Drilling for oil in a disputed belt

A tripartite agreement hopes to clear the ground for oil and gas exploration in the Northeast, but it won't be easy

S DINAKAR
Hyderabad, 26 June

The seed for unlocking oil and gas deposits in the Disputed Area Belt (DAB), a 1,100 square kilometre (sq km) contested zone along the 512 km Assam-Nagaland border in Northeastern India, was sown a decade ago in a 268-page document. Released in February 2016 by then Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the document's page 11 recommended creation of a committee comprising officials from the Centre, Assam and Nagaland governments to find a solution to what was arguably one of the biggest and most-promising patches of land for oil and gas deposits.

The report called for a solution by 2018. But it took another eight years the Centre, Assam, and Nagaland to reach an agreement, paving the way for both state and private players to drill in the area.

The pact, signed in early June this year, is an enabler, explained an official of a private sector explorer that has blocks overlapping DAB. While blocks have been awarded in the past in the disputed area, petroleum exploration licences were not given by the Nagaland government, the official said.

An urgency to exploit discovered areas arises amid India's declining domestic oil production and surging oil use — a 90 per cent import dependence is a liability in times of a war in West Asia. The tripartite pact, with the Union home ministry as the referee, addresses two issues, which had stopped explorers from accessing one of India's most-promising oil-bearing areas since the early 1990s. First, a dispute between Assam and Nagaland on the land border; second, the complexities of Nagaland's Article 371A, which grants special rights over land and resources, and which was the biggest bugbear for developing oil and mineral deposits in the region, two officials from as many state-run explorers said. "It (DAB) has very high potential," said Sushma Rawat, former exploration director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), who has extensive experience in the area. ONGC already had proved the presence of oil there in the late 1980s. But then, because of political and other social issues around that area, the operations ceased, said Rawat.

She said that once blocks in the now-settled DAB are demarcated, explorers need to conduct geological studies before commencing drilling. ONGC has drilled wells in the DAB, but they were not put into production.

"We are evaluating this area, and in case there is any fresh bidding... we will actively look at these opportunities," said Pankaj Kalra, chief executive officer (CEO), Essar Oil and Gas.



The search for oil

- In June, the Centre, Assam and Nagaland reached an agreement, paving the way for xboth state and private players to drill oil in the disputed area belt (DAB)
- In-place reserves in DAB account for 15 per cent of Northeast's total reserves
- Govt expects an estimated recovery value of over ₹15,000 crore from the six identified hydrocarbon-bearing fields in DAB
- However, getting to these deposits is no easy task due to tough terrain, thick forests, and poor infrastructure

The pact is only a beginning. The DAB and other areas in Nagaland present steep environmental, infrastructural, and security hurdles.

"It (DAB) is a very prolific basin which was infested with insurgency. And as a result, for several decades, the most potential areas were like a no-go area," said Ashish Agarwal, CEO of Seros Energy. "So, now the government is taking a lot of these steps to expedite infrastructure development, resolve litigation, obtain forest clearances, have access to land and a policy intervention to simplify things," Agarwal said.

Reserve size

Some experts estimate the size of the reserves in the DAB, a part of the Assam-Arakan basin, the less explored of the two basins (the other being the Upper Assam Shelf) in the Northeast belt, to exceed that of the entire northeastern region. The Upper Assam Shelf and the Assam-Arakan fold belt are two distinct geological regions of the Assam-Arakan basin, covering approximately 56,000 sq km and 60,000 sq km, respectively. While the Upper Assam Shelf is about 90 per cent explored and drives current oil and gas production, only 10 per cent of the fold belt has been explored.

The major part of the fold belt falls between the prolific hydrocarbon-producing regions of Bangladesh and Myanmar. In both these countries, gas is the main constituent of hydrocarbons produced, and oil production is very low. Huge gas potential is envisaged from unexplored Assam and Assam-Arakan fold belt regions.

