Chapter III
EVOLUTION OF OIL AND GAS COMPANIES IN INDIA AND PROFILE OF
SELECTED OIL AND GAS COMPANIES IN INDIA

To understand how the oil and gas industry works, it is important to understand how it has changed over time. The key factor in the industry development is to know who controls the key asset, the oil and gas reserves. The history of the oil industry is one of radical shifts in control and dominance. Much of the oil and gas industry has survived as especially in tough few years with weak demand and low prices, it is difficult to make strategic decisions and plan for the future. Only now is the sector has began to emerge from its upheaval. In this chapter the researcher presents the evolution of oil and gas companies in India and the profile of the selected oil and gas companies in India.

Origin of oil exploration in India

The story of oil exploration in India began in the dense jungles and swamps and river-valleys of the north-eastern corner of the country. Lt. R. Wilcox, Major A. White, Capt. Francis Jenkins, Capt. P.S. Hanny, W. Griffith, and W. Licut Bigge—they all saw at different time’s petroleum seepages from the banks of river Dihing in Upper Assam. Mr. C.A Bruce (1828) and Mr. H.B. Medicott (1865) of the Geological survey of India also saw oil seepages while prospecting for coal in upper Assam. Barely seven years after Edwin L. Drake drilled the world's first oil well in 1859 at Titusville, Pennsylvania, USA, in 1866, Mr. Goodenough of McKillop, Stewart and Company, Calcutta, drilled a hand-dug well of 102 feet at Nahorpung near Jaipur area of Upper Assam but failed to establish satisfactory production. In his second attempt on 26 March 1867, oil was struck at merely 118 feet (35.97-m) in Asia's first mechanically drilled well at Makum near Margherita area of Upper Assam.1
The origin of the Indian oil and gas industry can be traced back to the late 19th century, when oil was first struck at Digboi in Assam in 1889. At independence, oil exploration and production activities were largely confined to the North-Eastern region, particularly Assam and the daily crude oil production averaged just 5,000 barrels per day. However, the first well dug at Digboi field in Assam in September 1889 and completed in November 1890 at depth of 662 feet by Assam Railways and Trading Company Limited, registered at London, is regarded as the first commercially successful oil discovery (200 gallons per day). Thereafter, systematic drilling began in 1891 and two years later in 1901, Asia's first oil refinery was set up in at Digboi. It is still functional and world's oldest operating refinery. Later on UK based Burma Oil Company arrived in 1911 in Upper Assam and in 1915, after acquiring oil interest from Budderpore Oil Company Ltd began testing option in the Badarpur structure in the Surma valley (Upper Assam). The Indian Company "TATA engineering co." has also drilled several wells in Jagatia, Gujarat and produced small amount of gas in 1930s. In 1937, in Assam, successful systematic survey was carried out in Naharkatia during 1937-39, triggering new enthusiasm in oil search and it became forerunner of discoveries in Assam basins and others also.

At the time of India's independence and the developments in the areas of exploration and production, refining, marketing and distribution, imports, production and distribution of natural gas, and oil conservation. Petroleum Industry in 1947 perhaps no other sector of Indian economy was so much neglected during the British regime as oil. Independence and the declaration of the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948 produced little qualitative change in India's oil policy. During the first three years following independence, the share of local production of oil products ranged from 5 per cent to 10 per cent and, in the subsequent years, it fell less than 5 per cent until the beginning of a new phase in refinery construction in 1954.
In view of the significance of the oil and gas sector for overall economic growth, the Government of India, under the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1954, announced that petroleum would be the core sector industry. In pursuance of the Industrial Policy Resolution, 1954, petroleum exploration and production activity was controlled by the government-owned National Oil Companies (NOCs), namely Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and Oil India Private Ltd.

