

LNG import drops 40% to 1.5 MT in May

FE BUREAU
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INDIA'S IMPORT OF liquefied natural gas (LNG) recorded a drop of 40% year-on-year (y-o-y) in May. However, the import volumes inched up 4% from the levels in April.

For LNG imports, Petronet LNG's Dahej and Kochi terminals have been losing market share to Shell's Hazira and the newly commissioned Mundra terminals over last three months, analysts at Credit Suisse noted.

The Mundra terminal is owned by GSPC LNG, a joint venture by the Gujarat government and Adani Enterprises.

The total capacity of operational LNG import terminals is 41 MT per annum (MTPA). Petronet's Dahej, the largest among them with 16.3 MTPA capacity, was operating at 55-60% utilisation in May. The 5 MTPA Dabhol terminal, owned by a joint venture of GAIL and NTPC, has been closed from May 26 due to the monsoon season, and this is seen to provide some support to Dahej's LNG volumes, experts pointed. Though the existing capacity of Dabhol is 5 MPTA, the available capacity is only 1.7 MTPA due to the absence of breakwater facility.

Petronet LNG is a joint venture by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, GAIL, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation.



**VN DATT TAKES
CHARGE AS C&MD,
NFL**

Virendra Nath Datt, Director (Marketing), NFL has taken over the additional charge of Chairman & Managing Director of the company.

An MBA from Maharshi Dayanand University, Datt has a rich professional experience of over 35 years with premier CPSEs such as GAIL and ONGC besides the fertilizer industry. Prior to joining NFL, he was Executive Director in GAIL (India) Limited where he handled all-India marketing operations of the company in addition to corporate strategy, planning and advocacy. He was also a Director on the board of Mahanagar Gas Ltd., Mumbai. As Director (Marketing), NFL, Datt is credited with sustained growth in fertilizer sale of company from 43 lakh MT in 2017-18 to 57 lakh MT in 2019-20, an increase of 32% over previous two years. During this period, NFL established a pan-India footprint in the fertilizer industry.