ECONOMIC TIMES, Delhi, 7.8.2024
Page No. 5, Size:(7.82)cms X (24.59)cms.

Coal India, GAIL Sign JV to set up Unit to Convert Coal into Synthetic Nat Gas

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Coal India Ltd and GAIL (India) Ltd have signed a pact for setting up a coal-to-synthetic natural gas plant using surface coal gasification technology in Raniganj area of West Bengal.

The plant's capacity is slated at 633.6 million Nm^3 per hour (Normal cubic metre), which will require 1.9 million tonnes of coal, the coal ministry said in a statement.

The partnership of the two state-owned companies is a part of the National Coal Gasification Mission which facilitates utilization of chemical properties of coal.

The coal ministry, in collaboration with the power and oil ministries, facilitated the joint venture agreement between two companies, as per the statement. Synthetic natural gas is a fuel consisting mainly of methane, which is a feedstock for production of chemicals and fertilizers. The upcoming plant will help in securing the raw material and reduce import dependency of natural gas, the government said.

ET had reported earlier that the coal ministry was working towards fostering the development of coal-gasification projects.

While the current coal production in India is somewhat in line with demand, it is expected that with the augmented production at commercial coal mines the supply of the fuel will increase in the next couple of years.

STATESMAN, Delhi, 7.8.2024
Page No. 8, Size:(24.90)cms X (28.89)cms.

CIL, GAIL sign JV for setting up Coal to SNG Plant

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

The Ministry of Coal in collaboration with the Ministry of Power & Natural Gas facilitated a landmark joint venture agreement between two leading Maharatna CPSEs, Coal India Limited (CIL) and GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL).

It marks a major step towards setting of a Coal to Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG) plant using surface coal gasification (SCG) technology.

Debasish Nanda, Director (Business Development) CIL and Shri. R K Singhal, Director (Business Development) GAIL inked the JVA on behalf of CIL and GAIL respectively.

The plant to come up in Raniganj area of Eastern Coalfields Limited, West Bengal is planned to produce 80000 Nm3 per hour of Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG), the Ministry of Coal said in a statement.

The annual production is slated at 633.6 Million Nm3 per hour which will require 1.9 million tonnes (mts) of

coal. The coal will be supplied by CIL.

The synergy and partnership of the two corporate giants is a big step towards National Coal Gasification Mission which facilitates utilization of chemical properties of coal.

Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG) is a fuel gas predominantly consisting of methane, CH_4 which is a feedstock for production of various chemicals and fertlizers.

The upcoming plant would help in securing the raw material and reduce import dependency of Natural gas and promoting Atmanirbharmission.

M. Nagaraju, Additional Secretary, Coal, while addressing in the signing ceremony mentioned that the commitment of CIL and GAIL with this project will be a role model.

"Gasification is the highest priority area for the Ministry of Coal. India has been blessed with huge reserves of coal and these reserves should be utilized gainful and in environment friendly manner."

The Additional Secretary stressed the need of more coal gasification project to be planned to minimize the carbon emission.

He also said that all the possible support from government is in place including financial support for viable gap funding. Request for Proposals (RFPs) for inviting eligible bidders (public and private) for financial incentives of Rs. 8500 crores under three categories for Coal/lignite gasification project have been floated on 15.05.2024 for which last date of submission is 11.11.2024.

BUSINESS LINE, Delhi, 7.8.2024
Page No. 4, Size:(15.90)cms X (19.21)cms.

JSW MG Motor to bring EV charging services under one app

Our Bureau
New Delhi

With an aim to foster the electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem in India, JSW MG Motor India on Tuesday announced its tie up with various charging infrastructure companies which will be brought under one application. This move will cover around 8,500 charging points in India out of the total 12,000 stations.

"This is the first time an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) has integrated all charging operators in one single app. Eighty per cent of this country's chargers are on our app now. Through this app, you can not only see the location, but also check the availability of chargers and their rate/tariff," said Rajeev Chaba, CEO Emeritus, JSW MG Motor India.

