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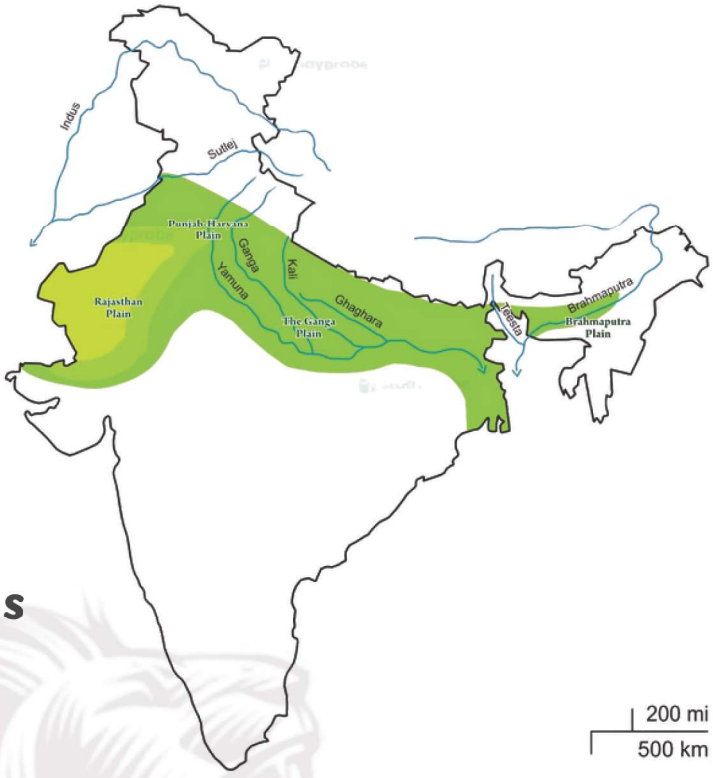
TOPIC -

