



## Andaman and Nicobar Islands to Get Gas Plant

**For Prelims:** Island Coastal Zone Regulation 2019, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

**For Mains:** Coastal Zone Regulation.

### Why in News?

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has approved an **exemption to the laws governing the regulation of coastal zones** and has paved the way for **gas-powered plants to be set up at [Andaman and Nicobar islands](#)**.

### What are the Key Points?

- The Island Coastal Zone Regulation (ICRZ), 2019, limits infrastructure development on vulnerable coastal stretches.
- The National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) has recommended that gas-based power plants be permitted within the Island Coastal Regulation Zone area only on islands with geographical areas greater than 100 sq. km.
- A dual-fuel power plant that runs on both diesel and LNG is expected to be commissioned.
- There has been an increased interest in the development of the Andaman region following a policy push by the NITI Aayog. A proposed project plans to develop the Greater Andaman region or the southernmost stretch of the island group.
  - Proposals include a 22-sq.km airport complex, a TransShipment Port (TSP) at South Bay at an estimated cost of Rs 12,000 crore, a parallel-to-the-coast mass rapid transport system and a free trade zone and warehousing complex on the southwestern coast.

### What is ICRZ 2019?

- The Central Government **declared certain coastal stretches as Coastal Regulation Zone and restrictions were imposed on the setting up and expansion** of industries, operations and processes in the said zone.
- The Central Government has received **representations from Andaman and Nicobar Administration regarding re-categorisation of Great Nicobar Island from Group -I to Group -II islands** under the provisions of the Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ) notification.
  - Group-I: Islands with geographical areas >1000 sq.km such as South Andaman, Middle Andaman, North Andaman and Great Nicobar.
  - Group-II: Islands with geographical areas >100 sq.km but < 1000 sq.km such as Baratang, Little Andaman, Havelock and Car Nicobar.
  - The land area from High Tide Line to 200 meters on the landward side along the sea front for Group-I Islands and 100 meters on the landward side along the sea front for Group-II Islands.

