



INS Baaz

Why in News

Recently, the Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh visited INS Baaz, the southernmost air station of the Indian Armed Forces.

- The **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Baaz** is located at **Campbell Bay on the Great Nicobar island**, the southernmost and largest island of the Nicobar islands, in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- It was **commissioned in July 2012**.
- It is a **part of the Andaman and Nicobar Command**, the only tri-services formation of the Indian Armed Forces that was started in 2001.

Functions of INS Baaz

- Helps in building **maritime domain awareness** by providing information via airborne surveillance using aircraft and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).
- Ensures **maritime security in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea** and substantially enhances the Indian Navy's maritime surveillance capability.
- **Assists the local populace in times of need** such as facilitating evacuation during medical emergencies.



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Significance of the Location

- The Great Nicobar Island is the location of the Indira Point and is less than 250 km by sea from Banda Aceh in Indonesia.
- The **Andaman & Nicobar Islands are strategically important for India's national security** as they provide a critical capability to monitor sea areas in the region.
- The location has been described as India's "window into East and Southeast Asia", and is in **close vicinity of the Six Degree Channel**, also called the Great Channel, one of the Indian Ocean's busiest shipping lines, carrying strategic cargo to East Asian countries.
- It is also **close to the Strait of Malacca**.

Source: IE

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