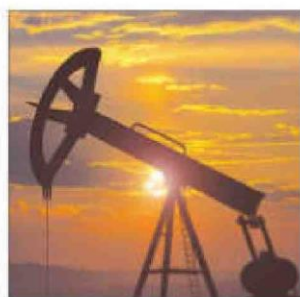




ONGC News as on 26 September 2024 (Print & Online)

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :26 September 2024	Page : 19



Oil India in talks to start exploration in Nagaland

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
New Delhi, September 25

STATE-OWNED UPSTREAM company Oil India is looking to start exploration activities in Nagaland and is engaged in discussions with the state and central government for the same, a top official of the company told *FE*. Additionally, the state-run company is hopeful of starting oil production from its block in Gabon in central Africa in the next financial year.

“We have a total of 30 blocks under the OALP (Open Acreage Licensing Policy). We have already drilled all wells under the awarded OALP blocks, except in Nagaland. We are pursuing the ministry and they have set up a high power committee involving OIL, ONGC, government officials, to discuss the issue with the Government of Nagaland and resume exploration,” the official said.

The company has a 3,000 sq km area in its possession in Nagaland.

Publication : The Economic Times	Editions : New Delhi
Date :26 September 2024	Page : 17

BP Sees Growing Opportunities in India: CEO

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Energy firm BP sees “growing business opportunities” in India, its global chief executive Murray Auchincloss said in a statement on Wednesday. The board of London-headquartered BP is holding a meeting in India this week, said a company statement.

This is the second time BP’s board is meeting in India. The first meeting was held in 2013, about two years after company took a 30% interest

in Indian upstream projects managed by Reliance Industries for \$7.2 billion.

“We see growing business opportunities, including through our world-class partnership with Reliance, producing the country’s gas and growing our joint retail presence. In turn, India’s highly skilled engineering and scientific talent can help us deliver our targets more effectively, efficiently and rapidly,” Auchincloss said.

He along with other board members met petroleum and natural gas minister Harde-



ep Puri on Tuesday. BP, in alliance with RIL, is engaged in natural gas production and fuel retailing in India. BP and RIL partnered with state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to bid for a western offshore block in the just-concluded exploration licensing round.

ONGC is also seeking to partner with a global oil firm

to help boost output from its flagship Mumbai High field which has producing for about half a century.

India is seeking to attract international firms to its exploration sector as they have access to big capital and advanced technologies which could come in handy to boost domestic output that’s been falling for years. India’s crude output has fallen by a fifth in the past decade.

BP board in India, eyes tieups

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Mumbai: Global energy major BP said on Wednesday it is holding a board meeting in India this week as it scouts for more opportunities in the country.

India, the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, wants to quickly raise its oil and gas output, which has been stagnant for years.

In June, the government had said that the country's top exploration company ONGC was seeking a technical tie-up with a global oil major to boost production from its western offshore Mumbai High fields.

BP had held a board meeting in the country more than a decade ago in 2013 after it had scooped up a 30 per cent stake in 23 oil and gas blocks of Reliance Industries.

BP and Reliance also have a fuel retail joint venture in the country, operating 1,900 outlets in the country.

"We see growing business opportunities, including through our world-class partnership with Reliance, producing the country's gas and growing our joint retail presence," BP CEO Murray Auchincloss said in a statement on Wednesday.

The board of BP began a five-day visit on September 23, holding board sub-committee meetings as well as meeting government leaders and business partners. In between, it will hold its full board meeting.

The statement, however, did not elaborate on the meetings or the venue of the board meeting.

The BP board met oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri over dinner on Tuesday evening. A PTI report said they also

BUSYTIME

- BP board on a 5-day visit
- Board meeting part of agenda
- In 2013, the BP board met in India, after signing a deal with Reliance
- ONGC is keen on a technical pact with BP to ramp up output

flew to Gadimoga in Andhra Pradesh for a visit to the landing point of gas produced from deepsea in the Krishna Godavari basin.

They are also expected to meet officials of Reliance in Mumbai. During their stay, the board will visit BP's global business services centre in Pune.

"The 5-day visit of the BP board reflects BP's significant and growing presence in India and its commitment to further develop its businesses in and with the country," the company said.

During their visit, the board while recognising India's key role in global energy demand, will hold meetings with the Indian government and BP's business partners.

"There is huge potential for BP to work even more closely with India. India's highly skilled engineering and scientific talent can help us deliver our targets more effectively, efficiently and rapidly," BP chief executive Murray Auchincloss added.

BP is one of the largest international energy companies in India, with a century-long business presence and having invested over \$12 billion across the energy value chain in the country.

Fuel price cut likely after Oct 5: Report

NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel prices may be reduced after October 5, according to CLSA, which has based its report on speculation after comments by Pankaj Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, suggesting a cut last month.

The prices have not changed since March 2024. Jain had said state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) may consider reducing petrol and diesel prices if international crude prices stay low for an extended period, as per media reports. The CLSA, in its note, said, "Maharashtra is a crucial battleground, and the BJP-led alliance may consider lowering fuel prices as a populist move."

According to several media reports, Maharashtra's State elections are expected in early November. Final dates for the state election are likely announced by mid-October. The CLSA report suggests that along with any retail fuel price cut, the government may also raise excise duty on petrol and diesel.

Currently, the Centre levies an excise duty of Rs

CLSA report says BJP-led alliance may consider lowering prices with crucial Maharashtra polls round the corner

19.8 and Rs 15.8 per litre on the sale of petrol and diesel. Current excise duty is 40 per cent and 50 per cent lower compared to the 2021 peak. According to CLSA, every rupee hike in excise duty on petrol and diesel would lead to an additional Rs 16,500 and Rs 5,600 crore collection annually in government accounts.

