



# ONGC to Drill Well in Bihar

## Why in News?

[Oil and Natural Gas Corp \(ONGC\)](#) plans to drill a well in Bihar to look for oil and gas.

- A **commercial discovery** will put the state on India's oil map and also open up for exploration the entire [Ganga basin](#) stretching from **Bihar to Uttar Pradesh and Punjab**.

## Key Points

- The company has **acquired 3D seismic data for 300 sq. km** for its block in **Samastipur** and is set to drill two exploratory wells.
  - The first drilling will be carried out in 2024.
  - Besides this, the oil and gas producer also plans to drill an exploratory well in another block in the **Ganga basin in Ballia**, Uttar Pradesh.
- Data from the first well's drilling will help guide the company's plans for the rest of the exploration block, including drilling of the second well.
  - Both blocks in Samastipur and Ballia were obtained in the fourth [Open Acreage Licensing Policy \(OALP\)](#) round a few years ago.

## Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

- It is a [Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking \(PSU\)](#) of the Government of India.
- It was **set up in 1995** and is under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.
- It is the largest crude oil and natural gas company in India, **contributing around 70% to Indian domestic production**.

## Ganga Basin

- The headwaters of the Ganga called the '**Bhagirathi**' are fed by the **Gangotri Glacier** and joined by the Alaknanda at Devprayag in Uttarakhand.
- At Haridwar, **Ganga emerges from the mountains** to the plains.
- The Ganga is joined by many tributaries from the Himalayas, a few of them being major rivers such as the Yamuna, the Ghaghara, the Gandak, and the Kosi.

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