

## **Coal Bed Methane (CBM)**

In order to harness CBM ( Coal Bed Methane) potential in the country, CBM blocks were offered through international competitive bidding for exploration and production of CBM in the country for the first time in May 2001. So far, Government has awarded 30 CBM blocks under four rounds of bidding to National, Private & Joint Venture Companies. In addition, 2 CBM blocks were awarded on nomination basis and one block through Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) route. These CBM blocks are in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh Maharashtra, Odisha Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal

Commercial production of CBM in India has already commenced w.e.f. July 2007 in Raniganj (South) block in West Bengal operated by Great Eastern Energy Corporation Limited (GEECL). Current production in the block is about 0.32 MMSCMD. Additionally, two blocks, Raniganj (East) block operated by Essar Oil Limited is producing @ 0.14 MMSCMD and Jharia operated by ONGC is producing @ 10,000 SCMD.