Excise duty is a tax levied on the manufacture or production of goods within the country. In the context of petrol and diesel, excise duty is a tax imposed by the Central government on the production or sale of these fuels within India.

Recently, crude oil prices saw a sharp decline in the International Market. On Wednesday, crude oil benchmark Brent Oil was \$74.15 per barrel and WTI was \$71.16 per barrel.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Fuel price cut likely after Oct 5: Report

The report said the sharp decline in crude oil prices is positive for Indian OMCs such as Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation. However, a potential rate cut and excise duty hike make these oil marketing companies vulnerable.

In Delhi, on Wednesday, petrol was priced at Rs 94.72 per litre and diesel at Rs 87.62. IANS

Petrol and diesel prices may fall after 5 October: Report



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 25 SEPTEMBER

Petrol and diesel prices may be reduced for the first time since March 2024 after October 5, according to CLSA.

The remarks came after the comments from India's Oil Secretary, Pankaj Jain, suggesting a price drop last month and media reports indicating that the Maharashtra's state elections are expected in early November.

CLSA notes that Maharashtra is a crucial battleground, and the BJP-led alliance may consider lowering fuel prices as a populist move.

Notably, the fuel prices have not changed since March 2024.

According to the media reports, Jain said that the state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) may consider reducing petrol and diesel prices if international crude prices stay low for an extended period.

CLSA also believes that

the government may also raise excise duty on petrol and diesel, along with any retail fuel price cut. Excise duty is a type of indirect tax levied on the manufacture or production of goods within a country.

In the context of petrol and diesel, excise duty is a tax imposed by the central government on the production or sale of these fuels within India.

As per the brokerage, Brent crude prices have cooled off below \$75 per barrel, despite OPEC's proactive steps to keep prices high. CLSA notes that the government may opportunistically raise excise duty.

The report said the sharp decline in crude oil prices is positive for Indian oil marketing companies like Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation.

However, a potential rate cut and excise duty hike make these oil marketing companies vulnerable.

Central government levies an excise duty of Rs 19.8 and Rs 15.8 per liter on petrol and diesel, respectively.

These duties stand 40 per cent and 50 per cent lower compared to their peak levels in 2021. This duty was last cut when oil prices were above \$100 per barrel.

Publication : Financial Express	Editions : New Delhi
Date :26 September 2024	Page : 1, 4

OIL GIANT BP HOLDS SECOND BOARD MEETING IN INDIA



THE BOARD OF British oil and gas major bp is holding its second meeting in India, underscoring its commitment to develop its business here, reports **fe Bureau**. The bp board began a five-day visit to India on September 23. ■ **PAGE 4**

Board of bp holds meetings in India

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, September 25

THE BOARD OF British multinational oil and gas major bp is holding meetings in India, underscoring its commitment to develop its business here. The bp board began a five-day visit to India on September 23, holding board sub-committee meetings as well as meeting government leaders and business partners. In between, it will hold its full board meeting.

This is the second time the company's board is holding a meeting in India. The board had visited the country in May 2013, two years after the company spent \$7.2 billion in buying a 30% stake in 23 oil and gas blocks of Reliance Industries (RIL). "The five-day visit of the bp board reflects bp's significant and growing presence in India and its commitment to further develop its businesses in and with the country," the company said.

After meeting Union minister for petroleum and natural gas Hardeep Singh Puri, bp chairman Helge Lund said, "By leveraging our combined experience and expertise with our partners, we aim to facilitate the secure, affordable, and lower carbon growth of India's energy resources to meet the increasing demand."

"I am sure the robust partnership between the global energy major (bp) and India, which spans across the entire energy value chain including exploration & production, biofuels, fuel retail and other emerging areas, will continue to grow further," Puri said.

bp is one of the largest international energy firms in India, having invested over \$12 billion across the energy value chain in the country.

"There is huge potential for bp to work even more closely with India. We see growing business opportunities, including via our partnership with Reliance, producing the country's gas and growing our joint retail presence.

HELGE LUND, bp chairman

BP IS COMMITTED TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE INDIAN GOVT TO SUPPORT ITS CHANGING ENERGY NEEDS



HARDEEP SINGH PURI, petroleum minister

I'M SURE THE ROBUST PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN BP AND INDIA WILL CONTINUE TO GROW FURTHER



In turn, India's highly-skilled engineering and scientific talent can help us deliver our targets more effectively, efficiently and rapidly," said bp CEO Murray Auchincloss.

The company, in partnership with RIL, has in recent years brought onstream three new deep-water natural gas projects that account for a third of India's gas production. The two firms have also joined hands to create a major retail, aviation fuels and mobility alliance, Jio-bp, now with close to 1,900 retail sites across and over 4,900 charging points.

Kartikeya Dube, bp's head of country, said: "Building on the century-old legacy with India through our Castrol brand, our presence across the gas value chain, mobility retail businesses and our global business and technology centre, we expect to grow a material business here, and help support India's aspiration for energy independence by 2047."

OPEC: India's oil demand to grow by 8 mb/d between 2023 and 2050

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

Oil demand in India, the world's third largest crude oil importer, is likely to grow by 8 million barrels per day (mb/d) between 2023 and 2050, which is the highest rate of growth globally, OPEC's World Oil Outlook (WOO) report reveals.

