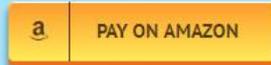


## January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Sample Current Affairs

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## **1. PM's visit to the Andamans: India should realise the geopolitical significance of the islands, given China's presence in Indian Ocean.**

- How is India's narrative on the Andamans over the years?
- Why India should end deliberate isolation of the island chain? What steps did our govt. take in this regard?
- What is the strategic importance of Andaman Nicobar for India?

### **GS paper 2 ( India and its neighbourhood relations )**

**In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.**

**The above article has been retrieved from:**

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island. Indian Express. Retrieved from  
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**What is the context about?**

- Prime Ministers of India rarely travel to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Narendra Modi's visit to the islands over the weekend is only the fourth over the last many decades.

- ❑ Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi visited in 1984 and 1986 respectively and Manmohan Singh went there in early 2005 to review the tsunami relief operations.
- ❑ Modi's visit will hopefully begin to change India's national narrative on the Andamans.

### **How is India's narrative on the Andamans over the years?**

- ❑ For political Delhi, the island chain was at best a remote outpost acquired by default from the departing British Raj. That attitude filtered down the entire system of governance in Delhi.
- ❑ For India's continentalist security establishment, weighed down by difficult land borders to the north and the west, the Indian Ocean is a distant domain.
- ❑ The nation's island territories — the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to the east and the Lakshadweep to the west — barely figure on Delhi's mental map.

### **Why India should end deliberate isolation of the island chain? What steps did our govt. take in this regard?**

- ❑ Today as a rising China projects its economic and military power into the Indian Ocean, any strategy for regional balance would necessarily involve the economic and military development of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❑ That in turn leads us to the third imperative — of ending the deliberate isolation of the island chain and promoting

economic development, tighter integration with the mainland, strengthening military infrastructure, regional connectivity and international collaboration.

- ❑ The Modi government has initiated some important steps in that direction, including on internet connectivity, visa liberalisation, tourism, building new ports, agreements for cooperation with neighbouring countries in South East Asia.

### **What is the strategic importance of Andaman Nicobar for India?**

- ❑ Andaman Nicobar is highly crucial for India because of its geostrategic location is such that through this territory India can become a regional power in Indian Ocean.
- ❑ Even the same island group can provide maritime security to littoral nations like Maldives, Seychelles. Andman & and Nicobar islands are platform to counter rising Chinese power in Indian Ocean.
- ❑ This islands are not only strategically important but also economically because of its high potential of ecotourism and diverse flora and fauna along with coral reefs.
- ❑ These islands also consist of India's aborigin tribal people like Andamanese, Jarawas, Onges, Sentileneese.