

## PIPELINE TO POSSIBILITIES (P2P): PROFESSIONAL SKILL AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE IN GAS PLUMBING TRADE

Funded under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of  
Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)

This project is a transformative skill development initiative aimed at empowering 60 young people from Assam by equipping them with specialized competencies that align with India's rapidly expanding energy sector. Structured as a 6-month residential training program in two batches of 3 months each, it addresses a critical skills gap in the piped natural gas distribution ecosystem, while providing a meaningful pathway out of underemployment and unemployment for youth, particularly those from marginalized and under-resourced backgrounds. By offering hands-on technical training at the end of a three-month classroom learning period, the project prepares trainees to become valuable contributors to local economies and drivers of sustainable community growth.

The urgency for such an initiative is underscored by India's natural gas infrastructure, which as of March 2025 spans over 34,000 km of authorized pipelines serving more than 15.3 million domestic connections, and continues to grow at an annual rate exceeding 8%<sup>1</sup>. Despite this expansion, fewer than 1% of plumbers in India are formally trained to work safely and efficiently with gas distribution systems<sup>2</sup>, while the sector demands over 1.2 million skilled technicians to meet current and future needs. The timing of this project is therefore critical, as India targets increasing the share of natural gas in its energy basket from around 6% to 15% by 2030, driving strong demand for qualified workers who can ensure safety, reliability, and compliance in this growing sector.

Funded through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program of Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), a significant player in India's oil and gas sector, the project leverages the infrastructure and expertise of the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Majuli as a delivery partner for the residential training and internship components. This CSR-based partnership reflects a broader trend of corporate India channeling resources to support national and regional skill development missions like "Skill India". Through this collaboration, the project ensures industry relevance and a focus on inclusive development.

MMGLD has conceived this project to leverage the strengths of diverse stakeholders, bringing together expertise, resources, and networks into a cohesive model that synthesizes complementary strengths. MMGLD facilitates overall project coordination, manages training logistics, oversees process documentation, and drives outreach efforts to ensure the initiative's successful execution. The organisation has envisioned this project as a pilot with

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<sup>1</sup><https://indianinfrastructure.com/2025/08/04/growing-coverage-expansion-of-oil-and-gas-pipeline-infrastructure/#:~:text=Gas%20pipeline%20infrastructure%20in%20India,India%20stands%20at%2034%2C233%20km>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://hsdm.org.in/FlipBooks/SURYA/15.pdf>

the aim of scaling it into a larger model that can deliver lasting benefits to the region and its people.

The impact of this initiative extends far beyond employment metrics. It plays a vital role in promoting cleaner and safer energy access. Further, graduates of the program emerge as empowered agents in their communities, often catalyzing entrepreneurship, social upliftment, and local infrastructure improvements. The program's inclusive design fosters community development by offering meaningful career pathways to youth, helping break cycles of limited opportunity and economic stagnation.

In alignment with India's strategic energy and economic development goals, this project exemplifies how CSR initiatives can be catalysts for broad socio-economic change. By blending corporate resources, government priorities, local infrastructure and a collaborative spirit in leveraging expertise, it fosters a resilient workforce prepared to meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities, delivering long-lasting benefits to individuals, communities, and the nation.