India's first offshore wind prototype planned off Thoothukudi

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News

India's **first offshore wind prototype** will come up in the sea off **V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port, Thoothukudi**. A single **6.25 MW** turbine will stand about **1,650 m** from the inner harbour's southern breakwater at an estimated **₹77 crore**. The **Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation (IPRCL)** has floated the tender (open till 29 Oct 2026; work to finish within 12 months of the award) (reported 5 Oct 2026).

Key facts

Capacity	**6.25 MW**, one turbine (prototype)
Cost	About **₹77 crore**
Tendering agency	**IPRCL**, under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
Aim	Hands-on experience in wind assessment, turbine installation, vessel logistics and bringing power ashore
Next step	A **500 MW** offshore wind farm planned near VOC Port

Background

- **Why offshore?** Winds at sea are **stronger and steadier**, so turbines yield more power than on land, and no land has to be acquired.

- **National Offshore Wind Energy Policy 2015**; target **30 GW by 2030**. India's offshore wind potential lies mainly off **Gujarat and Tamil Nadu**.
- **June 2024:** the Union Cabinet approved a **₹7,453 crore Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** scheme for the first 1 GW: **500 MW off Gujarat and 500 MW off Tamil Nadu**.
- The **National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE)**, Chennai (Velachery), under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), leads offshore wind resource studies.

Tamil Nadu link: The **Gulf of Mannar – Palk Strait** area is one of India's best offshore wind zones. **Muppandal** in Kanyakumari district is among India's largest onshore wind farms, and Tamil Nadu is a leading wind-power State. The port is named after **V.O. Chidambaram Pillai** ('Kappalottiya Thamizhan'), who started the **Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company in 1906** on the Thoothukudi–Colombo route.

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