For a long time even after Independence, the Government of India took no serious interest in oil exploration. Somehow, the planners had very little faith in the possibility of a substantial oil discovery and the nascent nation's technical expertise was considered inadequate to undertake any exploration. More attention was therefore given to refineries where there was no risk element. The balance of payments problem, the growing level of oil consumption and the need for self-reliance in the major petroleum products during the years following the Second World War made the government to assign a significant role to refinery construction in the national economic agenda. When K.D.Malaviya joined Nehru's cabinet and was given the charge of mineral oil, a change in thinking took place in the government that only if Indian technicians were unable to prospect for oil, should the government consider inviting foreign companies for prospecting new areas. An oil and natural gas division was created as a part of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research in 1955. As suggested by N.A.Kaliin, the Soviet oil exploration consultant, and in pursuance of the new Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956, oil exploration became a monopoly of the Central Government. Consequently, the Oil and Natural Gas Commission was set up in August 1956 as a Government department. In October 1959 the ONGC became a statutory Commission owned wholly by the Government of India. Despite its limitations, ONGC struck oil in Cambay in 1958\(^2\). In 1972, the first offshore wells were drilled in Bombay High, where too ONGC met with early success\(^3\).
Development of oil and gas industry in India

With the discovery of the Cambay onshore basin (in 1958) and the Bombay offshore basin (in 1972), the domestic oil production increased considerably. As a result, in the early 70s, almost 70 per cent of the country’s oil requirement was met with domestically. However, by the end of the 1980s, some of the existing oil and gas fields experienced a decline in their production since they had already been in production for several years and were past their 3-plateau phase. At the same time, there was a steady increase in consumption of oil and gas, leading the two national oil companies to meet only about 35 per cent of the domestic oil requirement.

After that, controls were imposed by the Government on the pricing and distribution of crude oil and petroleum products in India. Factors like the administered oil prices and non-availability of appropriate technology logistics augmented the problem. Up to 1990s, there were three rounds of exploration bidding with no success in finding out new oil/gas deposits by the foreign companies which were allowed to participate in the bidding process. This led the government to initiate Petroleum Sector Reforms (PSR) in 1990, under which the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth rounds of exploration bidding were announced during 1991-94.

For the first time, Indian companies with or without prior experience in exploration and production activities were allowed to participate in the bidding process during these rounds. In 1995, the Government announced the Joint Venture Exploration Program. However, this was viewed as a deterrent by major private sector oil companies. This led the government to announce New Exploration Licensing Policy in 1997 (operationalized in 1999) as part of its Hydrocarbon Vision 2025, a landmark 25-year planning document. Under NELP, licenses for exploration are awarded only through a competitive bidding system and NOCs are required to compete on an equal footing with Indian and foreign...
companies to secure Petroleum Exploration Licenses. In addition to NELP, other efforts were made to address the need for achieving energy security. These include:

1. Acquisition of oil and gas assets abroad;
2. Developing strategic storage facilities at identified locations;
3. Exploring alternate sources of Energy, including Coal Bed Methane, gas hydrates, etc.
4. Improving the recovery of oil and gas from existing fields through methods such as Enhanced Oil Recovery and Increased Oil Recovery.

Consequent to the various initiatives taken by the government, currently the area under exploration has increased fourfold. Prior to implementation of NELP, 11 per cent of Indian sedimentary basins area was under exploration. With the conclusion of seven rounds of NELP, the area under exploration has increased to about 50 per cent. One of the world's largest gas discoveries was made by Reliance Industries Ltd in 2002, in Jamnagar (about 5 trillion cubic meters). Besides, the entry of international companies like Hardy Oil and Gas, Santo, Geo Global Resources, Newbury, Petronas, Niko Resources and Cairn Energy into India has helped to boost the growth of the industry.

**Events of oil and gas exploration and production**

With huge scope of activities and development in Oil and Gas sector in India, a lot of history in this sector is yet to be written. Chronological order of Major exploration and production events in India is,

**1889:** The discovery of the 'Digboi Oil field' in Upper Assam was a landmark in the history of oil.

**1899:** Assam Railways and Trading Company formed a new company Assam Oil Company (AOC) and set up a small refinery at Margharita (Upper Assam) with a capacity of 500 bopd to refine the Digboi-oil.
1901: Digboi refinery commissioned.

