

# DEW

**THE COMPLETE ENERGY JOURNAL**

IN PUBLICATION SINCE 1989

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

Volume 31 Number 10

ISSN - 0971 - 7242

dewjournal.com



**AUGUST 2022**



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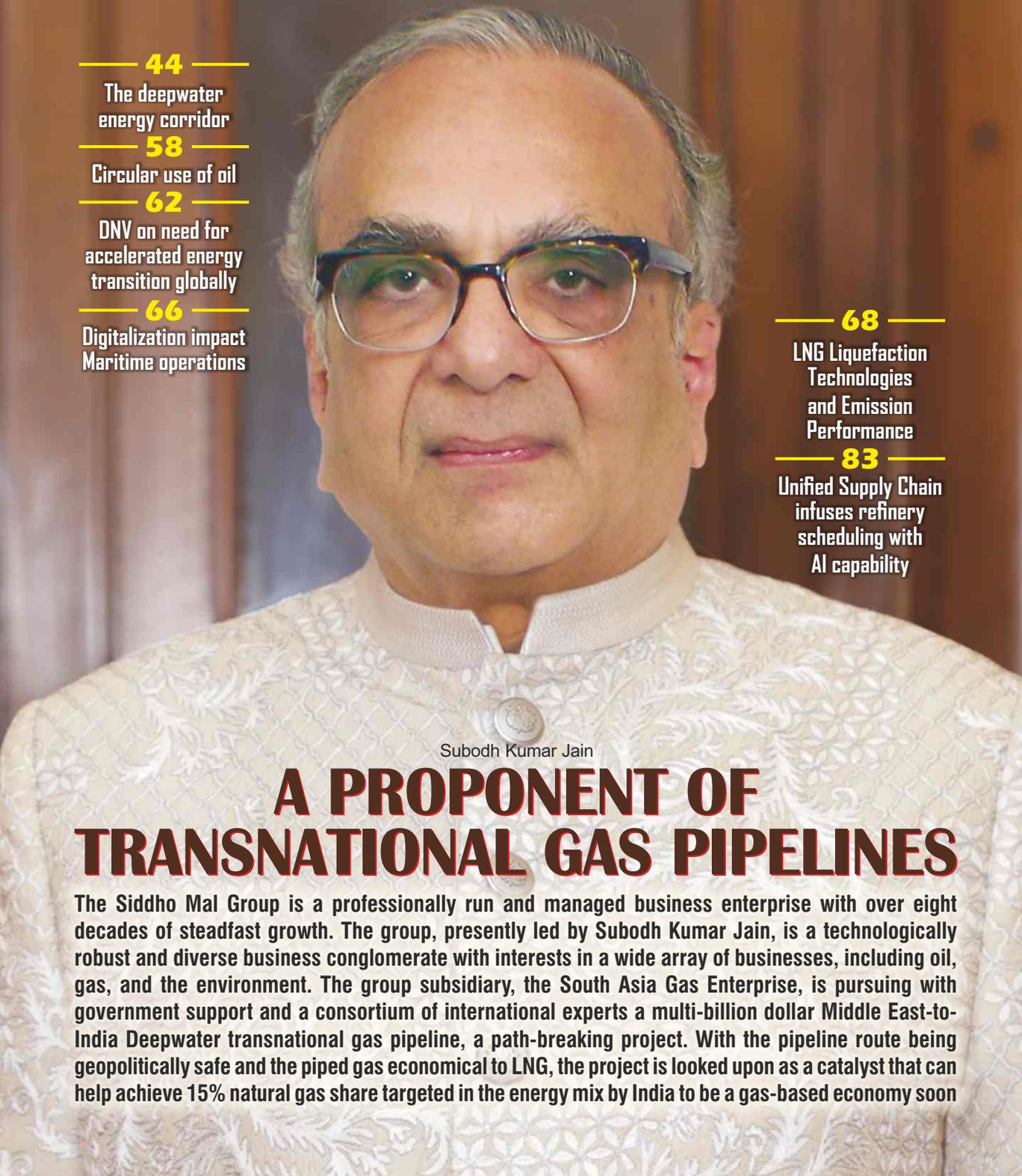
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Subodh Kumar Jain

## A PROPONENT OF TRANSNATIONAL GAS PIPELINES

The Siddho Mal Group is a professionally run and managed business enterprise with over eight decades of steadfast growth. The group, presently led by Subodh Kumar Jain, is a technologically robust and diverse business conglomerate with interests in a wide array of businesses, including oil, gas, and the environment. The group subsidiary, the South Asia Gas Enterprise, is pursuing with government support and a consortium of international experts a multi-billion dollar Middle East-to-India Deepwater transnational gas pipeline, a path-breaking project. With the pipeline route being geopolitically safe and the piped gas economical to LNG, the project is looked upon as a catalyst that can help achieve 15% natural gas share targeted in the energy mix by India to be a gas-based economy soon

REVIEW: A&AA INDIA'S OLDEST AND MOST CHALLENGING CATEGORY-I BASIN WITH HIGH OIL & GAS PROSPECTS



# "We have made inspiring diversification into speciality chemicals"



Established in 1981, Cosmo First Limited is a four-decade-old global business conglomerate. Cosmo Films is one of the most preferred global brands offering value-added BOPP films for packaging, labels, lamination, and industrial applications. With innovation, development, and research embedded in its core values, Cosmo First has ventured in a big way into businesses like specialty chemicals. The company has been at the forefront of developing customer-centric solutions to deliver the finest product and service experience backed by innovation, people, and processes.

