

North Andaman extends (geographically) from Kalighat to the northmost-border with Myanmar including Landfall Island. North Andaman island is inhabited by the third largest population.

These three islands are about equal in size and most of the people live in these three major islands. They are about to be connected by road.

Little Andaman is an isolated island situated between Car Nicobar and South Andaman. It is inhabited by approximately 15,000 thousand population and most of them are settlers from East Pakistan.

Nicobar group of islands are mainly inhabited by Nicobaree Tribe. But Great Nicobar and Katchal are mainly inhabited by ex-servicemen and Srilankan Tamil repatriates respectively. Main inhabited islands are Car Nicobar, Kamorta, Nancowrie, Katchal, Pilomilo, Great Nicobar, Chawra and Teresa islands. Total tribal population in A & N Islands is only about 5-7% of the total population.

Total population of A&N Islands at present is about 3.5 lacs. Port Blair is the only town. Majority of the people live in rural areas like mainland of India. About 35-40% of the people live at Middle and North Andamans. There is hardly any industry in these islands. Agriculture is the main occupation of the majority.

These islands are peculiar in many aspects.

These islands are far-off from mainland of India and closer to neighbouring countries. People face lots of hardship here. Most of the food items are supplied from Chennai and Calcutta by ship. Cultivation is completely dependent on rain-water. Shipping is the main mode of transport. There is no subsidised air-travel for the islanders unlike in North-Eastern region.

Eventhough about 95% of the permanent residents (Settlers settled under Colonisation and Rehabilitation schemes) belong to Scheduled Caste communities in these islands, they are not scheduled under scheduled caste (s.c) even after 50 years of settlement (first batch of settlers was brought in 1949). This Union Territory may be the only place in India where Scheduled Caste provision has not been extended. Though OBC commission has been commissioned in these Islands, S. C. Commission remained a dream for the people in this territory.

People of these islands are categorised as detailed below for the distribution of seats for higher education:-

I. TRIBALS :

- * Mainly Nicobarees .They are about 5% of the total population.
- * Mainly scattered in Nicobar group of islands.