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# Aid-for-energy deals for Africa on the anvil

Anupama Airy  
New Delhi, Nov 1

India has tweaked the oil diplomacy agenda and plans to offer African nations a development package to help their economies. In return, India wants participating interests in the continent's proven oil and gas blocks, besides a commitment for long-term oil and gas supplies.

The new offer has been fine-tuned by the petroleum ministry to tackle the economy's sharply mounting energy needs, riding the 8%+ GDP growth rate. The government will offer this package—it includes setting up infrastructure projects in power, refining, steel and railway networks—at the forthcoming Indo-African conference.

The ministry is also exploring another option with the external affairs ministry to link the line of credit offered to these countries with energy supplies. This would entice cash-strapped but commodity-rich countries to utilise the credit line fully.

Despite ongoing political turbulence in several parts of Africa, India has decided to deepen its investments that continent, as it holds significant oil and gas reserves. Major countries on India's radar include Nigeria, Algeria, Libya, Angola, Egypt and Sudan. The six countries account for 86% of Africa's total oil production of 10,410 barrels a day.

Speaking to FE, petroleum minister Murli Deora said with oil and gas prices scaling new peaks, India has to vigorously pursue a strategy of economic interdependence to meet the country's energy needs. Deora said a package was offered

## SWAP DEAL



Murli Deora

- ▶ India to offer power, refining, steel projects and rail networks
- ▶ Seeks interests in proven oil & gas reserves, long-term supplies
- ▶ Also plans to link supplies to credit lines to resource-rich nations
- ▶ Murli Deora says India must pursue economic interdependence strategy

to Qatar during his recent visit. "I conveyed to Qatar that firms like Mittal, Essar and Tata are keen to put up steel projects there. This mutual interdependence is a win-win for both sides," he added.

Tentative steps have already been made elsewhere. ONGC Mittal Energy Ltd has signed an MoU with Nigeria for equity in proven oil blocks and has, in turn, committed to invest \$6 billion in the west African nation's infrastructure. NTPC has also signed a similar agreement with Nigeria, where it has promised to set up coal- and gas-based power projects in return for 3 million tonne of LNG.

*Carfain Rair*

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F.E. 2/11/07  
Financial Express

# India smells energy efficiency in Africa

**Energy Bureau**  
New Delhi, Nov 1

In order to reduce its dependence on the Middle East, India is making all attempts to raise oil and gas imports from the energy-rich Africa region. Alarmed by China's growing influence over Africa, New Delhi is emulating Beijing in its attempts to raise oil and gas imports from the region.

Currently, both India and China import large quantities of oil and gas from the Middle East. While China meets 18% of its crude oil requirement from Africa, 16% of India's oil imports are from Africa. India's crude oil imports

may rise to 25 million tonne from 19 million tonne, of the total oil import of 110 million tonne. In comparison, China imports 36-37 million tonne, of its total import of 207 million tonne, from Africa. With its rich reserves and new finds, Africa is fast emerging a hot spot in the world energy map.

A beginning has already been made and bilateral discussions are in full swing at the highest level between

**A beginning has already been made & bilateral discussions are in full swing at the highest level between India & African nations**

India and African nations. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's recent visit to Nigeria was a significant step in this direction.

In order to further strengthen the diplomatic ties, the ministry of petroleum, in association with Ficci and UNCTAD, has organised a two-day conference of energy ministers of 25 African countries from November 6. "We are enhancing the level of engagement with African continent which is becoming an impor-

tant non-OPEC energy source," petroleum secretary M S Srinivasan said.

In all, around 100 international participants from 25 African countries like Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia are expected to attend the two-day conference.

Petroleum minister Murli Deora said that the primary objective of this initiative is to provide a platform for exploring mutually beneficial partnership opportunities between Africa and India in the hydrocarbon sector.

