

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES COMPILED MEDIA REPORT 14 Feb, 2025 - 15 Feb, 2025

Delhi High Court rules against Reliance

Total Mention 77

⊞ Print	Financial	Mainline	Regional	Periodical
15	6	7	2	N/A
Online				



🖺 Print

No	Newspaper	Headline	Edition	Pg
1.	The Economic Times	Delhi HC Accepts Govt Plea Against Reliance	Bengaluru + 2	1
2.	Business Standard	Delhi HC upholds govt claims in \$1.7 bn gas dispute with RIL	Kolkata + 4	1, 9
3.	Mint	HC overturns RIL arbitration award in \$1.7-bn dispute	Kolkata + 5	18, 16
4.	The Financial Express	Setback for RIL in KG basin gas case	Delhi + 10	1, 13
5.	The Hindu Business Line	Delhi HC quashes \$1.7-b arbitral award to RIL-led consortium in KG Basin gas migration dispute	Chennai + 9	1
6.	Business Standard (Hindi)	Reliance ke sath gas vivaad mein fansala kendar ke paksh mein	Chandigarh	1, 2
7.	The Times of India	Del HC rules against RIL in \$L7bn gas dispute with govt	Kochi	1, 11
8.	Deccan Herald	Delhi High Court rules against Reliance in gas drilling dispute	Bengaluru	13
9.	Ahmedabad Mirror	Delhi HC sets aside arbitral award passed in favour of RIL	Ahmedabad	10
10.	Free Press Journal	Major setback for Reliance	Mumbai	1, 16
11.	Free Press Journal	HC junks arbitral award favouring RIL in gas migration case	Mumbai	12
12.	Millenniumpost	Delhi HC sets aside arbitral award passed in favour of RIL	Delhi	1, 9
13.	The Asian Age	In setback to Reliance, HC sets aside award in gas row	Delhi	2
14.	Punjab Kesari	Mukesh ambani ki reliance ko delhi court se jhatka	Chandigarh	2
15.	Navbharat Times	No relife to Relinace in gas Case	Delhi	14



The Economic Times • 15 Feb • Reliance Industries Delhi HC Accepts Govt Plea Against Reliance

1 • PG 148 • Sqcm 122092 • AVE 215.44K • Cir **Bottom Left**

Bengaluru • Jaipur • Chennai

\$1.73B KG BASIN GAS DISPUTE

Delhi HC Accepts Govt Plea Against Reliance

Division bench sets aside a 2018 international arbitral tribunal ruling backing RIL in dispute involving ONGC

Indu Bhan

New Delhi: The division bench of the Delhi High Court on Friday set aside a 2018 international arbitral tribunal's ruling that backed Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries (RIL) in a \$1.729 billion dispute over gas migration from adjoining fields operated by state-owned ONGC in the Krishna Godavari-D6 gas block.

The division bench comprising justices Rekha Palli and Saurabh Banerjee also overturned its single judge's May 2023 decision that upheld the arbitration award of July 24, 2018 and rejected the government's plea accusing RIL and its foreign partners-partners-UK-based BP Plc and Niko Resources of Canada-of committing an "insidious fraud" and "unjust enrichment of over \$1.729 billion" by siphoning gas from depo-

"We are setting aside the impugned order of May 9, 2023, passed by the single judge and the arbitral award passed by the arbitral tribunal on July 24, 2018, being contrary to the settled position of law along with pending applications," the Justice Palli's bench said, while pronouncing its judgment. "We have found 'patent ille-

gality' on the face of the arbitral award worthy of interference by us... we have no alternative but to set aside the impugned order passed by the single judge along with thearbitral award," the judg-

ment stated.

Challenging the single judupheld arbitral award ge's May order that refused to interfere with the majority arbitral award, the go-vernment had told the divifavouring RIL-led consortium sion bench that "the award strikes at the heart of the

public policy and has given a premium to a contractor that has amassed vast wealth by committing an insidious fraud as well as criminal offence ...

www.economictimes.com







Business Standard • 15 Feb • Reliance Industries Delhi HC upholds govt claims in \$1.7 bn gas dispute with RIL

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Kolkata • Ahmedabad • Delhi • Mumbai • Bengaluru

Delhi HC upholds govt claims in \$1.7 bn gas dispute with RIL

New Delhi, 14 February

Friday upheld the Centre's Resources of Canada. RIL did claim that Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and its partners had siphoned off gas from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC's) block, which was adjacent to its own, in the Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin, off Andhra Pradesh coast.

In doing so, the Division Bench of the high court set aside a single-judge Bench order of 2023 upholding a ruling in 2018 by an international arbitral tribunal that had vindicated the RIL position. Justice Rekha Palli and Justice Saurabh Banerjee observed

the arbitration award was "contrary to public policy"

The consortium includes The Delhi High Court on the UK-based BP Pic and Niko not comment on the matter till the time of going to press.

> The Division Bench said not only did RIL "succeed in extraction of huge amounts of migrated gas belonging to the ONGC block but also was enriched from the profits thereof at the cost of causing losses to the public exchequer, moreover, since the commodity at hand was/is a vital natural resource belonging to the Union of India as a trustee, in the public interest of the people of this country".

Turn to Page 9



Govt had accused RIL of 'unjust enrichment'

"Any private entity like RIL cannot be allowed to subsume it for its own benefit at the cost of taking the UOI for a ride by remaining silent, and that when it is against the letter and spirit of the PSC (Production Sharing Contract)," the order read. In April 2000, the RIL-led consortium entered into a PSC with the Centre for the exploration and extraction of natural gas from the KG basin. But in 2013, state-owned ONGC shot off a letter to the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) claiming that gas pools in the blocks of RIL and ONGC were connected, and that RIL had been siphoning off huge amounts of gas from its block. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas accused RIL and its partners of an "unjust enrichment of over \$1.729 billion" by siphoning off gas from deposits they had no right to exploit.

It was then that ONGC filed a writ petition in the Delhi High Court. In it the petroleum ministry, DGH, and RIL were also made parties.

