India Launches Massive Offshore Hydrocarbon Exploration Drive

GS III – Energy

Why in the news?

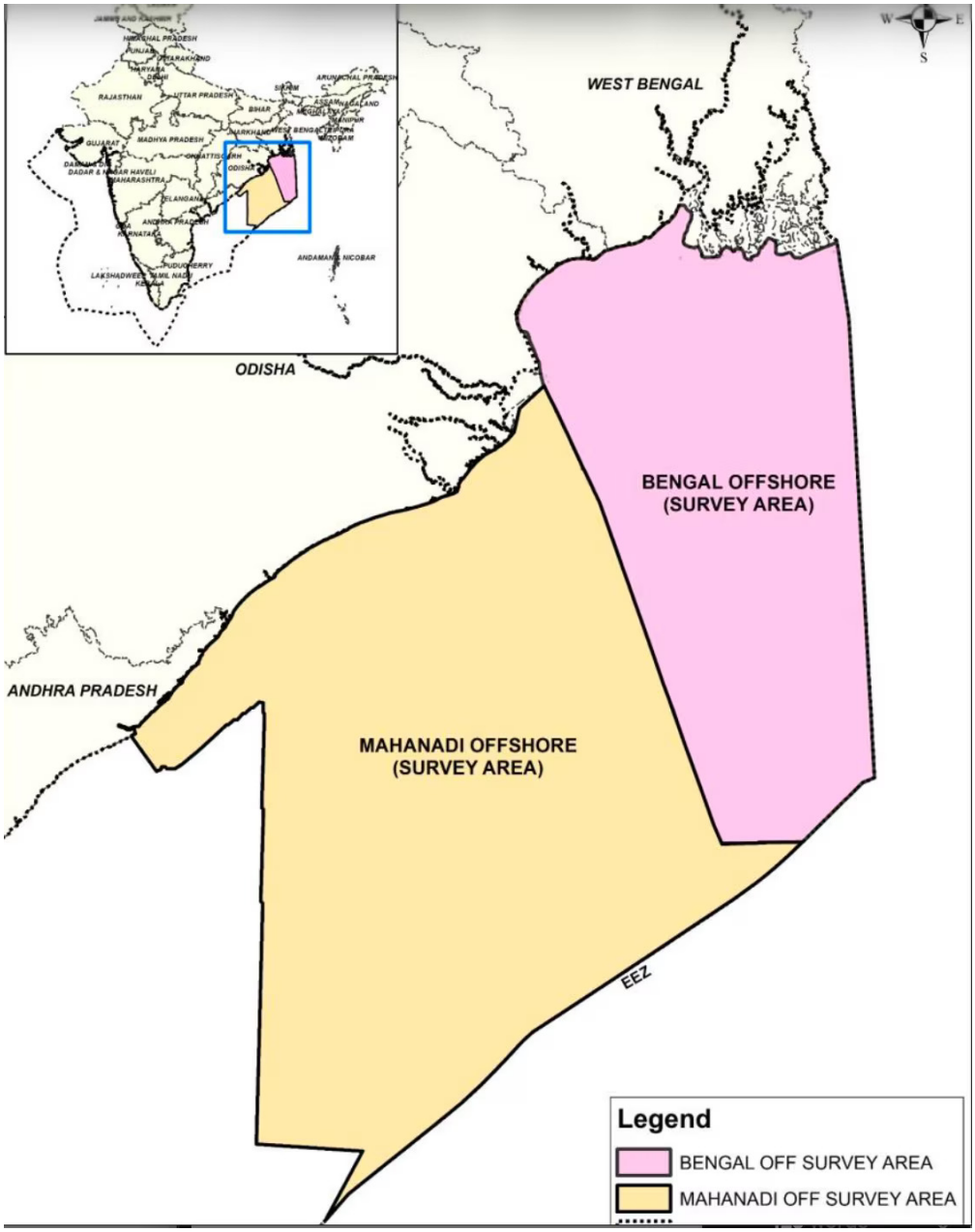
Recently, one of India's largest ever offshore geophysical Survey Program was initiated by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH).

> ***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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