1911: Burma Oil Company arrives on the Indian scene.

1921: BOC takes over Assam Oil Company.

1925: India’s first attempt to use geophysics in its search for oil with Torsion balance survey in the Bordubi area.

1937: Seismic surveys were initiated in and a major ‘High’ was located at Nahorkatiya in Assam.

1948: Geological Survey of India started geophysical surveys in Cambay area.

1956: Moran oil field discovered by AOC. August 14, 1956 Oil and Natural Gas Commission was established. October 15, 1959 ONGC becomes autonomous body, under an act of parliament.

1959: Oil India Private Ltd incorporated and registered as a Rupee Company.

1960: Oil struck at Ankleswar in Gujarat and Rudrasagar in Assam.

1961: GOI and BOC become equal partners in OIL.

1962: The first public sector refinery comes up at Guwahati.

1963: World’s first crude oil conditioning plant commissioned at Nahorkatiya India’s first deviated well NHK122 drilled by OIL.

1963: ONGC started offshore seismic surveys in Gulf of Cambay.

1968: Oil discovered in Geleki by ONGC. OIL commissioned the 1158 km oil pipeline to Guwahati and Barauni refineries.

1970: India’s first offshore well spudded in the Gulf of Cambay.

1974: Drillship Sagar Samrat strikes oil in Bombay High.

1974: Bombay High discovered.

1983: Gas struck at Razole in Andhra Pradesh and Gotaru in Rajasthan.

1984: First Early Production system commences in Gujarat.

1984: Gas was struck at Gotaru in Rajasthan by ONGC.

1985: Oil struck in Kutch offshore, Godavari offshore and Changmaigam in Assam.

1986: ONGC strikes oil in the Tapti offshore area and Namti structure (Assam).

1988: Commercial gas finds in Rajasthan by OIL Nada field in Gujarat discovered.

1989: Western offshore production reaches a peak of 21.72 MMT.

1990: South Heera field discovered in Mumbai offshore.


2001: One Coal bed methane block awarded on nomination basis.

2002: Third round of NELP launched and 27 Exploration blocks offered.

2002: First round of CBM blocks bidding held and 5 blocks awarded.

2003: Fourth round of NELP launched and 24 Exploration blocks offered.

2003: Two CBM blocks awarded on nomination basis.

2004: Second round of CBM blocks bidding held and 5 blocks awarded.

2005: Fifth round of NELP launched and 20 Exploration blocks offered.

2006: Sixth round of NELP launched and 55 Exploration blocks offered.

2006: Third round of CBM blocks bidding held and 10 blocks awarded.

2007: Seventh round of NELP launched and 57 Exploration blocks offered.

2010: Fourth round of CBM blocks bidding held and 7 blocks awarded.

2010: Eighth round of NELP launched and 32 Exploration blocks awarded.
2012: Ninth round of NELP launched and 14 Exploration blocks awarded.


**Governance of the petroleum and natural gas sector in India**

The following are the various government bodies engaged in the overall governance of the sector:

- **Central level**: 1. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- **State level**: 1. Energy Directorates; and 2. Departments of Commerce and Industry.
- **Regulators**: 1. Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (upstream); and 2. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (downstream)

**List of Major Acts**

Following are the major acts govern the oil and gas sector in India.

- The Petroleum Act, 1934
- The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948
- The Petroleum and Minerals Pipeline Act, 1962
- The Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974
- Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006

**Players in oil and gas sector**

Although the oil and gas sector has been predominantly dominated by Public Sector Utilities, in the last decade or so (especially post NELP), private players have also entered the market with most of them operating throughout the petroleum and natural gas value chain. Figure 3.1 highlights various players operating in the Indian oil and gas sector.
Figure 3.1
Players of Oil and Gas Sector

Oil and Gas Sector

Upstream (E&P)

PSUs

Pvt. Sectors

ONGC, OIL

Cairn, BP, Niko, Handy Oil and

PSUs

Pvt. Sectors

IOCL, BPCL, HPCL, Gail etc.

