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1 Estonia (Source: The Hindu)

- **Location**: A Baltic country in Northern Europe.
- **Capital**: Tallinn
- **Land Borders**: Russia and Latvia.
- **Bordering Water Bodies**: Gulf of Finland and Baltic Sea
- **International Groupings**: European Union and NATO.



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2 Baltic Region (Source: The Hindu)



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3 Difference Between Tropical Cyclone and Temperate Cyclone

(Source: **The Indian Express)**

Nature	Tropical Cyclones	Temperate Cyclones
Origin	Thermal Origin	Frontal Origin
Latitude	10 - 30 degrees N & S of equator	35 - 65 degree N &S of equator.
Formation	Only on sea	Both land and sea
Season	Late summers	More in winters
Size	100 - 200 km in diameters	300 - 2000 km
Shape	Elliptical	V shaped
Rainfall	Heavy but last only for hours.	Rainfall slow but last for many days.
Path	East - west	West - east

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4 Great Nicobar Island (GNI) Project (Source: The Hindu)

The Great Nicobar project envisions developing the remote location, considering its strategic location.

- The island is positioned strategically at the mouth of the Malacca Strait which is one of the world's busiest maritime chokepoints.

What are you need to know?

- The project is headed by NITI Aayog and implemented by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation.
- It envisions in transforming the remote outpost into a major transshipment and defence hub.
- It consists of an integrated city-state designed to serve both commercial and military purposes.
- The project envisions an international Container Transshipment Terminal in Galathea Bay.
- A new greenfield airport serving both civilian and military needs is planned for 24/7 operations
- A new township to accommodate more than 3.5 lakh people who are expected to live here after the project starts. The township will be powered by a new 450-MVA gas- and solar-based power plant.

Issues raised against the project

- Protection of coral reef colonies
- Nesting sites of leatherback turtles
- Located in ecologically protected zones.
- The rights of the Nicobarese and the Shompen communities can be affected.

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Islands in India

Overview

Total Islands: ~1,382

Major Island Groups: Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep

Location Map



Major Island Groups – Details

Andaman & Nicobar Islands



- **Location:** Bay of Bengal
- **Status:** Union Territory
- **Island count:** ~836
- **Major islands:** South Andaman, North Andaman, Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Great Nicobar
- **Capital:** Port Blair
- **Notable feature:** India's southeastern extremity – Indira Point (Great Nicobar)

Lakshadweep



- **Location:** Arabian Sea
- **Status:** Union Territory
- **Island count:** 36 (with 12 atolls, 3 reefs, 5 submerged banks)
- **Major islands:** Kavaratti, Agatti, Minicoy, Amini
- **Capital:** Kavaratti
- **Notable feature:** Only coral island group of India.

Other Notable Islands in India



Diu Island

- **UT:** Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
- **Location:** Arabian Sea
- **Feature:** Strategic and historical importance.



Daman Island

- **UT:** Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
- **Location:** Arabian Sea
- **Feature:** Former Portuguese colony.



Elephanta Island

- **State:** Maharashtra
- **Location:** Mumbai Harbour
- **Feature:** UNESCO World Heritage Site (Elephanta Caves).



St. Mary's Islands

- **State:** Karnataka
- **Location:** Off Udupi coast (Arabian Sea)
- **Feature:** Columnar basalt formations (geological significance).



Majuli

- **State:** Assam
- **Location:** Brahmaputra River
- **Feature:** World's largest river island.