

# 'Undersea line from Iran to port cheap gas'

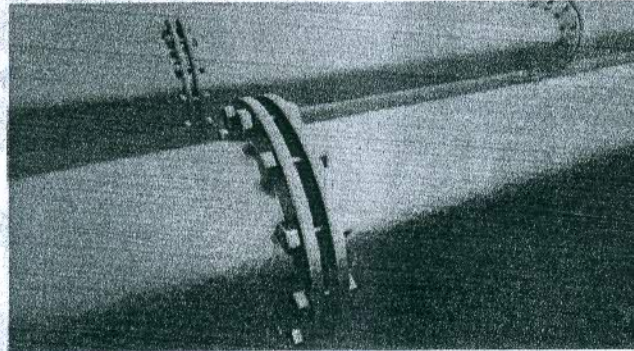
Proposed 1,300-km line can save \$1 billion annually; will avoid Pakistani waters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

A 1,300-km undersea pipeline from Iran, avoiding Pakistani waters, can bring natural gas from the Persian Gulf to India at rates less than the price of LNG available in the spot market, proponents of the pipeline said on Tuesday.

Releasing a study on the Iran-India gas pipeline, former oil secretary T.N.R. Rao said natural gas imported through the more than \$4-billion line would cost \$5-5.50 per million British thermal unit at the Indian coast, cheaper than the rate at which some of the domestic fields supply gas.

Liquefied natural gas, or LNG, imported through ships costs about \$7.50 per



**Sage counsel:** The pipeline is designed to carry 31.5 million standard cubic metres gas per day. •GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

million British thermal unit.

### 'Via Oman to Porbandar'

Mr. Rao, who is the chairman of the advisory board of South Asia Gas Enterprise Pvt. Ltd. (SAGE) – the firm wanting to lay the undersea line – said the pipeline can

first travel to Oman, and then onwards to Porbandar in the state of Gujarat.

According to the study, "The cost of landed gas through an undersea pipeline will be at least \$2 cheaper than importing LNG, saving about \$1 billion

annually." South Asia Gas Enterprise wants the Indian Government to support the pipeline and help buyers enter into contract.

The pipeline is planned to carry 31.5 million standard cubic meters gas per day and will be built in two years from the date of necessary approvals and a gas sale and purchase agreement (GSPA) being signed.

The subsea pipeline is being seen as an alternative to the on-land, Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline. New Delhi has not been participating in talks on the 1,036-km Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline since 2007 citing security and commercial concerns. But, it has never officially pulled out of the \$7.6 billion project.

# India should push for underwater gasline

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 5

If India has to feedstock its power, fertiliser and steel plants in an environment-friendly and affordable way, it must push for a transnational deepwater gas pipeline from Iran, passing through Oman but bye-passing Pakistan for a sustainable supply of the industrial fuel, an study said on Tuesday.

Releasing the study on the Iran-India gas pipeline, former oil secretary T.N.R. Rao said natural



gas imported through the over \$4 billion line would cost \$5-5.50 per million

British thermal unit at the Indian coast, cheaper than the rate at which some of the domestic fields supply gas. This

could save around \$1 billion annually. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) imported through ships costs about \$7.50 per mmBtu, it said.

Mr Rao is the chairman of the advisory board of South Asia Gas Enterprise Pvt Ltd (SAGE) — the firm wanting to lay the undersea line — said the pipeline can first travel to Oman, and then onwards to Porbandar in Gujarat.

“An undersea pipeline between Iran-Oman-India will connect the producers and consumers of gas

directly. This will bypass all geo-political issues. It will also lead to more gas-to-gas competition and creating a genuine gas hub, as in Europe/USA,” the Assocham study suggested.

The chamber said that India can finally connect to Gulf region, where more than 7 million Indians reside. It said during the year 2016-17, India consumed 55,534 MMSCM (million standard cubic meter) of natural gas of which 24,686 MMSCM was imported.

## 'Undersea pipeline from Iran can bring cheaper gas to India'

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Releasing a study on the Iran-India gas pipeline, former oil secretary TN R Rao said natural gas imported through the over \$4 billion line would cost \$5-5.50 per million British thermal unit at the Indian coast, cheaper than the rate at which some of the domestic fields supply gas. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) imported through ships costs about \$7.50 per mmBtu. Rao, who is the chairman of the advisory board of South Asia Gas Enterprise Pvt Ltd (SAGE) - the firm wanting to lay the undersea

**THE COST OF LANDED GAS VIA AN UNDERSEA PIPELINE WILL BE AT LEAST \$2 CHEAPER THAN IMPORTING LNG, SAVING ABOUT \$1 BN ANNUALLY, SAYS THE STUDY**

line - said the pipeline can first travel to Oman, and then onwards to Porbandar in Gujarat. "The cost of landed gas through an undersea pipeline will be at least \$2 cheaper than importing LNG, saving about \$1 billion annually," the study said.

SAGE wants the Government to support the pipeline and help buyers enter into contract. The pipeline is planned to carry 31.5 million standard cubic meters gas per day and will be built in two years from the date of necessary approvals and a gas sale and purchase

agreement (GSPA) being signed.

The subsea pipeline is being seen as an alternative to the onland Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline. New Delhi has not been participating in talks on the 1,036-km Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline since 2007 citing security and commercial concerns but has never officially pulled out of the \$7.6 billion project. Under the proposal being discussed, SAGE will lay the 1,300-km pipeline bypassing the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of Pakistan.

Any company wanting to buy gas from Iran can use the pipeline for rent, its Director Subhodh Kumar Jain said. "SAGE will not be buying gas from Iran. It will lead an international consortium for building the pipeline," he said. PTI

### **'Iran undersea pipeline can bring cheaper gas to India'**

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