

## Uttar Pradesh Hits A Jackpot! Crude Oil Discovered in Ballia, ONGC Begins Drilling - More Wells Across 300 KM Oil Belt

A major crude oil reserve has been discovered near Sagarpali village in Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh, with ONGC launching exploration efforts. The reserve, found on the land of freedom fighter Chittu Pandey's family, could lead to large-scale drilling and land acquisitions, significantly impacting local farmers. ONGC officials suggest that if successful, additional wells will be drilled at other identified locations within the 300-km crude oil belt, stretching from Sagarpali in Ballia to Phaphamau in Prayagraj.



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After a three-month survey in the Ganga basin, ONGC has confirmed the presence of crude oil at a depth of 3,000 metres in Ballia. The discovery was made on the land belonging to the family of Chittu Pandey, a renowned freedom fighter. ONGC has leased six-and-a-half acres from the Pandey family for three years, offering an annual rent of Rs 10 lakh.

Drilling efforts are already underway, requiring 25,000 litres of water daily, and are expected to conclude by April 2025. ONGC officials suggest that if successful, additional wells will be drilled at other identified locations within the 300-km crude oil belt, stretching from Sagarpali in Ballia to Phaphamau in Prayagraj.

### Impact on Local Farmers and Land Acquisition

If the reserves prove commercially viable, ONGC may acquire more land at higher prices, benefiting farmers in the region. Neel Pandey, a descendant of Chittu Pandey, confirmed ONGC's three-year lease agreement, with an option for a one-year extension. The discovery could transform the region's economy, turning Ballia into an emerging oil hub.

### India's Crude Oil Reserves and ONGC's Role

India had estimated crude oil reserves of 587.335 million metric tonnes as of April 2021, with major deposits in the western offshore region, Assam, and Gujarat. ONGC, established in 1956, has led India's oil exploration efforts, making key discoveries such as Mumbai High, India's largest oil field.

In 2024, ONGC announced five new oil and gas discoveries, both onshore and offshore, as part of its strategy to boost domestic production and reduce import dependence. The Ballia discovery adds to these efforts, highlighting India's untapped potential in energy exploration.