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# Natural Gas Discovery in Andaman Basin Strengthens India's Energy Security

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Oil India Limited (OIL) has reported a significant natural gas discovery in the Andaman offshore basin during exploratory drilling.?

The discovery was made in the Andaman Sea region, which is considered one of India's frontier hydrocarbon basins.

The find is being viewed as a major step toward increasing domestic oil and gas production.

The discovery supports India's efforts to reduce dependence on imported energy resources.

The Government of India has described the Andaman region as an emerging "Ocean of Energy Opportunities."

Further appraisal and testing will be conducted to assess the commercial viability and size of the reserves.

The discovery aligns with India's broader strategy of enhancing energy security and achieving greater self-reliance in the energy sector.

## **Andaman Basin**

The Andaman Basin is located in the southeastern part of the Bay of Bengal around the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

It is one of India's least explored offshore sedimentary basins.

The basin is considered geologically similar to hydrocarbon-rich regions of Southeast Asia.

Experts believe the basin has significant untapped reserves of oil and natural gas.

## **Oil India Limited (OIL):**

### **Kamaraj IAS Academy**

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Established: 1959

Headquarters: Duliajan, Assam

Chairman & MD: Dr. Ranjit Rath

Ministry: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

Status: Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)

It is India's second-largest national oil and gas company after ONGC.

### **Natural Gas**

Natural gas mainly consists of Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>).

It is considered a relatively cleaner fossil fuel compared to coal and crude oil.

### **Major uses include:**

Electricity generation

Fertilizer production

Domestic cooking fuel (PNG)

Transportation fuel (CNG)

### **Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP):**

Launched in: 2016

Replaced the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

### **Key Features:**

Uniform licensing for all hydrocarbons

Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP)

Revenue-sharing model

Greater ease of doing business in exploration

### **India's Major Sedimentary Basins:**

Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin

Mumbai Offshore Basin

Cambay Basin

Assam-Arakan Basin

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Cauvery Basin

Andaman Basin

### **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

Capital: Port Blair

Lieutenant Governor: Admiral D.K. Joshi (Retd.)

Located at the junction of the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.

Strategically important for India's maritime security and Indo-Pacific policy.

### **India's Energy Security Goals**

India aims to increase the share of natural gas in its energy mix from around 6% to 15%.

The country imports a large portion of its crude oil and natural gas requirements.

Increasing domestic production helps:

Reduce import dependence

Improve energy security

Save foreign exchange

Support economic growth

### **Exam Focus Points (Quick Revision Notes)**

Discovery ? Natural Gas in Andaman Basin

Discovering Agency ? Oil India Limited (OIL)

Location ? Andaman Offshore Basin, Bay of Bengal

Significance ? Enhances India's energy security

OIL Headquarters ? Duliajan, Assam

OIL Status ? Maharatna CPSE

HELP Launched ? 2016

Major Component of Natural Gas ? Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)

Andaman & Nicobar Capital ? Port Blair

India's Natural Gas Target ? 15% share in energy mix

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