



**LAUNCH (GAIL)**

GAIL CMD B C Tripathi addressing gathering at launch of GAIL Utkarsh Super 100. to establish two centres in Kumaon and Garhwal regions to benefit poor but students Meritorious children from underprivileged families in Uttarakhand.

# *GAIL faces delay in US LNG supply on tank leak*

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**Mumbai:** GAIL India Ltd is likely to see a delay in liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments from the US as its supplier's storage tanks in that country have been shut down due to a massive leak.

US federal safety authorities have shut down storage tanks of Sabine Pass Liquefaction, with which GAIL has signed a 20-year sales and purchase agreement in December 2011 for the supply of 3.5 million tonne per annum of LNG.

However, Eben Burnham-Snyder, a spokesperson for Sabine Pass, a unit of Cheniere Energy Partners, said the cargo delivery to GAIL would not get affected.



Vandana Chanana, executive director, Gail, did not respond to calls and an email seeking comment.

LNG deliveries to India are to commence from next month.

In an order issued earlier this month, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) under the US Department of

Transportation, directed Sabine Pass to take corrective action with respect to affected LNG tanks that were found to be leaking late last month.

No injuries and fatalities were reported due to the incident. Also, PHMSA described the incident as "low-frequency, high-consequence" events.

## **GAS TROUBLE**

■ GAIL has signed contracts for sourcing up to 5.8 million tonne of LNG from the US

■ India is looking to raise the share of natural gas use to 15% of the total energy mix

A US-based consultant specialising in the sector said the development is expected to greatly affect the LNG delivery for GAIL.

"Just imagine with two of the tanks out of service, about 40% of the capacity will get affected. With the scheduled contract with GAIL set to begin in a month's time, it will surely

cause delays," he said.

He also raised concerns over the due diligence process undertaken by GAIL before signing the deal in 2011. However, Anoop Bhatia, vice-president and sector head (corporate ratings) at rating agency Icria, said, "I don't see any material impact on LNG supply to India because the purchase from the US at present forms a very small share of the pie. Besides, LNG is abundantly available and at a cheaper rate from other sources like the Middle East."

GAIL has signed contracts for sourcing up to 5.8 million tonne of LNG from the US as India is looking at raising the share of natural gas use to 15% of the total energy mix.

## India 'strongly committed' to TAPI pipeline project: Govt

### MARY (TURKMENISTAN):

India on Thursday said it was "strongly committed" to the \$10 billion trans-national TAPI pipeline project that will help ease energy shortages in South Asia, but voiced concerns over the security and predictability of supply of gas and sought contractual assurances.

Speaking at the 25th Session of Steering Committee on Implementation of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline project here, Minister of State for External Affairs M J Akbar said TAPI's uninterrupted gas flow will be extremely important for India's energy security.

"Today, given the energy requirements in India, there are several gas pipeline proposals before us. We are, however, strongly committed to TAPI Pipeline project," he said.

He recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Turkmenistan in July 2015 termed the TAPI Project as the "most significant initiative in our relationship".



"The TAPI project is more than the sum of four nations' interests. It creates a benchmark for regional cooperation in a region that could certainly do with more cooperation," said Akbar, who is leading a delegation comprising representatives from Ministries of Petroleum, External Affairs and GAIL, which represents India in the TAPI Pipeline Company Ltd (TPCL).

The delegation also includes for the first time senior official level representation from Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), which is India's largest public sector refiner and mar-

keting company. It is also one of the largest off-taker of gas, including from the proposed TAPI pipeline.

Noting that India is world's third largest energy consumer and fourth largest importer of Liquefied natural gas, Akbar said India's energy requirement is increasing steadily. "Our Prime Minister has been emphasising the four pillars of his energy vision - Energy Access, Energy Efficiency, Energy Sustainability and Energy Security. We see reflection of all these four pillars of prime minister's vision in the TAPI Pipeline," he said. PTI



## 10 athletes selected under GAIL

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**NEW DELHI:** A nationwide trial to identify budding track and field athletes for the GAIL Indian Speed Star Season III culminated with the selection of 10 youngsters in the grand finale at the Thyagaraj Sports Complex here on Thursday.

The 10 winners will join an elite group of 14 athletes selected in the previous two seasons of this initiative. These 14 athletes have been undergoing training at the prestigious Racers Track Club in Kingston, Jamaica which is the training ground of champions. PTI