



India set to get first shipment of gas from US next week

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India will get its first shipment of US gas next week on Friday at Dabhol in Maharashtra, oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Wednesday, underlining the backdrop of his talks with visiting Texas Governor Greg Abbott on building an 'energy bridge' with the hub of American oil and gas industry.

The two leaders discussed the prospects of widening the ambit of oil and gas co-operation with Texas, with Abbott saying he expected to send more gas shipments to fuel India's "prolific economy" since his state is "blessed with huge amount" of fossil fuel resources and creating more facilities for exporting them.

Pradhan said the long-term US gas sourcing deal, entered by state-run gas utility GAIL, will broaden the hydrocarbon engagement between India and the US, particularly Texas. "There is much more we have to gain, through further investments, technological tie-ups and cooperation between universities."

He said India is poised to emerge as a huge energy market very soon. "Today, fertiliser is the primary consumer, power sector is second. I can visualise a big new consumer base in the steel sector."



'LNG from U.S. to arrive on March 30'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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India will get delivery of the first ever shipment of LNG from the U.S. on March 30, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Wednesday. This comes about six months after India received the first ever shipment of crude oil from the U.S. in October.

The gas contract is between GAIL – for 3.5 million tonnes per annum of natural gas – and Cheniere Energy's Sabine Pass liquefaction facility in Louisiana. It will arrive at GAIL's Dabhol terminal in Maharashtra. "We have signed a contract for 20 years and it is very economically profitable for India," Mr. Pradhan said.

First LNG shipment from US to reach India on March 30: Pradhan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, March 28

THE FIRST SHIPMENT of LNG from the US under a 20-year deal will reach India on March 30, petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Wednesday.

State-owned gas utility GAIL India has contracted 3.5 million tonne per annum of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Cheniere Energy's Sabine Pass liquefaction facility in Louisiana. "On March 30, the first long-term LNG consignment from the US will reach Dabhol, Maharashtra," Pradhan said.

The deal will broaden the hydrocarbon engagement between India and the US, Pradhan told reporters after a meeting with the visiting Texas Governor Greg Abbott in New Delhi.

Pradhan also said India is going to be a huge energy market very soon even as the per capita consumption in the country is very low. The minister said India's bilateral relation with Texas has always been strong and oil and gas engagement is further augmenting it. Texas being the hydrocarbon hub of the US is a very special state, Pradhan said. "There is much more we have to gain, through further investments, technological tie-ups and cooperation between universities," Pradhan said.

"Today, fertiliser is the primary consumer, power sector is second consumer, I can visualise a big new consumer base in the steel sector," he added.

Abbot, who also addressed the media, said India is the most prolific economy in the world and it will continue to grow. "Indian economy is growing and such economies need access to energy to assist their growth.

Texas is blessed with huge amount of energy, oil and natural gas," Abbot, who is leading a high-level delegation as part of his efforts to boost trade, economic and cultural ties between Texas and India, said.

Abbot said Texas is honoured to engage in trade opportunity with India, including first shipment of US oil arrived India in last October. "We're looking forward to more shipments to India. We're also honoured about the opportunity to ship natural gas, LNG to India, which will ironically reach India on my last day in India. We will also be adding further export facility for oil. Texas is adding more LNG export facilities to ensure to be able to meet the needs of India as well as other countries," he said.

Last October, India imported its first shipment of crude oil from the US. The US had stopped oil exports in 1975, but the ban was lifted by former US President Barack Obama in 2015. On price fluctuations, Abbot said as India has entered into a long-term contract so there will be price stability and certainty about the access to the LNG.

Pradhan said he expected a price balance in the market. "We expect a reasonable price. We are not for a very low price and for very unnatural price... It has to be affordable price..." he said.

On March 6, India began importing natural gas from the US, after crude oil, with the first shipment of LNG under a 20-year deal flagged off from Louisiana.

GAIL had signed a sale and purchase agreement with the US LNG exporter Cheniere Energy in December 2011. Under terms of the agreement, Cheniere will sell and make available for delivery to GAIL about 3.5 million tonne a year of LNG.