The petition was disposed of by the court, which directed the ministry to consider the upcoming report of the expert agency by the name DeGolyer & MacNaughton (D&M), a petroleum consulting company based in Dallas, Texas. The agency was to undertake an independent third-party study to verify the claimed continuity and migration of gas from the ONGC block to the Reliance block.

On November 19, 2015, D&M said "the integrated analyses indicated connectivity and continuity of the reservoirs across the blocks operated by ONGC and RIL". It validated the Centre's stand.



Mint • 15 Feb • Reliance Industries HC overturns RIL arbitration award in \$1.7-bn dispute

18, 16 • PG 483 • Sqcm

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Kolkata • Hyderabad • Chennai • Ahmedabad • Bengaluru • Delhi





HC overturns RIL arbitration award in \$1.7 bn gas dispute

Verdict marks a significant victory for the Union government in the long-running legal battle

Krishna Yaday

krishna.yadav@livemint.com NEW DELHI

n a setback for the Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), the Delhi High Court's (HC) division bench on Friday overturned an international arbitration tribunal's ruling that had previously favoured the company in its \$1.7 billion dispute with Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd (ONGC) over alleged gas migration from adjoining fields.

The bench, comprising justices Rekha Palli and Saurabh Banerjee, also set aside a May 2023 single bench ruling that had upheld the 2018 arbitration award rejecting the government's claim.

The court, in its ruling, stated: "In view of the above, we are setting aside the impugned order dated 9 May 2023, passed by the learned single judge, and the arbitral award issued by the arbitral tribunal in 2018, as it is contrary to the settled position of law. All pending applications, if any, stand disposed of, with each party bearing its own costs."

The latest verdict marks a significant victory for the Union government in its long-running legal battle with RIL over gas migration in the Krishna-

Godavari (KG) basin—an issue that has been at the centre of India's energy exploration and production landscape for over a decade.

decade.

The ruling clears the path for the government to enforce its claim of around
\$1.7 billion against RIL and its foreign partners, while the company now has the option to challenge the decision before the Supreme Court.

The period when

The roots of the dispute can be traced back to the 2000s, In April 2000, a consortium led by RIL signed a production-sharing contract (PSC)



The ruling clears the path for the government to enforce its claim of around \$1.7 billion against RIL and its foreign partners.

with the Union government, granting it the rights to explore and extract natural gas from the KG basin, located off the coast of Andhra Pradesh. The contract detailed the responsibilities, entitlements and revenue-sharing

arrangements between the parties involved.

Between 2006 and 2007, RIL reportedly drilled four development wells and began commercial production on 1 April 2009. Its KG-D6 block is situated adjacent to ONGC's Godavari Petroleum

and Mining Lease (PML) and the KG-DWN-98/2 block. RIL holds a 60% stake in the KG-D6 block, with BP Plc owning 30% and Niko Resources holding the remaining 10%.

In July 2013, ONGC informed the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) of evidence suggesting lateral continuity of gas pools between its fields and RIL's block. While both companies initially agreed to appoint an independent consultant to investigate, ONGC filed a writ petition in the Delhi High Court on 15 May 2014, naming the government, the DGH and RIL in the case.

To investigate the gas migration, RIL and ONGC jointly appointed US-based consultant DeGolyer and Mac-Naughton (D&M). The firm's report, submitted in November 2015, concluded that over \$\foat{\text{II}},000 crore natural gas had migrated from ONGC's idle fields to RIL's KG-D6 block.

Following the report, the government set up a committee in December 2015, led by former Delhi HC chief justice A.P. Shah, to examine the issue of "unfair enrichment" and recommend

compensation measures. The committee concluded that RIL should compensate the government for the gas extracted from ONGC's fields over seven years.

In November 2015, the oil ministry issued a demand notice to RIL, BP and Niko seeking around \$1.5 billion and an additional \$174 million in interest.

RIL and its partners initiated arbitration proceedings in 2016. A threemember arbitration panel, led by Singapore-based arbitrator Lawrence Boo, delivered a 2:1 verdict in 2018, ruling in favour of the RIL-led consortium.

The panel concluded that the PSC did not prohibit extracting gas that migrated naturally, provided wells were drilled within the allotted boundaries. It also ordered the government to pay \$8.3 million as arbitration costs.

Unhappy with the arbitration outcome, the government challenged the award in the HC, contending that it was against public policy. The government alleged that RIL had fraudulently extracted gas from ONGC's fields without disclosure, despite being aware of the connectivity since 2003.

In May 2023, a single bench of the Delhi HC upheld the arbitration award, stating that RIL had operated within its contract area and paid the gov-

> ernment its due share of profit petroleum. Justice Anup Bhambhani held that the tribunal's award did not conflict with the "public policy of India" and that RIL had not violated the public trust doctrine. The court described the

non-disclosure of the 2003 D&M report as a "technical breach" with no material impact on the PSC.

The government subsequently appealed to the division bench, which has now overturned the single bench ruling and set aside the arbitration award, culminating in Friday's ruling.



The Financial Express • 15 Feb • Reliance Industries Setback for RIL in KG basin gas case

1, 13 • PG

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Delhi • Chennai • Hyderabad • Mumbai • Kochi • Chandigarh • Bengaluru • Ahmedabad • Kolkata • Bhubaneshwar • Pune

Setback for RIL in KG basin gas case

 Delhi HC rules in favour of govt in \$1.7-bn dispute

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ New Delhi, February 14

IN A MAJOR setback to Reliance Industries (RIL), the Delhi high court on Friday overturned a 2018 international arbitration tribunal ruling that had favoured the company in a long-running gas dispute with ONGC, over alleged gas migration from the staterun company's assets in the Krishna Godavari (KG) basin.

A division bench comprising justices Rekha Palli and Saurabh Banerjee set aside a May 2023 single bench ruling as well as the arbitral award, saying these were 'contrary to the settled position of law'. If the order holds, the government will be able to enforce its claim of around \$1.7 billion against RIL and its foreign partners. RIL may seek to challenge the ruling in the Supreme Court.

