

ONGC Starts Mahanadi Deepwater Drilling Under Samudra Manthan Mission

ONGC commenced drilling its first deepwater exploratory well in the Mahanadi offshore basin under the Samudra Manthan mission.

Samudra Manthan is a national initiative to explore and harness deepwater and ultra-deepwater hydrocarbon resources in India's offshore basins.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- **ONGC** spudded the deepwater exploratory well **MN-DW18-1-H-D** in the **Mahanadi offshore basin**.
- The drilling campaign is being conducted under the Union Government's **Samudra Manthan mission**.
- The well is situated approximately **23 nautical miles** from the **Konark** discovery off the **Odisha coast**.
- The initiative aligns with the Prime Minister's **August 15, 2025** Independence Day vision for tapping offshore hydrocarbon potential.
- The Union Government opened nearly **1 million square kilometres** of restricted offshore areas for exploration under the **Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP)**.
- India's eastern and western offshore basins up to **3,000 metres** depth hold an estimated **5,600 million metric tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE)** resources.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (**ONGC**) was established as a statutory body on **August 14, 1956**, and later converted into a public limited company in **1993**.

ONGC was granted **Maharatna status** by the Government of India in **November 2010**.

The **Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)** was approved in **March 2016**, replacing the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

Under HELP, the **Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP)** allows exploration companies to continuously select blocks of interest.

The **Mahanadi river** originates near Sihawa in the Dhamtari district of **Chhattisgarh** and drains into the **Bay of Bengal**.

India imports over **85%** of its total crude oil requirement to meet domestic consumption needs.

The **Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH)** was established in **April 1993** under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

REVISION FLASHCARD

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Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for TNPSC Group 1/2/4 exams covering energy security, ONGC, Samudra Manthan mission, HELP/OALP policies, and Indian physical geography.

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