For the purpose of the application, called eHUB, JSW MG Motor has partnered with charging providers like Adani Total Energies Limited (ATEL), BPCL, Chargezone, Glida, HPCL, Jio-BP, Shell, Statiq and Zeon. Many others will be on-boarded soon, the company said and added that the app will be available in 11 languages. It will also be equipped with trip-planning features and can be accessed by EV owners of any brand.

GREEN SWITCH

- 8,500 charging points
- Details of nearby stations and tariffs
- Available in 11 languages
- Equipped with trip-planning features

MG-JIO APP STORE

The carmaker announced that its upcoming line-up, including 'Windsor' EV, will feature the MG-Jio innovative connectivity platform (MG-Jio ICP). This will give owners access to the MG app store for in-car gaming, entertainment and learning, superior voice capability in six Indian languages and a Home-to-Car functionality. "With initiatives such as our unified charging platform, battery second-life project, EV education and the MG-Jio ICP, we are empowering the industry as well as our customers with smarter, more sustainable choices," said Gaurav Gupta, Chief Growth Officer, JSW MG Motor India.

The company added that the brand offers six-way charging solutions and aims to install 1,000 community charging points across India.

JSW MG Motor has engaged with over 1,500 start-ups and collaborated with more than 50 colleges to drive EV education and skill development.

GROWTH OUTLOOK

In terms of EV sales, Chaba highlighted that last year the company's market share in the EV sector stood at 17 per cent and grew by 150 per cent. This year, it would grow by almost 250 per cent.

"Our EV sales are growing because they are compelling and trustworthy. We have 40 per cent of our total sales coming from EVs right now and it is only growing," Chaba added.

MINT, Delhi, 7.8.2024
Page No. 8, Size:(14.99)cms X (7.98)cms.

JSW MG launches EV charging platform

Naman Suri
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NEW DELHI

JSW MG Motors on Tuesday introduced a platform to locate electric vehicle charging stations across the country, a move it hopes will reduce range anxiety among its electric car users. The company said it will partner charging service providers like Adani Total Energies, BPCL and Chargezone for the new platform.

"...With initiatives such as our unified charging platform, battery second-life project, EV education and the MG-Jio ICP, we are empowering the industry as well as our customers with smarter, more sustainable choices," Gaurav Gupta, chief growth officer, said in a statement. The platform, available in 11 languages, will be equipped with trip-planning features.

A key reason for the slow EV transition in India is range anxiety and the limited number of public chargers

A key reason for the slow transition towards EVs in India is range anxiety and the limited number of public chargers.

JSW MG Motors also announced other initiatives like a connectivity platform with Jio and an EV education platform.

India's upcoming FAME-III scheme is expected to support charging networks. FAME is short for Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles in India.

Also, officials at the heavy industries ministry are discussing a national charging policy.

The ministry also continues to hold talks with key stakeholders, including the Prime Minister's Office, to chalk out an action plan for a charging infrastructure, seeking feedback on whether they need to be installed along highways or in cities, the standards they need to follow, and the type of output required.

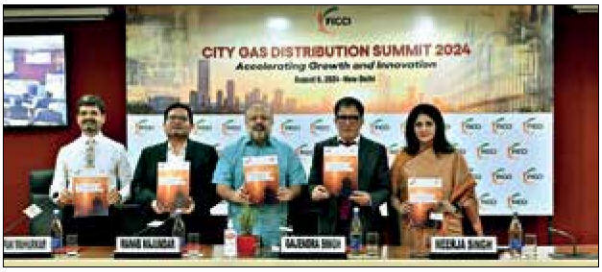
JSW MG Motors launched the platform, in addition to a series of EV innovations at DriEV.Bharat event. Other innovations include project REVIVE, focused on repurposing EV batteries, EVPEDIA, an EV educational platform and MG-Jio ICP, a technology stack.

MILLENNIUM POST, Delhi, 7.8.2024
Page No. 12, Size:(21.42)cms X (10.29)cms.

