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Short Takes

■ OilMin Probe Blames GAIL for Andhra Pipeline Blast



NEW DELHI An oil ministry probe has blamed lapses by state gas utility GAIL India for the deadly pipeline blast in Andhra Pradesh that killed 22 persons in June this year. GAIL had built the Tatipaka-Kondapalli pipeline to transport dry gas to customers. Instead, it shipped "wet" natural gas, containing water and highly inflammable condensate that corroded the line, leading to a leakage and a subsequent blast when the cloud of leaked hydrocarbons came in contact with a fire source on June 27. An inquiry committee, headed by joint secretary (refineries) Rajesh Kumar Singh, said though individual culpability was difficult to establish, it appeared that inadequate systems/approach of GAIL in undertaking repeated repair of these high pressure lines was a factor.