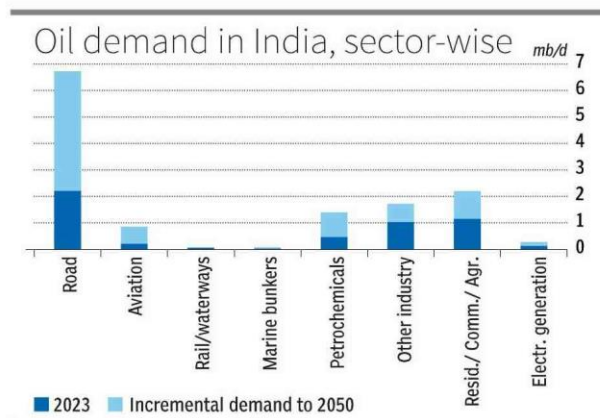
According to WOO 2050, oil demand in the world's fastest growing emerging economy is expected to grow from 5.3 mb/d in 2023 to 13.3 mb/d in 2050.

"Extending the outlook's time horizon to 2050 amplifies the role of India, other Asian nations, Africa and the Middle East as the key sources of incremental demand in the coming years," the report said.

"Combined demand in these four regions is set to increase by 22 mb/d between 2023 and 2050. India alone will add 8 mb/d to its oil demand during the forecast period. China's oil demand is projected to increase by 2.5 mb/d," it added.

DRIVING SECTORS

India's current oil demand composition is characterised by a relatively high share of diesel/gasoil, which accounts for around 35 per cent of the total demand. In fact, the share of diesel/gasoil is set to



expand to 38 per cent by 2040 before declining to 37 per cent in 2050, mainly due to expanding freight transport and industrial production. Some demand growth for this product also comes from the petrochemical industry, and the commercial and agriculture sectors. Accordingly, diesel demand is projected to increase by 3 mb/d from around 1.9 mb/d in 2023 to 4.9 mb/d in 2050.

OPEC's World Oil Outlook till 2050 projects that road transportation constitutes the primary key area where more than half of the overall demand increase is expected to materialise.

"This will be mainly driven by the significant expansion of the country's passenger car fleet, from less than 50 million in 2023 to more than 240 million in

2050 (excluding two-wheelers). Moreover, the number of commercial vehicles is set to more than quadruple during the period to 2050 on the back of strong GDP growth," it added.

Small modular reactors well within our capability: L&T

M Ramesh
Chennai

Small modular reactors (SMRs) are “very much within our core capability”, says L&T’s Wholtime Director and President - Energy, Subramanian Sarma.

In a recent interaction with *businessline*, responding to a question on L&T’s interest in SMRs, he said that the company was “speaking with some of the potential technology suppliers and exploring possibilities for some time-ups.”

SMRs, called Bharat Small Reactors in the Indian context, are a source of green energy that the world is keenly looking to. BSR got mentioned in the latest Budget speech.

Many industries, especially the steel sector, are exploring possibilities of setting up SMRs for green energy.

L&T, no stranger to the nuclear industry, is also an expert in modularisation, with experience in building modular structures, such as for oil and gas platforms.

Asked about discussions with technology providers, Sarma said they were overseas companies but stressed that the discussions are at a very preliminary stage.

OFFSHORE WIND

L&T recently won its first international order worth \$100 million in a new business — offshore wind. The order has got the engineering major thirsting for more. Buoyed by the order, L&T has created an ‘Offshore Wind Business’.

Not much has been revealed about the order though. “In two-three months, we will be able to give more details,” Sarma said.

It is understood that L&T is to supply the jacket for offshore structures. Jackets are the steel tubes with legs buried in the sea floor, on which



Subramanian Sarma,
Wholtime Director and
President - Energy, L&T

the platforms stand.

L&T has long years of experience in supplying jackets and platforms for the oil and gas industry; it wants to leverage that experience for the offshore wind sector.

After securing the \$100-million order, L&T has responded to similar tenders. Asked for the total value of those tenders, Sarma said it would be between \$500 million and \$1 billion. In an earnings call with investors in July, the company had said the order was from “a very prestigious client” and was a “good start”.

85% INDIGENISATION

In March 2023, L&T entered into a technology tie-up with McPhy of France for manufacturing alkaline electrolyzers.

Exactly a year later, it commissioned a 1-MW electrolyser and green hydrogen plant capable of producing 200 cubic meters of hydrogen per hour, at Hazira, Gujarat.

The company has been working on adding another 1 MW. Sarma said that because of efforts towards indigenisation and L&T developing a supply chain, the second 1 MW would have 85 per cent local content, compared with 50 per cent of the first. Apart from producing green hydrogen, the operating plant is generating a lot of data, Sarma said.

Publication : The Hindu Business Line	Editions : New Delhi
Date :26 September 2024	Page : 10

Crude oil slips on inadequate China stimulus

Singapore: Crude oil prices fell as investors reassessed the ability of China's stimulus plans to boost the economy enough to drive more fuel demand growth in the world's largest crude importer. Brent crude futures were down 19 cents at \$74.98 a barrel at 0700 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude was down 28 cents at \$71.28 per barrel. REUTERS

Online

Headline	Centre To Infuses Additional Rs 10,501 Crore Into ONGC Petro Additions Manage your data		
Publication	NDTV Profit	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2024		

Centre To Infuses Additional Rs 10,501 Crore Into ONGC Petro Additions Manage your data

<https://www.ndtvprofit.com/business/ongc-petro-additions-to-get-rs-10501-crore-more-as-government-infusion>

The infusion of Rs 10,501 crore in ONGC Petro Additions will be carried out in one or more tranches.

The board of directors of Oil and Natural Gas Corp. has approved the Government of India's decision to infuse an additional Rs 10,501 crore in ONGC Petro Additions Ltd.

This includes compulsorily convertible debentures at Rs 7,778 crore and a remaining payment of Rs 86 crore for share warrants, amounting to a total of Rs 18,365 crore, according to an exchange filing on Wednesday.

The infusion of Rs 10,501 crore in OPaL will be carried out in one or more tranches.

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Also, the board of directors has approved the appointment of Arunangshu Sarkar, director (strategy and corporate affairs), as a key managerial personnel of the company, the filing said.