The conflict arose when in 2013, ONGC claimed that RIL had illegally extracted natural gas from its blocks adjacent to the latter's in the KG basin. The state-run company accused RIL of drilling wells near the boundaries of its hydrocarbon blocks which allowed gas to flow from ONGC's fields to RIL's KG-D6 block between 2009-2013, leading to the latter's 'unjust enrichment'.

Following this, the ministry of petroleum and natural gas sought disgorgement from RIL and its partners BP and Niko Resources, demanding around \$1.5 billion, along with an additional \$174 million in interest. RIL had in response



invoked the arbitration clause under the terms of the contract, seeking resolution through an international arbitration tribunal.

RIL has consistently denied allegations and claimed that it has operated within the terms of the contract.

In July 2018, the arbitral tribunal had ruled in favour of RIL, rejecting the Indian government's claims and stating that the production sharing contract (PSC) did not prohibit contractors from extracting and selling gas that had migrated from an external source.

Continued on Page 13



Setback for RIL in KG basin gas case

HOWEVER, IN May 2023, the government again challenged the arbitration ruling, calling it a violation of public policy and accusing RIL of accumulating vast wealth through fraudulent means.

Nilava Bandhopadhya, senior partner at S&A Law Offices noted that the Supreme Court in numerous judgments has limited the scope for interference for an award by a court under section 34 or 37 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. However, certain grounds are still available under which an award can be set aside.

"One such ground is if the award is against public policy. Non-consideration of material evidence or ignoring the vital evidence is again a ground for setting aside an award. It seems that in the present matter, the Hon'ble court has taken a view that non-examining the consequence of concealment of Degolyer and MacNaughton (D&M) Reports 2003, 2004 and 2005 and accompanying data and documents by Reliance, is so fatal that it goes to the root of the matter and the Award cannot sustain," Bandhopadhya said.

The case originates from a PSC signed by an RIL-led consortium with the Union government in 2000, securing rights to explore and extract natural gas from the KG basin, located off the coast of Andhra Pradesh. The contract covered various entitlements, responsibilities and revenue-sharing arrangements. RIL-led consortium commenced commercial production from the assets situated adjacent to ONGC's Godavari petroleum and mining lease and the KG-DWN-



98/2 block, in April, 2009. RIL then held 60% stake in the relevant KG-D6 block, BP 30% and Niko Resources 10%.

After the disputes arose, RIL and ONGC jointly appointed US-based consultant DeGolyer and Mac-Naughton (D&M) for a probe, which concluded in November 2015 that gas worth nearly ₹11,000 crore had migrated from ONGC' fields to RIL's block. The government subsequently set up a committee in December 2015, led by former Delhi HC chief justice AP Shah, to examine whether 'unfair enrichment' of RIL combine occurred, and recommended compensation mechanism if required. The committee said RIL should compensate the government for the gas extracted from ONGC's fields over seven years.

Recently, for the first time, Reliance and its partner BP had joined hands with ONGC to bid together for exploration of a block at the Gujarat-Saurashtra basin under the 9th round of oil and gas assets bidding under the Open Acreage Licencing Policy.



The Hindu Business Line • 15 Feb • Reliance Industries Delhi HC quashes \$1.7-b arbitral award to RIL-led consortium in KG Basin gas migration dispute

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Chennai • Kochi • Pune • Mumbai • Bengaluru • Ahmedabad • Delhi • Hyderabad • Chandigarh • Kolkata

Delhi HC quashes \$1.7-b arbitral award to RIL-led consortium in KG Basin gas migration dispute

Our Bureau New Delhi

In a setback for Reliance Industries (RIL), BP and Niko Resources, the Delhi High Court on Friday quashed the \$1.7-billion arbitral award in the long-running Krishna Godavari (KG) Basin gas migration dispute case.

The court also supported the Centre's claim that RIL unfairly benefited by extracting gas that may have migrated from state-run ONGC's adjoining blocks.

A Bench of Justices Rekha Palli and Saurabh Banerjee said the order dated May 9, 2023, passed by the single judge (Delhi High Court), and the award passed by the Arbitral Tribunal dated July 24, 2018, being contrary to the settled position of law, are set aside.



The case is regarding gas production at the KG basin, which is operated by an RILled consortium with BP Exploration (Alpha) and Canadian firm Niko Resources as 60-30-10 per cent partners. In April 2000, the KG-DWN-98/3 block was awarded to the consortium.

The court said: "In view thereof, in our considered opinion, the view of the learned AT that '... unless such an order is made, the claimant is not prohibited and is permitted to continue its petroleum operations within its contract area in a situation where the reservoir extends beyond its contract area into another...', is patently erroneous, against the fundamental law of India and against the 'public policy of India', more so, being in breach of the terms of the PSC and being the technical expert and having the knowhow, it was the fiduciary duty of the RIL to disclose the D&M 2003 report to the (Union of India) UOI," it added.

In 2013, ONGC claimed that the RIL-led consortium illegally benefited from its adjacent gas block. This led to the Centre seeking around \$1.73 billion from the RIL-led consortium, which was also supported by the singlemember Justice AP Shah Committee report.

The government sent a notice to the KG D6 contractor (RIL consortium) on November 4, 2016, asking it to deposit around \$1.55 billion on account of alleged gas migration from ONGC's blocks.

RIL, as operator, for and on behalf of all constituents of the contractor, initiated arbitration proceedings against the government of India (GoI) contesting its claim, the company said in its FY23 annual report.

The Arbitral Tribunal of July 24, 2018, upheld the contractor's claims. The GOI filed an appeal on November 15, 2018, before the Delhi High Court, under Section 34 of the Arbitration Act, against the final award of the Arbitral Tribunal (AT).

The Delhi High Court upheld the arbitration award and dismissed the GOI's appeal challenging the award in May 2023.



