

Cairn to start drilling in Ambe block, installs sub-sea template

Our Bureau

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Cairn Oil & Gas said on Monday that it has successfully installed India's first-ever sub-sea template (SST) on the West Coast, marking a significant breakthrough for offshore exploration in the Ambe block as part of the conductor supported platform (CSP) installation.

The development enables the country's largest private oil and gas producer to soon start cluster drilling at the Ambe field, which is located in the Gulf of Cambay and is

one of the first discovered small field (DSF) blocks.

The operation was carried out using a jack-up rig, the first such execution in the Indian offshore region.

Cairn plans to fast track the development and monetisation of the field on the West Coast, the company, which is part of the oil-to-metals Vedanta Group, said.

"With the SST now in place, Cairn plans to initiate drilling operations soon," it added. Installing a subsea template means placing a pre-engineered steel foundation on the sea bed, which forms a key part of the CSP

for future drilling and production. It provides positioning and alignment for multiple wells as well as structural support for equipment and protection for well heads. It enables cluster drilling and reduces installation time and cost compared to individual well foundations.

It marks a major leap for marginal field monetisation in DSF blocks, with the potential to reshape the way smaller offshore discoveries are brought to production, making them viable and contributing to India's energy security, Cairn added.