Shares of ONGC closed 0.30% lower at Rs 298.55 apiece, compared to a 0.25% rise in the benchmark Nifty 50. The stock had risen 61.02% in the last 12 months and 45.67% year-to-date. The relative strength index was 45.58.

Out of 28 analysts tracking the company, 18 maintain a 'buy', four suggest a 'hold' and six recommend a 'sell', according to Bloomberg data. The average 12-month analysts' consensus price target implies an upside of 11.6%.

Headline	ONGC Videsh, partners win rights to produce gas from ACG field		
Publication	Hindustan Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2024		

ONGC Videsh, partners win rights to produce gas from ACG field

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/ongc-videsh-partners-win-rights-to-produce-gas-from-acg-field-101727120340496.html>

ONGC Videsh (OVL) and its partners on Saturday acquired a 25-year right to explore and produce natural gas from BP-operated Azeri-Chirag-Deepwater Gunashli (ACG) field

State-run energy explorer Oil and Natural gas Corps overseas arm ONGC Videsh (OVL) and its partners on Saturday acquired a 25-year right to explore and produce natural gas from BP-operated Azeri-Chirag-Deepwater Gunashli (ACG) field in addition to their decade-old rights of producing oil from the largest oilfield in the Azerbaijan sector of the Caspian basin.

The NAG (non-associated natural gas) resources of ACG are believed to be significant, with up to 4 trillion cubic feet (tcf) in place, ONGC informed bourses that saw 3.16% jump in companys stock price in the BSE to 295.35. While associate natural gas is produces along with crude from an oil field, NAG is dry gas produced exclusively from gas fields.

The gas exploration and production rights in ACG was acquired by OVL and other partners through an addendum to the existing Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) . OVL acquired Hess Corporations 2.31% participating interest (PI) in the asset in April 2013. Besides BP (30.37% PI), other partners in the field are the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan (SOCAR with 25% PI), Hungarian energy firm MOL Group (9.57%), Japanese company INPEX (9.31%), Norwegian firm Equinor (7.27%), ExxonMobil (6.79%), Turkish company TPAO (5.73%), and ITOCHU (3.65%).

The addendum amends the ACG PSA enabling the parties to progress the exploration, appraisal, development of and production from the non-associated natural gas (NAG) reservoirs of the ACG field, multinational oil giant BP said in a statement on September 20.

Rovshan Najaf, president of SOCAR called it a remarkable day in Azerbaijan's energy journey. The signing of this gas agreement represents not just a commercial triumph, but also a strategic milestone in our efforts to further diversify our energy resources, he said. This project will bolster Azerbaijan's role as a key supplier of energy to Europe, he added.

The addendum, signed on September 21, allows the stakeholders to explore, appraise, develop and produce from the non-associated natural gas reservoirs of the oil field until 2049. The field is located in the south Caspian Sea and covering an area of 435 sq km about 95 km off the coast of Azerbaijan; reserves are estimated to be up to 4 trillion cubic feet (tcf). The NAG reserves were not included in the original PSA signed in 2013. This agreement was amended in 2017 to extend its duration until December 2049.

The stakeholders agreed to drill a well in 2022 to collect gas pressure data from the NAG reserves in the field. The data confirmed the presence of natural gas within the expected pressure range last year. The stakeholders are now planning the development of the NAG reserves, with the first gas production expected in 2025.

ACG produces about 585,000 barrels per day. The crude is transported through the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline to Ceyhan on the Mediterranean coast of Turkiye, from where it is shipped to customers.

Headline	BP sees growing opportunities in India: CEO Murray Auchincloss		
Publication	News Point	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Sep 2024		

BP sees growing opportunities in India: CEO Murray Auchincloss

https://www.newspointapp.com/english-news/publisher-et/top-news/bp-sees-growing-opportunities-in-india-ceo-murray-auchincloss/articleshow/14504820c2c5ea2d15148b6870db9635a67a8201?utm_source=pwa&utm_medium=browser&utm_campaign=np

New Delhi: Energy firm BP sees "growing business opportunities" in India, its global chief executive Murray Auchincloss said in a statement on Wednesday.

The board of London-headquartered BP is holding a meeting in India this week, said a company statement.

This is the second time BP's board is meeting in India. The first meeting was held in 2013, about two years after company took a 30% interest in Indian upstream projects managed by Reliance Industries for \$7.2 billion.

"We see growing business opportunities, including through our world-class partnership with Reliance, producing the country's gas and growing our joint retail presence. In turn, India's highly skilled engineering and scientific talent can help us deliver our targets more effectively, efficiently and rapidly," Auchincloss said.

He along with other board members met petroleum and natural gas minister Hardeep Puri on Tuesday.

BP, in alliance with RIL, is engaged in natural gas production and fuel retailing in India. BP and RIL partnered with state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to bid for a western offshore block in the just-concluded exploration licensing round.

ONGC is also seeking to partner with a global oil firm to help boost output from its flagship Mumbai High field which has producing for about half a century.

India is seeking to attract international firms to its exploration sector as they have access to big capital and advanced technologies which could come in handy to boost domestic output that's been falling for years. India's crude output has fallen by a fifth in the past decade.

Headline	BP raises India bet with board visit amid ONGC, Cairn search for suitors		
Publication	News Point	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Sep 2024		

BP raises India bet with board visit amid ONGC, Cairn search for suitors

https://www.newspointapp.com/english-news/publisher-toi/business/bp-raises-india-bet-with-board-visit-amid-ongc-cairn-search-for-suitors/articleshow/14504820b54bac001faed67806ffddea7b2bd318?utm_source=pwa&utm_medium=browser&utm_campaign=np

This is the second time that the BP board is holding meetings in India, which coincides with at least two domestic players seeking technical and equity partnerships in their offshore projects.

