



CIVIL SERVICE DIGEST (CSD-Daily)

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NCST seeks re-imposition of Restricted Area Permit regime in Andaman & Nicobar

- Chairperson of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, **Nand Kumar Sai** has written a letter to Home Minister Rajnath Singh seeking re-imposition of Restricted Area Permit regime in six Islands in Andaman and Nicobar.
- These islands are inhabited by **Andamanese, Jarawas, Sentinelese, Onges and Sapiens**.
- The commission has also recommended that airspace above the North Sentinel Island should be declared as **No Fly Zone** for any type of civil aircraft.

No proposal to extend NRC to other States: Govt



- The government said that there is no proposal to extend the National Register of Citizens, NRC to States other than Assam.
- Minister of State for Home said, NRC Assam was prepared in 1951 as a non-statutory process by recording particulars of all the persons enumerated during 1951 Census.
- He said, the exercise to NRC 1951 is being conducted under the special provisions in respect of State of Assam under the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the Citizenship Rules, 2003.

Chabahar port

Context: Afghanistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Mahmoud Saikal today hailed the US decision for exempting the Chabahar port project from its tough sanctions against Iran. The project is being developed by India.



Where is Chabahar port?

Iran's Chabahar port is located on the Gulf of Oman and is the only oceanic port of the country. The port gives access to the energy-rich Persian Gulf nations' southern coast and India can bypass Pakistan with the Chabahar port becoming functional.

Why Chabahar port is crucial for India?

The first and foremost significance of the Chabahar port is the fact that ***India can bypass Pakistan in transporting goods to Afghanistan***. Chabahar port will boost India's access to Iran, the key gateway to the International North-South Transport Corridor that has sea, rail and road routes between India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia.

- ***Chabahar port will be beneficial to India in countering Chinese presence*** in the Arabian Sea which China is trying to ensure by helping Pakistan develop

the Gwadar port. Gwadar port is less than 400 km from Chabahar by road and 100 km by sea.

- With Chabahar port being developed and operated by India, ***Iran also becomes a military ally to India***. Chabahar could be used in case China decides to flex its navy muscles by stationing ships in Gwadar port to reckon its upper hand in the Indian Ocean, Persian Gulf and Middle East.
- With Chabahar port becoming functional, ***there will be a significant boost in the import of iron ore, sugar and rice to India***. The import cost of oil to India will also see a considerable decline. India has already increased its crude purchase from Iran since the West imposed ban on Iran was lifted.
- Chabahar port will ensure in the ***establishment of a politically sustainable connectivity between India and Afghanistan***. This is will, in turn, lead to better economic ties between the two countries.
- From a diplomatic perspective, Chabahar port could be used as a point from where ***humanitarian operations could be coordinated***.

- **Sri Lankan Parliament debates abolition of Executive Presidency**



- The United National Party (UNP) led by Mr. Wickremesinghe told Parliament that they will support moves to slash the powers of the President.
- He called on Parliament to support the 20th amendment presented by the People's freedom party to abolish the Executive Presidency.
- The Tamil National Alliance (TNA) and the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) said they will support the 20th amendment to the constitution.
- Sri Lanka PM Wickremesinghe to form new political alliance