Cosmo First has a strong focus on sustainability and invests in promoting innovative practises towards ensuring a safer planet for future generations. Mr. Anil Gaikewad, Business Head, Cosmo Speciality Chemicals, talks to DEW Journal about how the company's speciality chemicals business transformed in the transition to the new identity, Cosmo First. Mr. Gaikewad reverberates the thoughts of the Chairman and Managing Director of the company, who believes, as he states, "Cosmo, at its core, has always been pioneering revolutionary innovations to create a better life. Throughout its history, the company has provided industry-first niche solutions in packaging, lamination, industrial, and labelling applications. The company has made exciting diversifications into specialty chemicals, with the goal of becoming a leader in the field. Excerpts from the interview

**In transitioning from Cosmo Films to Cosmo First, how has the speciality chemicals business transformed?**

What began as part of backward integration for our films business has now turned into full-fledged speciality chemicals business. Beyond

internal production, the company is dominating the global and Indian textile auxiliary markets by offering the best and most competitive solutions through sustainable science-based innovations. Cosmo Speciality Chemicals has introduced more than 60 new products to the market for textile auxiliaries for pre-treatment, dyeing, and speciality finishing. With our transition to Cosmo First, we look forward to making our speciality chemicals business, more knowledge and innovation driven.

The mission of Cosmo Speciality Chemicals is to deliver lasting value for all our stakeholders through innovation, excellence, collaboration, integrity & customer-centricity.

**Sustainability and recycling are being heavily prioritised on a global scale. In a similar context, what steps has Cosmo undertaken?**

Sustainability denotes ethics, durability, and product recycling. The word 'Sustainable apparel' covers a wide range of concepts, including "organic," "green," "fair trade," "sustainable," "eco-friendly," etc. For Cosmo Speciality Chemicals, our objective is to transition to sustainable and eco-friendly chemicals. We have recently launched our Wetofast range – an eco-friendly range of textile chemicals. The majority of our efforts are dedicated towards shifting our product portfolio to eco-friendlier products. Additionally, we have a highly skilled group of chemical scientists who are working around the clock to design world-class products to help us achieve our mission of sustainability.

**Does Cosmo plan to diversify its chemical business to cater to other industries in future?**

When it comes to Cosmo's chemical businesses – all the product expansion will be done under the entity – Cosmo

Speciality Chemicals. We will foray into adhesives business and provide industrial grade eco-friendly glue alternatives. This expansion will make us one of the only firms to provide a 360-degree solution with films and adhesives under one roof. We are also working on the development of technical textile chemicals that integrate useful properties such as OWR (Oil and Water repellent), moisture management, and Aroma finishing.



### What are the distinguishing features of the newly introduced Silky SF and Wetofast Range?

The Wetofast range is an entirely eco-friendly option for maintaining fabric quality. The range includes three new products: Wetofast GN, Wetofast LOR, and Wetofast LD. Wetofast GN is a non-ionic pre-treatment agent that can be used on all fibre types, although it is especially effective on natural and regenerated cellulosic, synthetic, and their blends. Wetofast LOR is an agent that effectively removes oils, waxes, and greasy pollutants thanks to its great emulsification capacity. It confirms high rewetting property to textile goods after bleaching process and is used to emulsify the oil and ease of extraction. Wetofast LD is a wetting agent that provides high absorbency to textile goods after the bleaching process and is suited for all fabrics. It effectively removes oils and waxes and keeps the dirt in suspended form. These products are APEO free.

Silky SF is a cationic softener for premium segment with an outstanding silky touch effect on all textiles. Silky SF softener is recommended as a finishing auxiliary for all types of fabric, particularly cotton, because it gives the cloth a smooth and bulky surface. The application of this finishing chemical gives the fabric's actual physical texture and voluminous surface. This finishing auxiliary can be applied using the exhaust and pad processes to boost the value of fabrics.

### What prospects do you foresee for the industry both domestically and internationally?

Many industry players are collaborating to build unique amenities by utilising technological resources such as artificial intelligence, which are expected to open up new

market channels. Due to the cheap price of crude, these chemicals will present a chance to overcome profitability barriers in the GCC nations while also reducing China's rising commodity self-sufficiency. To gain market share, leading corporations will turn their attention to acquisition and expansion tactics. Digital textile printing ink that has features like endurance, excellent colour, and superior picture quality will gain popularity.

One of the innovations that will gain popularity is the use of smart fabrics that can recognise various environmental conditions and intelligent textiles, also known as e-textiles that can not only sense environmental changes but also automatically react to them, such as thermal, chemical, or mechanical changes. Other areas of growth include an increase in demand for textile solutions that prioritise comfort and body protection. The textile industry has successfully created products like Moisture management finishes, Fragrance finishes, Antimicrobial finishes, and Technical textiles to support our society. Our goal has been to become the top producer of textile auxiliary products in both India and the rest of the globe using sustainable chemistry.

Technical textiles are a rapidly expanding sub-segment that is used in a wide range of industries. Many different industries, including those in agriculture, construction, sportswear, healthcare, and others, use technical textiles for a variety of end uses. Some of the important factors to the growth of this industry include India's modernisation and manufacturing competitiveness. There is a great opportunity to fill a large demand gap because technical textile consumption in India is currently barely 5-10% against the international 30-70%. [dewjournal.com](http://dewjournal.com)