



Hydrocarbon Exploration in Gulf of Mannar

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The Indian government has included a around **10,000 sq km deep-sea region of the [Gulf of Mannar \(GoM\)](#) in Tamil Nadu** in its latest [hydrocarbon exploration](#) tender, raising concerns over its impact on marine biodiversity and local livelihoods.

- **Exploration Tender:** The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**, under the **10th Open Acreage Licensing Policy** (a mechanism under India's [Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy](#) that allows investors to select blocks for oil and gas exploration), has included 25 offshore areas.
- **Gulf of Mannar:** It is a part of the **Laccadive Sea** in the Indian Ocean, containing **21 islands**. It spans between the **northwest coast of Sri Lanka and the southeast coast of India**.
 - It is bordered by Rameswaram, the Ram Sethu bridge (also known as Adam's Bridge), and Mannar Island (Sri Lanka).
 - It receives rivers like the **Tambraparni (India) and Aruvi (Sri Lanka)** and hosts the **Tuticorin port**.
 - It is home to the **Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park**, the first **Marine Biosphere Reserve** in South and South-East Asia.
 - It hosts **117 coral species, over 450 fish species, and globally threatened species** like dugongs, whale sharks, and sea turtles.



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

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