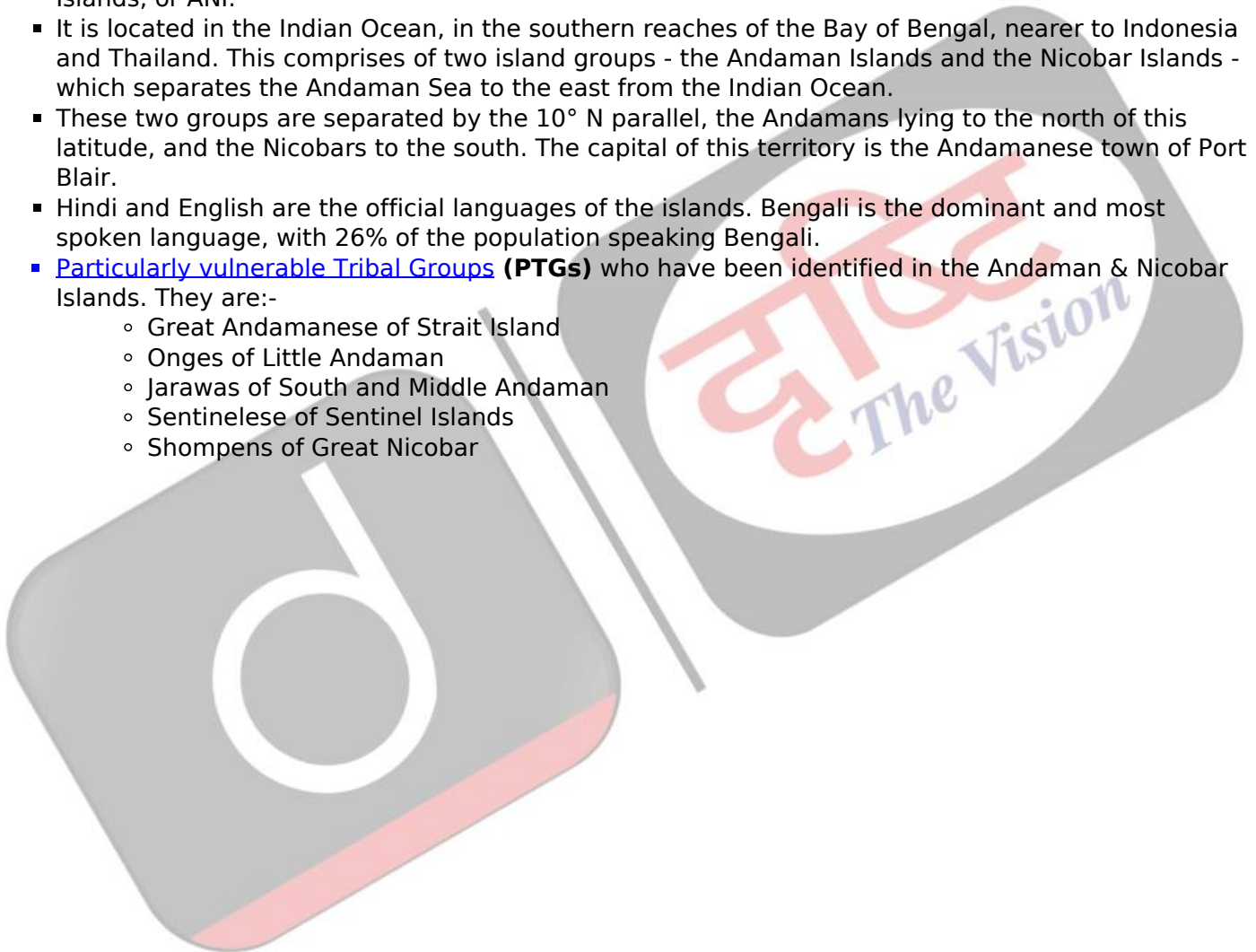
### What is Coastal Regulation Zone?

