

# **COVID 19 sparks** 900% rise in demand for remote inspection of offshore rigs

**MAY 2020** 

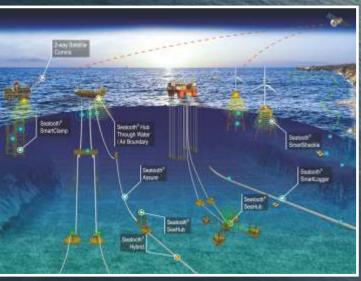
rapidly developing technology

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# IndianOil's robust digital technology aids seamless operations in lockdown

As the world fights the Covid-19 pandemic, corporates are increasingly relying on digital technology in dealing with the new normal. For IndianOil too, digital technology has emerged as the fulcrum around which the entire organisation is functioning seamlessly to maintain the supply line of essential fuels, with minimal disruptions.

During the days of the national lockdown, IndianOil has taken many new measures to deal with the changed work environment and new customer requirements. For instance, the LPG supply &

to deal with the sharp rise in cooking gas demand from households during the lockdown period.

For the benefit of its 13.11 crore LPG customers, IndianOil had been putting in place several convenient modes of refill booking from home, like SMS-IVRS, WhatsApp, digital payment websites and online refill booking through mobile apps. This way, about 25 lakh customers are able to book for LPG refills every day from the comfort of their homes and take delivery of LPG refill cylinders at their doorsteps. This has also helped reduce the burden on the State/district administrations and lawand-order machinery in policing the lockdown. The Corporation has also been encouraging LPG customers to make digital payments to avoid unnecessary handling of currency notes in view of Covid-19. The LPG emergency helpline number 1906 has also been kept operational

requirements. For instance, the LPG supply & IndianOil's LPG distributors are making refill distribution software had to be primed to its full potential deliveries on priority to LPG customers from BPL

Digital technology has emerged as the fulcrum around which IndianOil is functioning seamlessly to maintain

the supply line of essential fuels, with minimal disruptions households under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), for whom the Government of India has extended the facility of three LPG refills free of cost during April, May and June 2020. The robust software developed for implementation of PMUY has enabled the Corporation to transfer the RSP for the first LPG refill directly into the bank accounts of 3.47 crore PMUY customers on

### Indian0il elevates customer convenience; initiates door-to-door delivery of diesel

launched in March 2018. IndianOil has started its unique initiative for door -to-door delivery of diesel through mobile dispensers.

To meet the fuel demands in the industrial, mining, rural and remote sectors, IndianOil is rapidly expanding its fleet of mobile dispensers through its pan - India network of RO dealers. To further strengthen the reach, the Corporation is also looking to tieup with relevant start ups engaged in the business, and is shortly commencing process of their enrolment.

This novel concept of reaching diesel to customers' premises through Start-ups has been conceived by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, in line with Government of India's

Further to the successful pilot engaging new entrepreneurs in innovative business solutions.

> Over the last two years, IndianOil's mobile dispensers have been catering to various segments of Diesel end- users. Through the mobile dispensing units, IndianOil was the first to reach the areas affected by cyclone in Odisha in May 2019 and speedily restore the supply of petroleum products.

> At these mobile dispensing units, IndianOil will also provide remote control and ease of payment through digital modes. Further to address the concerns of pilferage, the dispensing units have been automated, allowing only delivery of diesel to authorized customers.

A leader in MS and HSD, IndianOil currently enjoys 50% of the market share in the sale of initiative to promote Start - Ups for petrol and diesel. The introduction

of the door -to -door service shall be yet another step towards customer convenience, more so in today's day and time, when there is restricted movement and limited access available to a large part of the populace.

With a 33,000-plus work-force, extensive refining, distribution & marketing infrastructure and advanced R&D facilities, IndianOil has been providing energy access to millions of people across the length and breadth of the country through its ever-expanding network of customer touch points, currently numbering over 50,000. With a turnover of Rs. 6,05,924 crore and a net profit of Rs. 16,894 crore for the fiscal 2018-19. IndianOil is one the largest and most trusted corporate in the country, touching the lives of over a billion Indians.



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its rolls, amounting to Rs. 2,724 crore within a few days. Introduction of e-receipts for customers and invoice register in the software were the other innovations.