The BP board had visited India for the first time in 2013, two years after acquiring 30% stake in Reliance Industries Ltd's KG-D6 block off the Andhra coast for \$7.2 billion.

This time, the visit coincides with state-run ONGC 's ongoing bid to induct a global technical service partner to ramp up production from the producing Mumbai High field in the shallow waters off the Mumbai coast. Vedanta group's Cairn Oil & Gas is also scouting for a partner to develop its western offshore deepwater block KG-DWN-2017/1 at an estimated investment of \$4 billion.

BP fits the bill for both with its technical prowess and experience in developing offshore fields, especially in deepwater. It is also among the few global companies that meet ONGC's qualifying condition of \$75 billion annual turnover.

BP has been in India for a century through its Castrol brand of lubricants. The partnership with Reliance put it in the thick of oil and gas industry in the country, developing three deepwater gas fields in the KG-D6 block. It has established presence in fuel retail and new-age mobility solutions under the Jio-BP brand and set up global business services centre and a digital hub in Pune.

The BP board members began their tour on Monday, with oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri hosting them at home over dinner. BP is committed to working closely with the Government of India to support its changing energy needs. By leveraging our combined experience and expertise with our partners, we aim to facilitate the secure, affordable, and lower carbon growth of India's energy resources to meet the increasing demand," a company statement on Wednesday quoted BP chair Helge Lund as saying.

India is an important part of BP's strategy as we transform into an integrated energy company. Building on the century-old legacy with India through our Castrol brand, our presence across the gas value chain, mobility retail businesses and our global business and technology centre, we expect to grow a material business here, and help support India's aspiration for energy independence by 2047, it quoted country head Kartikeya Dube as saying.

Headline	Navratna PSU ONGC won Best Organisation for Sustainability Reporting		
Publication	PSU Connect	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2024		

Navratna PSU ONGC won Best Organisation for Sustainability Reporting

<https://www.psuconnect.in/news/navratna-psu-ongc-won-best-organisation-for-sustainability-reporting/44395>

The Navratna PSU Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) recognized as the "Best Organisation for Sustainability Reporting" category at the 10th Edition of the India Sustainability Leadership Awards on 20 September 2024 in Bengaluru.

On the occasion company said, This honour reflects our unwavering commitment to sustainable leadership and a better future. As a responsible energy leader, India's Energy Maharatna is dedicated to building global networks and platforms that advance sustainability education, driving impactful change.

Headline	OALP Round IX gets more bids from private sector companies than PSUs		
Publication	PSU Watch	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2024		

OALP Round IX gets more bids from private sector companies than PSUs

<https://psuwatch.com/newsupdates/oalp-round-ix-gets-more-bids-from-private-sector-companies-than-psus>

OALP bid round-IX has received 35 bids from the private sector and 28 bids from PSUs for 28 oil and gas blocks on offer
Published on

New Delhi: Breaking away from a trend where mostly public sector undertakings (PSUs) were bidding for and securing blocks under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), the latest bid round (Round IX) has received more bids from the private sector than PSUs. While Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has bid for 19 blocks, Oil India Limited (OIL) has bid for nine blocks. On the other hand, Anil Agarwal's Vedanta has submitted bids for all 28 blocks on offer, Sun Petrochemicals has bid for seven blocks, taking the total number of bids from the private sector to 35.

PSU Watch is now on Whatsapp Channels. Click here to join

Reliance, BP combine bid for one block in Gujarat offshore alongwith ONGC

According to bid details released by the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), one of the blocks on the list in Gujarat offshore has received bids from a public-private consortium comprising ONGC, Reliance and BP. This block has received only one other bid from Vedanta Ltd. This is a Category-II basin, which means it has contingent resources pending commercial production. It has an area of 5,453.96 square kilometres.

ONGC partners with OIL, IOCL to bid for 4 blocks

Out of the total 19 blocks for which ONGC has submitted bids, 14 bids have been placed by ONGC alone. For four other blocks, it has bid with partners such as OIL and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). One bid has been placed by ONGC along with Reliance and BP. At a recent event, ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh had termed 2024 as the year of collaborations' for the oil and gas major. The Maharatna PSU is struggling to reverse a decline in its output and is seeking to collaborate with private companies in India and abroad to develop and monetise its fields as soon as possible.

Most of the 28 blocks on offer have received a minimum of two and a maximum of three bids. The OALP bid round-IX is the biggest oil and gas bid round, with areas spread over 1.36 lakh square kilometre on offer.

PSU Watch India's Business News centre that places the spotlight on PSUs, Bureaucracy, Defence and Public Policy is now on Google News. Click to follow. Also, in your Telegram. You may also follow us on and stay updated.)

Headline	ONGC Videsh's Azerbaijan Gas Venture: Implications and Morgan Stanley's Positive Outlook		
Publication	Pune News	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2024		

ONGC Videsh's Azerbaijan Gas Venture: Implications and Morgan Stanley's Positive Outlook

<https://pune.news/market/ongc-videshs-azerbaijan-gas-venture-implications-and-morgan-stanleys-positive-outlook-238488/>

ONGC Videsh, the international subsidiary of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), has recently signed an addendum to its existing Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) for the Azeri-Chirag-Gunashli (ACG) field in the Caspian Sea region of Azerbaijan. This strategic move aims to enhance the exploration and production of natural gas resources in the area.

Key Highlights

Strategic Partnership : The addendum was signed in collaboration with several major players, including the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR), bp, MOL, INPEX, Equinor, ExxonMobil, TPAO, and ITOCHU. This partnership underscores a unified approach towards exploring the Non-Associated Natural Gas (NAG) reservoirs in the ACG field.