Business Standard (Hindi) • 15 Feb • Reliance Industries Reliance ke sath gas vivaad mein fansala kendar ke paksh mein

1, 2 • PG 383 • Sqcm 40177 • AVE 15.51K • Cir Middle Right

Chandigarh

रिलायंस के साथ गैस विवाद में फैसला केंद्र के पक्ष में

भाविनी मिश्रा नई दिल्ली, 14 फरवरी

दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय ने आज केंद्र के इस दावे को सही ठहराया कि मुकेश अंबानी के नेतृत्व वाली रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड (आरआईएल) और उसके साझेदारों ने आंध्र प्रदेश के तट पर कृष्णा-गोदावरी (केजी) बेसिन में ओएनजीसी ब्लॉक के भंडार से गैस निकाल ली। अदालत के खंडपीठ ने 2023 में आया एकल पीठ का वह आदेश पलट दिया, जिसमें अंतरराष्ट्रीय मध्यस्थ ट्राइब्यूनल द्वारा 2018 में आरआईएल के पक्ष में दिया गया फैसला बरकरार रखा गया था। (शेष पृष्ठ 2 पर)



रिलायंस संग गैस विवाद में फैसला केंद्र के पक्ष में

पृष्ठ 1 का शेष

न्यायमूर्ति रेखा पल्ली और सौरभ बनर्जी ने एकल पीठ द्वारा 9 मई, 2023 दिए गए फैसले को खारिज करते हुए कहा कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय मध्यस्थता ट्रिब्यूनल द्वारा 24 जुलाई, 2018 को आरआईएल कंसोर्टियम के पक्ष में सुनाया गया फैसला 'सार्वजनिक नीति के खिलाफ' था।

'सार्वजनिक नीति के खिलाफ' था। आरआईएल कंसोर्टियम में ब्रिटेन कंपनी बीपी पीएलसी और कनाडा की निको रिसोर्सेज शामिल हैं। उच्च न्यायालय के इस फैसले की प्रति अभी नहीं मिल पाई है। अप्रैल 2000 में आरआईएल के नेतृत्व वाले इस कंसोर्टियम ने केजी बेसिन से प्राकृतिक गैस के उत्खनन एवं उत्पादन के लिए केंद्र के साथ एक उत्पादन साझाकरण अनुबंध पर हस्ताक्षर किए थे। मगर 2013 में ओएनजीसी ने हाइड्रोकार्बन महानिदेशालय को एक पत्र भेजकर दावा कि आरआईएल के ब्लॉक और उसके समीप ओएनजीसी के ब्लॉकों में गैस भंडार जुड़े हुए हैं और आरआईएल अपने ब्लॉक से भारी मात्रा में गैस निकाल रहा है। पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने आरआईएल और उसके साझेदारों पर उन भंडारों से अनिधकृत तौर पर 1.729 अरब डॉलर से अधिक मूल्य के गैस निकालने का आरोप लगाया। बाद में ओएनजीसी ने दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय में रिट याचिका दायर की पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय, हाइड्रोकार्बन महानिदेशालय और आरआईएल को पक्ष बनाया गया था। अदालत ने पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय को अमेरिका के टेक्सस की पेटोलियम परामर्श कंपनी डीगोलियर ऐंड मैकनॉटन (डीऐंडएम) नामक एजेंसी की रिपोर्ट पर विचार करने का निर्देश दिया। एजेंसी को ओएनजीसी ब्लॉक से रिलायंस ब्लॉक में गैस रिसाव का दावा में एक स्वतंत्र तीसरे पक्ष के रूप में अध्ययन करना था। डीऐंडएम के अध्ययन में केंद्र के दावे की पुष्टि की गई। इस पर पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय के पूर्व मुख्य न्यायाधीश न्यायमूर्ति एपी शाह के नेतृत्व में एक समिति का गठन किया था।शाह समिति की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर मंत्रालय ने आरआईएल से 17.4 करोड़ डॉलर ब्याज के साथ 1.5 अरब डॉलर की मांग की।



The Times of India • 15 Feb • Reliance Industries Del HC rules against RIL in \$L7bn gas dispute with govt

1, 11 • PG

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Kochi

Del HC rules against RIL in \$1.7bn gas dispute with govt

Sanjay Dutta | TNN

New Delhi: The Delhi high court on Friday ruled against Reliance Industries Ltd and its foreign partners in a dispute over the govt's \$1.7 billion claim against the giant for making energy "unjust enrichment" by extracting gas that migrated state-run ONGC's from blocks adjacent to their KG-D6 field off the Andhra coast.

The bench of Justices Rekha Palli and Saurabh Banerjee quashed an international arbitration tribunal's ruling rejecting the govt's

IN THE COURTS

- Delhi HC says anti-dowry law being misused as a 'tool to harass' husbands, in-laws and gain leverage, quashes case against man | P 9
- ➤ Guj HC says insurance company is liable to pay compensation in motor accident case even if driver has invalid licence | P 11

claim and overturned Justice Anup Jairam Bhambani's verdict upholding the arbitral award in favour of the RIL-led consortium.

► Continued on P 11



Ministry-appointed panel had found RIL liable to pay

▶ Continued from P1

e are setting aside the impugned order dated May 9, 2023, passed by the single judge, and the arbitral award passed by the arbitral tribunal in 2018, being contrary to the settled position of law along with the pending applications, if any, leaving the parties to bear their own costs," the bench said.

Justice Bhambani had held, "This court is not persuaded to hold that the conclusions drawn by the arbitral tribunal are such that no reasonable person would reach. Suffice it to say that the view taken by the arbitral tribunal is most certainly a 'possible view', which calls for no interference... this court finds no ground to interfere with the majority arbitral award; which is accordingly upheld."

The case dates back to 2013 when ONGC claimed its IG and KG-DWN-98/2 blocks adjacent to RIL's KG-D6 field shared a common gas pool. It moved court, saying RIL, which had already put KG-D6 into operation, was extracting gas that migrated from its blocks that were still under development.

The oil ministry approached Delhi HC after the arbitration panel led by Singapore-based Lawrence Woo struck down its demand for nearly \$1.6 billion in cost, including interest, and \$175 million as additional cumulative 'profit petroleum' payable till March 31, 2016, towards "disgorgement of unjust enrichment" made by RIL.