> AN URGENCY TO EXPLOIT DISCOVERED AREAS ARISES AMID INDIA'S DECLINING DOMESTIC OIL PRODUCTION AND SURGING OIL USE

Other forecasts come lower. Estimates of inplace reserves (reserves that are available, but only a portion can be profitably extracted) by ONGC and other developers in the DAB is as much as 250 million barrels — with a recovery ratio of 30-40 per cent, industry officials said. That is sufficient to meet India's fuel demand for three weeks, according to calculations based on oil ministry data. The inplace reserves in the DAB account for 15 per cent of Northeast's total reserves, according to one estimate.

The government said that it expects a recovery value of over ₹15,000 crore from the six identified hydrocarbon-bearing fields in the DAB.

Irrespective of how much can be profitably extracted, getting to these deposits is no easy task, five experts who have worked in the area said, adding that you have to negotiate tough terrain, thick forests, zero infrastructure and several encroachments. There are topography and logistic issues, said Pankaj Goswami, former director-operations, Oil India. "You need to take heavy drilling equipment across hilly areas," Goswami said.

Illegal encroachments

The DAB is divided into six sectors. Out of these six sectors, four sectors — A, B, C and D — fall in Golaghat district of Assam side and contain reserve forests like Rengma Reserve Forest, South Nambor Reserve Forest, and Doyang Reserve Forest. A considerable part of these reserve forests and government lands is under encroachment, said Biplab Biswas and Sachin Rajmurti, researchers from Mahatma Gandhi University in Meghalaya, in a note in May.

Around 10,500-11,000 bighas of land, or 3 per cent of the DAB, were encroached upon by people so far in the reserve forests and government land areas, according to Nagaland government data last year. While in Assam, 1 bigha equals to 0.33 acre, in Nagaland it is 0.62 acre.

The locals (in Nagaland) are very powerful. They did not allow outsiders to work in those areas in the past, a senior official from a state explorer said.

For example, last July/August, the governments of Nagaland and Assam undertook a joint eviction drive to clear alleged encroachments and remove illegal immigrants on nearly 1,500 hectares of forest land in Golaghat district, leading to tension in the area.

Also, getting green nods has proved difficult in the past. Essar Oil relinquished two areas in Assam due to delay in environmental clearances. "Many of the projects related to oil and gas are delayed because of clearances (environment and forest clearances)," the government acknowledged in Hydrocarbon Vision 2030.

CBSE to modify order on foreign language choices

Class 7, 8 and 9 students who opted for 2 foreign languages may be allowed to continue with the same combination

AUHONA MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 26 June

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will shortly modify an order issued last month to bring more clarity on pupils' choice of languages, according to two people aware of the development.

The proposed order will state that students currently in Classes 7, 8 and 9 who have opted for two foreign languages under the existing framework will be allowed to continue with the same combination until Class 10. It will also clarify that no mid-course changes will be mandated for these cohorts.

"The earlier order lacked clarity on this matter, which will be cleared in a fresh order to be released in a few days," said a senior official, one of the two persons quoted above. Both the persons spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The CBSE's May order, issued to align its three-language policy with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, proposed that from the 2026-27 academic session, students must study two Indian languages out of three languages offered. However, it did not clearly specify whether the requirement would apply to students already in Classes 7, 8 and 9 who had opted for two foreign languages, leading to confusion among schools and parents over whether existing language combinations would need to be changed mid-course. Queries sent to the ministry of education and to CBSE on Friday seeking comments for the story remained unanswered at the time of publishing.



The requirement under the revised policy to study at least two Indian languages will apply only to students entering Class 6 in future academic cycles and the provision will not be applied retrospectively to students already enrolled in higher classes, the people said.

The clarification comes amid confusion and debate in the school education circles following changes to the three-language formula under the National Education Policy framework. The revised approach, which seeks to promote multilingual proficiency with emphasis on Indian languages, had led to queries from schools and parents on its applicability to students already studying foreign language combinations. In several states, particularly in the south, language policy changes have historically triggered concerns over the perceived imposition of certain languages, prompting sensitivities around implementation.