Long-Term Commitment : The agreement will remain effective until the current ACG PSA expires in 2049, ensuring a long-term strategy for the involved parties to tap into Azerbaijan's natural gas reserves.

Co-Venturer Interests : The ownership interests for the NAG project align with those in the existing ACG PSA, as detailed below: bp: 30.37%

Following this development, Morgan Stanley has reiterated its overweight' rating on ONGC, maintaining a target price of 430 per share. This forecast suggests a potential upside of approximately 46% from the previous closing price.

Potential Reserve Accretion : Morgan Stanley points to the possibility of reserve enhancements in Azerbaijan, with plans to monetize an estimated 4 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gross natural gas reserves.

Improvements in Operations : Despite past challenges regarding returns from international operations, recent trends indicate improvements in both production and reserve accumulation.

Company Profile

ONGC Videsh is India's largest international oil and gas exploration and production company, operating 32 assets across 15 countries. Over the past year, ONGC shares have surged around 60%, significantly outperforming the 31% increase of the Nifty 50 index.

Important Information

Long-Term Exploration : The addendum allows for ongoing exploration and production activities until 2049.

Major Partnerships : Collaboration with leading global companies ensures shared expertise and resources in gas extraction.

Potential Financial Upside : Analysts see significant potential for growth and profitability in ONGC's international operations.

Conclusion

The recent agreement in Azerbaijan marks a pivotal moment for ONGC Videsh, positioning it to capitalize on valuable natural gas reserves while enhancing its long-term strategy in international markets. As the company continues to improve its operational performance, investor confidence remains high, as reflected in Morgan Stanley's optimistic outlook.

Disclaimer : The views and investment tips expressed by investment experts are their own and not those of Website or its management. It is advisable for users to consult certified experts before making investment decisions.

Headline	BP sees growing opportunities in India: CEO Murray Auchincloss		
Publication	The Economic Times	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2024		

BP sees growing opportunities in India: CEO Murray Auchincloss

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/bp-sees-growing-opportunities-in-india-ceo-murray-auchincloss/articleshow/113676785.cms>

BP's global CEO Murray Auchincloss highlighted growing business opportunities in India, citing their partnership with Reliance Industries in gas production and retail. The BP board is meeting in India for the second time, discussing potential collaborations with ONGC to boost domestic output. India's crude production has declined by a fifth over the past decade.

New Delhi: Energy firm BP sees "growing business opportunities" in India, its global chief executive Murray Auchincloss said in a statement on Wednesday. The board of London-headquartered BP is holding a meeting in India this week, said a company statement.

This is the second time BP's board is meeting in India. The first meeting was held in 2013, about two years after company took a 30% interest in Indian upstream projects managed by Reliance Industries for \$7.2 billion.

"We see growing business opportunities, including through our world-class partnership with Reliance, producing the country's gas and growing our joint retail presence. In turn, India's highly skilled engineering and scientific talent can help us deliver our targets more effectively, efficiently and rapidly," Auchincloss said.

He along with other board members met petroleum and natural gas minister Hardeep Puri on Tuesday.

BP, in alliance with RIL, is engaged in natural gas production and fuel retailing in India. BP and RIL partnered with state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to bid for a western offshore block in the just-concluded exploration licensing round.

ONGC is also seeking to partner with a global oil firm to help boost output from its flagship Mumbai High field which has producing for about half a century.

India is seeking to attract international firms to its exploration sector as they have access to big capital and advanced technologies which could come in handy to boost domestic output that's been falling for years. India's crude output has fallen by a fifth in the past decade.

Headline	Ujjwala LPG use rises on higher subsidy		
Publication	The Financial Express	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2024		

Ujjwala LPG use rises on higher subsidy

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-ujjwala-lpg-use-rises-on-higher-subsidy-3620791/>

Consumption of LPG by Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries has improved to 4.2 refills/year in the last three months after the new

coalition government took charge against 3.95 in 2023-24, a government official said. The increase in consumption is attributed to a moderation in prices and an increase in subsidy.

In the last three months, we have seen changes in the PMUY consumption due to the impact of new connections as well as price reduction, said the source. What used to be 3.01 refills for standard 14.2 kg cylinder in a regular family, had increased to 3.95 in 2024. In the last three months, due to moderation in prices along with increase in subsidy, the consumption has grown to 4.2 cylinders for a regular family.

As of September 1, 103.3 million PMUY connections have been released across the country, as per the government data. LPG coverage in the country has improved from 62% in April 2016 to near saturation now.

However, this is still lower than 4.4 refills recorded in the financial year 2020-21 when the government provided up to three refills free of cost in the light of Covid-19 pandemic.

During the first five months of the current financial year 2024-25, the consumption of LPG increased to 12.4 million tonnes registering an increase of 6.8% from the corresponding period of last fiscal, as per the data from Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell. Presently, there are 327.69 million total active LPG customers in the country.

The government had launched the scheme back in 2016 with an aim to provide cooking fuel to poor households while discouraging the use of traditional kitchen fuels including cow dung cakes and firewood which are more polluting. The target to release 80 million connections was achieved in 2019.

The government now expects to extend the benefit to 103.5 million households under the scheme by 2025-26.

Last year in August, the government had announced a price cut of Rs 200 per cylinder in LPG prices for all domestic consumers and decided to expand the scheme with additional 7.5 million connections. In October 2023, the government again hiked the subsidy for PMUY consumers by Rs 100 taking it to Rs 300 per cylinder. In March this year, Prime Minister announced a cut of Rs 100 per LPG cylinder while encouraging the use of LPG cylinders.

Total subsidy given on LPG by the government in the present fiscal stands at Rs 11,925.01 crore against Rs 12,240.0 crore as per revised estimates of FY24. This subsidy, in FY23, stood at Rs 6,817.37 crore. The subsidy amount includes the expenditure on connections given under PMUY.

