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**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

# PM Modi dedicates Ramanathapuram – Tuticorin gas pipeline project to nation

TNN | Feb 17, 2021, 05.04 PM IST



TUTICORIN: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday virtually dedicated to the nation Indian Oil Corporation Limited's 143km natural gas pipeline from Ramanathapuram district to Tuticorin district which was completed at a cost of Rs 700 crore. It has been implemented to transport natural gas from ONGC gas fields in Ramanathapuram as feedstock to petrochemical and fertilizer industries in Tuticorin.

Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, who took part in the programme in person in Tuticorin, said the Ramanathapuram - Tuticorin gas pipeline project would give a new lifeline for industrial development in the region.

“The completed projects will open new opportunity for many new industries in the region. They will have a multiplier effect in Tamil Nadu where the new industrial policy and MSME policy was released yesterday,” he said.

According to officials, the pipeline with a capacity of eight million metric standard cubic metre per day has a compressor station in Valantharavai village in Ramanathapuram district. The pipeline is a part of the mega natural gas pipeline project being implemented in the southern states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Puducherry.

The 1,445km long Ennore - Thiruvallur - Bengaluru - Puducherry - Nagapattinam - Madurai - Tuticorin natural gas pipeline is

established to evacuate gas from the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import terminal at Kamarajar Port in Tiruvallur district that has a capacity of five million metric tonnes per annum.

The Ramanathapuram - Tuticorin pipeline will be connected to Ennore LNG terminal to meet the increased demand and to feed potential anchor customers to spur industrial growth in the southern part of the country. It will also supply environment friendly piped natural gas to the households in the form of compressed natural gas.

While farmers of villages like Pottalkadu in Mullakadu panchayat in Tuticorin district strongly protested the laying of pipelines through their fields, officials say the pipelines are farmer friendly as cultivation can continue without any restriction and the ownership of the land remains with them.

Union minister for petroleum and natural gas and steel Dharmendra Pradhan, Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit and deputy chief minister O Panneerselvam were also present at the event.