

“It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness”, says Mr. Ashu Shinghal. According to him, the most important qualities in life are to have honesty and integrity in whatever job is assigned while being contended yet firm in the challenging situations which come in life. He feels, “In a lighter vein, I find that if the day is well spent, the same is measured in having a good quality sleep”.

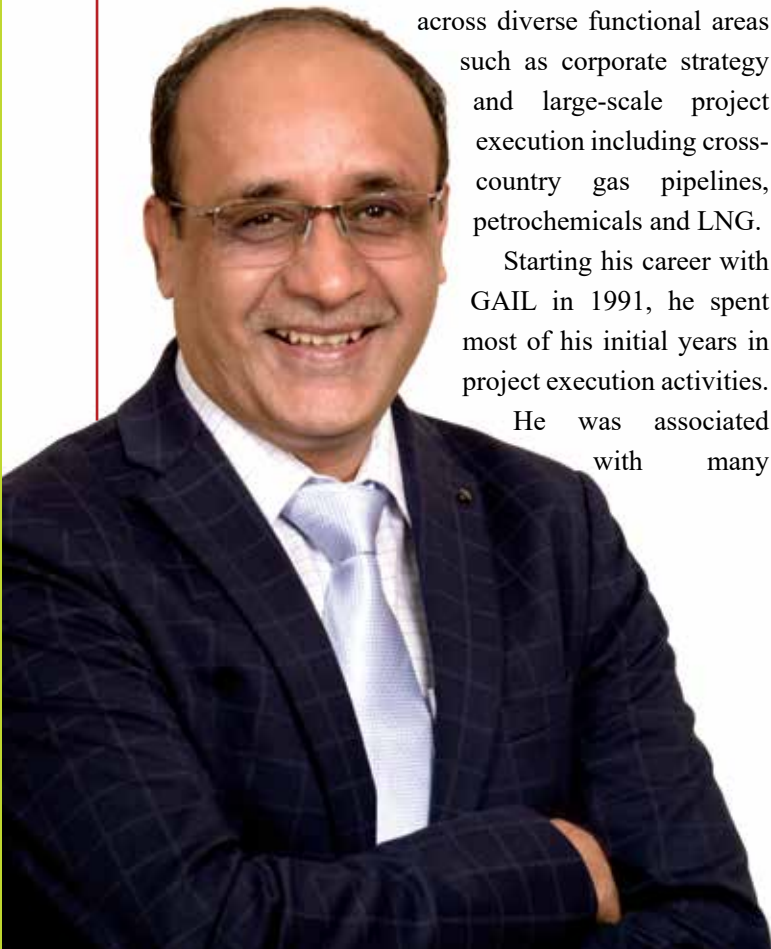
Natural Gas Society spoke to Mr. Ashu Shinghal, Managing Director, Mahanagar Gas Limited, a leading City Gas Distribution company operating in Mumbai and nearby regions about his journey and achievements and his outlook on the gas sector....

A mechanical engineer from NIT, Silchar and an MBA in Operations Management, Mr. Shinghal is a seasoned professional with over 30 years of work experience in the hydrocarbon sector. He has worked

across diverse functional areas such as corporate strategy and large-scale project execution including cross-country gas pipelines, petrochemicals and LNG.

Starting his career with GAIL in 1991, he spent most of his initial years in project execution activities.

He was associated with many



Ashu Shinghal,
Managing Director, Mahanagar Gas Limited

prestigious projects of GAIL such as Dahej- Vijaipur pipeline (DVPL), Dahej-Uran pipeline (DUPL) and Dabhol-Panvel pipeline (DPPL). Apart from this, he was also associated with the Pata LPG plant, right from its conceptualisation to commissioning.

Subsequently, he worked with the Chairman’s office at GAIL as Technical Head associated with strategic decision-making. Before joining Mahanagar Gas, he was heading Corporate Strategy, Planning & Advocacy, Risk Management, Total Quality Management and Sustainable Development departments at GAIL as Executive Director while also being responsible for the role of Chief Risk Officer of the organisation.

When asked about some of the noteworthy projects handled by him during his professional career, he lists down the implementation of high-pressure cross-country gas pipelines, LPG and petrochemical expansion projects worth a total capital expenditure of approx. Rs 20,000 crore as his favourite ones. He also recalls the implementation of Project ‘Sanchay’, the profit maximisation initiative, which enabled GAIL to generate an additional profit of around Rs 1000 crore on a three-year NPV basis, as an important project handled by him.

“As far as the gas sector is concerned, we are in a sweet spot because there is a lot of focus by the government to increase the gas share in the primary energy basket from the current 6.3% to 15% in the next 7-8 years”, opines Mr. Shinghal, when asked about what he thinks about the future of the gas sector. He feels that city gas distribution is one of the fastest-growing sectors in gas and it will generate the biggest demand to help the government in achieving this target. “MGL, too, is well placed due to its wide infrastructure and presence in the retail market”, says Mr. Shinghal.

He feels lucky to get excellent opportunities in his career and good support from his family. “My father worked in the defence department. Studying in 8-9 schools until I completed high school allowed me to make new friends every time”, says Mr. Shinghal who gets his good team leadership qualities from there. When asked what allows him to give his full devotion to his career, he proudly says “I am lucky to get full support from my wife so I do not have to worry about anything relating to home affairs. I have two children who are well placed in life”.

He doesn’t carry his office work home and likes to spend his free time reading, watching movies and listening to good music.