RIL, EOC, BG

Downstream (Refining, Marketing 
& Distribution)
India’s oil and gas industry has an interesting mix of oil and gas companies from the government and private sector. Except for some companies providing ancillary and drilling services, most of the company’s huge operations as are the case with the oil and gas industry worldwide. Except for Reliance industries, the upstream sector of oil and gas production and distribution is dominated by government owned companies which are heavily regulated. The brief outlines regarding the oil and gas companies for this study have been shown below:

**Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited**

ONGC is an Indian multinational oil and gas company head quartered in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India. The chairman and managing director of the company is Shri Sudhir Vasudeva (April 2017). It is a public sector undertaking of the Government of India, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. It is India’s largest oil and gas exploration and production company. It produces around 77 per cent of India's crude oil (equivalent to around 30 per cent of the country's total demand) and around 62 per cent of its natural gas.¹⁰ In a government survey for fiscal year 2016-17, it was ranked as the largest profit making PSU in India.¹¹ It is ranked 1st among the Top 250 Global Energy Companies by Platts.¹² ONGC was founded on 14th August 1956 by Government of India, which currently holds a 68.94 per cent equity stake. The liberalized economic policy, adopted by the Government of India in July 1991, sought to deregulate and de-license the core sectors (including petroleum sector) with partial disinvestments of government equity in Public Sector Undertakings and other measures. As a consequence thereof, ONGC was re-organized as a limited Company under the Company's Act 1956 in February 1994. After the conversion of business of the erstwhile Oil and Natural Gas Commission to that of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited in 1993, the Government disinvested 2 per cent of its shares through competitive bidding.¹³ Ranked as the most respected Public
Enterprise in India in 2007 “Business World Survey, with 19th position in the league of the most-respected Indian Corporate(s). Rated ‘Excellent’ in Memorandum of Understanding and Performance Rating for 2006-07 by the Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Heavy Industries in Public Enterprises, GOI. In 2006, a commemorative coin set was issued to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of ONGC, making it only the second Indian company (State Bank of India being the first) to have such a coin issued in its honor. ONGC ranks as the Numero Uno Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Company in the world, as per Platts 250 Global Energy Companies List for the year 2008 based on assets, revenues, profits and return on invested capital. In the year 2010, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd was granted the 'Maharatna' status, Ranked 1st among oil and gas exploration and production companies in the world and 18th among leading global energy majors as per Platts 250 Global Energy Company list. Awarded the 2nd PSU Awards for highest market capitalization by Dalal Street Investment Journal PSU'awards. It is ranked as the most respected Public Enterprise in India in 2007. “Business World Survey, with 19th position in the league of the most–respected Indian Corporate(s). In 2011, Awarded the "Leading Oil and Gas Corporate of the Year" and "Exploration and Production Company of the Year" in the Petroleum Federation of India's Annual Oil and Gas Industry Awards 2010. – Sri lanka government awarded 3 hydrocarbon blocks to ONGC – ONGC Petro additions Ltd awards Rs 1,980 crore contracts for polyolefin projects– State–run ONGC regained its top most rank after 4 years propelling billionaire Mukesh Ambani–led Reliance Industries Ltd as the country's most valued company. In January 2014, OVL and Oil India completed the acquisition of Videocon Group's ten per cent stake in a Mozambican gas field for a total of $2.47 billion. In June 2015, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) gave a Rs. 27bn ($427m) offshore contract for the Bassein development project to
Larsen and Toubro. The company is ranked 449th on the Fortune Global 500 list of the world's biggest corporations as of 2015.

**Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited**

HPCL is an Indian state-owned oil and natural gas company with its headquarters at Mumbai, Maharashtra. The chairman and managing director of the company is Shri Mukesh Kumar Surana. The Company was incorporated in the name of Standard Vacuum Refining Company of India Limited in 1952. The company's wide range of petroleum products includes Liquefied Petroleum Gas, Motor Spirit, Superior Kerosene Oil, Aviation Turbin Fuel, High Speed Diesel, Bitumen etc. The company also engages in aviation refueling services at various airports in India. HPCL’s office is based in Mumbai. HPCL was incorporated in 1974 after the takeover and merger of erstwhile Esso Standard and Lube India Limited by the Esso (Acquisition of Undertakings in India) Act 1974. Caltex Oil Refining (India) Ltd. (CORIL) was taken over by the Government of India in 1976 and merged with HPCL in 1978 by the CORIL-HPCL Amalgamation Order, 1978. Kosan Gas Company was merged with HPCL in 1979 by the Kosangas Company Acquisition Act, 1979. The company has about 25 per cent market-share in India among public-sector companies (PSUs) and a strong marketing infrastructure. Government of India owns 51.11 per cent shares in HPCL and others are distributed amongst financial institutes, public and other investors. In 2003, following a petition by the Centre for Public Interest Litigation, the Supreme Court of India restrained the Central government from privatising Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum without the approval of Parliament. As counsel for the CPIL, Rajinder Sachar and Prashant Bhushan said that the only way to disinvest in the companies would be to repeal or amend the Acts by which they were nationalised in the 1970s. As a result, the government would need a majority in both houses to push through any privatisation. The Company commissioned 647 Retail Outlets.
during the year 2005-06. HPCL received Golden Peacock Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance for the year 2003, 2006 and also 2007.\textsuperscript{27} HPCL has earned 'Excellent' performance for fifteen consecutive years up to 2005–06, since signing of the first MOU with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. HPCL won the prestigious MOU Award for the year 2007–08 for Excellent Overall Performance, and for being one of the top ten Public Sector Enterprises which fall under the 'Excellent' category. HPCL's performance for the year 2008–09 also qualifies for 'Excellent' rating. HPCL, over the years, has moved from strength to strength on all fronts. The refining output has increased three fold between 1984–85 to 2007–08, rising from 4.47 MMTPA in 1984-85 to 13.70 MMTPA currently.\textsuperscript{28} It was the 10\textsuperscript{th} most valuable brand in India according to an annual survey conducted by Brand Finance and \textit{The Economic Times} in 2010. HPCL was featured on the Forbes Global 2000 list for 2013 at position 1217.\textsuperscript{29} HPCL has been honored with the CII Environmental Best Practices Award 2012 for the Most Innovative Environmental Project-Vapour Recovery System for Gasoline/ Motor Spirit-Pilot Project at Loni Terminal. HPCL has been honored by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India with the “CSR Excellence Award” 2012-13 for its immense contribution and relentless efforts towards Socially and Environmentally Sustainable growth. HPCL has won “Global CSR Excellence and Leadership Award 2013” conferred by World CSR Congress on World CSR Day. The company is ranked 327\textsuperscript{th} on the \textit{Fortune Global 500} list of the world's biggest corporations as of 2015.\textsuperscript{30}

