

State signs LNG deal over video

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Hyderabad, Jan. 10: It was signing of an MoU with a difference. Perhaps for the first time in the country, an MoU was signed between two parties through video linkage. The two parties were: State government and the Indian Oil Corporation-led consortium. The project: Rs 19,400 crore Liquefied Natural Gas terminal at Kakinada deep water port.

While R&B Principal Secretary J Rambabu signed the MoU at the Durbar Hall at Hotel Taj Krishna in the presence of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Indian Oil Corporation Director Subir Raha signed them in New Delhi. The MoU was counter-signed by Chief Secretary P V Rao IOC chairman M A Pathan in New Delhi.

The two parties interacted through a videoconference between Hyderabad where Partnership Summit-2001 is on and New Delhi, where Petrotech-2001 is being held by Ministry of Petroleum.

The Chief Minister said the State government was keen on the completion of the project in a time-bound manner. "We should go with internet speed. The government will provide an escort officer to get all clearances for the project at the earliest. All that you should do is to reduce the gestation period," he said.

Later, the government signed a host of MoUs on projects including those on Information Technology, tourism, mining, roads and buildings and industry and commerce.