Plains & Islands



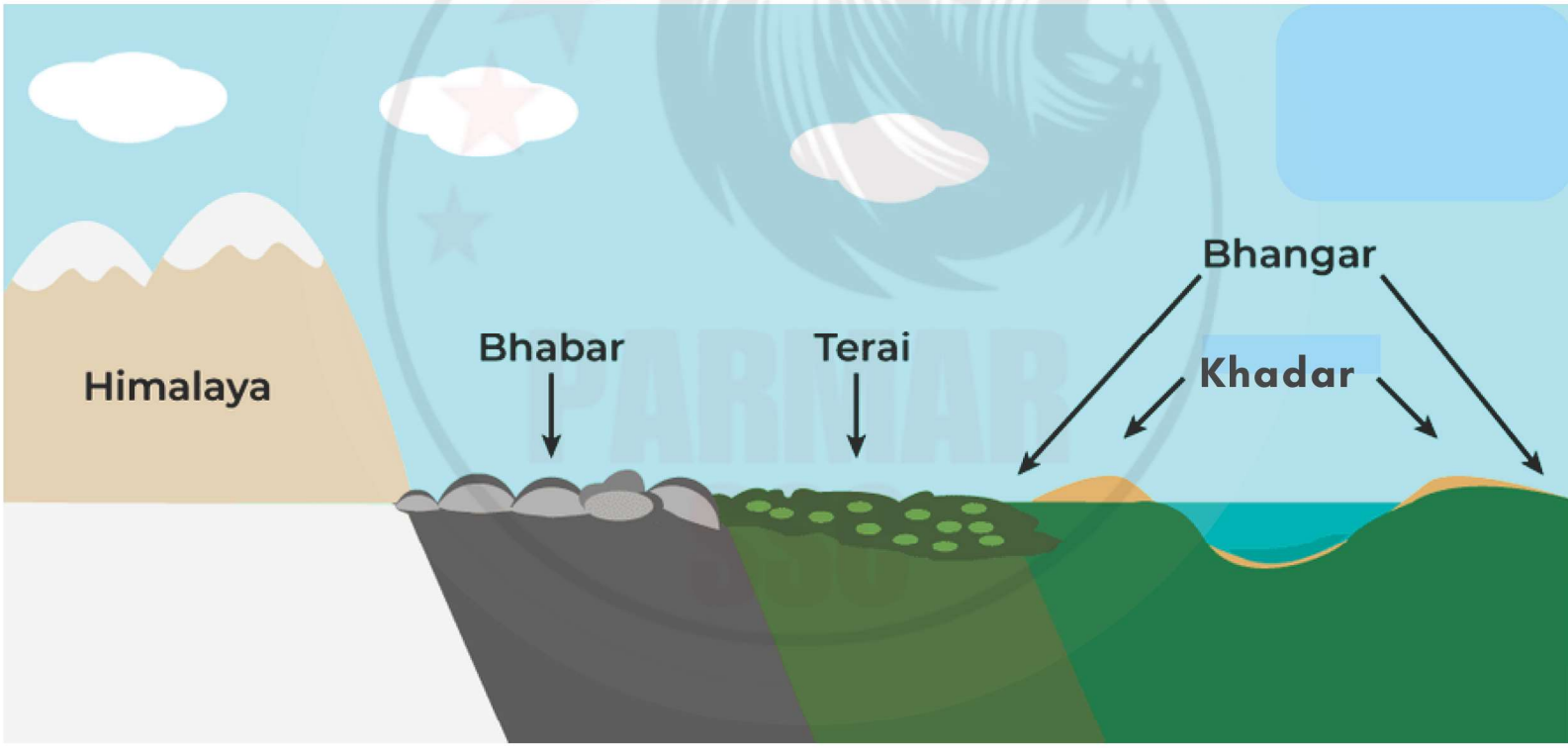
Formation of Northern Plains

- The Northern Plains are flat, fertile lands formed by the deposition of alluvial soil from the Himalayan River System, namely Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra.
- The deposited material forms a vast and fertile stretch of land ideal for farming.
- Length : 3200 OR 2400 Km
- Average Width : 150-300 Km
- Depth of Alluvial Deposite : 1000-2000 m



Classification of Northern Plains

1. Bhabar
2. Terai
3. Alluvial Flood Plains



Bhabar

- It is a narrow belt (8-16 km wide) lying south of the Shiwaliks.
- River coming down from the mountains deposit stones and pebbles, due to which it disappears.
- This region is not suitable for agriculture due to excessive porosity.



Terai



- It lies south of the Bhabar region (width: 15-30 km).
- Streams reappear as they seep through the Bhabar layer, forming a marshy area.
- This region is suitable for agriculture but not as Bhangar or Khadar due to excessive porosity.
- Important National Parks in the Terai Region: Jim Corbett National Park (Uttarakhand), Dudhwa National Park (Uttar Pradesh), Valmiki National Park (Bihar), Rajaji National Park (Uttarakhand), Chitwan National Park (Nepal)

Alluvial Flood Plains

- The fertile lands formed by the deposition of river sediments.
- Terai region is without any properly Demarcated Channel.
- They are divided into two parts : **Khadar** and **Bhangar**.

Khadar (New Alluvial Soil)

- It is newly deposited floodplain, renewed annually by river floods.
- Khadar is more fertile than Bhangar, suitable for intensive farming.

Bhangar (Old Alluvial Soil)

- It is old, elevated floodplain, with deposits over thousand of years.
- The region has more calcareous (kankar-rich) deposits, making it less fertile.



Coastal Plains

- India has two major coastal plains along the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The coastal regions play a key role in trade, tourism, and port development.

1. Western Coastal Plains

- They are narrow in the middle, wider at the ends (Dumbbell-like shape).
- The Western Coastal Plains of India are called submerged coastal plains because a part of the land near the coast has sunk below sea level over time.
- Rivers do not form deltas because they flow quickly into the sea, hence forms Estuaries.
- It is considered as Retreating or Submerging Coast.
- It is Mutilated Coast and Suitable for Port Development.
- They are famous for formation of backwaters (Kayals).
- E.g. Punnamada Kayal in Kerala (famous for the Nehru Trophy Boat Race).



