



INDIAN EXPRESS, Delhi, 26.8.2018

Page No. 4, Size:(7.91)cms X (2.73)cms.

ONGCian and India's No. 1 Seed, Ankita Raina has won the bronzemedal in Women's Singles Tennis for India at the ongoing Asian Games 2018 at Jakarta. AlsoONGC Scholarship Shooter 15 year old ShardulVihan has won Silver in Men's Double Trap Shooting event.

Gas pipelines at city airport: ONGC told to find solution

Melvyn.ReggieThomas
@timesgroup.com

Surat: The district administration has directed Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to work out a solution for rerouting or covering of the buried sour gas pipelines passing through Surat airport, which are proving to be a major irritant in the proposed extension of runway from 2,905 metres to 3,810 metres.

District collector Dr Dha- val Patel in a meeting held with officials of ONGC and Airports Authority of India (AAI) two days ago discussed the issue of the buried sour gas pipelines passing through the airport.

The meeting was held after the state government and the AAI jointly decided to take ONGC on board to work out a solution for rerouting or covering of the pipelines in the airport area in a time-bound manner.

ONGC had invited expression of interest (EoI) for the safe operation of the buried pipeline six months ago, but things are moving at a snail's speed.



There are two 36 inches and 42 inches diameter South Bassein Hazira Trunk (SBHT) pipelines passing through the airport. These pipelines were laid in the year 1985 and 1996 to transport sour dry natural gas from Bassein Platform A (BPA) and Bassein Platform B (BPB) offshore process platforms to onshore gas processing plant located at Hazira in Surat.

As on date, the volume of gas being transported is around 36 million metric standard cubic metre per day (MMSCMD) and 3,000 cubic metres per day (m³/day) of condensate at an operating pressure of 80 kilograms per square centimetre (kg/cm²).

ONGC had raised concerns over safe operation of both the pipelines due to proxi-

mity of runway of Surat airport at Magdalla, which has undergone extension from 1,400 metres to 2,250 metres towards route of 42 inches diameter pipeline in south east direction in 2007 and from 2,250 metres to 2,905 metres towards route 36 inches diameter pipeline in north west direction in the year 2015-16.

At present, the 36 inches diameter pipeline is 250 metres away from the runway and 42 inches pipeline is 350 metres away. Further, the proposed extension from 2,905 metres to 3,705 metres towards route of 36 inches diameter pipeline will cross the pipeline and could create safety issues. The existing runway is capable of handling Airbus (AB-321) type aircraft only.

An officer of the district collectorate said, "The buried gas pipelines of ONGC could pose a danger to airport operations. The extension of runway has been halted due to the presence of underground pipelines. ONGC has been asked to carry out survey of the pipelines and suggest a solution."

Swaraj to leave on 4-day trip to Vietnam, Cambodia tomorrow



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will begin a four-day tour of Vietnam and Cambodia on Monday with an aim to deepen India's strategic cooperation with the two key nations in the ASEAN region.

Swaraj will visit Vietnam on August 27 and 28, while she will begin her two-day trip to Cambodia on August 29, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

"The visit of the External Affairs Minister to Vietnam and Cambodia will provide an opportunity to hold in-depth discussions with the political leadership on a wide range of global, regional and bilateral issues and advance our strategic engagement with these countries and ASEAN region," it said.

In Vietnam, Swaraj will co-chair the 16th meeting of the Joint Commission along with the country's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh. She will also meet Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and inaugurate the third edition of the Indian Ocean

Conference.

During her visit to Cambodia, Swaraj will hold extensive talks with her Cambodian counterpart Prak Sokhonn, covering entire expanse of bilateral and regional issues of mutual interests. It will be her first official visit to Cambodia.

She will call on Prime Minister Hun Sen and President of Senate Say Chhum.

India's ties are on an upswing with both Vietnam and Cambodia, the two major countries the powerful ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) grouping.

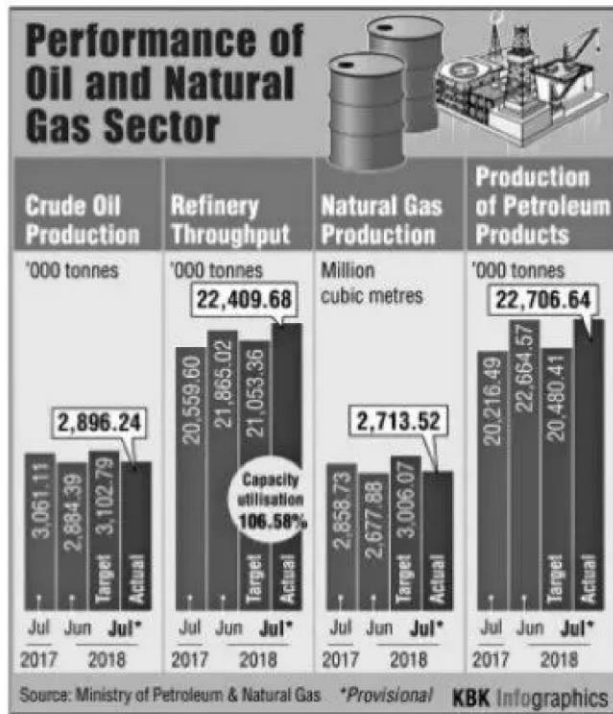
India has been particularly scaling up its cooperation with Vietnam in areas of maritime security and energy.

During Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang's visit to New Delhi in March, both the sides had vowed to join hands for an open and thriving Indo-Pacific, besides ensuring an efficient and rules-based regional security architecture.

Vietnam and several other ASEAN member countries have territorial disputes with China over the resource-rich South China Sea.

China has been opposing India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) exploring oil in areas claimed by Vietnam in the South China Sea (SCS).

India has been asserting that the ONGC's exploration is a commercial operation and not connected with the dispute. Oil exploration in the SCS is a sensitive issue in the Vietnam-China relations.



Creamy layer tag deprives PSU wards of civil services

Axe On 29 OBCs Despite HC Flaying Govt's Method Of Calculation

Subodh.Ghildiyal
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The concept of “creamy layer” for one group of OBCs — wards of employees of PSUs — continues to be muddled. In keeping with past years, the government has again deprived reservation benefits to 29 successful OBCs in UPSC examinations for elite services like the IAS and IPS.

Twelve OBCs were left out of the UPSC list in 2012, 11 in 2015 and four in earlier years, as per the figures compiled by the aggrieved group.

Crucially, the axe on these OBCs this year comes despite a Delhi high court judgment in March which slammed the Centre's method of calculating the “creamy layer” for wards of employees of PSUs.

At the heart of the controversy lies what has been

Twelve people from the OBC category were left out of the UPSC list in 2012, 11 in 2015 and four in earlier years, as per compiled figures

termed “hostile discrimination”. “Creamy layer” identifies the better off individuals among OBCs, ineligible for Mandal reservations.

However, the Centre in recent years has resorted to different methods to calculate “creamy layer” for employees of central and state governments, and of PSUs.

According to government guidelines, while Group A and Group B are ineligible for Mandal quotas, others are eligible if their annual income from other sources does not exceed Rs 8 lakh. Importantly, the annual income does not include salaries of parents.

While DoPT has been de-

termining the “creamy layer” for PSU background by including the parents' salaries, it has been excluding the salaries of parents employed in central or state governments — putting the first category at a disadvantage.

Disagreeing with the discrimination, the Delhi HC had ruled that the government employ similar formula for all categories of backward candidates. But if the “service allocation list” of 2017 UPSC exam is any evidence, the government has not changed its method.

Shashank Ratnoo, an advocate in the case who is also an aggrieved UPSC candidate, said, “There is no

stay on the court order. The government did not change the method to calculate the creamy layer for PSU candidates even for the 2016 batch. We have filed a contempt petition. It has done it again for the 2017 batch.”

Before the Delhi HC order, the Madras HC had in August 2017 directed the Centre to use the same formula for both categories of OBCs. However, the Madras order was stayed by the court.

The DoPT had told the Delhi HC that “creamy layer” for PSU candidates follows the principle spelt out in its communication of October 14, 2004. On the other hand, the petitioners argued that October 14 order “discriminates the employees of PSUs vis a vis the government employees, and ought to be quashed”. In its order, the HC agreed with the petitioners.

KOYAMBEDU MARKET ADMINISTRATION ISSUES TERMINATION ORDER

Notice to agency for failure to maintain bio-gas plant

R. LENIN | DC
CHENNAI, AUG. 25

The Koyambedu market administration recently issued a termination notice to a private agency for its failure to maintain the bio-gas plant at the Koyambedu market premises.

Totally defeating its purpose of installation, the bio-gas plant at the Koyambedu market premises often conked off, forcing traders to dump their perishable vegetables and fruits out in the open.

The plant was installed in 2006 by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) and the task of maintaining the plant was handed over to a private agency,

but frequent failure of the plant was intermittently reported.

According to sources, since the biggest market complex in the city has been generating around 30 to 40 tonnes of waste per day, the bio-gas plant would usually produce 1,000 to 3,000 units of electricity a day.

The power thus generated was used to light up the entire market complex, and sometimes it was even used to light the premises of the Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus (CMBT), where many lamp posts and high-mast lamps are installed.

V. R. Sundararajan, president of Koyambedu Wholesale Traders

Association, and member of the Market Management Committee (MMC), blamed the CMDA officials for not taking any steps to operate the plant.

"As far as I know, the bio-gas plant installed at a cost of ₹8 crore, has not worked at all," he said, adding that the concerned officials have wasted the tax payers' money.

"The plant operators state that they can operate the plant only if they receive at least 50 tonnes of raw materials (vegetable wastes). It had been functioning very well in the beginning. It is just an excuse to slip away," Sundararajan added.

The non-functioning of the plant has paved way

for traders to throw rotten vegetables and fruits in open places.

"We have no option, but to throw the perishables only in the dustbins. Moreover, there are not as many dustbins in the premises. Such a problem will not arise, had the bio-gas plant been operational," said a trader in the market.

When sought for his comments by DC, Rajendran, Chief Administrative Officer, Koyambedu market, said, "It is true that the biogas plant is not working. Despite repeated complaints, the private agency continued to turn a blind eye. Hence, we have sent a termination notice."



The bio-gas plant at the Koyambedu market premises.

— DC