

PM unveils 1st phase of 'Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga' gas pipeline

BARAUNI (Bihar): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday dedicated to the Nation the first phase of the Jagdishpur - Haldia & Bokaro - Dhamra Natural Gas Pipeline Project (JHBDPL), popularly known as 'Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga', and inaugurated the City Gas Distribution (CGD) network in Patna.

Prime Minister dedicated and inaugurated the projects in the presence of Bihar Governor Lalji Tandon, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan, Union Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister of State (I/C), Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Giriraj Singh, Minister of State (I/C), Power and New and Renewable Energy R K Singh, Union Minister of State, Rural Development Ram Kripal Yadav, Union Minister of State, Health & Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Sushil Kumar Modi and other dignitaries.

The foundation stone of Phase 1 of 'Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga' was laid by the Prime Minister on July 25, 2015 in Patna and the section from Phulpur - Dobhi - Barauni with Spurlines to Patna & Varanasi of length 585 Km has been completed. This section passes covers nine districts in Bihar (415 km) and three districts in Uttar Pradesh (170 km). The districts covered in Bihar are Patna, Kaimur, Rohtas, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nalanda, Lakhisarai, Begusarai and Sheikhpura.

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The natural gas pipeline will be crucial in reviving fertilizer units in Barauni, Sindri and Gorakhpur and also supply natural gas for houses and vehicles in Patna, Varanasi, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Kolkata and other cities enroute the pipeline. The availability of environment friendly, convenient and economical natural gas will also help in reducing pollution levels. The project execution is expected to generate direct and indirect employment for thousands.

The Prime Minister also inaugurated the CGD network in Patna under which piped natural gas (PNG) will be supplied to domestic customers

and commercial establishments like hotels, restaurants, industries, etc while compressed natural gas (CNG) will be supplied for the transport sector through CNG stations.

Infrastructure has already been created for about 5,000 PNG households and initially, PNG supply will be started to staff quarters in BIT Mesra, Patna Campus near Airport and two student hostels in the campus. Two CNG stations (one near Rukunpura, Beli Road and another near Patna Toll NH1, Bypass Road) were also started.

GAIL has been authorized to lay CGD networks in major cities such as Patna, Varanasi, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack in synchronization with the 'Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga' project which the company is executing.

The Patna CGD project is being executed with a planned expenditure of Rs. 360 crore over the next five years and overall Rs 1200 crore over 25 years.