

GAIL, ISRO take to satellite-based monitoring system for pipelines

OUR BUREAU

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GAIL (India) in collaboration with National Remote Sensing Centre, a unit of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has launched a surveillance geo-portal — 'Bhuvan-GAIL Portal' that utilises space technology for its pipeline safety management.

BC Tripathi, Chairman GAIL (India), VK Dadhwal, Director NRSC, ISRO, and senior officials from GAIL and ISRO launched the facility, according to a statement issued here.

GAIL is deploying space technology to monitor the 13,000-km pipeline network. The moni-

toring of pipeline is presently done monthly via helicopter surveys. By January 2016, GAIL will begin live satellite monitoring of its pipeline network. It is also seeking alternative methods such as advanced Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), which can be integrated with this system.

The company has developed a mobile application from which pictures of untoward incidents taken locally from any mobile showing the actual scenario can be uploaded instantly to the portal.

A report system integrated with the portal can send alerts via SMS and email regarding the

changes noted along the pipeline.

To establish the technical feasibility of utilising space technology for its pipeline applications, GAIL began the study with imageries from Indian satellites and later shifted to very high-resolution foreign satellites. The high-resolution satellites image enables better monitoring of pipeline.

This R&D pilot project was initiated to monitor the 610-km Dahej-Vijaipur pipeline. The Bhuvan-GAIL portal is operated via manual as well as auto-change analysis options to monitor changes along the gas pipeline.