



## **Petroleum minister inaugurates 4th ONGC Para Games**

**New Delhi:** Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the fourth ONGC Para Games in Thyagaraj Sports Complex in Delhi on 2 August. 275 persons with disabilities (PwD) are participating in the games. These games are organised by ONGC during 2-4 August. Congratulating ONGC during the inauguration, the petroleum minister said, "The ONGC Para Games is a wonderful platform to bring in inclusiveness and equity in the human resource of the public enterprises under the ministry of petroleum and natural gas." ONGC conceptualised and started this Para Games in 2017, to mainstream the especially-abled persons on their rolls. To widen the scope of the games, ONGC roped in athletes from IOCL, BPCL, HPCL, EIL, OIL and GAIL to be part of the grand 3rd edition of ONGC Para Games at Gandhinagar. In this current 4th edition, apart from the 192 ONGCians, seven other Public enterprises are participating viz. IOCL (21), GAIL (15), BPCL (13), MRPL (11), EIL (9), OIL (8) and HPCL (6).

# ONGC told to pay ₹22 cr. to pollution control board

NGT gives A.P. board six months time

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
VIJAYAWADA

The Chennai Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) comprising judicial member Justice K. Ramakrishnan and expert member Saibal Dasgupta directed Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) to pay compensation of ₹22.77 crore to the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) within six months for causing large-scale air, sound, soil and water pollution in the erstwhile East

and West Godavari districts.

The NGT has also ordered the APPCB to take further action that may be required against ONGC for non-compliance with the environmental laws in the process of operating its units and gave it the liberty to impose further compensation.

Besides, the tribunal directed the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) to operate its units in strict compliance with the recommendations made by a joint committee set up by it, after obtaining the relevant statutory clearances. The NGT delivered the judgment in a case filed by Y. Venkatapathi Raja of Konaseema district

against the 'environmental degradation activities' of the PSU oil and gas majors.

Assistant Solicitor General of India R. Sankaranarayanan appeared for ONGC and advocate P.V.S. Giridhar for GAIL while advocates Sravan Kumar and K. Muthu Meenal represented the petitioner.

The allegation was that the ONGC and GAIL have not provided a mechanism needed to check the pollution likely to be caused by their activities, such as discharging polluted water into the sea, water bodies and open land, causing gas leakages in around 100 villages of the Godavari districts.