

Introduction

Spread over 1200 K.M of sea in the Bay of Bengal Between Cape Negrais in Burma and the Indonesian Island of Sumatra, chain of about 300 islands is known as the Andaman and Nicobar islands. The islands are situated within a quadrangle formed by 10 degree North and 14 degree N latitude and 92 degree east and 94 degree East latitude with a total area of 8249 Sq. K.M.

It was in 1857, after the first Indian mutiny that the British government decided to establish penal settlement at Port Blair. The first prisoners were brought here under the charge of Dr. Walker in 1858. The entrance of British and the Indians from the mainland to these islands was resented by the Andamanese and they fought and resisted the settlement for many years. However, the Britishers were gradually able to win over the confidence and goodwill of the of the aborigines.

The islands (including the Nicobars) passed under Japanese occupation during the second world war for more than three years, form 1942 to 1945. The penal settlement was finally declared a free colony. In August 1947, the A & N Islands was declared part of the Indian union.