

IGL signs agreement for natural gas distribution in Saudi Arabia

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OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL), India's largest city gas distributor, has signed a strategic alliance with Saudi Arabia's MASAH Construction Company to jointly develop and operate natural gas distribution networks in industrial cities across the Kingdom.

The agreement marks IGL's first overseas foray as part of its plan to expand globally and promote clean energy solutions, IGL said in a statement.

The pact was signed in the presence of Saudi Investment Promotion Authority CEO Khaled Al Khattaf, Federation of Saudi Chambers Secretary General Waleed H Al Orainan, IGL Chairman Raj Kumar Dubey, and IGL Managing Director Kamal Kishore Chatiwal. IGL Director (Commercial) Mohit Bhatia and MASAH Chairman Mohammed Abdul Nayeem were the signatories.

Under the alliance, IGL will provide technical expertise in planning and operations of natural gas systems, while MASAH will contribute capabilities in regulatory management, engineering, and local stakeholder engagement.



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IGL currently operates more than 28,000 km of gas pipelines and supplies CNG to over 2.1 million vehicles through a network of more than 950 stations. It also provides piped natural gas to over three million households across several Indian cities.

MASAH Construction Company, based in Riyadh, is a Class 1/A grade contractor engaged in major projects for clients, including Aramco, the

Ministry of Defence, and the Public Investment Funds.

"The alliance will leverage IGL's strengths in planning, design, and operation of natural gas networks, complemented by MASAH's expertise in regulatory management, engineering, procurement, construction, and local stakeholder engagement," the statement said.

The strategic partnership, IGL said, reinforces its dedica-

Key Points

- » IGL Director (Commercial) Mohit Bhatia and MASAH Chairman Mohammed Abdul Nayeem were the signatories
- » Under the alliance, IGL will provide technical expertise in planning and operations of natural gas systems
- » Meanwhile, MASAH will contribute capabilities in regulatory management, engineering, and local stakeholder engagement

tion to international collaboration and knowledge sharing, underscoring India's growing leadership in the global clean energy landscape. The alliance is expected to deliver sustainable growth, operational excellence, and capacity building — advancing the shared goal of a cleaner, greener future for both nations.

Chatiwal said the partnership represents a major milestone in IGL's growth journey,

making it the first Indian city gas distribution company to venture abroad. "Our partnership with MASAH reflects IGL's commitment to innovation, quality and strategic expansion," he said.

Nayeem said the collaboration aligns with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and aims to combine MASAH's infrastructure expertise with IGL's experience in city gas network design and operations.

IGL operates city gas distribution network in Delhi and neighbouring cities such as Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad and Gurugram, as well as parts of Kanpur. Its network consists of more than 28,000 km of pipeline network.

IGL meets the fuel requirements of over 2.1 million vehicles running on CNG through a network of over 950 CNG stations and has connected over three million households in the cities it operates with piped natural gas (PNG).

Riyad-based MASAH Construction Co has a proven track record across the Kingdom and specifically for the Public Investment Fund (PIF) projects like Dr Sulaiman Al Habib Medical Group, Aramco, Ajdan and the Ministry of Defence.



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PTI



ONGC's KG basin crude output falls to 28K bpd

SHUBHANGI MATHUR

New Delhi, 13 November

State-owned exploration giant ONGC has witnessed further decline in crude oil production from its deep-water block in Krishna Godavari (KG) basin to 28,000 barrels per day (bpd), against the company's peak output estimates of 45,000 bpd.

Crude oil output from ONGC's KG-98/2 block has been sliding since production began in January 2024. The output from the block was around 35,000 bpd in 2024, declining to 30,000 bpd by the end of the June quarter of the current fiscal.

"We need to take action as far as the wells are concerned. We are expecting these to recover and production should increase. We would have to do additional work for this production to ramp up to 45 (thousand bpd)," said Vivek Tongaonkar, director of finance at ONGC in an analyst call.

Soon, fuel stations in UP to be EV charging-ready

Public sector oil cos have so far sought 1K power connections

Brajendra K Parashar

bkparashar@htlive.com

LUCKNOW : In a significant stride towards promoting green energy, public sector oil companies have already sought over a 1,000 power connections for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across urban areas and highways in Uttar Pradesh, even as the state government is finalising plans to expand EV charging facilities to public and government office locations under its evolving EV policy.

According to a report compiled by the Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL), a total of 1,060 applications were received from Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for dedicated power supply to their proposed EV charging stations across the state.

Of these, 1,047 applications were processed and power connections for 662 sites energised by the end of October. Officials clarified that "energisation" indicates the readiness of electricity supply by UPPCL but does not necessarily mean that all the EV charging stations are operational yet. Thirteen applications were rejected.



Registered EVs in UP have crossed 12.5 lakh.

FOR REPRESENTATION

Among the oil companies, IOCL led with 479 applications, followed by BPCL with 353 and HPCL with 228. Discom-wise, Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd (PuVVNL) accounted for the highest number of applications at 316, followed by Dakshinanchal (DVVNL) 274, Madhyanchal (MVVNL) 248, and Paschimanchal (PVVNL) 209. The Kanpur Electricity Supply Company (KESCO) received seven applications - all from IOCL.

"We are setting up EV charging stations at existing fuel pumps in cities as well as along expressways and national highways," said IOC general manager (non-fuel revenue) Kartikey Mishra. He said the chargers would be of 30 kw, 60 kw, and 120 KW capacities, depending on the requirement of the vehicles. The current tariff applicable for commercial EV charging is Rs 7.64 per unit.

For now, the IOC has planned 12 charging points in

major cities, including four in Lucknow, three in B-class cities, 259 on national highways and 105 on state highways. Other oil companies too have similar plans.

Uttar Pradesh, which has one of the largest vehicle populations in the country, figures prominently on India's EV roadmap.

As per a cabinet note prepared by the renewable energy department, the number of registered EVs in the state has already crossed 12.5 lakh six months back and is projected to increase tenfold by 2030.

Under the Union power ministry's guidelines, charging stations are to be installed every 1 km x 1 km grid in urban areas and every 20 km along highways. For long-range EVs and heavy-duty vehicles such as trucks and buses, fast-charging stations will be established every 100 km along major highways and expressways.

To accelerate the transition,

FUEL STNS IN U.P.

IOC : 5,964; BPCL : 3146

HPCL : 3021; TOTAL : 12,131

POWER MINISTRY'S GUIDELINES

- Charging stations are to be installed every 1 km x 1 km grid in urban areas and every 20 km along highways.
- For long-range EVs and heavy-duty vehicles such as trucks and buses, fast-charging stations will be established every 100 km along major highways and expressways.

the ministry of heavy industries has issued operational guidelines for implementing the PM E-Drive Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) scheme. "The scheme will support both fast and slow chargers across highways, cities and public places through viability gap funding (VGF). State nodal agencies, PSUs and private entities will be eligible to participate," said Indrajeet Singh, director of UPNEDA.

He added that the guidelines covered site selection, fund disbursement, technology standards and monitoring to ensure reliable and interoperable charging networks, with special focus on Tier-II and III cities. "UP is expected to get around Rs 300 crore as subsidy under the EVCI scheme," said Singh.