

# Coasts & Islands of India – SSC Notes

## 1. Coasts of India

- Total Coastline: ~7516.6 km
  - Mainland → 6100 km
  - Islands → 1416 km
- Coastal States: 13 states + 5 Union Territories

### ◆ Types of Coasts

#### 1. Eastern Coast / Coromandel Coast

- Location: Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal
- Length: ~2500 km
- Features:
  - Wide coastal plains
  - Deltaic formation by rivers → Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri
  - Fertile soil → Agriculture: Rice, Coconut
  - Bays: Bay of Bengal
- Examples: Chennai, Vishakhapatnam

#### 2. Western Coast / Malabar & Konkan Coast

- Location: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala
- Length: ~1600 km
- Features:
  - Narrow & rocky plains
  - Less deltaic formation
  - Ports: Mumbai, Kochi, Mangalore, Veraval
  - Arabian Sea → Rich in fishing & trade

### ◆ Coastal Features

- Beaches: Sandy stretches, e.g., Marina (Chennai), Kovalam (Kerala)
- Estuaries: Where rivers meet sea → e.g., Godavari, Krishna
- Deltas: Fertile soil → Agriculture hub
- Lagoons & Backwaters: Kerala backwaters, Chilika Lake

### ◆ Important SSC Points – Coasts

- Eastern Coast → Wide, deltaic, fertile
- Western Coast → Narrow, rocky, ports
- Bay of Bengal → Eastern Coast
- Arabian Sea → Western Coast
- Major Ports → Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Kochi, Visakhapatnam

## 2. Islands of India

- Total Islands: ~1,382

- Total Area: 0.5% of India
- Major Island Groups:

### ◆ Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- Location: Bay of Bengal
- Number of Islands: ~572
- Features:
  - Hilly, forested, tropical climate
  - Indigenous tribes: Jarawa, Onge
  - Strategic location → Close to Malacca Strait
  - Administered by Union Territory

### ◆ Lakshadweep Islands

- Location: Arabian Sea
- Number of Islands: 36
- Features:
  - Coral islands
  - Atolls, lagoons, sandy beaches
  - Fishing & coconut cultivation → Main occupation
  - Administered by Union Territory

### ◆ Major Islands / Groups

- Daman & Diu, Nicobar, Minicoy
- Sundarbans Delta Islands → Ganga-Brahmaputra delta → Mangroves, Royal Bengal Tiger

### ◆ Important SSC Points – Islands

- Andaman & Nicobar → Bay of Bengal, Strategic location, Tribal population
- Lakshadweep → Arabian Sea, Coral islands, Fishing & Coconut
- Islands → Rich in biodiversity, tourism, strategic defense importance
- Coastal plains & islands → Influence climate & economy

## Quick Facts

- Longest Coastline: Gujarat + Maharashtra (West)
- Eastern Coastline → Wide, deltaic, fertile
- Western Coastline → Narrow, rocky, ports
- Andaman & Nicobar → Bay of Bengal, Hilly, strategic
- Lakshadweep → Coral islands, Arabian Sea
- Major Ports → Mumbai, Kochi, Chennai, Kolkata, Visakhapatnam