



Dilip Kumar Pattanaik,
Former ED - Natural Gas,
Hindustan Petroleum
Corporation Limited

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Natural Gas Society spoke to Dilip Kumar Pattanaik, Former Executive Director - Natural Gas, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) about his journey and achievements and his outlook on the gas sector...

Mr. Dilip Pattanaik joined HPCL after doing his mechanical engineering at NIT, Durgapur in 1983. Over his 40 long years of service, Pattanaik worked across HPCL’s various departments including Retail, Direct Sales and Aviation before taking over as the head of HPCL’s natural gas business. He handled three regional offices of the company at Mangalore, Delhi and Secunderabad, headed two zones (North West and East Zone) of the Retail Business Unit and also headed its Aviation Business Unit.

Pattanaik retired from HPCL on September 30, 2023 but he could be very well credited with HPCL growing its presence in India’s natural gas market since he took over the head of its natural gas business unit five years back. He was successful in securing 13 GAs for the company in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 11A CGD bidding rounds. He also started marketing gas to domestic user segments by securing gas through LNG as well as the domestic gas portfolio. While the company marketed around 0.25 MMT of gas in the domestic segment during 2022-23, the plans are to double it in 2023-24.

When asked if the government will be able to achieve its 15% target for gas in the energy mix, Pattanaik thinks that with initiatives such as One Nation One Grid, uniform pipeline tariff, expansion of CGD authorisation, uniform CGD policy, expansion of regasification terminals, the gas economy could actually be a reality in near future.

However, he thinks that there are a few challenges which need to be addressed. Delays in statutory permissions, abnormal charges by various agencies and the availability of skilled workforce for project execution hinder the sector growth. “But with huge investments being planned by both public and private sector in gas infrastructure, it is expected that we are going to see an excellent growth in gas business in the country”, opines Pattanaik.

Pattanaik was also on the Board of many city gas distribution companies such as Aavantika Gas Limited, Godavari Gas Private Limited and Hindustan OIL Gas Private Limited. He was on the Board of HP LNG Private Limited and GIGL and GITL (the cross-country pipeline ventures of OMCs with GSPC).

Currently based out of Mumbai, Pattanaik regards his wife who is a homemaker, as the greatest strength behind his success. He is blessed with two daughters; the elder one, who is a design professional, is married and lives in the US while the younger one is pursuing a career in the legal profession in Delhi.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions on the gas sector are purely personal.