Financial Express  
 F.E - 2/11/07

# INDIA'S AFRICAN SAFARI

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## India imports Oil from

► Nigeria, Angola, Sudan and Libya and spot LNG purchases from Algeria & Egypt

## Indian projects in Africa

**OVL Ltd** \$2-billion investment in Sudan, Libya, Nigeria and Sao Tome

**IOC & OIL** \$125-million investment Libya and one each in Nigeria & Gabon

**GAIL** \$2-million investment

**Egypt** JV with fayum Gas, Shell and Natgas for city gas distribution

**Libya** JV for pipeline & City gas distribution

**Algeria** imported first LNG cargo and is in talks for long-term import of LNG

**EIL** Has significant presence in Algeria apart from Libya, Nigeria, Sudan and Ghana

## INDIA VS CHINA IN AFRICA'S OIL & GAS SECTOR

	India	China
Investment* (\$ bn)	3	10
Oil import (mt)	19**	36-37***

\* Investment till March 2007

\*\* 16% of the country's total oil imports of 110 mt

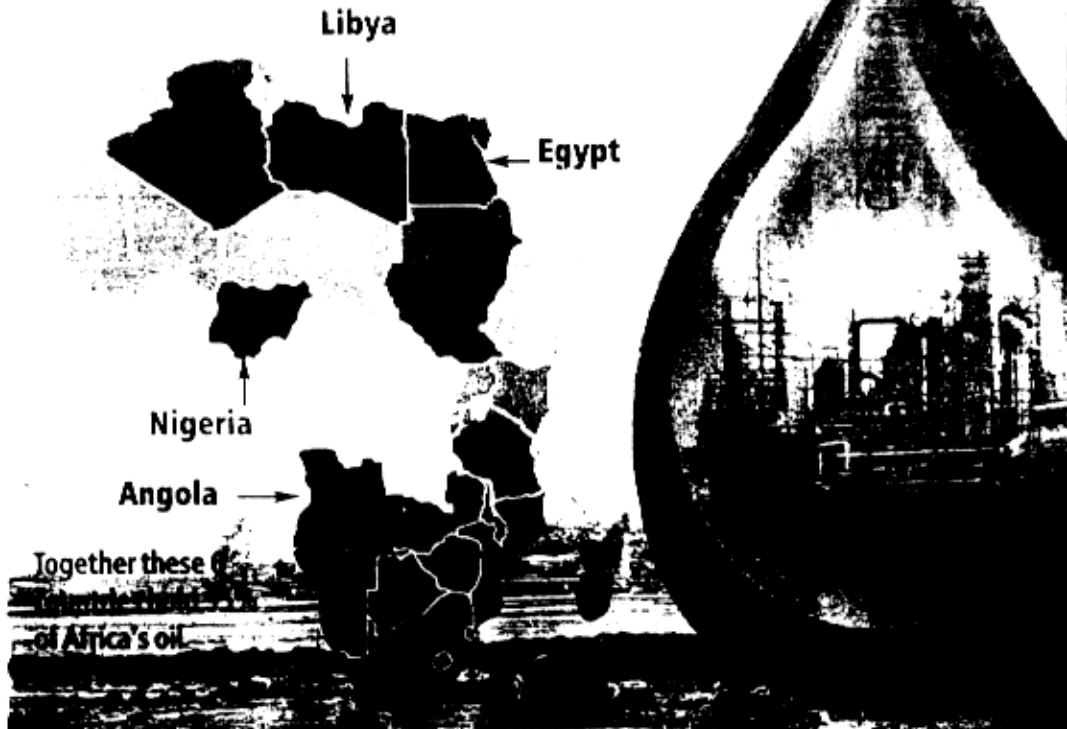
\*\*\* 18% of the country's total oil imports of 207 mt

## CHINA'S OIL INTERESTS IN AFRICA?

► China's voracious demand for energy has led it to seek oil supplies from countries including Sudan, Chad, Nigeria, Angola, Algeria, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea

► Chinese official sources had said Chinese firms invested a total of \$175 million in Africa, primarily on oil exploration projects

Source: [www.cfr.org](http://www.cfr.org)



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3/11/07

## India hosting big Africa summit on oil

Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** Making up for the lost opportunities and alarmed by China's growing presence in Africa's oil sector, India is turning its focus from the Organisation of Petroleum Producing Countries (OPEC) to African nations. India will make an attempt to secure oil and gas assets for the future by lining up huge investments running into billions of dollars.

As a first major step, the country is hosting one of the biggest events of energy-rich African nations here from November 6. The two-day summit will see the participation of 25 African nations, led by over half a dozen ministerial delegations.

"We have huge investments lined up for Africa, including that by ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), and that is the reason the level of engagement has been raised this time," Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Murli Deora told journalists.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited Nigeria last month with the same objective, he pointed out.

