTS say India is safe, attractive market for Russia

THE new terminal may aid Andaman gas transport to east coast

Gazprom's port infra ambitions come in the backdrop of Indian port operators including Adani Group barring vessels sanctioned by the US, the UK, and the European Union from their ports. The sanctions are related to Russia's war with Ukraine.

Gazprom's India plans may not

have a major impact on India-US relations as New Delhi appears keen on big investments from Russia, said Sankalp Gurjar, assistant professor of geopolitics and geoeconomics at Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics. He pointed out

TURN TO PAGE 8

Russian energy firm Gazprom plans Kakinada LNG venture

FROM PAGE 1

that India has revived other partnerships with Russia recently, including defence acquisition plans.

India-US relations, meanwhile, remain strained over Washington's steep tariffs on Indian goods, including an additional 25% penalty for sourcing oil from Russia, even as New Delhi is looking to strike a landmark trade deal.

"India has made it clear to the US that it would not budge to dikats. In this scenario, new business tie-ups and investments can be expected by Russian companies in India," Gurjar said.

Another legal expert said the US sanctions would not have an impact on Gazprom's plans for India or pose legal hurdles for the company's Indian partners.

"From an Indian law standpoint, there should be no explicit legal issue in the case of a likely investment by Gazprom," said Vaibhav Kakkar, a senior partner for cross-border transactions, regulatory and corporate laws, including securities, foreign exchange, at Saraf and Partners, a law firm.

"However, the proposed investment can face practical issues in terms of implementation and operations of the company as financiers having an exposure in the US and Europe, and other global service providers, may resist from dealing with them (Gazprom) given the sanctions imposed by the US," Kakkar added.

Although most of India's energy imports arrive at its western coast, India and Russia have been working to improve trade through the eastern coast via the Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor.

Trade through this corridor improved after India and Russia in 2019 signed a memoran-



Gazprom's plan to expand in India coincides with LNG investments returning to US as President Trump focuses on fossil fuels. REUTERS

dum of understanding to enhance maritime connectivity between the two port cities.

Gazprom's plan to expand in India also coincides with LNG investments returning to the US as Donald Trump, the country's president, focuses on fossil fuels. In the first nine months of 2025, the US dominated global investments in LNG terminals, accounting for about 90% of sanctioned capacity.

However, for Russian state-owned firms, India offers a safe market, said experts.

"If Gazprom is looking at investment in an LNG terminal in the country,

it may be because India seems to be a safer investment destination for them compared to other countries as India has been resistant to global pressures in terms of energy procurement," said Prashant Vasishit, senior vice-president and co-group head, corporate ratings, Icria Ltd.

"Also, the gas discovered in Andaman would need to be transported to the east coast of India for its utilization and a new terminal in Kakinada would add to the options," he added.

Currently, two LNG terminals are proposed to be developed at Kakinada port. While

Norway-headquartered Crown LNG has signed up to develop one terminal, Kakinada Seaports holds the rights for the second.

Kakinada Seaports chairman and managing director K.V. Rao declined to comment on Gazprom's proposal to develop an LNG terminal at Kakinada port. The Russian Federation embassy in New Delhi did not respond to queries mailed on 3 October.

Queries emailed to Gazprom and Kakinada Seaports on 1 October, and to Jayadev Polavarapu, managing director of Kakinada Infrastructure Holdings Pvt. Ltd. on 3 October remained unanswered.

For India, Russia is not a major source of LNG, although it is the top supplier of crude oil. In FY25, Russia didn't supply any LNG to India, and in FY24, it supplied only about \$75 million worth of natural gas.

The top suppliers of LNG to India—the world's fourth-largest importer of natural gas—are Qatar, the US, and the UAE. Gazprom had signed a contract with Gail (India) Ltd in 2012 to supply 2.85 million tonnes of LNG for 20 years. However, in 2022, the Russian gas producer stalled supplies to GAIL as spot sales fetched it better returns. Supplies resumed in May 2023.

rituraj.baruah@live-mint.com