

## India Launches Massive Offshore Hydrocarbon Exploration Drive

*GS III - Energy*

### Why in the news?

Recently, one of India's largest ever offshore geophysical Survey Program was initiated by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH).

***Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH)** is the upstream technical regulator.*

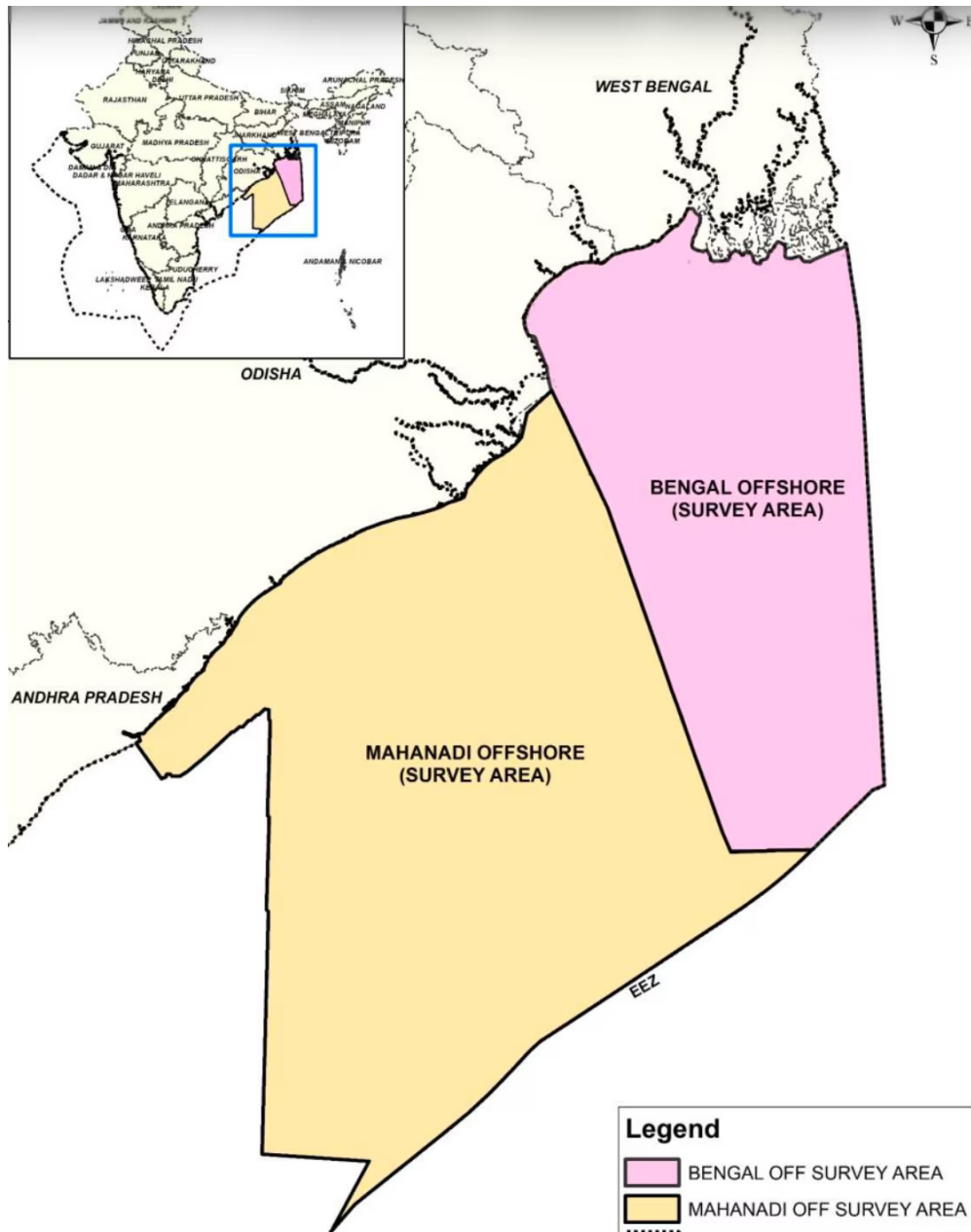
***Established in** - 1993 under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.*

***Functions** - It oversees the sound management of India's oil and gas resources, monitors production, and implements licensing policies.*

- **Aim-** To map over 161,000 km line in Bay of Bengal & adjoining basins over 2 years' time period to boost oil & Gas Production at Domestic level.

### Features of Exploration

- **Geographical Spread** - The Initiative would cover multiple offshore sedimentary basins along India's coastlines.
- Saurashtra Basin - West Coast.
- Mahanadi Basin, Krishna - Godavari basin, Bengal Offshore basin, Carvery basin - East Coast
- Andaman Basin - Frontier Regions.
- Oil India Limited & ONGC are working on drilling campaign focusing on deep - sea blocks in Andaman, Mahanadi, Saurashtra & Bengal basin.



## Advance Mapping Technology

- **2D/3D Seismic Surveys** - Uses controlled sound waves formed from specialized vessels to map the geometry of Subsurface Rock layers & trace potential hydrocarbon traps (Where oil or gas accumulates).
- **Stratigraphic Drilling** - Involves specialized drilling of non-productive wells to extract rock samples & geological data from completely unexplored basins.
- **Andaman Basin** - Is Classified as a High potential Frontier exploration zone similar to Major Gas producing fields like Myanmar & Indonesia.
- **Policy Shifts** - To fast track energy security, India in 2022 opened up nearly 1 Million Sq Km of previously restricted offshore NO-GO area.
- **No - Go Areas** - Restricted area due to defense, Space or environment Consideration for commercial Explorations.

For Reference: [News 18 | IAS Parliament](#)



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