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4 dists will soon get piped gas at homes

Shaukat Mohammed
@timesgroup.com

Visakhapatnam: Atlantic Gulf & Pacific Company of Manila (AG&P), a global gas logistics company, expects to begin work later in 2019 to set up the logistics to supply compressed natural gas (CNG) to homes and CNG supply and service stations in four districts in Andhra Pradesh, top company officials said on Friday.

The four districts are Nellore, Anantapuramu, Kadapa and Chittoor, said Joseph M. Sigelman, CEO of the AG&P group.

"Apart from the four districts in Andhra Pradesh, AG&P has also won contracts to supply compressed natural gas to homes and service stations in Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan," Sigelman, a New Yorker, said.

According to PPG Sarma, managing director of AG&P's city gas distribution and logistics business, the company had 12 licences in the auction of city gas

distribution (CGD) concessions from the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

"We will begin work on setting up a steel pipeline network to supply the natural gas to homes in the major urban centres in the four districts in Andhra Pradesh," Sarma, who is from Kakinada, said.

AG&P will be hiring hundreds of workers in AP and elsewhere to set up the gas delivery network, and these workers would be first trained in the highly specialised business of transporting CNG, he said.

Sigelman said that the CGD business would involve "significant" investments, though he declined to reveal the investment in monetary terms, saying it was still "early days".

"The objective of these concessions is to maximise the availability of clean, convenient and affordable gas. We have made a commitment to deliver affordable gas to homes and service stations," Sigelman said.