Once US consultant DeGolyer & MacNaughton, appointed under court order for an independent study, affirmed the continuity of the gas pool, the ministry appointed a one-man committee of retired Delhi HC chief justice A P Shah to suggest a course of action.

The committee said RIL had made "unfair" enrichment and was liable to pay. The ministry then slapped costs on RIL, which challenged it through international arbitration. The arbitration panel rejected the govt's charges and asked the Centre to pay legal costs to RIL. The govt challenged this HC, which upheld the arbitration tribunal's rejection of the govt's allegation.

The tribunal had said, "RIL extracted whatever gas became available in the course of petroleum operations within their contract area. Reliance deducted the 'cost petroleum', calculated the 'profit petroleum' and shared the requisite portion of the profit petroleum with the ministry."

The ministry has not claimed that Reliance did not pay it the govt's share of profit petroleum for the entire quantity of gas extracted by Reliance, including migrated gas.

On the allegation of RIL committing fraud by suppressing knowledge about the continuity of the gas pool, the tribunal had said "non-disclosure of one solitary D&M Report-2003, though a technical breach of terms of the PSC, was not a material breach of the contract".



Deccan Herald • 15 Feb • Reliance Industries Delhi High Court rules against Reliance in gas drilling dispute

13 • PG 36 • Sqcm 43074 • AVE 1.4M • Cir Bottom Center

Bengaluru

Delhi High Court rules against Reliance in gas drilling dispute

BLOOMBERG: The Delhi High Court on Friday ruled against billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd and itspartner BPPlc in a gas drilling dispute that's been going on for more than a decade, according to a lawyer representing the litigant.

A two-judge bench of the Delhi High Court sided with the petroleum ministry, which had argued that the nation's most valuable company unlawfully extracted natural gas from a neighboring offshore block controlled by state-run Oil & Natural Gas Corp.



Ahmedabad Mirror • 15 Feb • Reliance Industries Delhi HC sets aside arbitral award passed in favour of RIL

10 • PG 98 • Sqcm 27533 • AVE 206.9K • Cir Top Left

Ahmedabad

Delhi HC sets aside arbitral award passed in favour of RIL



#NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday set aside an order which upheld an arbitral award in favour of Reliance Industries and its partners for allegedly siphoning off gas from deposits they had no right to exploit.

A bench of Justices Rekha Palli and Saurabh Banerjee allowed the appeal of the Central government challenging the May 9, 2023 judgment of a single-judge which was passed in favour of Mukesh Ambani-owned Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL).

The single judge, while upholding the arbitral award, had said it was not persuaded to hold that the conclusions drawn by the arbitral tribunal were such that no reasonable person would reach. No immediate comment was available from the company. However, they are likely to approach the Supreme Court challenging the high court's verdict.

In July 2018, an international arbitration tribunal rejected the Indian government's claim of \$1.55 billion against RIL and its partners for allegedly siphoning gas from deposits they had no right to exploit.



Free Press Journal • 15 Feb • Reliance Industries Major setback for Reliance

1, 16 • PG 274 • Sqcm

218110 • AVE

251.68K • Cir

Bottom Right, Middle Center

Mumbai

Major setback for Reliance

Delhi High Court sets aside award in \$1.7 billion KG basin gas dispute



Online Report

NEW DELHI

In the latest development in the high-stakes legal battle between Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and the Union government, the Delhi High Court dealt a major blow to Mukesh Ambani's conglomerate on Friday.

The court annulled a 2018 international arbitration tribunal's ruling that had previously favored Reliance in its \$1.7 billion dispute with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) over alleged gas migration in the Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin.

A division bench of Justices Rekha Palli and Saurabh Banerjee overturned a May 2023 ruling by a single judge, which had upheld the arbitral decision. The bench declared that the tribunal's award was "contrary to the settled position of law," effectively nullifying its findings. The court also dismissed all pending applications, ruling that each party would bear its own legal costs. This decision marks a significant victory for the Union government in its decade-long legal confrontation with RIL over the contentious issue of gas migration between neighboring fields.

The judgment clears the path for the government to press ahead with its claim of approximately \$1.7 billion against Reliance and its foreign partners.

Contd on | nation



Major setback for...

While Reliance still has the option to challenge the ruling in the Supreme Court, the legal momentum now appears to be firmly in the government's favor.

The dispute traces its origins back to the early 2000s, when a consortium led by Reliance entered into a production-sharing contract (PSC) with the government, granting the company the rights to explore and extract natural gas from the KG basin. The contract laid out the revenue-sharing arrangements and the obligations of both parties. However, the issue first arose in 2013 when ONGC raised concerns about the lateral continuity of gas reservoirs between Reliance's block and its own adjacent fields. The findings indicated that the gas pools were interconnected, raising suspicions of gas migration from ONGC's fields into Reliance's production zone.

In response, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) demanded that Reliance disgorge the gas, alongside an additional \$174 million in interest. The government argued that Reliance had unlawfully profited from extracting gas that may have migrated from ONGC's adjacent blocks. Initially, the government sought roughly \$1.5 billion in compensation. This claim was further bolstered by a report from Justice AP Shah, former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, who supported the government's position on the likelihood of gas migration.

Reliance, in turn, invoked the arbitration clause in the PSC and took the dispute to an international tribunal. In July 2018, the tribunal ruled largely in Reliance's favor, rejecting most of the government's claims. This decision marked a significant legal win for Reliance, dismissing the allegations of gas migration.

In May 2023, the Delhi High Court upheld the arbitral award, with Justice Anup Bhambhani affirming that the tribunal's findings were factually sound and in line with public policy. Justice Bhambhani argued that the tribunal's conclusions were rational, coherent, and beyond the purview of judicial review. However, the government was undeterred and filed an appeal under Section 37 of the Arbitration Act, which eventually led to Friday's landmark ruling.

