



## **National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam**

### **Course:**

### **BL707-B - Oil & Gas Law**

#### **Oil & Gas Law (For Law Undergraduate Students in India)**

This course provides a foundational understanding of the legal framework governing the exploration, development, production, transportation, and marketing of oil and gas resources in India. Designed for law students interested in energy law, natural resources law, and commercial transactions, it equips you with the knowledge and analytical skills to navigate this complex and ever-evolving legal landscape.

#### **Course Objectives:**

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of the legal framework governing oil and gas exploration and production (E&P) activities in India, including the Constitution, relevant legislation, and contractual arrangements.
- Analyze the ownership and regulatory regime for oil and gas resources in India, focusing on the role of the Government of India and public sector undertakings (PSUs) like ONGC and OIL.
- Explore the legal framework for awarding exploration and production licenses/contracts, including the bidding process, model contracts, and key terms for exploration, development, and production activities.
- Understand the legal principles governing fiscal regimes for oil and gas production, including royalty payments, production sharing, and taxation.
- Examine the legal framework for oil and gas transportation through pipelines, focusing on rights-of-way, common carrier obligations, and tariff determination.
- Analyze the legal framework for marketing and sale of oil and gas products, including pricing mechanisms, regulatory controls, and competition law considerations.

- Develop legal research and writing skills through case studies and analysis of relevant legislation and contracts.

### **Course Structure:**

#### **Module 1: Introduction to Oil & Gas Law in India**

- **Fundamentals of Oil & Gas:** Understanding the nature and classification of oil and gas resources, their exploration techniques, and the global oil and gas market.
- **Constitutional Framework:** Examining the Constitutional provisions governing ownership and exploitation of oil and gas resources in India.
- **The Legal Landscape:** Identifying key legislation governing oil and gas E&P activities in India, such as the Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1947, and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 1993.

#### **Module 2: Ownership and Regulatory Regime**

- **State Ownership and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs):** Analyzing the role of the Government of India and PSUs like ONGC and OIL in oil and gas exploration and production.
- **Regulatory Framework:** Understanding the role of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) and the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) in regulating oil and gas E&P activities.
- **Environmental Regulations:** Examining environmental regulations applicable to oil and gas E&P activities, including environmental impact assessments and pollution control norms.

#### **Module 3: Exploration and Production (E&P) Contracts**

- **Licensing Regime:** Exploring the different types of contracts awarded for oil and gas E&P activities in India, such as Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) and Revenue Sharing Contracts (RSCs).
- **Bidding Process:** Understanding the bidding process for awarding oil and gas E&P contracts, including eligibility criteria, model contracts, and negotiation of key terms.
- **Key Contractual Provisions:** Analyzing key provisions in E&P contracts, such as exploration and development obligations, relinquishment of acreage, production sharing/revenue sharing mechanisms, and dispute resolution procedures.

#### **Module 4: Fiscal Regime for Oil and Gas**

- **Royalty Payments:** Understanding the concept of royalty payments and their calculation based on production levels.
- **Production Sharing/Revenue Sharing:** Examining the principles of production sharing and revenue sharing mechanisms used in E&P contracts.
- **Taxation:** Analyzing the tax framework applicable to oil and gas companies, including income tax, special additional duty (SAD), and cess.

#### **Module 5: Transportation and Marketing**

- **Pipeline Transportation:** Understanding the legal framework for oil and gas transportation through pipelines, including rights-of-way acquisition, common carrier obligations, and tariff determination.
- **Marketing and Sale of Oil & Gas:** Examining the legal framework for marketing and sale of oil and gas products, including pricing mechanisms, regulatory controls, and the role of marketing PSUs.
- **Competition Law Considerations:** Analyzing the application of competition law to oil and gas marketing and distribution activities in India.

#### **Module 6: Emerging Issues and Challenges**

- **Unconventional Resources:** Exploring the legal challenges and opportunities associated with exploration and production of unconventional oil and gas resources like shale gas.
- **Cross-Border Pipelines:** Understanding the legal framework for cross-border oil and gas pipelines, including international treaties and transit agreements.
- **Natural Gas Marketing Reforms:** Analyzing recent reforms in the natural gas market, including the introduction of city gas distribution networks.