



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 [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.



Bihar Diwas 2024 | Bihar | 26 Mar 2024

Why in News?

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 Bihar.
- 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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