The Narendra Modi government had earlier said that it will extend PNG connections across the country while expanding the LPG connections under the Ujjwala Yojana. The move is expected to aid in realising the government's target of increasing the share of natural gas in the energy mix from the present 6.8% to 15% by 2030.

The oil ministry in the first 100 days of governance has also initiated a project through state-run Ltd to connect isolated gas fields to the national grid. The project is expected to increase the availability of gas by 3.5 million standard cubic meters per day (MSCMD).

The effective cost of the increase is expected to be only about 50 paisa per kg of CNG for the final consumer, as per the official.

The process involves procurement of compressors and using them to convert low pressure gas from isolated fields to high pressure gas, which can be injected into the national gas grid.

The official also informed that the OPaL (Petro Additions Ltd) petchem plant in Dahej, Gujarat which received the Cabinet's nod for equity infusion of Rs 10,501 by ONGC last month will make the company viable.

OPaL Petchem plant in Dahej, Gujarat was commissioned in 2017 at a cost of about Rs 30,800 crore. OPaL mainly produces polyethylene and polypropylene and has a 12% domestic share in polymers. Infusion of equity and other measures will unlock the valuation of OPaL, said the source.

Headline	Oil India looking to start exploration in Nagaland		
Publication	The Financial Express	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Sep 2024		

Oil India looking to start exploration in Nagaland

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-oil-india-looking-to-start-exploration-in-nagaland-3622005/>

State-owned upstream company Oil India Ltd is looking to start exploration activities in Nagaland and is engaged in discussions with the state and

central government for the same, a top official of the company told FE. Additionally, the state-run company is hopeful of starting oil production from its block in Gabon in central Africa in the next financial year.

We have a total of 30 blocks under the OALP (Open Acreage Licensing Policy). We have already drilled all wells under the awarded OALP blocks, except in Nagaland. We are pursuing the ministry and they have set up a high power committee involving OIL, , government officials, to discuss the issue with the Government of Nagaland and resume exploration, the official said.

The company has a 3000 sq. km area in its possession in Nagaland. The governments of Assam and Nagaland have over the time held discussions on settlement of border disputes and agreeing in-principle on exploration of oil in the disputed areas for economic benefit. However, no progress has been made so far. Last year, the Nagaland government had said that exploration in the disputed areas with Assam will not start before consulting all stakeholders and tribal bodies of the area.

The company is currently carrying out exploration activities in 27 OALP blocks in the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan and offshore areas in Andaman and Kerala-Konkan out of the 30 OALP blocks awarded under different OALP bid rounds. It has a valid petroleum exploration license (PEL) for 29 OALP blocks.

In respect of the AA-ONHP-2018/2 OALP block on the Assam Arakan basin, the company is yet to receive PEL from concerned governments, the company said in its annual report for 2023-24. OIL's application for PEL was handed over to the Ministry, Geology & Mining, Nagaland on March 20, 2020, it said.

Oil and Natural Gas Corp also had to stop its exploration and production activities in Nagaland in 1994 after the National Socialist Council of Nagaland asked it to quit the state.

In the remaining 27 blocks, we have completed a seismic survey and now we are planning to start drilling. Some of the blocks we have already started drilling. In Rajasthan we have drilled six wells. In Orissa too, we have drilled three wells and another one in Assam, said the source.

As for ventures abroad, OIL has already drilled three wells in the block and is looking to drill two more uprising wells, according to the official. and Corp have a 50% stake each in the Shakthi-II block in Gabon. In Gabon we have drilled three wells and there has been a discovery. So that is why we are drilling two more uprising wells.

An oil discovery was made in well Lassa-1 in the old PSC (production sharing contract). Two appraisal wells (Lassa-2 & 3) were drilled as per the minimum work programme of Phase-1 of new PSC, said the company in its annual report FY24. The consortium carried out 1213.04 LKM (line kilometer) of new 2D seismic data acquisition, processing and interpretation to assess the prospectivity in the remaining part of the block.

Based on the integrated interpretation and prospect evaluations, the consortium has entered into Phase-II exploration period in the block which was extended upto April 15, 2025 due to statutory delays and Covid-19 pandemic, it had said.

The company's overseas exploration and production (E&P) portfolio is spread over seven countries including Russia, Venezuela, Mozambique, Nigeria, , Libya and Gabon.

The company's plans of ramping up its domestic and overseas production capacities comes amid the government's target of improving the country's supplies while reducing the dependency on imports. India imports around 85% of its oil requirement.

Headline	India's biggest oil, gas bid round gets 4 bidders		
Publication	The Mobiworl	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	25 Sep 2024		

India's biggest oil, gas bid round gets 4 bidders

<https://www.themobiworld.com/Index/flowNewsDetail/id/6576051.html?val=0df0c4ecefbee5dba5440823769791d3>

New Delhi, Sept 24: India's biggest oil and gas bid round attracted four bidders that included state-owned ONGC and OIL and private sector Vedanta

Ltd, with most blocks getting just two bids, according to Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH).

The OALP-IX bid round, where 28 blocks or areas spread over 1.36 lakh square kilometre were offered for finding and producing oil and gas, for the first time saw Reliance Industries Ltd-bp plc combine bidding together with ONGC for one block in Gujarat offshore.

Reliance and its supermajor partner bp plc had bid in just two of the past eight oil and gas bid rounds since 2017. Reliance-bp combine had bid and won the two blocks they had bid for in the previous rounds and this is the first time they have teamed up with ONGC to bid for a shallow water block in the Gujarat-Saurashtra basin.

In the previous eighth round of Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP-VIII), state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) had not bid for the ultra deepsea Krishna Godavari basin block that Reliance-bp combine had sought.