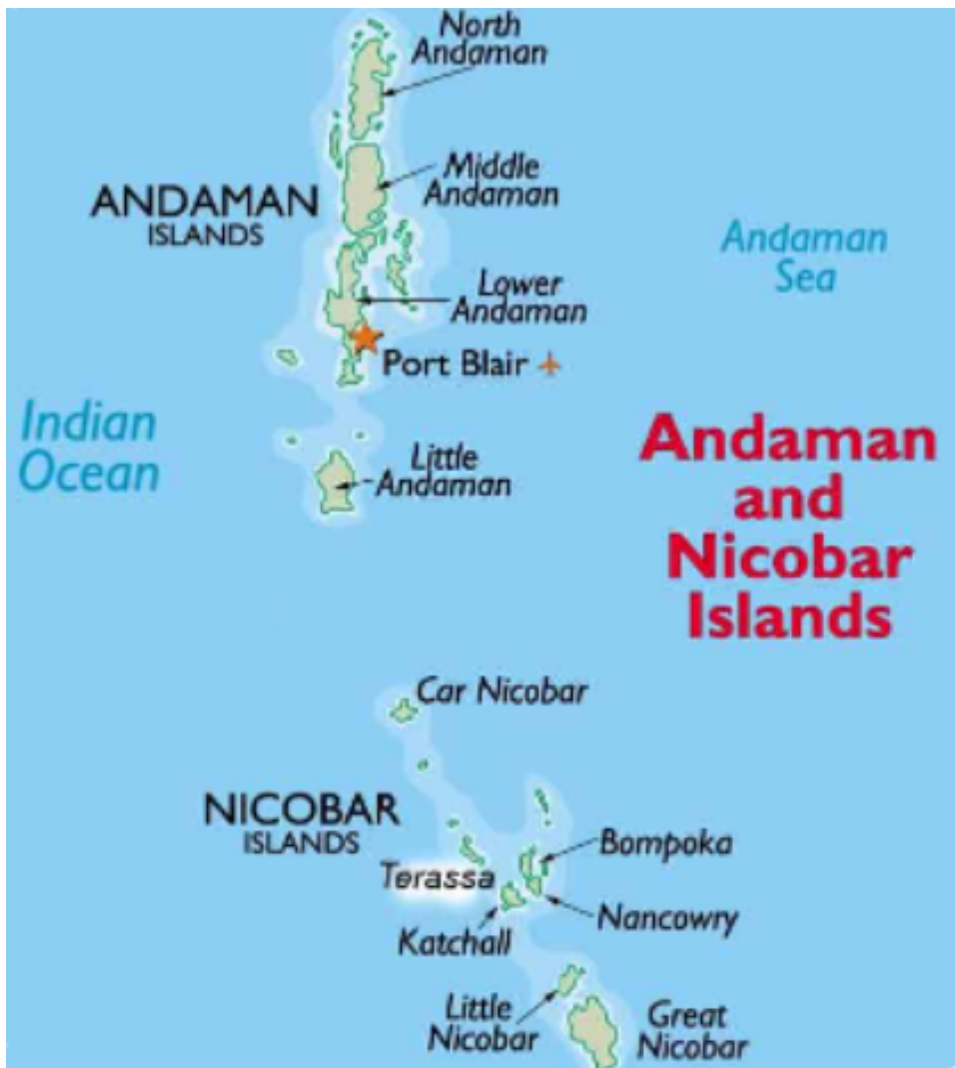
- The coastal areas of seas, bays, creeks, rivers, and backwaters which get influenced by tides up to 500 m from the high tide line (HTL) and the land between the low tide line (LTL) and the high tide line **have been declared as coastal regulation zone (CRZ) in 1991.**
  - HTL means the **line on the land up to which the highest water line reaches** during the spring tide.
  - Low Tide Line means the **line on the land up to which the lowest water line reaches** during the spring tide.
- The coastal regulation zones have been declared by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change under the Environment Protection Act 1986.
- While the CRZ Rules are made by the Union environment ministry, implementation is to be ensured by state governments through their Coastal Zone Management Authorities.

## Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- The Andaman & Nicobar Islands is a union territory of India. This territory is known as A & N Islands, or ANI.
- It is located in the Indian Ocean, in the southern reaches of the Bay of Bengal, nearer to Indonesia and Thailand. This comprises of two island groups - the Andaman Islands and the Nicobar Islands - which separates the Andaman Sea to the east from the Indian Ocean.
- These two groups are separated by the 10° N parallel, the Andamans lying to the north of this latitude, and the Nicobars to the south. The capital of this territory is the Andamanese town of Port Blair.
- Hindi and English are the official languages of the islands. Bengali is the dominant and most spoken language, with 26% of the population speaking Bengali.
- [Particularly vulnerable Tribal Groups \(PTGs\)](#) who have been identified in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. They are:-
  - Great Andamanese of Strait Island
  - Onges of Little Andaman
  - Jarawas of South and Middle Andaman
  - Sentinelese of Sentinel Islands
  - Shompens of Great Nicobar

//





### UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

**Q. Which one of the following regions of India has a combination of mangrove forest, evergreen forest and deciduous forest? (2015)**

- (a) North Coastal Andhra Pradesh
- (b) South-West Bengal
- (c) Southern Saurashtra
- (d) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

**Ans: (d)**

**Q. 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)**

**Q. Which of the following have coral reefs? (2014)**

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2. Gulf of Kachchh
3. Gulf of Mannar
4. Sunderbans

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Ans: (a)**

**Q. In which one of the following places is the Shompen tribe found? (2009)**

- (a) Nilgiri Hills
- (b) Nicobar Islands
- (c) Spiti Valley
- (d) Lakshadweep Islands

**Ans: (b)**

**Source: TH**

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiiias.com/printpdf/andaman-and-nicobar-islands-to-get-gas-plant>

