

Groundbreaking ceremony of LNG Terminal held



Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas (Independent Charge) Dharmendra Pradhan lighting the lamp to inaugurate the ground breaking ceremony for Dhamra LNG Terminal near Odisha Port. Odisha U. Singh Deo, M.L.A and senior officials of Indian Oil Corporation, GAIL are also seen. PIB

D H A M R A / BHUBANESWAR, JULY 8 /- Ground breaking ceremony of the Rs 6,000 crore LNG Terminal was held at Dhamra port in Odisha's Bhubaneswar district on Saturday.

Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan performed the Bhumi Pujan in the absence of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The 5 MMTPA capacity LNG terminal would play a major role in accelerating the process of development and economic growth in eastern India, Pradhan said. Construction of the LNG import terminal would involve an investment of Rs 6,000 crore, while a 2538 km long network of pipeline to transport gas would be laid at a cost of Rs 13,000 crore, the petroleum minister

supposed to perform "Bhumi Pujan", skipped the programme. So did the BJD MP and MLAs from the area. In Patnaik's absence, Pradhan conducted the "Bhumi Pujan". Pradhan said the chief minister had been invited to the function but it was learnt last night that he would not be attending it. Since the gas infrastructure project is set to boost economic growth in Odisha and the entire eastern region, the chief minister's presence would have been proper, Pradhan said. BJD spokesperson and MP Pratap Keshari Deb said the chief minister had given consent to attend the function as it was a government programme. However, he decided to stay away when it was understood that it would become a political event. (PTT)

Air India to expand US base with 2 more destinations

Direct non-stop Delhi-Washington flight is symbolic of India-US ties: Ambassador Sarna

WASHINGTON, JULY 8 /- Air India on Saturday said it plans to expand its base in the US by adding Los Angeles and Houston as new destinations, a day after launching the state carrier's first direct flight from Delhi to Washington DC.

"We are looking at connecting two more cities - Los Angeles and either Houston or Dallas," Air India Chairman and MD Ashwini Lohani said at an event to celebrate the launch of the direct non-stop flight yesterday between the capitals of the two largest democracies of the world. The direct flight to Los Angeles is expected to be launched by October, while the date for the flight to Houston or Dallas in Texas has not been determined yet, Lohani said. All this is part of the expansion plans of Air India, he said. Washington DC is Air India's fifth US destination after New York, Newark, Chicago and San Francisco. "Last year we launched four international flights from India. This year we have seven (new) international flights. New connections, brand new connections. And this is the way we are going to do it," Lohani said, adding that Air India is looking to significantly expand its operations in the US. The three times a week flight frequency from the US



MWA CRO Jerome Davis, Ambassador Navtej Sarna, Air India Chairman Ashwini Lohani, Mayor Bousser, Governor McAuliffe, MWA COO Margaret McKeough

ties which received a big boost after the recent visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to America. "I thank everybody for making this happen and making it a real landmark just 10 days after the Prime Minister's very successful visit to the US. A lot of things that were discussed, a lot of things that were agreed upon during the discussions between the two administrations, in turn increased connectivity and created investment," Sarna

said. "I think this flight, symbolic as it is, is also going to have a very realistic impact on our bilateral relations. The (Virginia) Governor talked about the tremendous potential of the region, which is really realistic potential," he said. If Christopher Columbus had been around today and had landed up in America looking for India, he wouldn't have to wait for somebody else, just take the flight on Sunday, Sarna said amid laughs from the audience.

"It's going to have it easier for a lot of us, a lot of people for the government, it cuts off a day and a half of travel. You'll find that this will contribute to the political connections, to the trade connections, to the investment connections and to the connections of the hugely successfully Indian-American community, who make it a point to go home very often," he said. Sarna said that India wants to attract foreign investment and to open up its economy. "Today, we have very major economic reforms in progress, some of you may recall, about the recently implemented tax reform of Goods and Services Tax, which actually makes the entire country of 1.3 billion into a strong single market with a simple simplified tax to achieve," he said. (PTT)

Haryana co complaints of ransomware attack

GURGAON, JULY 8 /- Gurgaon Police Friday registered an FIR against unknown person in connection with the hacking of a server of a private company here which has been asked for a 15 US bitcoins ransom, equivalent to Rs 25.6 lakh, by hackers. Mattoo Jay Kumar, general manager of Mohan Clothing Pvt.Ltd, garment company located in Udyog Vihar, phase-I here, approached the police yesterday. He told the Cyber Cell of the police that his company has computerised warehouse at 16T Mansher which stopped working around June 16. The in-charge of the warehouse immediately informed the top management about the problem. Kumar said when he went to the corporate house in Udyog Vihar to access the situation, he could not understand the actual reason.