While the current CBSE revision is aimed at standardising language learning outcomes, schools had sought clarity on whether students already pursuing non-Indian language combinations would be required to switch mid-stream. Education stakeholders also flagged operational challenges, including availability of qualified teachers for additional Indian languages and timetable constraints.

The upcoming amended order is expected to address these concerns and ensure continuity for existing students while rolling out the revised framework prospectively.

The three-language formula under the National Education Policy framework encourages students to learn three languages, with at least two being Indian languages.

Months after row, new Class 9 NCERT textbook describes judiciary as impartial institution

Months after a class 8 NCERT textbook courted controversy for allegedly maligning the judiciary, a new class 9 textbook describes it as an "impartial and independent institution that safeguards citizens' rights and upholds the spirit of the Constitution".

However, the new class 9 textbook was prepared before the controversy over the class 8 textbook broke out. The new social science textbook talks about various functions of the judiciary, stating that it reviews executive actions and constitutional amendments, can invalidate unconstitutional laws, upholds the Constitution and "plays a vital role in protecting and promoting democratic values and the rights of all sections \of the society."

Under a section titled 'Separation of Powers' in a chapter on democracy, the textbook highlights that the judiciary takes public interest litigation (PIL) from time to time to ensure access to justice for all.

In February, a controversy broke out over the National Council of Educational Research and Training's (NCERT) class 8 social science textbook, which included a section on "corruption in the judiciary" in a chapter. PTI

Gifts from abroad over the years via diplomatic channels up for auction

Auctioned souvenirs

Silver Khanjar dagger with Ivory handle
- Base price: ₹1,52,950
- Highest quoted price so far: ₹1,80,950
- No of bids so far: 15





Traditional Cham dance mask from Bhutan
- Base price: ₹4,820
- Highest quoted price so far: ₹9,820
- No of bids so far: 5



Rolex Yacht Master II
- Base price: ₹16,52,360
- Highest quoted price so far: ₹19,03,360
- No of bids so far: 15

ARCHIS MOHAN
New Delhi, 26 June

Souvenirs and mementos that Indian diplomats have received over the years during their international visits have gone under the hammer in an auction that is the first of its kind. The Ministry of External Affairs' (MEA's) Toshakhana has put up for bidding around 300 such souvenirs.

These range from a Kuwaiti jewellery set made by the Al Arbash brand, with its base price at almost ₹10 lakh, to a Rolex Yacht Master II watch designed specifically for competitive sailing, which is being bid for ₹20 lakh.

Other items on auction include porcelain crockery; jewellery; shawls; watches; silver daggers, one of which is being bid for ₹1,80,000; and a 20 gram "fine gold biscuit" inside a box from Switzerland's Argor Heraeus brand.

Also there are perfumes and carpets, including a Tibetan carpet being bid for ₹1,10,000.

An "Indo-Persian style tea service" set is being bid for ₹7,60,000 while an Egyptian silver carafe is being bid for ₹2,70,000.

> THE MEA IS CONDUCTING THE FIRST ROUND OF E-AUCTION AFTER THE TOSHAKHANA RULES WERE REVISED IN 2024

The Toshakhana is the repository of gifts and articles received in India or abroad by government functionaries from foreign sources.

The MEA is conducting the first round of e-auction after the Toshakhana Rules were revised in 2024. The auction is open to Indian citizens who can register on the e-auction portal https://toshakhanaauction.mea.gov.in/ and bid for their shortlisted items.

The auction ends at 5 pm on June 30. "The Toshakhana items offered for auction are primarily heritage, souvenir, commemorative, decorative, collectible, or ceremonial items and may not be intended for functional, commercial, or operational use," the auction notice states.

"Bidders shall exercise their own independent judgment, due diligence, and assessment regarding the nature, condition, authenticity, utility, and suitability of the items before participating in the auction process," it states. The policy of "no return, no reimbursement" has been adopted for this e-auction, the notice states.