However, the Africans have not forgotten the fact that the UPA government, on two occasions, stopped OVL from investing in Nigerian oil fields.

It was not allowed to take 100 per cent stake in oil blocks 323 and 321 and in the Apko oil field in the West African nation

Petroleum Secretary M.S. Srinivasan said the Petroleum Ministry, FICCI and UNCTAD were organising the India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference and Exhibition on November 6 and 7.

"The aim is to provide a platform for exploring mutually beneficial partnership opportunities between Africa and India in the hydrocarbon sector. There will be bilateral talks at the high level," Mr. Deora said.

Mr. Srinivasan said India wanted to acquire more oil and gas fields, as well as other energy projects such as refineries, petrochemical plants and pipelines, even as it aimed to raise imports from the region by about 32 per cent in the next two to three

years.

Crude oil imports may rise to 25 million tonnes from 19 million tonnes now. India imported 73 per cent of its oil needs from West Asia but now wanted to reduce that reliance.

"We do not want to put all our eggs in one basket."

Crude imports from Africa constituted about 16 per cent of the total import of 110 million tonnes.

In comparison, China imported 36 to 37 million tonnes out of its total import of 207 million tonnes from Africa.

Besides oil, India was also targeting import of Liquefied Natural Gas from nations such as Nigeria, Algeria and Egypt.

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Curtain Raiser

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# Funds bait for African oil

R. SURYAMURTHY

New Delhi, Nov. 4: The government is planning to give financial assistance to oil-rich African countries in return for access to crude and gas reserves.

Such a strategy is in the light of a flare-up in the global price of crude that has made it necessary for the country to look beyond West Asia for its supplies.

India imports 75 per cent of its crude requirements, with 73 per cent coming from West Asia and 16 per cent from Africa.

This approach is similar to the one being followed by China. Recently, the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has one-tenth of the world's copper reserves, gave a Chinese company a majority stake in a mining joint venture as well as mineral rights, in return for a \$5-billion loan.

## Cash support

The Indian government is now finalising a "line of credit" that can be offered to the African nations for securing oil and gas blocks, petroleum secretary M.S. Srinivasan said.

He said the target was to raise imports from the region by about 32 per cent over the next two to three years.

Besides oil and gas fields, Indian companies will participate in refineries, petrochemi-

## IN SEARCH OF BLACK GOLD



- Crude price surge makes it necessary to look at Africa as an import source
- China follows funds-for-oil strategy in the continent
- India preparing credit package for Africa
- Petroleum and infrastructure projects also under consideration
- Africa contributes to 10 per cent of world oil output

cal plants and pipelines.

On the drawing board are soft loans at the rate of 0.5-1.75 per cent interest for a period of 15 to 20 years. The money can be used for infrastructure as well as for oil sector projects. Till now, India has extended soft loans worth \$500 million to African countries.

## Resource-rich

Africa has reserves of 112.6 billion barrels, accounting for around 10 per cent of the world's oil.

Crude production is at 10,410 barrels per day, which is 13 per cent of the world output. However, its consumption at 2.94 barrels per day is just 3 per cent of the global consumption.

The continent has natural gas reserves of 14.461 billion cubic meters, which is 4 per cent of the world's total

proven reserves. Gas production has more than doubled in the last 10 years to 185.02 billion cubic meters from 88.6 billion cubic meters.

Liquified natural gas capacity is 54.3 million tonnes per annum.

This is 30 per cent of the global capacity and expected to more than double by 2010.

ONGC Videsh Ltd has invested about \$2 billion in the continent and has a presence in Sudan, Libya, Egypt and Nigeria.

The consortium of Indian Oil Corporation and Oil India has two blocks in Libya and one block each in Nigeria and Gabon.

In Egypt, GAIL has entered into a joint venture for a gas distribution project. In Libya, it has signed up for pipeline and city gas projects.

ONGC Videsh managing director R.S. Butola said his company would like to consolidate its operations in Africa.

## China factor

India's imports from Africa as a percentage of its total imports, at 16-17 per cent, are on a par with China.

China has been wooing African nations with soft loans, development aid, arms transfers and political support, for oil reserves.

In volumes, it imports 36-37 million tonnes from Africa out of its total import of 207 million tonnes.