"The company later received a threatening email in which it was told to transfer the fund in bitcoins form in a specific account," Kumar said in his complaint. "The cyber attacker had hacked the server of the company. According to the email, the hackers threatened to wipe out all financial data and bank transactions of the company to make it bankrupt if it did not meet their demands," he added. The hackers said they would normally access the situation when their demands are met, a senior police officer said, adding the Cyber Cell was investigating the matter.

Kamdhenu Ltd Launches 'Kamdhenu NXT' in Kolkata

KOLKATA, JULY 8 /- Kamdhenu Ltd has launched next generation high-end interlock steel (NXT) bar 'Kamdhenu NXT' in the city. Sunil Agarwal, Director, Kamdhenu Limited along with the Directors of Alankanda Sponge & Iron Ltd. (A u t h o r i z e d Manufacturing unit of Kamdhenu Brand TMT under user license agreement), Anand Sarangi, Vishal Sarangi and Mukesh Naruka launched the brand. More than 400 dealers and distributors from West Bengal were also present on the occasion.

"Kamdhenu NXT" is an innovative product which has the characteristic of an over-reinforced reinforcement structures and smart architectural concepts more robust than Fishal Sarangi said, "Consistent with our philosophy of offering technologically advanced products to our customers, we are happy to announce our partnership/associate ourselves with Kamdhenu Limited. We are impressed by the superior features of 'Kamdhenu NXT' and look forward to work with Kamdhenu Limited to establish the brand in this exciting category."

Kolkata, the city is on a development spree. A visionary smart city project, expressways, flyovers and high-rise structures are already defining the skyline of the city, and this is creating huge demand for allied industries like steel. He further added, "Kamdhenu NXT is not only an outcome of quality research but also a testament to our commitment to revolutionize industrial practices by developing next in class products. We plan to increase our production capacity to 2 lac MT per annum in the next year to cater to the growing demand and are hopeful that 'Kamdhenu NXT' will witness an overwhelming response from individual home builders and developers alike."

"We want all villages in Haryana to be identified with the product produced by our farmers," Dhanakar said. The route from Delhi to Chandigarh is considered the best food highway, he said. "We want to bring the product of our farmers to the Delhi NCR market with peri-urban culture. For this, we are working on peri-urban agriculture concept worth Rs 500 crore, and it is expected that World Food India will fulfil the dreams of Haryana," he added. Suresh Narayanan,

Train invites firms to be part of paid public wi-fi interface

NEW DELHI, JULY 8 /- Telecom regulator Trai on Friday invited interested firms to set up a pilot basis public wi-fi hotspots that will be available for public at a starting price of Rs 2. The public wi-fi hotspots are proposed to be set up on the lines of yesteryear's PCOs that were used for making phone calls by public on paid basis.

"Trai invites all interested entities to be a part of a pilot to establish nationwide, pay-as-you-go POCs (Public Data Offices)... The products available for consumption should begin from 'sachet-sized', i.e. low denominations ranging from Rs 2 to Rs 20," Trai said in a statement. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in March had recommended lowering of import duty on equipment and imported the concept of 'public data offices' and 'aggregators' for providing public wi-fi services at a price of Rs 2 per unit of data. The regulator has fixed July 25 as the last date for submission of interest from entities. (PTT)

Banks not to take coercive steps against farmers, says SC

NEW DELHI, JULY 8 /- Financial institutions should not resort to coercive action for recovery of loans from farmers in case of crop failure and the government should intervene in such cases, the Supreme Court said on Friday. The apex court said the government's approach should be preventive rather than compensatory and it should "travel the last mile" to reach out to the farmers. The remarks were made by a bench of Justices Dipak Misra and A.K. Khanwilkar while dealing with a PIL filed by farmers from Tamil Nadu.