2. Eastern Coastal plains

- The Eastern Coastal Plains lie along the Bay of Bengal and stretch from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu.
- They are wider than the Western Coastal Plains and have emerging coastline with large river deltas.
- It is considered as Emerging Coast.
- It is Smooth Coast, Not Suitable for Port Development
- They are formed by rivers like Ganga, Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri that bring soil and deposit it along the sediments.
- It is not much suitable for port development.



Note : The Coastal Plains of West bengal is called **Baiga Coast.**

Great Indian Thar Desert

- The Thar Desert lies to the northwest of the Aravalli Range.
- It experiences low rainfall (about 150 mm per year).
- Summers are extremely hot, while winters are cold and dry.
- It is also known as "Marusthali" meaning "Land of Dead".
- Most rivers here are ephemeral, meaning they only flow during the rainy season.



Islands

- An island is a piece of land that is completely surrounded by water and is smaller than a continent.



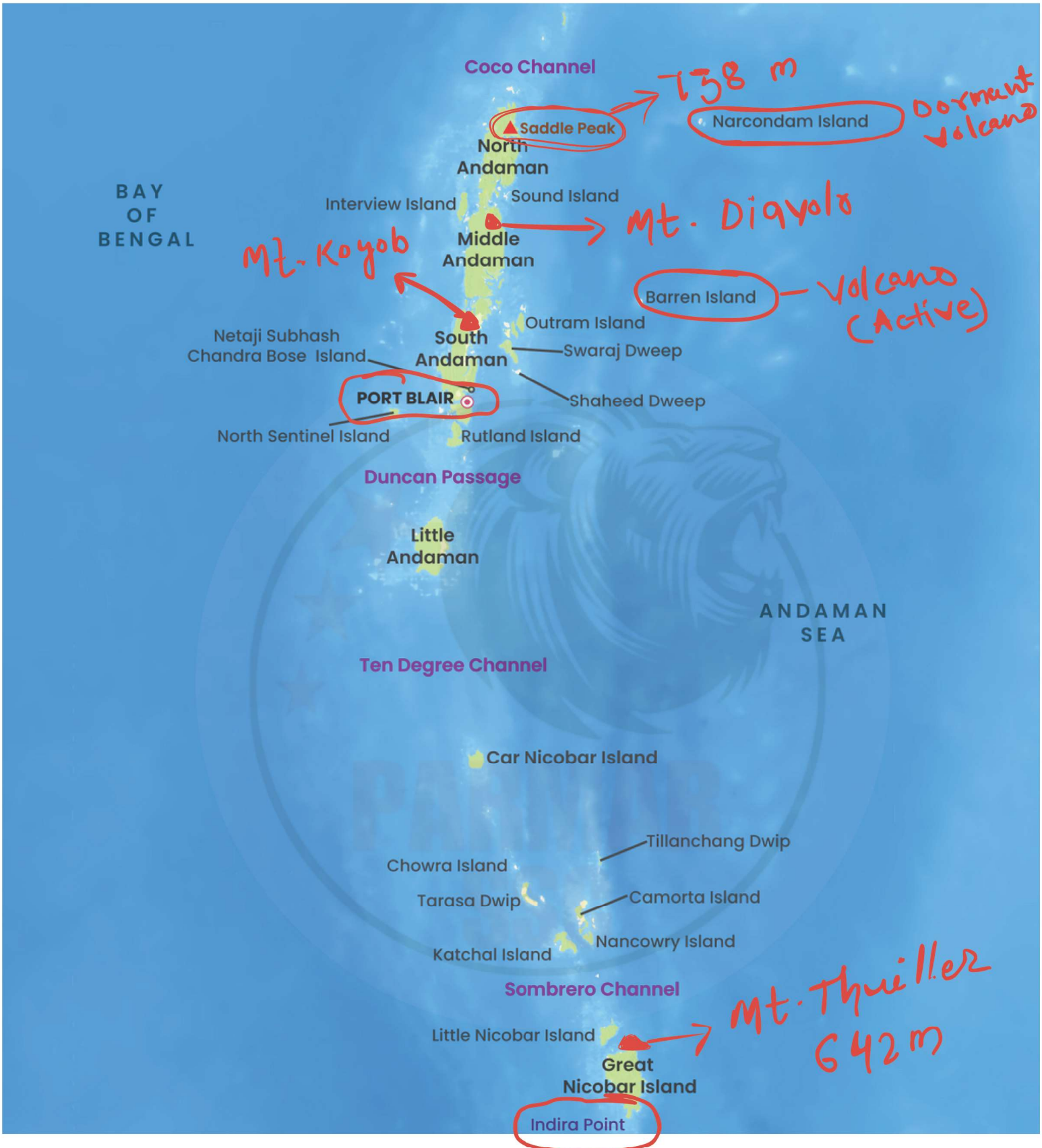


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Lakshadweep Islands: It was formed from coral deposits, making them classified as "coral islands". Andaman & Nicobar has more Coral Deposits than Lakshadweep.

