

Northeast to have Rs. 6,000 crore gas pipeline grid connecting state capitals

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GUWAHATI: Five public sector oil and natural gas companies signed a joint venture agreement here on Friday to implement a Rs 6000-crore gas pipeline grid project in the northeast. The five companies which signed the agreement are [Indian Oil Corporation Limited \(IOCL\)](#), ONGC, GAIL, Oil India Limited and [Numaligarh Refinery Limited \(NRL\)](#).

The joint venture company will now develop, build, operate and maintain the natural gas pipeline grid - spanning a distance of over 1,500km - connecting Guwahati with major cities in the northeast and also with major load centers like NRL. The pipeline will also integrate feasible gas producing fields in the region. All the five companies will contribute equally to the equity required for the development of the project which has a four year-window for commissioning, that includes a year for pre-project activities.

The pipeline grid in the northeast region, which is being implemented under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious Urja Ganga Gas Pipeline Project, was first announced by Union [petroleum](#) and natural gas minister Dharmendra Pradhan during the Advantage Assam investment summit here in February this year.

Besides connecting all the state capitals in the region, the pipeline will also establish connections with the National Gas Grid through the Barauni-Guwahati Gas Pipeline, which is being laid by GAIL. From Guwahati, the pipeline will extend to Numaligarh, Dimapur, Kohima and Imphal in one direction, and Shillong, Silchar, Aizawl and Agartala in a second direction. It will also be extended to connect Itanagar. [Gangtok](#) will be connected with [Siliguri](#) via the GAIL pipeline from Barauni to Guwahati.

Officials also said the gas pipeline from Barauni in Bihar to Guwahati is expected to be laid by 2022. It will subsequently connect all the eight northeast state capitals. The project is a part of the Jagdishpur-Haldia gas pipeline. The 1500 km-long natural gas pipeline will link the northeast to the national grid and help propel industrial growth in the region.