The auction began on June 8. The items once auctioned will be shipped free of cost to the successful bidders.

Officials said a committee decided the base price of the items being auctioned. The proceeds will go to the Consolidated Fund of India.

The last such auction took place in 1983, but was open only to government employees at the MEA headquarters.

The next round, which is in the works, will have mementos and souvenirs that external affairs ministers have received over the years.

PUBLIC NOTICE

HeroHousing Finance

Hero Housing Finance Limited hereby notifies that, with an objective to rationalize its branches, the branch situated at the below address shall be closed with effect from September 30, 2026:

Hero Housing Finance Limited Office No – 12 and 24, 1st Floor, PJ Chambers, Behind Hotel Crystal Court, off Old Mumbai – Pune Highway, Pimpri Pune, Maharashtra – 411018

Please note that the closure of the above branch shall not affect servicing of the Company's customers in any manner

For any further details, please contact the Company's representatives through following channels: customer.care@herohfl.com , Toll Free Number: 18002128800

Hero Housing Finance Limited Regd Office: 9, Community Centre, Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057 CIN : U65192DL2016PLC301481

Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd.

Corporate Office : Unit No. 19-NE, 19th Floor, The Ruby, Senapati Bapat Marg, Near Ruparel College, Dadar (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra- 400 028

POSSESSION NOTICE (As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL)** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Loan Account No./Branch	Brief details of secured assets	Date of Demand Notice & Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Possession Taken Date
1.	Vashim Ayyub Pathan/ Naushad Ayyub Pathan/ AHM-HL-000385/ Ahmednagar	All Piece And Parcel of Plot No. 64 Area Adm. 264.00 Sq.mtrs., Out of Survey No. 65/A/66/1 Situated At Savedi Within The Limits of Ahmednagar Municipal Corporation, Ahmednagar Tal Nagar Dist. Ahmednagar, East-: Plot No. 65, South-: 6 Mtrs. Road, West 12 Mtrs. Road North-: Plot No. 63	30-Mar-2026/ Rs. 23,40,634/- Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Fourty Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Four Only.	25-Jun-2026
2.	Raju Nisar Shaikh/ Naseem Raju Shaikh/ AHM-HL-000387/ Ahmednagar	All Part And Parcel In Respect Admeasuring Area oh-01R Having Built Up Area 82.22 Sq. Mtr. Out of Survey No. 249/1/P Its Total Area Oh-17R Situated At Village Bhingar, Tal- Nagar, Dist- Ahmednagar And Within The Local Limits of Ahmednagar Rural. Boundaries of The Property- East 18 Ft Road, South 10 Ft Road, West Part of Survey Number, North- Part of Survey Number.	30-Mar-2026/ Rs. 25,88,395/- Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Five Only.	23-Jun-2026

Date: June 27, 2026
Place: Ahmednagar

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Muthoot Homefin (India) Limited

TRUHOME FINANCE LIMITED (Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Ltd.)

Head Office: Level -3, Wockhardt Towers, East Wing C-2, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051;
Tel: 1800 102 4345 ; **Website:** http://www. truhomefinance.in
Reg.Off.: Srinivasa Tower, 1st Floor, Door No.5, Old No.11, 2nd Lane, Cenatoph Road, Alwarpet, Teynampet, Chennai-600018

APPENDIX-IV-A [SEE PROVISION TO RULE 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6)] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/ charged to Truhome Finance Limited (formerly M/s Shriram Housing Finance Limited), the Symbolic Possession of which have been taken by the Authorized Officer of Truhome Finance Limited, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis in e-auction on 28.07.2026 between 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for recovery of the balance due to Truhome Finance Limited from the Borrowers And Guarantors, as mentioned in the table.