"Financial institutions should not resort to coercive action for recovery of loans from farmers in case of crop failure. Government should step-in if there is any agrarian crisis," the bench said. The court said that governments job is to prevent farmers suicides and not to distribute compensation. It said that governments approach towards the agrarian crisis should be preventive, rather than compensatory. The bench asked Additional Solicitor General P.S. Narasimha to devise a mechanism where farmers can go to the government seeking help, if financial institutions take coercive action against them for loan default due to crop failure. It said the government should take the initiative to get rid of the middlemen, who purchase produce from farmers at throwaway prices, and buy their crops at least on minimum support prices. Narasimha said the present situation has undergone a sea change from earlier times, with the government bringing in Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana by which farmers are compensated at a minimum premium. He said under the insurance scheme now, the burden of premium was being shared by both the state and



farmers. To this, the bench retorted saying it does not want to know about insurance business, but common sense and prudence says that in the present case, it cannot be a premium-based business and such a stand should not drive the governments policies. The ASG said that government has devised multi-pronged strategy to increase the income of farmers and ensure their security by insurance state scheme.

"Job of the executive is to ensure the farmers suicide does not happen. It should be dealt just at the ground level. This should not happen at all," it said. Narasimha said there are Reserve Bank of India guidelines to the banks for collection of loans in case of farm crisis. One of the counsel representing farmers said they commit suicide when banks or financial institution like cooperative societies resort to coercive actions for even small loan defaults, which hurt their dignity. Amicus curiae Gopal Shankar Narayan supported the arguments and said it cannot be denied that financial institutions resort to coercive action that coerce action by financial institutions cannot be taken by suspension of process of law. The

bench posted the matter for further hearing on August 4, asking the state government to file a detailed reply. The apex court had on May 3 said that there should be "affirmative action" of the Tamil Nadu government to provide relief to the families of those farmers who committed suicide. The court made it clear that it is not treating the plea seeking relief for farmers in the state as adversarial but participatory and would not go into the figures of farmers who have committed suicide. The apex court had asked the state government to specify the steps taken to create awareness on Minimum Support Price (MSP) on 26 crops so that farmers do not rely on middlemen who come at their doorsteps to sell their produce. It had also asked the government to inform it about steps it intended to take to set up mandis and open procurement centres on time within the acceptable radius to farmers. The state government had said that steps are being taken to set up awareness camps and measures have also been taken to have mandis which are easily accessible. The Tamil Nadu government had earlier told the court that a total of 30 farmers have committed suicide across the state in 2016-17 and it was taking appropriate measures to deal with the situation. (PTT)

Ministry holds roadshow preparatory to 'World Food India 2017'

CHANDIGARH, JULY 8 /- Union ministry of Food Processing on Friday organised a roadshow here ahead of a global food fair to be held in November this year to provide a platform to Indian farmers and manufacturers to showcase their products and explore partnerships with foreign companies.

The three-day 'World Food India 2017' will be organised in November by the Food Processing ministry, where industry body CII will be an event partner. Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badaul along with other senior government officials took part in the event today. Addressing industry roadshow, Badaul said, "India has a vast scope

in food processing sector and offers tremendous investment and employment opportunities." Setting up of 42 Mega Food Parks will lead to direct employment for 10 lakh and benefit 65 lakh farmers, she said.

"My dream is that every farmer gets together as a help group to progress. We aim to provide a platform to all farmers at World Food India 2017," she said. "The income Haryana which has confirmed to be part for World Food India 2017," she further added. Speaking at the roadshow, Haryana's Agriculture Minister Om Prakash Dhanakar asked the Union government to open Agri Business School in every state to make farmers capable of packaging and marketing their own produce.

"Since our farmer do not know how to do marketing, the Centre should initiate move to open Agri Business School in every state. In order to make the farmers financially strong, big companies should take the farmer forward by making him a shareholder. "We want all villages in Haryana to be identified with the product produced by our farmers," Dhanakar said. The route from Delhi to Chandigarh is considered the best food highway, he said. "We want to bring the product of our farmers to the Delhi NCR market with peri-urban culture. For this, we are working on peri-urban agriculture concept worth Rs 500 crore, and it is expected that World Food India will fulfil the dreams of Haryana," he added. Suresh Narayanan,

Chairman CII National Food Processing Committee and Chairman and Managing Director, Nestle India Ltd talked about Nestle's experience of working with more than one lakh farmers in Haryana and Punjab. Italy has confirmed to be focus country, and Haryana and Andhra Pradesh will be partner states at the mega event.

"World Food India has received tremendous response across the globe and will have participation from over 20 countries. More than 10 states and all leading giants from India and abroad in food processing, food technology, technology and equipment players, cold chains, food retailers will be present at World Food India," a CII release said. (PTT)



Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Harsimrat Kaur Badaul addressing at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the First Maize Based Mega Food Park, in Kapurthala, Punjab. PIB