

SUB: NUMBER OF OFFSHORE ISLANDS AND ROCKS/ ISLETS OF INDIA

Background Note

1. *Sub Group-I (SG-I)* under the chairmanship of the Surveyor General of India submitted a report to MHA on the number of islands of India on 23-11-2016. The number of islands as per the SG-I report were 1382 Offshore islands. Subsequently, joint teams of the Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy and Coastal Police visited the islands as per the list of islands provided by the respective State Governments and submitted the *Joint Island Visit Report-2022 (ICG Report-2022)*. The ICG Report-2022 mentions that, there are 1334 islands out of which 1296 islands were visited. To address the variation in both reports a workshop was organised by SoI to reconcile the total number of islands with all stakeholders as per the updated Terms of Reference (ToR) for Standardisation of Maritime Parameters dated 10-08-2023.

2. It was noted that some islands landward and abutting the coastline were considered as Offshore Island/Rocks. Therefore, to remove ambiguity such islands have been categorised as Inshore Is as per advice of NSCS during workshop. Some islands which get connected to the mainland during low tides and those connected by the rail/road bridges have been considered as islands/islets as they have been reflected in the ENC charts as such. Also, the islands which were well landward were removed from the list. Consequently, there are 1298 Offshore islands/islets and 91 Inshore islands/islets (Total 1389 islands/islets).

3. Salient Terms of Reference (ToR) for ‘Number of Offshore and Inshore Islands and Rocks/Islets of India’ are as follows:-

- (a) The classification of islands/islets as Offshore and Inshore has been done with respect to the High-Water Line of 2011 base data on Electronic Navigation Charts (ENCs) prepared by National Hydrographic Office.
 - (i). Offshore Is or and Rocks/Islets: Islands and Rocks/Islets which are seaward of the High-Water Line.
 - (ii). Inshore Is or Rocks/Islets: Islands and Rocks/Islets which are landward abutting the High-Water Line.
- (b) The epoch, datum, projection of the island database has been considered as same as that of coastline data.
- (c) The rocks/islets and islands have been classified as per the scale of 1:150,000 or larger. Features plottable on this scale have been classified as islands and which are not plottable have been classified as rocks/islets.
- (d) The ‘Low Tide Elevations’ within inter tidal zones have not been considered as either rocks/islets or islands.
- (e) The islands/islets which get connected to the mainland during low tides and those connected by the rail/road bridges have been considered as islands/islets as they have been reflected in the ENC charts as such.

‘Offshore and Inshore Islands and Rocks/ Islets of India’

1. The state/union-territory-wise list of Offshore and Inshore islands and Rocks/ Islets of India are as mentioned below:-

STATE/ UNION TERRITORY	Total				Grand Total of Islands/Rock s
	Offshore		Inshore		
	Islands	Rocks/ Islets	Islands	Rocks/ Islets	
	<i>i</i>	<i>ii</i>	<i>iii</i>	<i>iv</i>	
	<i>i+ii+iii+iv</i>				
GUJARAT	95	13	33	3	144
MAHARASHTRA	88	17	14	1	120
GOA	38	1	2	-	41
KARNATAKA	86	2	12	-	100
KERALA	7	0	-	-	7
TAMILNADU	24	2	1	1	28
ANDHRA PRADESH	12	8	2	10	32
ODISHA	13	0	1	2	16
WEST BENGAL	14	-	9	-	23
DAMAN & DIU	5	4	-	-	9
LAKSHADWEEP	28	5	-	-	33
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	649	187	-	-	836
TOTAL	1059	239	74	17	1389

2. The number of ‘Offshore and Inshore islands and Rocks/Islets of India’ will be reviewed in a cycle of 10 years with newer data sets.