

Islands of India





The Islands of India, including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, hold crucial significance for the UPSC Civil Service (Prelims & Mains) Exam. Understanding these islands is important for analyzing their strategic importance, biodiversity, tribal communities, marine resources, ecological conservation, tourism potential, and their role in India's maritime security and foreign policy.

- 1. New Moore Island:** Also known as “Purbasha” and “South Talpatty Island”. Located in the Bay of Bengal, off the coast of the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta region. It formed due to the Bhola cyclone.
- 2. Sagar Island:** Also known as Gangasagar or Sagardwip. It located at Sundarban Delta at the mouth of the Hugli River.
- 3. Abdul Kalam Island (Wheeler Island):** Situated in the off the coast of Odisha. It is known for missile test facility for most of the Indian missiles. The nearest port is Dhamra Port.
- 4. Hope Island:** A small tadpole-shaped island situated off the coast of **Kakinada in the Bay of Bengal**. It is situated 10 km from **Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Sri Kukkuteswara Swamy Temple**.
- 5. Sriharikota:** It is a barrier island off the Bay of Bengal coast located in Andhra Pradesh. It situated at the sea margin of the **Pulicat Lake**. It has the rocket launching station of ISRO (SHAR).
- 6. Narcondam Island:** A small volcanic island located in the northern Andaman Sea. A dormant volcano with a conical shape and second tallest point after the Saddle Peak. Proximity to Myanmar lends it **great strategic and geopolitical significance**.
- 7. Barren Island:** It located in the Andaman Sea. Only confirmed **active volcano** in the Indian subcontinent.
- 8. Landfall Island:** The northernmost island of the Indian union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is separated from the **Coco Island** of Myanmar by the Coco Channel. It is separated from North Andaman Island by the **Cleugh Passage**.
- 9. North Andaman Island:** It is home to the highest point in the archipelago (Saddle Peak at 731 metres). Its northern tip is called Cape Price. Geologically part of the Arakan Yoma.
- 10. Middle Andaman Island:** The largest island of India. Jarawa people live here.
- 11. South Andaman Island:** Port Blair is located here. It was struck by the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake.
- 12. Rutland Island:** Located between South Andaman and Little Andaman. North of the Duncan Passage. Home to the Jangil (Rutland Jarawa).
- 13. Little Andaman:** Fourth largest of the Andaman Group. Belongs to the Little Andaman Group, and is separated from Rutland Island in Great Andaman by the Duncan Passage. Between Duncan Passage and Ten Degree Channel Home of Onge people.
- 14. Interview Island:** Situated to the west of Austen Strait which separates North Andaman Island and Middle Andaman Island.
- 15. Swaraj Island:** Also known as Havelock Island. One of the largest islands in Ritchie's Archipelago. In 2018, it was renamed, as Swaraj Island as a tribute to Subhas Chandra Bose. It has Radhanagar Beach which was named “Best Beach in Asia”.
- 16. Car Nicobar:** Situated to South of the Ten Degree Channel.
- 17. Kamorta Island:** Island in the Nicobar Islands chain. INS Kardip is a naval forward operating base of the joint-services Andaman and Nicobar Command on Kamorta Island. The Indian Navy's Kamorta-class Corvette is named after the island.
- 18. Katchal Island:** Katchal is inhabited by Nicobari Tribes and Migrated Tamilians.