PNGRB intensifying efforts to expand gas access in India

NEW DELHI: The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is intensifying efforts to expand gas access across India, working closely with state governments to overcome regulatory hurdles in the City Gas Distribution (CGD) sector. This push comes as the country witnesses a significant expansion in gas infrastructure and consumption, with the number of Geographical Areas covered by CGD networks surging from 34 before PNGRB's establishment to 307 currently.

Gajendra Singh, Member, PNGRB, speaking at FICCI's City Gas Distribution Summit 2024, emphasised the regulator's primary objective: "Our goal is to provide access to gas for all consumers, whether for PNG (Piped Natural Gas), industrial and commercial use, or CNG (Compressed Natural Gas)."



The CGD sector has seen remarkable growth, with gas consumption rising from 86 million metric standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) in 2007 to 189 MMSCMD currently. This growth is reflected in the expansion of the national gas pipeline network, which has extended from 14,000 km in 2018 to 24,000 km today.

Particularly noteworthy is the surge in industrial and commercial gas consumers primarily using Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG). The CNG infrastructure has also expanded dramatically, with stations increasing from 280 in 2006 to 7,000 in 2024.

However, challenges persist, especially in the adoption of PNG for domestic use. Despite reaching 1.31 crore connections, PNG faces stiff competition from improved LPG services. "Replacing LPG with PNG is a bit of a difficult job," Singh admitted, citing consumer hesitancy and the costs associated with connection setup. To achieve this, PNGRB is actively engaging with state authorities to address tax disparities and infrastructure challenges. "We are meeting with state government officials to discuss how we can reduce taxes," Singh said.

On the supply front, Singh assured that there are no major constraints, with both domestic gas and RLNG readily available. The current mix stands at 52 per cent domestic gas and 48 per cent RLNG.

The regulator remains flexible in its approach, willing to adapt regulations based on market needs and stakeholder feedback.

On occasion, Deepak Mahurkar, Partner- Fuels & Resources, PwC India, emphasised that customer economics drive gas adoption, with cost being the primary factor. He added that the government's ambition is not only to increase gas consumption but also to reduce the supply chain carbon costs significantly.

During the event, the FICCI-PwC Knowledge Paper "Charting the Path Forward in CGD: Emerging Trends and Insights" was unveiled.

The report offers a thorough analysis of sector-specific challenges and opportunities in the adoption of natural gas and the government's efforts to foster usage.

MP POST

PIONEER, Delhi, 7.8.2024
Page No. 2, Size:(8.57)cms X (5.20)cms.

ONGC DECLARES RESULTS FOR Q1 FY'25

New Delhi: In its 384th meeting held on 5th August, 2024, ONGC Board approved the results for First Quarter (Q1) of FY 2024-25. Major Highlights are: Gross Revenue 35,266 crore, Net profit 8,938 crore and 5 Discoveries. ONGC has declared total 5 Discoveries in FY' 25 so far. Since last Press release on May 20, 2024, ONGC has declared 3 more discoveries (1 in onland and 2 in offshore) in its operated acreages. Out of these, two are prospect (1 in onland, 1 in offshore) and one is new pool (onland) discovery. ONGC received numerous awards including the Best PSU Award 2023 in the Maharatna of the Year — Non-Manufacturing category by Dalal Street Investment Journal (DSIJ) on 5th June, 2024.

ONGC
ENERGY: Now AND Next

BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 7.8.2024
Page No. 4, Size:(29.25)cms X (10.68)cms.

The petrochemical shift that could quench LPG output thirst

S DINAKAR
Chennai, 6 August

India may have to lean more on West Asian nations for supplies of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), a cooking fuel, in the coming years after Indian state-run refiners drew up big plans to diversify into producing more profitable petrochemicals. This shift leads to reduced LPG output, Indian refining executives said.

The mantra for state-run oil companies, from Indian Oil Corporation (IndianOil) to liquefied natural gas (LNG) importer Petronet LNG, which are looking to diversify their businesses from lower-margin fuels, has been value-added petrochemicals.

Domestic production of LPG declined by 4.5 per cent in the April-June quarter from a year earlier, sending imports higher by 21 per cent to meet the growing demand for the fuel. Imports accounted for around 65 per cent of the country's consumption of LPG.