With this latest judgment, the legal fight is far from over. The Union government now has the opportunity to enforce its \$1.7 billion claim against Reliance, but the company retains the option to appeal to the Supreme Court. The saga, which has spanned over a decade, continues to be a defining chapter in India's energy exploration landscape, highlighting the ongoing tension between corporate interests and public policy in the nation's resource-rich sectors.



Free Press Journal • 15 Feb • Reliance Industries HC junks arbitral award favouring RIL in gas migration case

12 • PG 89 • Sqcm 70888 • AVE 251.68K • Cir Top Right

Mumbai

HC junks arbitral award favouring RIL in gas migration case

Informist

NEW DELHI

In a win for the government, the Delhi High Court on Friday set aside a 2018 arbitral award favouring the Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd. in the case pertaining to the Krishna-Godavari-D6 gas block. Accepting the \$1.73-billion demand of the government against Reliance Industries, the bench of Justice Rekha Palli and Justice Saurabh Banerjee said, "We are setting aside the impugned order dated May 9, 2023 passed by the learned single judge and the arbitral award passed by the Learned Arbitral Tribunal

dated Jul. 24, 2018, being contrary to the settled position of law along with pending applications".

In 2000, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and a Reliance Industries-led consortium, which included UK-based British Petroleum Exploration (Alpha) Ltd. and Canada's Niko (NECO) Ltd., had signed a production sharing contract for exploration of natural gas in the Krishna-Godavari basin, where Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd. and the Mukesh Ambani-promoted company had adjacent gas fields. Subsequently, Reliance Industries transferred a portion of its participating interest to British Petroleum Exploration (Alpha).



Millenniumpost • 15 Feb • Reliance Industries Delhi HC sets aside arbitral award passed in favour of RIL

1, 9 • PG 359 • Sqcm 646707 • AVE 750K • Cir Top Center,Top Left

Delhi

BUSINESS: PG 9

Delhi HC sets aside arbitral award passed in favour of RIL



Delhi HC sets aside arbitral award passed in RIL's favour

A two judge bench allowed Centre's appeal challenging May 9, 2023 single-judge judgment passed in favour RIL

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Friday set aside an order which upheld an arbitral award in favour of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and its partners for allegedly siphoning off gas from deposits they had no right to exploit.

A bench of Justices Rekha Palli and Saurabh Banerjee allowed the appeal of the Central government challenging the May 9, 2023 judgment of a single-judge which was passed in favour of Mukesh Ambaniowned Reliance Industries.

The single judge, while upholding the arbitral award, had said it was not persuaded to hold that the conclusions drawn by the arbitral tribunal were such that no reasonable person would reach.

"Suffice it to say that the view taken by the arbitral tribunal is most certainly a 'possible view', which calls for no interference. As a sequitur to the above discussion, this court finds no ground to interfere with the majority arbitral award; which is accordingly upheld," the single judge had said.

No immediate comment was available from the company. However, they are likely to approach the Supreme Court challenging the high court's verdict.

In July 2018, an international arbitration tribunal



rejected the Indian government's claim of \$1.55 billion against RIL and its partners for allegedly siphoning gas from deposits they had no right to exploit. The three member panel by a majority of 2-1 had also awarded \$8.3 million compensation to the three partners, Reliance had said in a regulatory filing.

The oil ministry on November 4, 2016, slapped a demand of \$1.47 billion on Reliance-BP-Niko combine for producing in seven years ending March 31, 2016 about 338.332 million British thermal units (MMBtu) of gas that had seeped or migrated from ONGC's blocks into their adjoining KG-D6 in the Bay of Bengal.

After deducting \$71.71 million royalty paid on the gas produced and adding an interest at the rate of LIBOR plus 2 per cent, totalling \$149.86 million, a total demand of \$1.55 billion was made on Reliance, BP and Niko.

At the time, Reliance disputed the government's demand as being based on a "misreading and misinterpretation of key elements of the PSC," and it said that such a demand was without precedent in the oil and gas industry. It on November 11, 2016, slapped an arbitration notice.

Reliance is the operator of the KG-D6 block with 60 per cent interest while BP holds 30 per cent. The remaining 10 per cent is with Niko Resources.



The Asian Age • 15 Feb • Reliance Industries In setback to Reliance, HC sets aside award in gas row

2 • PG 251 • Sqcm 175899 • AVE 389.96K • Cir Bottom Center

Delhi

In setback to Reliance, HC sets aside award in gas row

Award rejected Centre's claim of \$1.55 bn against RIL

New Delhi, Feb. 14: The Delhi high court on Friday set aside an order that upheld an arbitral award in favour of Reliance Industries and its partners for allegedly siphoning off gas from deposits they had no right to exploit.

A bench of Justices Rekha Palli and Saurabh Banerjee allowed the appeal of the Central government challenging the May 9, 2023, judgment of a single judge that was passed in favour of Mukesh Ambani-owned Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL).

The single judge, while upholding the arbitral award, had said it was not persuaded to hold that the conclusions drawn by the arbitral tribunal were such that no reasonable person would reach.

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At the time, Reliance disputed the government's demand as being based on a "misreading and misinterpretation of key elements of the PSC," and it said that such a demand was without precedent in the oil and gas industry.

On November 11, 2016, it slapped an arbitration notice.

Reliance is the operator of the KG-D6 block with 60 per cent interest while BP holds 30 per cent. The remaining 10 per cent is with Niko Resources.

The government's compensation claim flowed from the report of the justice (retd) A.P. Shah committee. — PTI



Punjab Kesari • 15 Feb • Reliance Industries Mukesh ambani ki reliance ko delhi court se jhatka

2 • PG 147 • Sqcm 867.98K • Cir Middle Left 136372 • AVE

Chandigarh

मुकेश अंबानी की रिलायंस को दिल्ली कोर्ट से झटका

अदालत ने

सरकार का

पक्ष लिया

नई दिल्ली, 14 फरवरी 🔳 गैस विवाद में (एजैंसियां): मुकेश अंबानी की रिलायंस इंड स्ट्रीज (आर.आई.एल.) को दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट से बड़ा झटका लगा है। सरकार और रिलायंस के बीच

लंबे समय से चले आ रहे गैस विवाद में अदालत ने सरकार का पक्ष लिया है। अदालत ने माना कि आर.आई.एल. और उसके विदेशी सांझेदारों ने धोखाधडी करके 1.729 अरब डॉलर से ज्यादा का अनुचित लाभ कमाया। उन्होंने ऐसे गैस भंडारों से गैस निकाली, जिन पर उनका कोई हक नहीं था। यह विवाद 2014 का है। तब ओ.एन.जी.सी.