\textbf{Indian Oil Corporation Limited}

IOCL is commonly known as Indian Oil is an Indian state owned oil and gas company headquartered in New Delhi. The chairman and managing director of the company is Shri B. Ashok. The company was established in 1959 as Indian Oil Company Ltd., Indian Oil Corporation Ltd was formed in 1964 with the merger of Indian Refineries Ltd.\textsuperscript{31} The oil concern is administratively controlled by India's
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, a government entity that owns just over 90 per cent of the firm. Since 1959, this refining, marketing, and international trading company served the Indian state with the important task of reducing India's dependence on foreign oil and thus conserving valuable foreign exchange. It was changed in April 2002, however, when the Indian government deregulated its petroleum industry and ended Indian Oil's monopoly on crude oil imports. Indian Oil accounts for nearly half of India's petroleum products market share, 35 per cent national refining capacity (together with its subsidiary Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd and 71 per cent downstream sector pipelines through capacity. IOC, in collaboration with Ola, launched India's first electric charging station at one of its petrol-diesel stations in Nagpur. Nagpur, being the first city to introduce Electric Public Transportation Model in India, added one more feather to its cap by adding the first electric charging station at IOC's petrol pump in Nagpur. Indian governments’ National Electric Mobility Mission Plan launched in 2013 aims at gradually ensuring a vehicle population of about 6 - 7 million electric and hybrid vehicles in India by 2020. In 2007, the corporation received plenty of awards, Oil Industry Safety Directorate Awards, 'Most Admired Retailer of the Year' award, 'CIO 100 Award 2007', SAPACE - Awards for Customer Excellence and the only petroleum company as 'The Most Trusted Brand' in ET's Brand Equity's annual survey. Indian Oil- R&D Centre Awarded the coveted WIPO GOLD MEDAL in 2008, Indian Oil wins Retailer of the Year - Rural Impact Award and Indian Oil's Xtra Power wins Loyalty Summit Award in the same year 2008. Indian Oil- R&D Centre Awarded the coveted WIPO GOLD MEDAL in 2008, Indian Oil wins Retailer of the Year - Rural Impact Award and Indian Oil's Xtra Power wins Loyalty Summit Award in the same year 2008. As on January 2008, Indian Oil and Hindustan Unilever Ltd. signed an MoU here today for setting up Kwality Walls Kiosks at select Indian Oil petrol stations across the country and also during the same month and year the
corporation entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Transparency International India for implementing an Integrity Pact Programme focused on enhancing transparency in its business transactions, contracts and procurement processes. IOCL, the flagship national oil company in the downstream sector is currently implementing a master plan envisaging by the year 2011-12 in petrochemicals, which covers Rs.30000 crore (US$ 6.8 billion) of investment. Through the world-scale Linear Alkyl Benzene plant set up at its Gujarat Refinery, the corporation has already captured a significant market share in India besides exporting the product to Indonesia, Turkey, Thailand, Vietnam, Norway and Oman. Indian Oil is also committed to the Global Compact Programme of the United Nations and endeavors to abide by the 10 principles of the programme initiative under CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility). Indian Oil was conferred, “The Standing Conference of Public Enterprises Meritorious Award 2012” for Corporate Governance by the Humble President of India. The company is ranked 119th on the Fortune Global 500 list of the world's biggest corporations as on 2015. It is ranked first in Fortune India 500 list for year 2016.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