- Total islands: 36.
- Largest island: Androtт Island.
- 2nd largest island: Minicoy.
- Latitudinal Extent : 8°N-12°N
- Longitudinal Extent: 71°E-74°E

Andaman and Nicobar Islands : They are considered as a submerged extension of the Arakan Yoma mountain range (Myanmar)



- Total islands: 572
- Largest island: Middle Andaman
- Latitudinal Extent : 6°N-14°N
- Longitudinal Extent : 92°E-94° E.
- Capital : Sreevijaypuram (Earlier named as Port Blair)

Note: A Group of Island is called Archipelago

Renamed Islands in Andaman & Nicobar

- Ross Island : Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Island; It is not inhabited.
- Neil Island : Shaheed Dweep; It is Inhabited.
- Havelock Island : Swaraj Dweep

Important Passages & Channels of Andaman & Nicobar Island

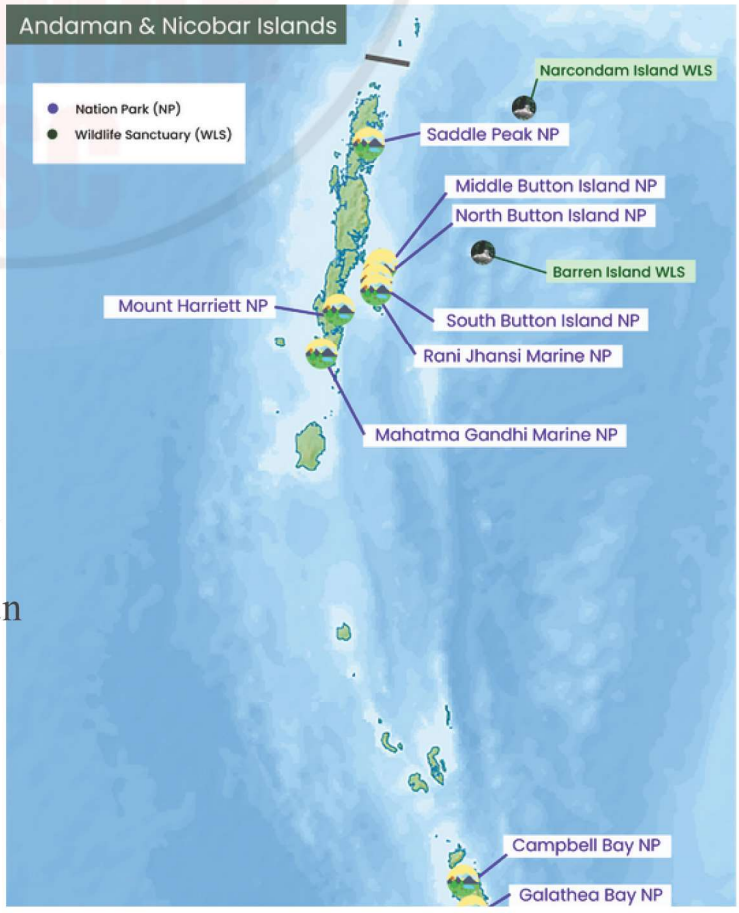
Channel / Passage	Separates
10° Channel	A&N group of Islands OR Little Andaman and Car Nicobar
Duncan Passage	South Andaman & Little Andaman
Coco Channel	A&N Island and Myanmar

Important Passages & Channels of Lakshadweep Island

Channel / Passage	Separates
8° Channel	Lakshadweep & Maldives OR Minicoy and Maldives
9° Channel	Lakshadweep & Minicoy
11° Channel	Aminidivi & Cannanore