The DGH on Monday released the names of the bidders for the 28 blocks offered under the OALP-IX round, bids for which closed on September 21.

ONGC bid for 14 blocks alone and with partners such as state-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) for four other blocks. After considering its bid with Reliance-bp, ONGC in all bids for 19 out of the 28 blocks on offer.

Mining billionaire Anil Agarwal-owned Vedanta Ltd bid for all the 28 blocks on offer while Sun Petrochemicals Ltd bid for seven areas.

Of the 28 blocks on offer, four blocks got three bids each while the rest had two bidders, one being Vedanta Ltd.

Blocks are awarded to firms offering the highest share of revenues generated from oil and gas produced from the blocks and the work programme they commit to.

Of the 28 blocks offered in OALP-IX, nine are onshore blocks, eight shallow-water blocks and 11 ultra-deepwater blocks across eight sedimentary basins, with an area of 136,596.45 sq km.

In the previous eight OALP rounds, 144 exploration and production blocks comprising a total area of 242,055 sq km have been awarded. In the last round (OALP-VIII) where 10 blocks were offered, state-owned ONGC won seven blocks while a private-sector consortium of Reliance Industries and bp, Oil India and private-sector Sun Petrochemicals received one block each.

Headline	BP raises India bet with board visit amid ONGC, Cairn search for suitors		
Publication	The Times of India	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Sep 2024		

BP raises India bet with board visit amid ONGC, Cairn search for suitors

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/bp-raises-india-bet-with-board-visit-amid-ongc-cairn-search-for-suitors/articleshow/113678418.cms>

BP PLC BP plc is raising its bet on India, the main driver of global energy demand growth, by holding its full board meeting in the country as the UK major's exploration business faces climate and transition headwinds elsewhere.

This is the second time that the BP board is holding meetings in India, which coincides with at least two domestic players seeking technical and equity partnerships in their offshore projects.

The BP board had visited India for the first time in 2013, two years after acquiring 30% stake in Reliance Industries Ltd's KG-D6 block off the Andhra coast for \$7.2 billion.

This time, the visit coincides with state-run ONGC 's ongoing bid to induct a global technical service partner to ramp up production from the producing Mumbai High field in the shallow waters off the Mumbai coast. Vedanta group's Cairn Oil & Gas is also scouting for a partner to develop its western offshore deepwater block KG-DWN-2017/1 at an estimated investment of \$4 billion.

BP fits the bill for both with its technical prowess and experience in developing offshore fields, especially in deepwater. It is also among the few global companies that meet ONGC's qualifying condition of \$75 billion annual turnover.

BP has been in India for a century through its Castrol brand of lubricants. The partnership with Reliance put it in the thick of oil and gas industry in the country, developing three deepwater gas fields in the KG-D6 block. It has established presence in fuel retail and new-age mobility solutions under the Jio-BP brand and set up global business services centre and a digital hub in Pune.

The BP board members began their tour on Monday, with oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri hosting them at home over dinner. BP is committed to working closely with the Government of India to support its changing energy needs. By leveraging our combined experience and expertise with our partners, we aim to facilitate the secure, affordable, and lower carbon growth of India's energy resources to meet the increasing demand," a company statement on Wednesday quoted BP chair Helge Lund as saying.

India is an important part of BP's strategy as we transform into an integrated energy company. Building on the century-old legacy with India through our Castrol brand, our presence across the gas value chain, mobility retail businesses and our global business and technology centre, we expect to grow a material business here, and help support India's aspiration for energy independence by 2047, it quoted country head Kartikeya Dube as saying.

Headline	PM Modi to dedicate ₹10,400 crore in energy projects, bolstering India's infrastructure and green transition		
Publication	ET Energyworld	Edition	Online Coverage
Published Date	26 Sep 2024		

PM Modi to dedicate ₹10,400 crore in energy projects, bolstering India's infrastructure and green transition

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/pm-modi-to-dedicate-10400-crore-in-energy-projects-bolstering-indias-infrastructure-and-green-transition/113682883>

In a significant boost to India's energy infrastructure, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch and dedicate various initiatives in the petroleum and natural gas sector totaling 10,400 crore.

New Delhi: In a significant boost to India's energy infrastructure, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch and dedicate various initiatives in the petroleum and natural gas sector totaling 10,400 crore. This major announcement is part of his visit to Pune, Maharashtra, scheduled for September 26.

During this visit, the prime minister will also inaugurate the completed first phase of the Pune Metro Rail Project, which includes the newly finished underground section from District Court to Swargate, constructed at a cost of 1,810 crore. Following this, he will lay the foundation stone for the Swargate-Katraj Extension of the Pune Metro, a project estimated at 2,950 crore.

Among the key highlights of his visit, Modi will launch several green initiatives aimed at reducing carbon emissions and promoting cleaner mobility. This includes the dedication of 500 new electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities nationwide, as part of a broader effort to build 10,000 EV charging stations by FY 2025, with an estimated budget of 1,500 crore. Additionally, he will inaugurate 20 Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) stations, with plans for 50 more across various states, totaling an investment of approximately 500 crore.

Moreover, PM Modi will unveil 1,500 retail outlets for E20 (20% ethanol-blended) petrol, reflecting the government's commitment to sustainable energy practices, a project worth around 225 crore.

The visit will also witness the inauguration of way side amenities for truck and cab drivers, constructed at a cost of 2,170 crore across multiple states including Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat, and Karnataka. These facilities are designed to enhance the travel experience by offering services such as boarding, lodging, and safe parking.

On a broader scale, the prime minister will also inaugurate Solapur Airport and the Bidkin Industrial Area, which promises to bolster economic growth in the Marathwada region as part of the National Industrial Corridor Development Program.