



Potential Petroleum Reserves in Ballia

Why in News?

The [Oil and Natural Gas Corporation \(ONGC\)](#) 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 [satellite](#), [geochemical](#), [gravity-magnetic](#), and [magneto-telluric \(MT\)](#) 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.

THE GANGA RIVER MAP



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