National Park & Its location

	National park	Place
1	Saddle Peak NP	North Andaman
2	Mount Harriet NP	South Andaman
3	Mahatma Gandhi NP	South Andaman
4	Rani Jhansi Marine NP	Ritchie's Archipelago
5	North Button Island NP	North Andaman
6	Middle Button Island NP	Middle Andaman
7	South Button Island NP	South Andaman
8	Campbell Bay NP	Great Nicobar
9	Galathea Bay NP	Great Nicobar



Important Disputed Islands

New Moore Island: Between India and Bangladesh.





Kachchatheevu Island (small uninhabited island in Palk Strait): Between India and Sri Lanka.

Sir Creek Line: Between India and Pakistan.



Important Indian Islands

- **APJ Abdul Kalam Island** (earlier known as Wheeler Island): Chandipur, Odisha → Missile testing site.
- **Alia Bet Island**: Gujarat River island in the delta of Narmada river (situated near Gulf of Khambhat).
- **Pamban Island:** Tamil Nadu→ It is also known as Rameshwaram Island (Ram Setu bridge connects Rameshwaram to Mannar Island of Sri Lanka).
- **Gulf of Mannar**: It is between south-eastern tip of India and West coast of Sri Lanka in Coromandel coast region.
- **Parikud island**: Odisha.

Islands along the West Coast (Arabian Sea)

1.Diu Island: A historically significant island that was a Portuguese colony, now part of the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

2.Piram Bet Island: An island in the Gulf of Cambay (Khambhat), Gujarat, known for its biodiversity and historical ruins.

3.Bet Dwarka (Beyt Dwarka): An island near Dwarka, Gujarat, with strong mythological significance in Hinduism.

4. Elephanta Island: Famous for the Elephanta Caves (UNESCO World Heritage Site), located in Mumbai Harbour, Maharashtra.

5.Salsette Island: This is a very significant island as the cities of Mumbai and Thane are located on it, making it one of the most populous islands in the world. It was originally a distinct island but has largely merged with the mainland over time due to land reclamation.

6. Vengurla Rocks (Burnt Islands): A small group of rocky islands off the coast of Maharashtra.

7.St. Mary's Islands: A group of four small islands off the coast of Malpe, Karnataka, famous for their unique columnar basaltic rock formations.

Island Along the East Coast (Bay of Bengal)

1.Sagar Island (Gangasagar): A large island in the Ganges Delta, West Bengal, a significant Hindu pilgrimage site.

2.New Moore Island (Purbasha Island): A small, uninhabited sandbar island in the Bay of Bengal, which was disputed between India and Bangladesh. It has now largely disappeared due to rising sea levels.

3.Abdul Kalam Island (Wheeler Island): An island off the coast of Odisha, primarily used as a missile testing facility by India.

4.Sriharikota: A barrier island off the coast of Andhra Pradesh, home to the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), India's primary orbital launch site.

Riverine Islands

1.Majuli Island: Located in the Brahmaputra River in Assam, it was once one of the largest river islands in the world, though its size has significantly diminished due to erosion. It is known for its unique culture and Vaishnavite monasteries.

2.Srirangam Island: Located in the Kaveri River in Tamil Nadu, famous for the Ranganathaswamy Temple,

Other Notable Islands/Island Groups

Pamban Island (Rameswaram Island): Located between mainland India and Sri Lanka, it's famous for the town of Rameswaram and the Ramanathaswamy Temple, as well as the historic Pamban Bridge.

Chorao Island: A beautiful island in Goa, known for its Dr Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary.

Divar Island: Another picturesque island in Goa, known for its serene environment and old churches.

Some Facts.

- The southwestern portion of Palk Strait is Palk Bay.
- Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)→ in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, is the primary launch site of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- On January 23, 2023, PM Narendra Modi renamed 21 unnamed islands of Andaman and Nicobar in honor of Param Vir Chakra (PVC) awardees.
- Pygmalion Point, now known as Indira Point, is the southernmost point of Indian territory that is located in the Great Nicobar Island of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

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