India, however, has been slow in its drive to tie up with energy sources.

A study of China's gas and oil import strategy reveals Beijing's heavy reliance on imports till 2020 because of the country's high rate of economic growth and limited hydrocarbon resources.

Even if China's gross domestic product does not rise beyond 6 per cent, well below the 1990-2000 average, oil imports will exceed 6 million barrels per day by 2020, which are more than six times the level in 1999.

Estimated gas imports will also be high — rising to about 25 billion cubic metres per year by 2010, and as much as 50 billion cubic metres per by 2020, the report said.

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## Indo-African hydrocarbon meet begins today

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 5

Investment and cooperation between Africa and India will receive a shot in the arm as petroleum and energy ministers, senior government officials and experts from 26 African countries would engage themselves with their Indian counterparts at a two-day India-Africa hydrocarbon conference and exhibition beginning here tomorrow.

The India-Africa engagement in the hydrocarbon sector assumes significance in view of Africa's potential as an investment destination for India's oil and gas companies and, in particular, Africa's

potential to play an increasing role in enhancing India's oil supply security through diversification of its crude oil import sources.

The conference and exhibition is being jointly organised by the ministry of petroleum and natural gas and Fieci with the support of UNCTAD.

About a quarter of India's crude oil imports are currently being sourced from Africa and given that the continent is expected to contribute approximately 25 per cent of the growth in the world's petroleum and LNG supplies over the next three years, there is enormous potential for India to increase

its volumes of crude oil imports from African countries in the future.

Apart from African ministerial session on country-specific overview and opportunities, the two-day conference will deliberate on trade, treaty and regulatory measures governing Indo-African trade and investment environment, project financing, capacity building and manpower development, India-Africa opportunities in upstream and downstream sectors, gas, EPC, services and material.

With 10 per cent of the world's total oil and gas reserves, Africa's hydrocarbon exploration potential remains relatively untapped.

*Curtain Raiser*

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*Business Line*

*BL*

*31/11/07*

## India to import more crude oil from Africa

### Our Bureau

New Delhi, Nov. 2

India is looking at raising its oil and gas imports from energy-rich Africa.

To meet its growing domestic demand, the country is planning to import nearly 38 per cent more crude oil from the region in the next three years.

The Petroleum Secretary, Mr M. S. Srinivasan, said "We are enhancing the level of engagement with the African continent."

India is Asia's third-largest oil consumer and is set to import 4.5 per cent more crude overall in the current financial year to end-March 2008, he said.

He added, "16 per cent of our crude imports, around 18 million tonnes, are from Africa.

As requirement increases, imports will go up. In the next two to three years, our imports from African countries are expected to

be 20-21 per cent, around 24-25 million tonnes."

### DIVERSIFY IMPORTS

Mr Srinivasan said overall India's import of crude will rise slightly next year.

Last year 110 million tonnes were imported and 2007-08 it is going to be around 115 million tonnes.

"We are trying to diversify our crude basket. We have been importing crude from over 30 countries," he said.

India imports about 70 per cent of its crude needs and is adding export-oriented refining capacity.

The Petroleum Secretary said India wants to acquire more oil and gas fields as well as other energy projects like refineries, petrochemical plants, and pipelines in the region.

>>More on the Web:  
[www.businessline.in/webextras](http://www.businessline.in/webextras)

*Curtain Raiser*

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## अफ्रीकी तेल-गैस भंडार पर है भारत की नजर