ने आरोप लगाया था कि रिलायंस ने कृष्णा-गोदावरी



(के.जी.) बेसिन में अपनी सीमा के पास कुएं खोदे, जिससे गैस का रिसाव हुआ। रिलायंस के पास के.जी.-डी6 ब्लॉक में 60 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी है, जबकि बी.पी. के पास 30 प्रतिशत और निको रिसोर्सिस के

पास 10 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी है। कोर्ट ने रिलायंस के पक्ष में आए एक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मध्यस्थता के फैसले को भी रद्द कर दिया।

जस्टिस रेखा पल्ली और सौरभ बनर्जी की खंडपीठ ने मई, 2022 के एकल न्यायाधीश के फैसले को पलट दिया है। इससे पहले एकल न्यायाधीश ने पैट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के आरोपों को खारिज कर दिया था।



Navbharat Times • 15 Feb • Reliance Industries No relife to Relinace in gas Case

14 • PG 216 • Sqcm 421253 • AVE 2.68M • Cir Middle Center

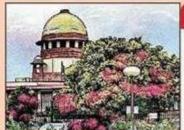
Delhi

केजी बेसिन गैस मामले में HC ने झटका दिया Reliance को गैस विवाद के मामले में राहत नहीं

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

मुकेश अंवानी के स्वामित्व वाले रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड (RIL) को दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट से शुक्रवार को झटका लगा है। कोर्ट ने कृष्ण गोदावरी (केजी) वेसिन से गैस विवाद में RIL के पक्ष में तय मध्यस्थता प्राधिकरण द्वारा तय राशि और प्राधिकरण के आदेश के पक्ष में सिंगल वेंच के फैसले को निस्स्त कर दिया।

जस्टिस रेखा पल्ली और जस्टिस सौरभ वनर्जी की डिबीजन वेंच ने कहा, हम सिगल वेंच द्वारा 9 मई, 2023 को पारित आदेश और मध्यस्थ न्यायाधिकरण (आर्विट्रल ट्रिब्यूनल) द्वारा 2018 में पारित मध्यस्थ राशि (आर्विट्रल अवार्ड) को स्थापित कानून के विरुद्ध होने के चलते, लंबित आवेदनों के साथ निरस्त कर रहे हैं। इसमें पक्षकारों पर जो लागत आई, उसे वे खुद बहन करेंगे। डिबीजन वेंच ने केंद्र सरकार की अपील पर यह



फैसला सुनाया। केंद्र सरकार ने सिंगल वेंच के फैसले को यहां चुनौती दी थी। जस्टिस अनूप जयराम भंभानी ने 9 मई 2023 में RIL के पक्ष में अपना फैसला सनाया था।

कोर्ट का फैसला

- दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने मुकेश
 अंबानी के स्वामित्व वाली कंपनी रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड (RIL) के पक्ष में गैस विवाद के मामले में मध्यस्थता प्राधिकरण के फैसले को निरस्त कर दिया।
- केंद्र सरकार की अपील पर हाई कोर्ट ने सुनाया फैसला
- RIL संभवत सुप्रीम कोर्ट में फैसले को चुनौती देगा

कंद्र सरकार ने 24 जुलाई 2018 में घोपित मध्यस्थता प्राधिकरण के फैसले को चुनौती दी थी। 2 ा की मेजोरिटी से सुनाए गए इस फैसले में दो सदस्यों ने रिलायंस के पक्ष में तो एक ने केंद्र के पक्ष में विवाद को निपटाया। दरअसल, मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ पेट्रोलियम एंड नेकुर ने में से रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज, निको और ब्रिटिश पेट्रोलियम एक्सप्लोरेशन(एल्फा) को प्रोडक्शन शैयरिंग कॉन्ट्रैक्ट(PSR) के तहत आंध्र प्रदेश में कृष्णा-गोदाकरी बेरिन के पास एक ब्लॉक से नेवुरल गैस का पता कर उसे जमा करने का ठेका दिया। इसमें रिलायंस ऑफरेटर था।



