

Petroleum System Events in Eastern Part of the Ganga Basin

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Basin modelling, calibrated with acritarch age dating and integrated with petrographic studies from a new well drilled in the eastern Ganga Basin, has enabled the chronology of the petroleum system events that affected this part of the basin to be evaluated.

New data from the Havidih-1 exploration well indicates that the Karnapur and Tilhar formations comprise of low porosity, indurated pelites and crystalline limestones respectively. Achritarchs confirm a Late Pre-Cambrian to Early Cambrian age for the Karnapur Formation. An acritarch assemblage comprising several species of leiospheres associated with structured and unstructured organic remains was recovered from the inferred Karnapur Formation. The assemblage includes *Archaeodiscina umbonulata* Volkova and *Archaeodiscina umbonulata*, the latter being considered an important early Cambrian zone fossil (Molyneux et al., 1996, Palmer et al., 2001; Brück and Vanguetaine, 2004).

Mineralogical and petrographic studies demonstrate conclusively that the pelites of the Karnapur Formation are characterized by low grade metamorphic type IIb polytype chlorite (clinocllore, Figure 4) which is indicative of minimum temperatures of 220°C. Achritarchs recovered from the pelites also confirm these sediments have a TAI of 3.5 or higher.

A petroleum system scenario model was made to investigate the implications that the Tilhar Formation succession encountered in the Havidih-1z well had been heated to 220°C. A commercial 1D basin model (Genesis, proprietary to Zetaware of Houston, Texas) was generated.

The 1D model base case was constructed with a lamalginite Type 1 Tilhar Formation kerogen typical of late PreCambrian-early Cambrian organic material (Crick et al., 1988; Jos et al., 2001) and a heat flow model constructed from a tectonic reconstruction of the Ganga Valley basin (Boger et al., 2001; Cawood et al., 2007 and Sarbadhikari et al., 2008). An indicative Total Organic Carbon (TOC) content of 3% and a hydrogen index of 600 was used in the source rock model. In the base case heat flow model the rifting heat flow maxima is 80 MW/m².

The results of the base case simulation indicate that the PreCambrian-early Cambrian Karnapur Formation section underwent burial to at least 4.5km in the Lower Paleozoic with subsequent uplift. The exact timing of the uplift is unknown because the age of the inferred Mesozoic section is poorly constrained. However, the specific timing of the inversion to near surface conditions has little or no effect on the hydrocarbon generation and maturity result. In a slightly higher heat flow scenario case (90MW/m² rifting case) burial depth of >5km was required. For all geologically reasonable scenarios, hydrocarbon generation begins in the early Ordovician and ceased during the Paleozoic.

As a result of the late Paleozoic uplift structuration may have occurred in the Paleozoic section, although breaching of structures and hydrocarbon migration to surface is a risk element. Further exploration in this part of the basin will require a skill full use of basin modeling and palaeo-structural analysis.