राशि झा

नई दिल्ली । भारत तेल व गैस की घरेलू जरूरतों को पूरी करने के लिए अफ्रीका से संबंध बढ़ाने की कोशिश कर रहा है जहां तेल एवं गैस का विपुल भंडार है। वर्तमान में भारत को अपनी तेल जरूरतों के लगभग 75 प्रतिशत हिस्से का आयात करना पड़ता है और विशेषज्ञों की राय है कि अगले कुछ वर्षों में 93 प्रतिशत तक पहुंच जाएगी। वर्तमान में भारत को मध्य पूर्व क्षेत्र से ज्यादातर तेल मिलता है पर अब उसकी कोशिश मध्य पूर्व क्षेत्र से अपनी अत्याधिक निर्भरता को कम करने की है। इसी संदर्भ में वह अफ्रीकी देशों से नजदीकियां बढ़ा रहा है। सरकार के पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने उद्योग चैंबर फिक्की के साथ मिलकर राजधानी में आगामी मंगलवार से दो दिवसीय भारत-अफ्रीका हाइड्रोकार्बन सम्मेलन आयोजित करने का फैसला किया है। पेट्रोलियम मंत्री मुरली देवड़ा ने इस बारे में बताया कि इस आयोजन से भारत एवं अफ्रीकी देशों में करीबी संबंध बनेंगे। उन्होंने बताया कि खासकर हाइड्रोकार्बन क्षेत्र में इससे काफी लाभ होने की उम्मीद है क्योंकि आने वाले समय में भारत को इसकी काफी जरूरत पड़ेगी। उनके अनुसार, अफ्रीकी देशों के पास इसका सरप्लस भंडार है तथा ऐसे कई क्षेत्र हैं जिनका अबतक दोहन भी नहीं हुआ है। भारत को सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल कंपनियों तकनीकी रूप से काफी योग्य, मानव संसाधन के लिहाज से काफी संपन्न हैं। इसके साथ साथ इन कंपनियों के पास अफ्रीकी देशों में निवेश करने योग्य काफी पूंजी भी है

भारत-अफ्रीका तेल गैस सम्मेलन  
में 25 अफ्रीकी देशों के भाग लेने  
की संभावना

एम

जिसका लाभ उठाने की योजना बनाई जा रही है। श्री देवड़ा ने उम्मीद जताई कि आगामी सम्मेलन से ज्ञान एवं विचारों के आदान प्रदान का एक बेहतरीन मंच मिलेगा जिसका परिणाम भारतीय एवं अफ्रीकी कंपनियों के बीच सार्थक साझेदारी के रूप में सामने आएगा। भारत वर्तमान में कुल 11 करोड़ टन कच्चे तेल का आयात करता है जिसमें से अफ्रीकी देशों से आने वाले आयात का हिस्सा इसका महज 16 प्रतिशत है। इसकी तुलना में चीन ने अफ्रीकी देशों में पहले से ही अपनी काफी पैठ बना रखी है और वह वहां से लगभग साढ़े तीन करोड़ टन से भी अधिक कच्चे तेल का आयात करता है।

अपने समृद्ध भंडार तथा नई खोजों के कारण अफ्रीका दुनिया के इनर्जी मानचित्र पर काफी तेजी से उभर रहा है। भारत की कोशिश न केवल अधिक से अधिक तेल एवं गैस फील्ड के अधिग्रहित करने की है बल्कि वह रिफाइनरियों, पेट्रोकेमिकल संयंत्रों तथा पाइपलाइन जैसी परियोजनाओं में भी शिरकत करना चाहता है। भारत की कोशिश अफ्रीकी देशों से एलएनजी के आयात को भी बढ़ावा देने की है जिसके लिए उसकी बातचीत कई अफ्रीकी देशों के साथ चल रही है। इस सम्मेलन में 25 अफ्रीकी देशों के उर्जा मंत्रियों, अधिकारियों तथा प्रतिनिधियों के भाग लेने की संभावना है।

*Carfax Raisr*

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पत्र सूचना कार्यालय  
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## African oil majors on India visit

Our Bureau  
NEW DELHI

AFRICAN oil majors Sonatrac, Nigeria National Petroleum (NNPC), Sudapet and Petrosen are all set for an India safari on an invitation of petroleum minister Murli Deora. While India is eyeing oil and gas resources in 25 African nations, including Libya, Nigeria, Algeria, Sudan and Egypt, the visitors would explore joint investment options with Indian companies such as ONGC, IOC, GAIL and RIL.

Africa accounts for around 10% of global oil reserves. Six countries—Nigeria, Libya, Algeria, Ar-

golia, Sudan and Egypt— together hold 95% of total oil reserves. Total crude oil production in the continent is about 10.410 barrels of oil per day (bopd) which accounts for 13% of world's production. Africa produces about 185.02 billion cubic meter (BCM) of natural gas, about 7% of global production. Africa currently meets 16% of India's crude oil needs. India imports over 70% of its crude oil requirement.

"The primary objective of this initiative is to provide a platform for exploring mutually beneficial partnership opportunities between Africa and India in the hydrocarbon sector," Mr Deora said.

*Arifain Rais*