Details of Borrowers and Guarantors, amount due, Short Description of the immovable property, reserve price and earnest money deposit and date of Inspection are also given as:

Name of Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagers	Amount of Recovery and date of Demand Notice	Reserve Price (Rs.) & Bid Increment	Date & Time of Auction	Contact Person Details – (AO and Disposal team)
1) MR. DIPAK RAMESH JAISWAL (Borrower) 2) MRS. GEETADEVI RAMESHLAL JAISWAL (Co-Borrower) 3) MR. RAMESH SHYAMLAL JAISWAL (CO-BORROWER) All having residence address at- Resident Address: NEAR PUNAM KIRANA NEAR DATTAMANDIR Jalna H O LAXMINARAYANPURA MASTAGAD JALNA Maharashtra INDIA 431203 Also At:- CTS No.9756 SITUATED AT BEHIND LAXMINARAYAN PURA MANDIR MASTAGAD NEARBY GOVERNMENT LIBRARY HINDU SURYA MAHARANA PRATAP CHOWK OLD JALNA TQ. AND DIST. JALNA 431213 Also At:-HOTEL SAICHHATRA SHOP NO. 01 BUS STAND ROAD JALNA NEAR RAMBHAU RAUT CHOWK JALNA H O JALNA MAHARASHTRA INDIA 431203 Loan Account No. SBTHAURD0001197/STUHAURD0001198 **Date of Possession & Type** 01st May 2026 & Symbolic Possession **Encumbranches known** Not Known	Demand Notice Date: 19/01/2026 Rs.36,31,534/- (Rupees Thirty-Six Lakh Thirty-One Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty-Four Only) and Rs. 17,76,319/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Seventy-Six Thousand Three Hundred and Nineteen only) as on dated 09-01-2026 under reference of Loan Account No. SBTHAURD0001197 and STUHAURD0001198 respectively with further interest at the contractual rate, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.	Rs.84,65,700/- (Rupees Eighty-Four Lakhs Sixty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Only) **Bid Increment:** Rs.10,000/- and in such multiples. **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)(Rs.)** Rs. 8,46,570/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Forty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Only) **Last date for submission of EMD : 27th July, 2026 Time 10.00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m.**	**28-JULY-2026 & Auction Time: 11.00 A.m. to 12.00 p.m.**	**Debjyoti Roy 9874702021** **Satish Bansod 9730047572** **Mayuresh Jadhav 9833017221** **Ajay Zanzot 9823390990** **Property Inspection Date and Time – 27.07.2026 Time 12.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.**

Description of Property

All that piece and parcel of CTS No.9756, admeasuring 133.30 sq. Mtr situated behind Laxminarayan pura Mandir Mastagad Nearby Government Library Hindu Surya Maharana Pratap Chowk Old Jalna Tq. And Dist. Jalna 431213 bounded as under- East: Road , West: Road, South: Raju Marpelli, North: Shankar Tipras

1) **For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer the website of Truhome Finance Limited (Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited) website.**
2) **The intending bidders have to submit their EMD amount to be deposited by way of RTGS/NEFT to the account details mentioned herein below: BANK NAME: AXIS BANK LIMITED BRANCH: BANDRA KURLA COMPLEX, MUMBAI BANK ACCOUNT NO. Current Account No. 911020045677633 IFSC CODE: UTIB0000230.**

Place : Jalana
Date: 27/06/2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer- Truhome Finance Limited
(Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited)

TECHDIGEST mybs.in/tech

Waiting for phones, laptops to get cheaper? You have to wait until 2030

Rising memory costs are set to keep smartphones, laptops, tab-lets and other consumer electronics expensive for years, with analysts warning that meaningful price relief may not arrive before 2030. The shift follows long-term supply agreements signed by memory maker Micron, locking in elevated DRAM and NAND pricing through the end of the decade. Analysts say the current cycle is structural rather than cyclical, driven by AI data centres consuming high-bandwidth memory and diverting manufacturing capacity away from consumer-grade chips. The cost pressure has already prompted price hikes by Apple, Microsoft and several smartphone brands, while some devices have been delayed or discontinued, writes **Harsh Shivam**

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