Kadiramangalam Protest

Why in news?

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Farmers of Kadiramangalam in Thanjavur district protesting against the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation’s exploration activities in the village.

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What is this ONGC project?

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- The ONGC sunk three oil wells in the village, and has been pumping out hydrocarbon resources since 2004.
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- The pumped-out crude oil and natural gas are transported to Kuttalam, 5 km away, through underground pipelines laid at a depth of six feet.
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- The ONGC was about to deepen the wells by over 400 feet.
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- The apprehension was that the ONGC was going to explore further for coal-bed methane and shale gas.
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What are the reasons for the protest?

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- Recently potable water in the village turned brownish yellow with a high content of visible particulate matter polluting it.
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- There are doubts among villagers that the oil exploration will depleted the groundwater table and pollute the available quantum too.
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- ONGC representatives who involve in the oil exploration are not responsive to the people’s questions

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- A pipeline burst near one of the oil wells resulting in a spill in the fields of farmer created distress among the people
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What is the status of the protest?

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- The ONGC claimed that there was no plan for shale gas and coal-bed methane exploration, but it was about to undertake routine maintenance activities at the oil well.
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- But the protestors are not convinced with the statements of ONGC.
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- Recently there was sudden mobilisation of huge posse of police in the village.
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- Then the villagers organised protests and a shutdown to mark the police action.
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- Together with the agitation against the hydrocarbon project at Neduvasal in Pudukkottai, which has been going on for more than 100 days.
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- The struggle in Kadiramangalam continues, with the end unpredictable.
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Source: The Hindu

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