

ONGC to Drill Well in Bihar | Bihar | 26 Mar 2024

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 <u>Ganga basin</u> stretching from **Bihar to Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.**

Key Points

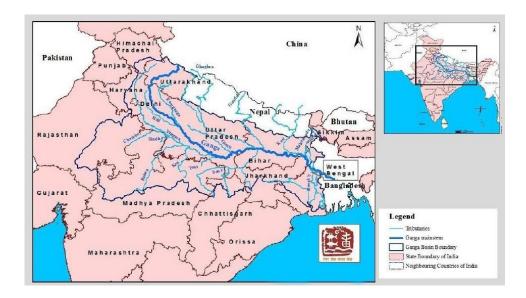
- The company has acquired 3D seismic data for 300 sq. km for its block in Samastipur and is set to drill two exploratory wells.
 - The first drilling will be carried out in 2024.
 - Besides this, the oil and gas producer also plans to drill an exploratory well in another block in the Ganga basin in 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.



Bihar Diwas 2024 | Bihar | 26 Mar 2024

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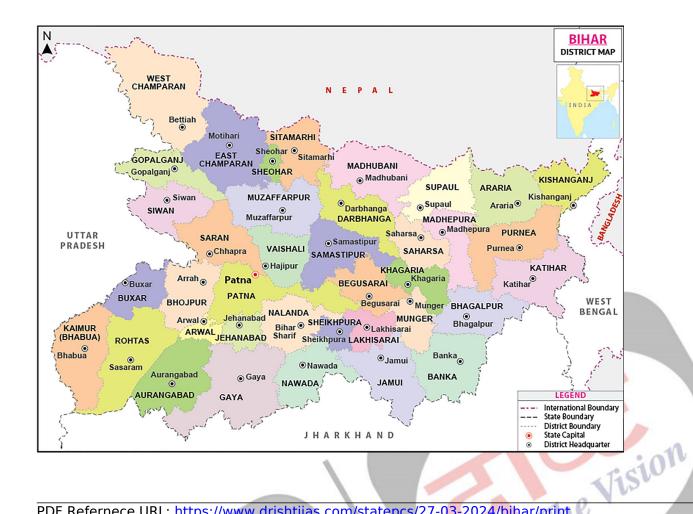
Bihar day or Bihar diwas is **marked on 22nd March every year.** It is a public holiday across the state as offices, organisations, banks, and educational institutions under the central and state government remain shut.

Key Points

- The Bihar Day 2024 marks the **fulfilment of 111 years since the state was founded,** making it a critical achievement for individuals of Bihar to consider their history and celebrate their identity.
 - The Bihar government has coordinated a line of multicultural events and programs to celebrate the entire day.
 - The celebration was held with the intention of restoring the people's pride in the state of

Vision

- Bihar Diwas marks the development of the state from the Bengal presidency. The state was shaped on 22nd March, 1912, when the British government partitioned the Bengal Province.
 - The celebration of Bihar Diwas is marked by gaiety and enthusiasm. This is due to the fact that it denotes the foundation of their way of life as a particular state with a unique cultural legacy.
 - The day also gives the people of Bihar a chance to show off their history, culture, traditions, and heritage.
- Apart from India, it is celebrated in nations including the United States, Canada, Bahrain, Qatar,
 United Arab Emirates, Germany, Britain (Scotland), Australia, Trinidad and Tobago and Mauritius.



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