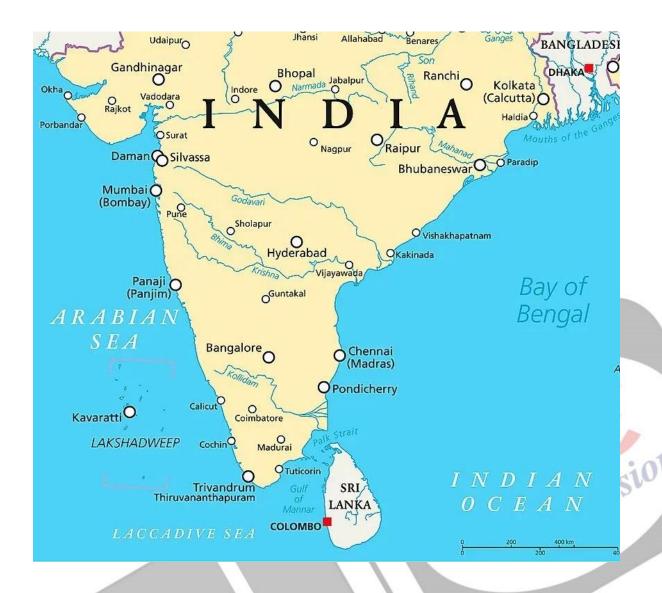# Kariyachalli Island

Tamil Nadu, under the **TNSHORE (Tamil Nadu Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resources)** project, is working to protect the ecologically vital **Kariyachalli Island** in the **Gulf of Mannar**, which has **shrunk by over 70%** since 1969 and may be **submerged by 2036**.

Kariyachalli Island

- **About: Kariyachalli Island**, located within the **Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park**, is part of one of **India's four major coral reef regions** (others: **Gulf of Kutch**, **Lakshadweep**, and **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**).
    - It serves as a vital **habitat for endangered species** like **dugongs (sea cows, IUCN: Vulnerable)**, which rely on **seagrass ecosystems.**
- **Threats:** The **island has lost 70%** of its **landmass since 1969**, and due to **climate change, 30% of its coral has already bleached.**
- **Conservation:** The **TNSHORE project** plans to install **8,500 artificial reef modules** that are **trapezoidal structures** made of **ferrocement and steel** with **perforations** for **nutrient flow** along with **seagrass plantation** and **coral habitat restoration**, to help **reduce wave energy** and **stabilize the shoreline.**

Gulf of Mannar

- **About:** The **Gulf of Mannar**, an extended part of the **Laccadive Sea**, contains **21 islands** and is bordered by **Rameswaram**, **Ram Setu bridge**, and **Mannar Island**.
    - It receives rivers like the **Tambraparni** and **Aruvi**, and hosts the **Tuticorin port**.

- **Biodiversity:** Home to the **Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park**—South Asia's first **Marine [Biosphere Reserve](#)**—it supports **corals, fishes**, and endangered species like **dugongs**, **whale sharks**, and **sea turtles.**
  - The gulf is noted for its **pearl banks** and **sacred chank** (a gastropod mollusk).
- **Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park:** Established in **1982**, it features **coral reefs**, **mangroves**, **mudflats**, **creeks**, **seagrass beds**, **seaweeds**, **estuaries**, **sandy shores**, **saline grasslands**, **marshes**, and **rocky coastlines.**

Read More: [Coral Breach in Gulf of Mannar](#)