

Potential Petroleum Reserves in Ballia

Why in News?

The <u>Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)</u> has started drilling operations in **Ballia, Uttar Pradesh,** after **geological surveys** indicated the **possibility of petroleum reserves** in the region.

Key Points

- Survey and Exploration: ONGC conducted <u>satellite</u>, <u>geochemical</u>, <u>gravity-magnetic</u>, and <u>magneto-telluric (MT)</u> surveys over the last three years, confirming the possibility of oil and natural gas reserves.
 - Magnetotellurics (MT) is a geophysical method that uses natural changes in the Earth's magnetic and electric fields to study underground electrical resistivity.
- Drilling Operations: The project, with an estimated cost of ₹100 crore, involves drilling up to 3,001 meters at a site near Sagar Pali village in Gram Sabha Vaina (Rattuchak).
- Land and Infrastructure: ONGC has leased eight acres of land for three years.
- Potential Impact: If petroleum reserves are confirmed, the project could significantly contribute to the energy sector, boost local employment, and transform the economy of eastern Uttar Pradesh.

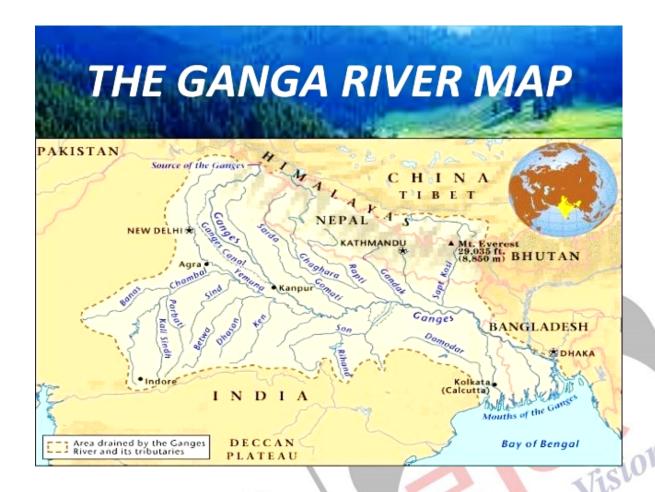
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), formerly Oil and Natural Gas Commission, was established in 1956.
- In **1994**, Oil and **Natural Gas Commission** was converted into a Corporation, and in **1997** it was recognized as one of the **Navratnas** by the Government of India.
 - Subsequently, it had been conferred with Maharatna status in the year 2010.
- 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.

II



PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/potential-petroleum-reserves-in-ballia