Considering the criticality of maintaining fuel supplies, especially LPG for households and petrol & diesel for emergency/ essential/exempted services, from a countrywide network of 600+ locations, IndianOil is running all its data centres on a 24x7 basis with 100% uptime for all businesscritical applications, including SAP ERP software.

An integrated retail automation system is enabling real-time monitoring and data transfer to and from the Corporation's 21,500+ automated fuel stations. This enables IndianOil teams to monitor daily sales on individual highways, in each city, state or region to be ready with sales plans for the future.

IndianOil's tailor-made apps for its channel partners, vendors and service providers have also come in handy in the current crisis. While fuel station dealers and LPG distributors are able to track details of their indents, sales and balances online, another dedicated portal allows bulk customers to view their offtake details on a real-time basis. A contract labour management

system launched in February 2020 facilitates contractors in maintaining the data of workers under them and generate their wage register. A bill tracking dashboard enables vendors to submit bill-wise details and track their bill payments status online.

IndianOil's critical locations, which continue to operate during the lockdown, are able to cope well with the new norms for social distancing, again thanks to technology. For instance, its 'smart terminals' have long since adopted advanced automation technology that allows them to operate with skeletal staff. Tank-truck crews picking up product loads from these terminals are equipped with smart



IndianOil's LPG distributors are making refill deliveries on priority to LPG customers from BPL households under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, for whom the Government of India has extended the facility of three LPG refills free of cost during April, May and June 2020

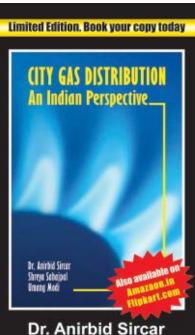
cards that permit self-service, right from a pre-timed entry to exit.

Similarly, the Intelli-Green software at select LPG bottling plants has achieved full automation of packed and bulk truck operations, again from entry to exit. RFiD technology and other innovations introduced at the polymer plant in Panipat and polymer terminal in Paradip have likewise helped automate inbound and outbound processes with optimised workflows. With centralised automated systems taking care of core operations, the optimised manpower is free to focus on critical maintenance and safety-related issues.

New needs of the various business functions

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#### TECHNOLOGY PUBLICATIONS

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#### Office at home

Since the national lockdown announced on March 24th, 2020, IndianOil employees in non-critical administrative offices have been working from home, providing backend support to the frontline teams manning the critical locations.

To align with the unprecedented scenario, the Corporation has attempted to create a digital twin of the workplace for its employees working from home. Virtual private networks (VPN) are being used to connect people to office servers and business applications and data hosted in them. Web-conferencing is enabling simulate office scenarios that require group discussion and collective decision-making. Right from Company Board meetings to senior management interactions with employee groups, field officers, resellers, petrol pump attendants & delivery boys, and farewells for retiring staff, things have gone digital through multiple tools.

New procedures have been put in place for processing bills, seeking approvals and making payments online. An Enterprise Content Management System rolled out in April 2019 to achieve a paperless office has proved to be invaluable in this crisis time. It hosts modules like collaboration, document management, e-approvals & business workflow automation, obviating the need for physical movement of files.

Post-lockdown announcement, additional apps were developed overnight for employees and their families seeking tele-consultation with doctors on the Corporation's panels, and to enable work-fromhome employees to mark their daily attendance and also give their Covid-19 status. A time-office attendance management system captures employee attendance details at 500+ locations on real-time basis.

The current lockdown has also spurred a technology-aided learning revolution in IndianOil. In Sept. 2019, the Corporation had launched Swadhyaya as an e-learning platform accessible to its employees from anywhere, anytime and on any device. With the entire content developed in-house by subject matter experts, Swadhyaya currently has about 470 modules covering about 70 business functions, and more content is being added on a continuous basis. The popularity of the e-portal can be gauged from that fact that over 17,500 IndianOil employees have accessed and completed over 4.5 lakh e-modules during the lockdown period.

Even with its work-from-home employees connecting to corporate digital hubs through the internet in large numbers, IndianOil's robust IT infrastructure could withstand new demands on its networks, data centres and bandwidth. Special emphasis is being laid on monitoring cyber security threats through enhanced vigilance, advisories and webinars.

Incidentally, IndianOil is observing the year 2020 as the 'Year of Digitalisation' to highlight the current critical role and future potential of digitalisation in driving change and transforming people and processes. dewjournal.com