IndianOil, the country's biggest refiner, aims to more than double the Petrochemical Intensity Index of its refineries to 15 per cent by 2030, with petrochemical expansions integral to all refinery expansions, said company Chairman S M Vaidya in the latest annual report.

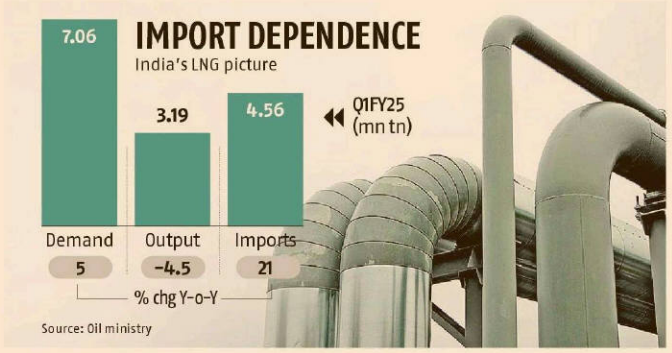
IndianOil's petrochemical strategy is primarily based on utilising captive feedstocks, he said.

Propylene, for instance, is a captive feedstock, according to a McKinsey report. So is LPG.

On a global basis, the most important driver of oil demand growth over the medium term is projected to be petrochemicals, accounting for about 2.7 million barrels per day of additional oil product demand during 2023-2030, Paris-based International Energy Agency said in a recent report.

India currently faces a shortage of chemicals and depends on imports from China and the US to meet local demand.

Analysts said that state-run refiners are focusing on polypropylene facilities, a commoditised chemical whose feedstock, propylene, comes from refining processes.



Polypropylene facilities will lead to the displacement of LPG, industry experts said. Queries sent to state oil-marketing companies (OMCs) were not answered at the time of publishing.

State oil refiners, including IndianOil, Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, and Numaligarh Refinery, are putting up a combined 3 million tonnes (mt) per annum of polypropylene facilities to make use of the propylene produced in their refineries, according to data provided by CareEdge Ratings.

There are major capacity additions planned for polypropylene, with capacities expected to come on stream from 2025-26 through 2028-29, said Hardik Shah, director of CareEdge Ratings. Imports account for around a fifth of India's domestic use of the chemical.

The propylene produced comes at the cost of LPG, said R Ramachandran, an oil industry consultant and former director of refineries at BPCL.

"LPG is a negative crack product," said Prashant Vasisht, senior vice-president and co-group head of corporate ratings at ICRA, a US Moody's affiliate. "So refineries are better off manufacturing polypropylene, which adds to gross refining margins."

Prospects of lower output of LPG come amid New Delhi's expanding coverage of the fuel. The number of pending applications under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) stood at more than 2.6 million.

OMCs completed the release of 7.5 million additional PMUY connections in September 2023, as part of the third expansion of the scheme.

Demand for fuel has increased after the government provided a subsidy of ₹300 per 14.2-kilogram (kg) domestic cylinder for 103 million PMUY beneficiaries, allocating more than ₹9,094 crore this financial year for poor households.

Sales of LPG rose 11 per cent year-on-year to 1 million barrels per day in July as poor, rural households increased the annual refill rate to four of the 12 refills that qualify for subsidies.

Imports of LPG, with the United Arab Emirates and Qatar among the biggest suppliers, rose to 4.56 mt in April-June with demand rising by 5 per cent to 7.07 mt. Higher demand was driven largely by the ₹300 subsidy per 14.2 kg bottle offered by the government to poor households.

Substitution of LPG with natural gas or dimethyl ether, a product of coal gasification, are alternatives.

LPG "may not yield long-term gains" given the financial and energy risks associated with stagnating domestic production and rising imports, and a reliance on subsidies, according to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

Some part of lower LPG output would be compensated by city gas rollout and domestic piped natural gas, Vasisht said.

TRIBUNE, Delhi, 7.8.2024
Page No. 4, Size:(10.50)cms X (23.35)cms.