19. **Little Nicobar:** Separated from the Great Nicobar Island by the St. George's Channel.
20. **Great Nicobar Island:** Southernmost tip- Indira Point (Pygmalion Point). Separated from the Sumatra Island by the Great Channel. Mt.Thullier – highest point in the Nicobar (642m). Known for **Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve**.
21. **Pamban Island:** Also known as Rameswaram Island. Separated from the mainland India by the Pamban Channel. Main towns – Rameshwaram, Dhanushkodi.
22. **Adam's Bridge:** Also known as Ram's Bridge or Rama Setu. Located between **Palk Bay** and **Gulf of Mannar**. There is a plan of Sethusamudram Project.
23. **Hare Island:** It lies adjoining the V. O. Chidambaranar Port Trust in Thoothukudi. It forms a part of the **Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park**. The largest island in the Gulf of Mannar.
24. **Van Tivu Island:** Located in the state of Tamil Nadu. Also known as Church Island.
25. **Munroe Island:** Located on the influence of Ashtamudi Lake and the Kallada River, Kerala.
26. **Pulincunnoo:** An island village in Alappuzha district of Kerala. Situated near the Pampa River. Part of the Kerala backwaters. The famous Rajiv Gandhi Trophy boat race is held here during the months of October-November every year.
27. **Vallarpadam:** A small idyllic island in the Vembanand Lake.
28. **Netrani Island:** Also known as Bajrangi Island, Murudeshwar and Pigeon Island located in the Arabian Sea. A coral island suitable for snorkeling and diving.
29. **St. Mary's Island:** Also known as Coconut Island and Thonsepar, in Udupi, Karnataka. Formed of columnar basaltic lava.
30. **Chorão (island):** Also known as Choddnnem or Chodan. Situated along the Mandovi River, Goa. Home of the Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary.
31. **Salsette Island:** One of the most densely populated islands in the world. Kanheri Peak is highest peak in the Borivali National Park (Sanjay Gandhi National Park).
32. **Trombay:** Located to north of Elephanta and Butcher islands. It is Slite of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). Along with Seven Islands of Bombay and Salsette it forms Greater Mumbai.
33. **Butcher Island:** Also known as Jawahar Dweep. Located to the Elephanta Island.
34. **Elephanta Island:** Also called as Gharapuri (or place of caves) or Pory Island.
35. **Agatti Island:** Situated on a coral atoll called Agatti atoll in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. Agatti Aerodrome is the only airport of Lakshadweep.
36. **Andrott:** Also known as Androth Island. First island of Lakshdweep to embrace Islam. Biggest island of Lakshdweep.
37. **Bitra Island:** It is a coral atoll belonging to the Amindivi Subgroup of islands. There is a small shrine dedicated to an old Arab saint by the name of Malik Mulla.
38. **Kadmat Island:** Also known as Cardamom Island. Belonging to the Amindivi subgroup of islands of the Lakshadweep archipelago. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the island as a marine protected area for ensuring conservation of the island.
39. **Kalpeni Island:** It was the first island in Lakshadweep where woman were allowed to go to school and get education.
40. **Minicoy Island:** Locally known as Maliku, is an island in Lakshadweep. Separated from the rest of

Lakshadweep by the Nine Degree Channel.

41. **Ghoramara Island:** Located 150 km south of Kolkata in the Sundarban Delta complex. It is fast disappearing due to erosion and sea level rise.
42. **Henry Island:** Situated near Bakkhali in South 24 Parganas of West Bengal. Home to millions of red crabs.
43. **Lohachara Island:** Located in the Hooghly River as part of the Sundarban delta in the Sundarban National Park.
44. **Nayachar Island:** A newly emerged island with mangrove ecosystem in the middle estuary of the Hooghly River in West Bengal.
45. **Pirotan Island:** Situated in the Marine National Park, Jamnagar District of Gujarat. It consists of mangroves and low-tide beaches.
46. **Diu Island:** Situated to off the Southern coast of Gujarat's Kathiawar peninsula. Diu is part of the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
47. **Parikud Island:** Situated within Chilika Lake. Acts as a gateway to Puri, the land of lord Jagannath.
48. **Aaliya Bet:** Located at the mouth of the Narmada River in the Gulf of Khambhat.
49. **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island:** Earlier known as Ross Island, is an island of the Andaman Islands.
50. **Majuli:** Largest Riverine Island of the world between the Brahmaputra and Subansiri Rivers.
51. **Srirangapatna Island:** The main Kaveri River flows along the eastern coast It was a de facto capital of Hyder Ali and Tipu.
52. **Kachchatheevu:** Uninhabited island of Sri Lanka, northeast of the Adam's Bridge.
53. **Quibble Island:** It is a riverine island located in Tamil Nadu, formed by Asayar River.
54. **Srirangam:** It is a riverine island located in Tiruchirapalli city. It is formed between the Cauvery and the Kollidam rivers.
55. **Bhavani Island:** It is a riverine island located at upstream from Vijaywada in the Krishna River.
56. **Ekakula Island:** It is located in Odisha within the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary. It is a prominent nesting site of Olive Ridley sea turtles.

PYQs Archive

1. Which one of the following pairs of islands is separated from each other by the 'Ten Degree Channel'? [2014]

- a. Andaman and Nicobar
- b. Nicobar and Sumatra
- c. Maldives and Lakshadweep
- d. Sumatra and Java

Ans: a.