

Despite Environmental Challenges, ONGC Makes Steady Progress at RDS Wellsite



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Nazira, 25 June: The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) achieved a significant milestone today in its ongoing well control operations at the RDS site, demonstrating resilience and precision amidst mounting environmental challenges.

In a carefully coordinated effort, an extra-long boom crane and a 40-ton crane successfully removed 42 tubing stands from the derrick of the rig. This critical step has paved the way for the safe removal of the rig base from the wellhead — a key advancement in the containment process.

Following this, the operation now moves to the next phase: dismantling the existing Blowout Preventer (BOP) and installing a capping stack. ONGC has stated that a temporary rise in gas discharge is expected during this process. However, the company has reassured the public that the gas is **non-toxic** and the discharge volume is **significantly reduced**, posing **no threat** to those living beyond a 500-metre radius of the site.

Water blanketing continues as part of ONGC's multi-layered safety strategy. The operation is being executed with the support of ONGC's technical partner, **CUDD Well Control**, ensuring all actions are undertaken with the highest safety standards.

Rising water levels in the nearby Dikhow River have added to the logistical challenges. In response, the team is relocating high-capacity pumps to ensure uninterrupted safety support systems remain fully functional.

Meanwhile, **ambient air quality is under continuous monitoring**, with all parameters remaining within safe and permissible limits. **Medical and relief camps remain active** at the site, offering support and services to both field personnel and nearby communities.

ONGC reaffirmed its commitment to completing the well control operations safely, efficiently, and with full transparency, while working in close coordination with local authorities and stakeholders.

SK Hasan

Freelance journalist, Nazira, Sivasagar district.

BY SK HASAN

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