Karnal farmers to supply 1 LMT crop residue to ethanol plant in Panipat

PARVEEN ARORA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, AUGUST 6

Farmers from Karnal district will supply one lakh metric tonnes (MT) of stubble to Indian Oil Corporation Limited's (IOCL) second generation (2G) ethanol plant in Panipat. This initiative is a part of the district administration's efforts to manage crop residue and prevent stubble burning, which contributes to several environmental and health challenges.

To collect the supply, the IOCL has expanded its collection yards from five to six. These yards will temporarily store the crop residue before it is transported to the Panipat plant, where it will be converted into ethanol.

Last year, farmers in the region supplied nearly 90,000 MT of stubble from these centres in the district, of which Bhamberheri depot supplied 13,608 MT, Agaund 13,844 MT, Amupur 19,602 MT, Jamalpur 16,680 MT and Bandrala in Assandh 16,190 MT, said Dr Wazir Singh, Deputy Director, Agriculture.

"Deputy Commissioner Uttam Singh has conducted a meeting in this regard of all stakeholders, focusing on farmer awareness, information, and communication activities. Subsidies on agricultural machinery were also discussed," said the Deputy Director. Monitoring and enforcement measures, mapping of available crop residue management (CRM) machinery with harvesting schedules, and the establishment of a crop residue paddy straw supply chain under CRM for the kharif 2024 season have also been finalised, Dr Singh added.

The Deputy Director said paddy is cultivated on nearly 4.25 lakh acres — 1.70 lakh acres dedicated to basmati and 2.55 lakh acres to non-basmati. The total paddy cultivation generates around 8.50 lakh MT of straw, with basmati contributing 3.40 lakh MT and non-basmati 5.10 lakh MT. Of this, 1 lakh MT is used as fodder, 2 lakh MT managed in-situ, and 5.5 lakh MT ex-situ, he added.

PREVENTING FARM FIRES

- The initiative is a part of the district administration's efforts to manage crop residue and prevent stubble burning. Farmers in the region supplied nearly 90,000 MT of stubble to collection yards of Indian Oil Corporation Limited last year
- Officials have already held a meeting with all stakeholders, with a focus on awareness and subsidies on agricultural machinery, in order to manage crop residue effectively

ECONOMIC TIMES, Delhi, 7.8.2024
Page No. 6, Size:(4.66)cms X (24.58)cms.

Oriana to Build Electrolyser Giga Factory for Green Hydrogen, E-Fuels

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Renewable energy company Oriana Power on Tuesday said it will build a gigawatt-scale factory for manufacturing alkaline electrolysers and balance of plant (BOP) modules. The factory will open in two phases, with the first phase of 500 mw annual capacity for electrolyser production expected to be operational in 2026.

The facility is being built in partnership with Splitwaters, a US-based provider of alkaline electrolyser and BOP equipment.

"This factory will be a critical component in the company's efforts to develop green hydrogen and e-fuels, including green ammonia, e-methanol and green methanol," Oriana said in a statement. It did not disclose investment details for the new venture.

Oriana Power said it is also working on setting up green hydrogen and e-fuel projects in the UK and Europe in partnership with Splitwaters

The collaboration with Splitwaters will enable Oriana Power to utilise the latest electrolysis technology for ensuring hydrogen production from renewable energy sources, the company said. The BOP systems will support the electrolysers by managing critical functions such as water supply, gas separation, and purification, it said.

"The green hydrogen market faces significant challenges due to high initial capital costs and lengthy execution timelines, but Splitwaters' one-stop-shop model and modular technology address both these issues effectively," said Anirudh Saraswat, chief business officer at Oriana Power.

"Our partnership with Splitwaters allows us to deploy their state-of-the-art technology to produce these clean energy carriers at scale and at a significantly lower cost, up to 30% lower capex than competing methods," he said.

Oriana Power said it is also working on setting up green hydrogen and e-fuel projects in the UK and Europe in partnership with Splitwaters.

"The payoffs from the green hydrogen and e-fuels business will start by next financial year and we expect this business to contribute a significant share of our revenues by FY2027," Saraswat said.