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Gail completes Kochi-Mangaluru pipeline

THE MUCH-DELAYED Kochi-Mangalore natural gas pipeline project is finally ready for commissioning any day from now as the national energy major Gail India has completed the final 540-metre treacherous stretch across the Chandragiri river in northern Kerala, according to a senior company official.



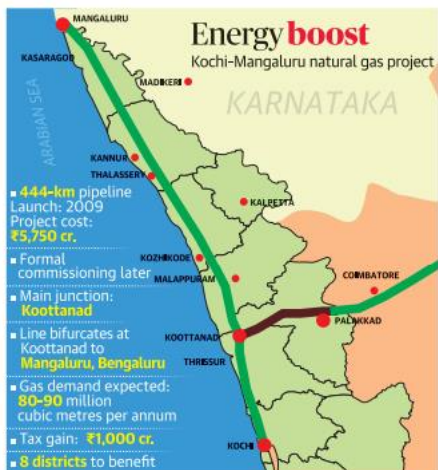
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GAIL has recorded a 13% increase in Turnover to Rs. 13,611 crore vis-a-vis Rs. 12,060 cr in Q1 FY21 while Profit before Tax (PBT) increased to Rs. 1,551 cr as against Rs. 356 crore in Q1 FY21. The Profit after Tax (PAT) increased to Rs. 1,239 crore in Q2 vis-a-vis Rs. 256 cr in Q1 FY21. Both physical as well as financial performance of the company improved across all major segments in Q2. After relaxations in the lockdown imposed due to pandemic COVID-19 in Q1 & with the resumption of economic activities, the volumes picked up in all segments of the company to normal levels in Q2 FY21 resulting in increase in the profit as compared to Q1 FY21.



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GAIL completes Kochi-Mangaluru pipeline



'Gas will reach Mangaluru through the 444-km pipeline this week'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOCHI

The much-delayed Kochi-Mangaluru natural gas pipeline project is finally ready for commissioning as GAIL India has completed the final 540-metre treacherous stretch across the Chandragiri river in northern Kerala, according to a senior company official.

The 444-km-long natural gas pipeline was launched in 2009 at an estimated cost of ₹2,915 crore and was to be commissioned in 2014. But opposition with regard to safety and on commercial grounds, wherein the land

price was the main hurdle, had resulted in the project cost nearly doubling to over ₹5,750 crore.

'Testing is on'

"We completed the most difficult stretch across the Chandragiri river in Kasaragod district on Saturday. Now, testing is on and this will be completed in the next two days. Within this week itself, gas will reach Mangaluru through the 444-km pipeline," P. Murugesan, Executive Director and Head of Southern Region, GAIL, said on Monday.

The formal commission-

ing will be done later, according to the availability of the Minister, he added.

The pipeline is charged up to Kannur now and has been live up to Kootanad in Palakkad district, 90 km north of Kochi, since June 2019. Kootanad is the main junction of the project. From here, the line bifurcates to Mangaluru and Bengaluru.

The first phase of the project was commissioned in August 2013 in the Kochi metropolitan area, with industrial supplies and domestic supplies from February 2016 by Adani Gas.

With the commissioning of the pipeline, gas demand in Kerala will touch 80-90 million cubic metres per annum from 60 million cubic

metres now. Apart from huge environmental gains, the State can gain monetarily as it can get up to ₹1,000 crore by way of taxes alone.

540-metre stretch

Authorities were ready to complete the project in August, but a 540-metre stretch across the Chandragiri river became a nightmare for them. As a way out, they reduced the diameter of the pipe to a fourth – from 24 inches to just 6 inches now.

Mr. Murugesan said the pipeline would supply gas to all seven districts it passed through in Kerala – Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasargod – and the hilly Wayanad district.



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Finally, Gail completes Kochi-Mangalore pipeline

KOCHI: The much-delayed Kochi-Mangalore natural gas pipeline project is finally ready for commissioning any day from now as the national energy major Gail India has completed the final 540-metre treacherous stretch across the Chandragiri river in northern Kerala, according to a senior company official.

The 444-km long natural gas pipeline was launched in 2009 at an estimated cost of Rs 2,915 crore and was to be commissioned in 2014. But opposition on safety and commercial grounds wherein the land price was the main hurdle, both from political parties and the public, ensured that the project lin-

gered on. This led to the project cost nearly doubling to over Rs 5,750 crore.

"We have completed the most difficult stretch across the Chandragiri river in Kasargod district in northern Kerala, on Saturday. Now the testing is on and this will be completed in the next two days. Within this week itself gas will reach Mangalore through the 444-km pipeline," P Murugesan, the executive director and head of Southern region, Gail, said on Monday. A formal commissioning will be done later, according to the availability of the minister, he added.

The pipeline is charged up to Kannur now, and is live up

to Kuttanand in Palakkad district, 90 km north of Kochi since June 2019 and of the remaining 354 km the line is ready up to Kannur. Kuttanad is the main junction of the project as from here the line bifurcates to Mangalore and Bengaluru.

The first phase of the project was commissioned in August 2013 in the Kochi metropolitan area with industrial supplies and domestic supplies from February 2016 by Adani Gas.

Today the pipeline supplies 3.8 million cubic metres of gas every day to industrial and residential customers in Kochi and is set to cross 4 million cubic metres soon in the city itself,

while Mangalore has a potential of 2.5 million cubic metres per day, Murugesan said.

With the commissioning the pipeline, gas demand in the state will touch 80-90 million cubic metres per annum from 60 million cubic metres now.

The pipeline is a big boost to the struggling Kochi LNT Terminal of Petronet which has a capacity of 5 million tonne annually but 90 per cent capacity has been idling due to the delay in completing the Kochi-Mangalore pipeline and Murugesan said with the commissioning the capacity utilisation of the LNG terminal will go up to 25-30 per cent. P11