

Gas pipeline first hurdle to twin tower demolition

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Noida: The plan to bring down the Supertech twin towers in Sector 93A has hit the first hurdle. The Mumbai-based company entrusted with the job of the demolition exercise has learnt that an underground gas pipeline runs within 15 metres of the two towers — Apex and Ceyane.

Edifice Engineering — the company that will carry out the demolitions — held a meeting with senior executives of Indraprastha Gas Limited and GAIL on Friday and was told that the gas supply through the pipeline could neither be stopped for a few minutes during the explosions to raze the towers or rerouted. The 18-inch wide pipeline, Edifice was told, is extremely critical for the daily operations of IGL and serves as the main transmission line for the Dadri to DESU GAIL terminal segment. CNG for Noida and east Delhi is also supplied through this pipeline.

Officials said Edifice was preparing an exhaustive design to avoid any damage to the pipeline and would submit that to GAIL before the gas authority gave its go ahead. Edifice will have to take no-objection certificates from a number of government authorities before it can raze the twin towers. Sources had told **TOI** earlier that the company was looking to bring down the buildings by May and clear out the debris by the end of August.

Officials hoped the demolition process would go ahead as usual and would not affect the overall budget. Supertech has to pay Edifice Rs 20 crore for the demolitions. The developer ho-

200M-LONG PIPELINE SEGMENT COULD BE AFFECTED BY EXPLOSION

- A gas pipeline that runs parallel to the Apex and Ceyane towers in Sector 93A is a cause for concern
- The 18-inch wide pipeline is extremely critical for daily operations of Indraprastha Gas Limited
- The supply via the gas pipeline cannot be stopped, nor can the pipeline be rerouted, say officials
- The pipeline also serves as the main transmission line for the Dadri to DESU GAIL terminal segment
- A 200-metre long segment of the pipeline may be impacted



due to the explosion

- The Supreme Court had on August 31 last year ordered the demolitions of the twin towers

pes to earn Rs 10-15 crore from the salvageable material after the demolitions.

“We will work out a plan to keep the pipeline completely safe from the impact of the explosions and submit it to GAIL within two or three weeks. We initially thought it would be possible to go ahead with the demolitions by keeping the gas supply on hold for a minute or two. But now, we will have to prepare a detailed plan on the kind of remedial measures we will take to keep the pipeline safe,” said Uttkarsh Mehta, a partner in Edifice.

Mehta, and senior executives of GAIL and Supertech visited the Emerald Court project to inspect the area under which the pipeline runs. Officials said the gas pipeline was three metres under the ground and just 15 metres away from the twin towers. It needs to withstand the vibrations cau-

sed by the explosions and the debris rolling over.

A GAIL official explained that merely stopping the gas supply would not help. “About 200 segments of the Dadri-DE-SU line will be impacted by the explosions. Stopping the supply does not mean that the gas inside the pipeline will be flushed out. An accident can not only cause damage to the pipeline but also leakage in the area, which will be beyond our control. So, we will work closely with Supertech and Edifice Engineering to finalise the remedial action plan,” the official said.

Besides disruptions in households that rely on piped gas supply, crippling the critical infrastructure for a few minutes would also impact the pressure at the CNG stations in Noida and east Delhi and could affect the public transport network as city buses and auto-rickshaws rely on them.

गैल कार्यालय में फहराया तिरंगा



नई दिल्ली। गैल ने अपने कॉर्पोरेट कार्यालय में 73वां गणतंत्र दिवस मनाया। मनोज जैन, अध्यक्ष एवं प्रबंध निदेशक ने राष्ट्रीय ध्वज फहराया। इस अवसर पर एम वी अय्यर, निदेशक बीडी, आरके जैन, निदेशक वित्त और शुभा नरेश भंभानी, सीवीओ के साथ कॉर्पोरेट कार्यालय के कर्मचारी उपस्थित रहे।

Journalist arrested for impersonating U.P. CM

Forged letters sent to PSUs to get ads

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A journalist was arrested by the Delhi Police's Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations Unit (IFSO) for allegedly creating a fake e-mail ID in the name of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and asking public sector companies (PSUs) to provide advertisements for newspapers, officers said on Sunday.

According to DCP (IFSO) K.P.S. Malhotra, the accused was identified as Manoj Kumar Seth, 41, a resident of Bhubaneswar. Police received a complaint from the personal secretary of Mr. Adityanath wherein he alleged that some unknown person had created a fake e-mail ID purportedly shown to be that of the Chief Minister.

"Further, the alleged person had sent emails and forged letters to PSUs including Power Grid Corporation of India, ONGC and GAIL India," Mr. Malhotra said. He added that the accused had also attached scanned letters, wherein he had forged the signatures of Mr. Adityanath.

Thereafter, an FIR was lodged and a team led by ACP Raman Lamba was con-

 **The accused had also attached scanned letters, wherein he had forged the signatures of Yogi Adityanath**

K.P.S MALHOTRA
DCP (IFSO)

stituted to investigate the case. During the probe, the fake email ID was identified and its contents analysed to understand the motive of the emails following which it was revealed that it was with the request to release advertisements in favour of an English newspaper 'Breaking News'.

"Similarly, fake emails and letters were sent to ONGC and GAIL for the advertisement in favour of one 'TOP News'. After digital tracking through the IP address, the accused was identified but he kept changing location. Seth was eventually arrested from Bhubaneswar.

Police said that Seth was a freelance journalist who also published a fortnightly newspaper 'Samaj Aina' and had created the fake email and prepared the forged letters to seek advertisement support in favour of local newspapers.