

Natural Gas in Krishna-Godavari Basin

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Energy

Why in news?

State-owned Oil India Ltd. (OIL) said it has made a natural gas discovery in a shallow-water Krishna-Godavari basin block that the firm had won in recent Discovered Small Field (DSF) bid rounds.

- **Block Location** - Godavari-1 appraisal well in the KG-DSF/GSKW/2018 shallow-water offshore block (won under Discovered Small Field bid rounds).
- **Well & Formation** - The discovery was made in the previously unappraised Matsyapuri formation in the Krishna-Godavari Basin off India's east coast, recording a peak test flow of 200,000 Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (SCMD).
- **Depth** - Hydrocarbon-bearing zone tested between 2,024 and 2,027 metres, with testing initiated on October 16, 2026.
- **Record gas flows** - The well has flowed gas at about 100,000 SCMD, with a maximum rate of 200,000 SCMD recorded during continuous testing; it also reported condensate output of about 170 barrels per day.
- **Strategic Context**
- **Making it a key region** - The exploration activity in the Krishna-Godavari Basin, one of India's key offshore hydrocarbon-producing regions.
- **Expansion of domestic resources** - The basin has been central to efforts to expand domestic gas supplies, with deepwater projects accounting for a significant share of the country's production growth in recent years.
- The discovery could offer an additional source of domestic gas at a time when India remains reliant on imports to meet a substantial portion of its natural gas requirements.
- **National Energy Goals** - The government has set a target of **raising natural gas' share** of India's energy mix **to 15% by 2030, from about 6% currently**, making the development of domestic resources an important part of its energy strategy.



Quick Fact

Major natural gas reserves and production regions

- Distributed across Western and Eastern offshore basins as well as several key onshore states.

Western Offshore & Western India

- **Western Offshore (Bombay High & Bassein)** - Holds the largest share of India's natural gas reserves (around 31%), centred in the Arabian Sea near Mumbai.
- **Gujarat (Cambay Basin)** - One of India's earliest and most productive onshore gas-producing regions, supporting local thermal power plants and industries.
- **Rajasthan (Barmer Basin)** - Features growing onshore oil and gas exploration and production fields.

Eastern Offshore & Eastern India

- **Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin (Andhra Pradesh)** - Located off the coast of Andhra Pradesh, this deep-water basin accounts for a massive portion of India's eastern offshore reserves.
- **Mahanadi Offshore Basin (Odisha)** - Features recent deep-water and ultra-deepwater discoveries by ONGC (under the Samudra Manthan initiative).
- **Cauvery Basin (Tamil Nadu)** - Includes onshore and offshore natural gas fields, notably around the Cuddalore district.

Northeastern & Northern Regions

- **Assam** - One of the oldest oil and gas producing states in India, with significant onshore reserves.
- **Tripura (Tripura Basin)** - Houses substantial onshore natural gas reserves.
- **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** - Estimated to hold very large potential offshore gas reserves (though commercial exploitation is still developing).

Reference

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