BPCL is an Indian state controlled Maharatna oil and gas company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The chairman and managing director of the company is Shri S. Varadarajan. The Corporation operates two large refineries of the country located at Mumbai and Kochi. In 1889 during vast industrial development, an important player in the South Asian market was the Burmah Oil Company. BPCL traces its history to 1928 when the Burmah Shell Oil Storage and Distribution Company of India was incorporated in England to enter the petroleum products business in India. The business of the Company grew substantially given the international backing of Shell and it achieved the leadership position in India. In 1952, Shell and Burmah Oil Company set up Burmah Shell Refineries to set up a
refinery in Mumbai. On 24 January 1976, the Burmah Shell was taken over by the Government of India to form Bharat Refineries Limited. On 1st August 1977, it was renamed Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited. It was also the first refinery to process newly found indigenous crude Bombay High. In 2003, following a petition by the Centre for Public Interest Litigation, the Supreme Court restrained the Central government from privatizing Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum without the approval of Parliament.\(^38\) Madhya Pradesh Government signs a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bharat Oman Refineries Ltd to set up a six-million-tonne per annum refinery at Bina on May 6, 2005. BPCL's Mumbai Refinery won the Smart Workplace Award 2008 under the industrial manufacturing category given by Economic Times in association with IT majors, Acer and Intel.\(^39\) BPCL has informed BSE that BPCL, Oman Oil Company and Bharat Oman Refinery Ltd. have signed an agreement on November 15, 2009 in Oman related to additional investment by OOC in BORL.\(^40\) Bharat Petroleum was awarded the 1st position under the Best Display in Raw Space category during a spectacular awards ceremony at the recently concluded Petrotech-2010 exhibition at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The theme this year was Global Energy Equilibrium. BPCL Kochi Refinery has bagged the Excellence Award for Pollution Control among very large industries in Kerala on 5th June 2011.\(^41\) In 2012, State run BPCL has signed a MOU with Kerala government. Following the development, the state government would extend tax deferments to BPCL's Integrated Refinery Expansion Project and petrochemical complex. BPCL is in planned investments of up to Rs 45,000 crore by 2017 towards upstream projects as well as downstream expansion. BPCL has received approval from Environment Ministry for Rs 4,588 crore expansion at its refinery facility - BPCL acquires additional shares of Petronet CCK Limited, along with GAIL Gas, a 100 per cent subsidiary of GAIL India will jointly develop the City Gas Distribution Network in Haridwar district. BPCL has received Maharatna\(^42\).
status on 12.09.2017. The company is ranked 280th on the *Fortune Global 500* list of the world's biggest corporations as of 2015.43

**Reliance Industries Limited**

RIL is an Indian conglomerate holding company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. The chairman and managing director of the company is Mukesh D. Ambani. Reliance continues to be India's largest exporter accounting for 8 per cent of India's total merchandise exports with a value of Rs 147,755 crore and access to markets in 108 countries.44 Reliance is responsible for almost 5 per cent of The Government of India's total revenues from customs and excise duty and is also the highest Income tax payer in the private sector in India.45 The company was co-founded by Dhirubhai Ambani and his brother Ramnikbhai Ambani in 1960s as Reliance Commercial Corporation. In 1965, the partnership ended and Dhirubhai continued the polyester business of the firm.46 In 1985, the name of the company was changed from *Reliance Textiles Industries Ltd.* to *Reliance Industries Ltd.*47 In July 2012, RIL informed that it was going to invest US$1 billion over the next few years in its new aerospace division which will design, develop, manufacture, equipment and components, including aircraft, engine, radars, avionics and accessories for military and civilian aircraft, helicopters, unmanned airborne vehicles and aerostats.48 RIL was certified as 'Responsible Care Company' by the American Chemistry Council in March, 2012.49 RIL was ranked at 25th position across the world, on the basis of sales, in the ICIS Top 100 Chemicals Companies list in 2012.50 RIL was awarded the National Golden Peacock Award 2011 for its contribution in the field of corporate sustainability.51 In 2009, Boston Consulting Group named Reliance Industries as the world's fifth biggest 'sustainable value creator' in a list of 25 top companies globally in terms of investor returns over a decade.52 The company was selected as one of the world's 100 best managed companies for the year 2000 by Industry Week magazine.53 From 1994 to 1997, the
company won National Energy Conservation Award in the petrochemical sector. In May 2014, ONGC moved to Delhi High Court accusing RIL of pilferage of 18 billion cubic meters of gas from its gas producing block in the Krishna Godavari basin. Subsequently, the two companies agreed to form an independent expert panel to probe any pilferage. Reliance achieved a record turnover of Rs. 371,119 crore ($68.4 billion) and net profit of Rs. 21,003 crore ($3.9 billion). RIL also achieved highest ever exports of Rs. 239,226 crore ($44.1 billion) during the year 2012-13. RIL demonstrated its deep commitment to India’s growth by investing $16 billion in its integrated energy chain and India-centric consumer businesses in FY 2014-15. The company is ranked 158th on the Fortune Global 500 list of the world’s biggest corporations as on 2015. It is ranked eighth among the Top 250 Global Energy Companies by Platts as on 2016.

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