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## Panel for Coordination among Ministries

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- The Union government has set up a panel for better coordination among the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), the Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), and the state governments.
- The panel will assist in speeding up hydrocarbon exploration-related clearances.
- It will help in resolving the following issues:
  - There are differences among MoPNG and MoEF on whether “exploration” should be treated as “mining”.
  - Many onshore and offshore blocks under the **Discovered Small Fields (DSF) and Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OLAP)** rounds also stuck with the MoEFCC.
  - Another issue is the companies involved in exploration state that exploration activities be considered as a temporary “vegetation change” which is objected by MoEF.
- The panel has **Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha as chairman**, and secretaries of home, petroleum and environment will be members.
- It will also have a representative from the NITI Aayog and chief secretaries of petroleum-producing states like Assam, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Telangana and Tamil Nadu.

### Discovered Small Field Policy

- Union government launched the **Discovered Small Field policy in 2015** with a prime objective to bring Discovered Small Fields to production at the earliest so as to increase the domestic production.
- It provides for **single uniform license for producing all kinds of hydrocarbon**, no cess on the oil production, moderate royalty structure, customs duty exemptions and complete marketing and pricing freedom for the sale of produced crude oil and natural gas.

### Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OLAP)

- The OLAP was declared by the union government in June, 2017.
- Under it, **the potential investors choose the exact areas they are interested in**, convey their interest to the government, which then places just those blocks up for bidding.