Online Coverage

No	Portal Name	Headline (Incorporated with URL)	Reach
1.	Msn India	Delhi HC rules against RIL in \$1.7 billion gas dispute with govt	733.9M
2.	Msn India	Big setback for Reliance, win for govt in appeal accusing Ambani"s co of "frau	733.9M
3.	msn	मुकेश अंबानी की रिलायंस को कोर्ट से झटका, गैस विवाद में आए इस फैसले के बाद अब क्	733.9M
4.	msn	Big setback for Reliance, win for govt in appeal accusing Ambani's co of 'fraud,	733.9M
5.	msn	Reliance Industries and BP lose decade-long gas drilling dispute in India	733.9M
6.	Latest India News	Bad news for Mukesh Ambani as Delhi HC quashes award in KG basin gas disput e wor	110M
7.	The Times of India	Delhi HC rules against RIL in \$1.7 billion gas dispute with govt	64.4M
8.	The Times of India	Delhi HC rules against RIL in \$1.7 billion gas dispute with govt	64.4M
9.	Navbharat Times - NBT Education	मुकेश अंबानी की रिलायंस को कोर्ट से झटका, गैस विवाद में आए इस फैसले के बाद अब क्	57.6M
10.	Bloomberg	India Court Rules Against Reliance in Gas Drilling Dispute	54.9M
11.	Mint	Delhi High Court overturns arbitration award favouring Reliance in \$1.7 bn gas m	40.8M
12.	The Economic Times	Delhi HC accepts govt plea against Reliance	28.7M
13.	The Economic Times	Delhi HC accepts govt plea against Reliance	28.7M
14.	The Economic Times	Big setback for Reliance, win for govt in appeal accusing Ambani"s co of "frau	28.7M
15.	Prabhat Khabar	Reliance Industries को बड़ा झटका! हाईकोर्ट ने सरकार के खिलाफ मध्यस्थता फैसले को	22.9M
16.	Dailyhunt	Delhi HC sets aside arbitral award passed in favour of Reliance Industries	18.6M
17.	Dailyhunt	Important cases heard in Delhi High Court on Feb 14	18.6M
18.	Dailyhunt	Delhi HC overturns \$1.7 billion arbitration award in Reliance gas dispute	18.6M
19.	Dailyhunt	Bad news for Mukesh Ambani as Delhi HC quashes award in KG basin gas disput e wor	18.6M
20.	financialexpres	Delhi HC rules in favour of Govt in in \$1.7-billion gas dispute with Reliance	16.2M
21.	ThePrint	Delhi HC sets aside arbitral award passed in favour of Reliance Industries	11.3M
22.	TV9	मुकेश अंबानी को एक हफ्ते में लगा दूसरा झटका, अबकी बार गैस विवाद में दिल्ली हाई क	11.3M
23.	Investing India	Reliance Industries and BP lose decade-long gas drilling dispute in India	10.6M
24.	Business Standard	Delhi HC rules in favour of govt in \$1.5 billion gas dispute with RIL	8.1M
25.	Business Standard	Delhi HC overturns \$1.7 billion arbitration award in Reliance gas dispute	8.1M



26.	Latestly	India News Delhi HC Sets Aside Arbitral Award Passed in Favour of Reliance In d	7.8M
27.	Sandesh	Business: 1.7 અબજડોલરનો આર્બિટ્રેશન ચુકાદો ઉલ્ટાવી દીધો	5.7M
28.	The Hindu Business Line	Delhi HC quashes arbitral award to RIL-led consortium in KG basin gas migration	5M
29.	Barandbench	Setback for Reliance as Delhi High Court sets aside award in \$1.7 billion KG bas	2.7M
30.	Deshabhimani	പ്രകൃതിവാതക തട്ടിപ്പ് ;റിലയ സിന് കോടതിയില് തിരിച്ചടി	1.8M
31.	Latestly Hindi	जरुरी जानकारी दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय ने रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज के पक्ष में पारित मध्	1.3M
32.	Devdiscourse	Delhi High Court Overturns Favorable Award for Reliance in Controversial Gas Di s	1.2M
33.	Greater Kashmir	Setback for Reliance: Delhi High Court quashes \$1.7 Billion arbitral award in KG	1M
34.	Moneylife	Setback for Reliance Industries as Delhi HC Sets Aside Award in US\$1.7bn KG B asi	901.8K
35.	Etnownews	Big blow for Mukesh Ambani"s Reliance Industries! Delhi High Court"s latest up	865.4K
36.	ThePrint	दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय ने रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज के पक्ष में पारित मध्यस्थता फैसले को	483.1K
37.	Millenium Post	Delhi HC sets aside arbitral award passed in RIL"s favour	239.8K
38.	News Drum	Delhi HC sets aside arbitral award passed in favour of Reliance Industries	158.4K
39.	News Drum	Important cases heard in Delhi High Court on Feb 14	158.4K
40.	Hindi Business Standard	मुकेश अंबानी की Reliance को बड़ा झटका! हाईकोर्ट ने कहा – सरकार को ₹ करोड़	133.9K
41.	HT Syndication	HC overturns RIL arbitration award in \$1.7 bn gas dispute	119.8K
42.	Beamstart	Delhi HC overturns \$1.7 billion arbitration award in Reliance gas dispute	88K
43.	Outlook Business	Delhi HC Rules Against Reliance Ind in \$1.7B KG Basin Gas Dispute	53.4K
44.	Thelocalreport	Delhi High Court overturns arbitration award favouring Reliance in \$1.7 bn gas m	39.5K
45.	Ur All News	Delhi HC accepts govt plea against Reliance	N/A
46.	The Mobi World	Delhi HC accepts govt plea against Reliance	N/A
47.	OB News	Delhi HC accepts govt plea against Reliance	N/A
48.	Justdial.com	Delhi HC rules against RIL in \$1.7 billion gas dispute with govt	N/A
49.	The Press Reader	Delhi HC quashes \$1.7-b arbitral award to RIL-led consortium in KG Basin gas mi g	N/A
50.	News8 Plus	Big shock to Reliance Industries! High court rejected arbitration decision again	N/A



51.	Daily World Hindi	दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय ने रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज के पक्ष में पारित मध्यस्थता फैसले को	N/A
52.	Bharat Express	दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट से रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज को झटका, गैस विवाद में सरकार के पक्ष में	N/A
53.	BharatKi Baat	Delhi HC overturns arbitral award in favor of Reliance Industries.	N/A
54.	OB News	Bad news for Mukesh Ambani as Delhi HC quashes award in KG basin gas disput e wor	N/A
55.	The Mobi World	Bad news for Mukesh Ambani as Delhi HC quashes award in KG basin gas disput e wor	N/A
56.	The Mobi World	Mukesh Ambani got another blow in a week, this time in gas dispute, Delhi High C	N/A
57.	OB News	Mukesh Ambani got another blow in a week, this time in gas dispute, Delhi High C	N/A
58.	GAR	India overturns award in gas migration dispute	N/A
59.	Connect Gujarat	Delhi HC overturns \$1.7 billion arbitration award in Reliance gas dispute	N/A
60.	MyIndMakers	Reliance faces setback as government wins gas siphoning appeal	N/A
61.	investcly.com	Delhi High Court Rules Against Reliance Industries in Long-Running Gas Dispute	N/A
62.	lawchakra.in	Mukesh Ambani's RIL Setback For Reliance As Delhi High Court Sets Aside Aw ard	N/A