

■ GAIL Seeks Govt Help to Rework Gas Deals with US Cos



NEW DELHI GAIL has urged the government to use its diplomatic ties with the US to help rework the company's expensive gas purchase deals with the American suppliers at a time when the liquefied natural gas (LNG) rates in the spot markets have fallen to record lows, according to people familiar with the matter. GAIL has contracts for the purchase of 5.8 million tonnes a year of LNG with two US suppliers, deals that were signed between 2011 and 2014 as LNG prices roared across the world. A global price reversal since leading to a recent collapse in the spot market has made it harder for GAIL to market the expensive US gas. – **Sanjeev Choudhary**



GAIL to invest in CBG start-ups

In a bid to support start-ups operating in the area of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG), GAIL (India) Limited announced plans to invest in such companies through its start-up initiative Pankh.

It has opened a fresh fifth round for solicitation of investment proposals from start-ups operating specifically in the area of CBG. Start-ups that provide technology or are planning to expand their existing CBG plants or setting-up new CBG plants can submit their investment proposal on GAIL web portal <https://gailebank.gail.co.in/GSUICBG/index.aspx>. The solicitation round is open till July 24.

India has vast biomass resources and the government is giving special emphasis on its utilisation by encouraging setting-up of CBG plants. Further, oil and gas companies are ready to give commitment for offtake of CBG through issue of Letter Of Intent (LOI). Thus, it provides good business opportunity to start-ups operating in this area.

The initiative was launched in July 2017 to invest in promising start-ups. So far, GAIL has made investments in 24 start-ups operating in various areas through four solicitation rounds.



Gail to commission Kochi-M'lore gas pipeline by early August

KOCHI: The much-delayed Kochi-Mangalore gas pipeline project of Gail India, which was initially planned to be commissioned way back in 2014, will finally see the light of the day by early next month, according to a Gail 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 five years from the project commencement.

But stiff opposition on safety and commercial grounds wherein the land price was the main, both from political parties as well as from the public, ensured that the project lingered on. This led to the project cost nearly doubling to Rs 5,751 crore now.

But the bad days are finally

over as the last leg of the engineering work is near completion within the next fortnight.

“The project will soon be commissioned. We really had tough time from an executional and engineering angle in laying the pipe across the Chandragiri river in Kasargod district.

“Of the total length of 1.5 km of this stretch, only a small portion is left now which will be completed by the first week of August,” Tony Mathews, the head of Kochi-Mangalore Pipeline and the general manager of Gail in Kerala, said on Wednesday.

The headquarters can now choose an appropriate date for the official commissioning. We need maximum 10-15 days more to make the pipeline ready for commissioning. PII

A GREENER WORLD

GAIL has been creating awareness for bringing a positive change to ensure a greener and cleaner environment through its *Hawa Badlo* movement. In this move #Wake Up And Smell The Change initiative has been started by the *Hawa Badlo* platform to spread the idea of appreciating and preserving the positive environmental changes occurred due to the lock down. In this initiative, the netizens were asked to take a pledge and sustain this change in future as well as with befitting lifestyle changes such as:

- ❖ Staying home more on weekends.
- ❖ Walking or riding the bicycle whenever one can.
- ❖ Using one car per family.
- ❖ Using cleaner fuels in vehicles and home like natural gas, CNG, PNG, renewables etc.

An online engagement activity was also organised under this initiative earlier where in people were requested to click pictures of scenic beauties from their balconies, windows or roofs and post them on *Hawa Badlo* handles in the comments section with hashtags.

This is an attempt to mobilise collective societal efforts to improve the deteriorating air quality, by encouraging sustainable and environment friendly steps in works as well as inculcating lifestyle habits such as planting trees, cycling & walking, carpooling, using public transport, conserving energy and using cleaner energy



sources like natural gas for industries, CNG for automobiles, PNG for commercial uses.

By engaging people for actions through events, social messaging through endorsement and web media series, short films and contests, the purpose of the platform is to motivate people to take pledge for actions against air pollution and problems caused due to it. The initiative has been able to reach more than eight million people across all digital platforms.