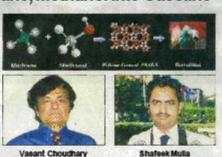
NCL scientists show the way to tackle energy crisis **Convert Methane, Methanol Into Gasoline**

By Siddhartha D. Kashyap/TNN

Pune: Scientists at the Na-tional Chemical Laboratory (NCL) have achieved a major breakthrough by successfully converting methane and methanol into gasoline. While efforts are under

way to demonstrate this conversion to prospective industry partners, includ-ing Shell Research Corpora-tion, for technical evaluation, the scientists say the development is an answer to increasing energy demands and shrinking of reserves. Vasant Choudhary from the NCL's chemical engi-veering and process devel-opment division, who got a US patent for the conversion in April 2006, said while lab-oratory tests have been suc-been alte on a chieve the dedevelopment is an answer to



in April 2006, said while lab-cartory tests have been suc-cessful, efforts would be sired results," Prof. Shafeek

Conversion was tried before, P3

Methanol-to-gas was tried before

By Siddhartha D. KaetiyapTTNN Pune: The prevalent route for transforma-tion of methane-syngas-methanol-gasoline - is based on the methanol-to-gasoline (MTG) process. However, scientists at the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) have achieved the process through a non-oxidative activ-tion of methane gas and methanol.

The prevalent process is not only high ly exothermic (where heat is evolved thereby posing difficulty in industrial formation of toxic benzene formation. Vasant Choudhary from the NCU's charical and inclusions of this conversion are many, including using

Vasant Choudhary from the NCL's chemical engineering and process devel-many, michang using soline to run vehi-cles, Choudhary said the process would also large-by help tap the vast un-ved reasible. "This is a high technology develuse of methanol-converted gasoline in New Zealand, but found the process un-feasible. "This is a high technology devel-opment area, where we have achieved the conversion under normal conditions without heat being evolved and insignifi-cant formation of toxic benzene."

which is considered to be one of the key greenhouse gases respon for global warming. cible

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