

**PRELIMS
SAMPORNA
FACT FILE**

Geography

**SEA &
STRAITS**



PRELIMS SAMPOORNA

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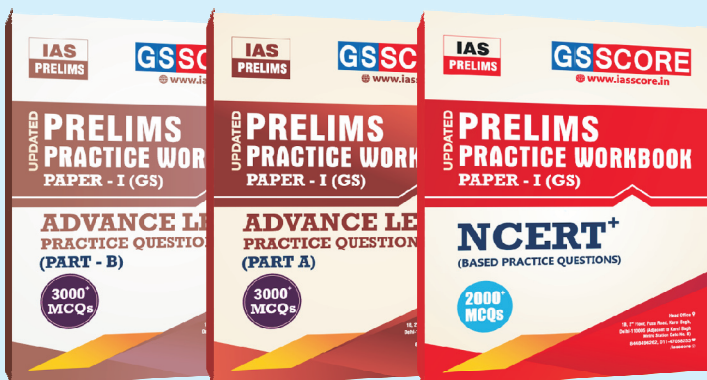
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SEA & STRAITS

SEA

- Sea is a large body of water that is surrounded by the land.

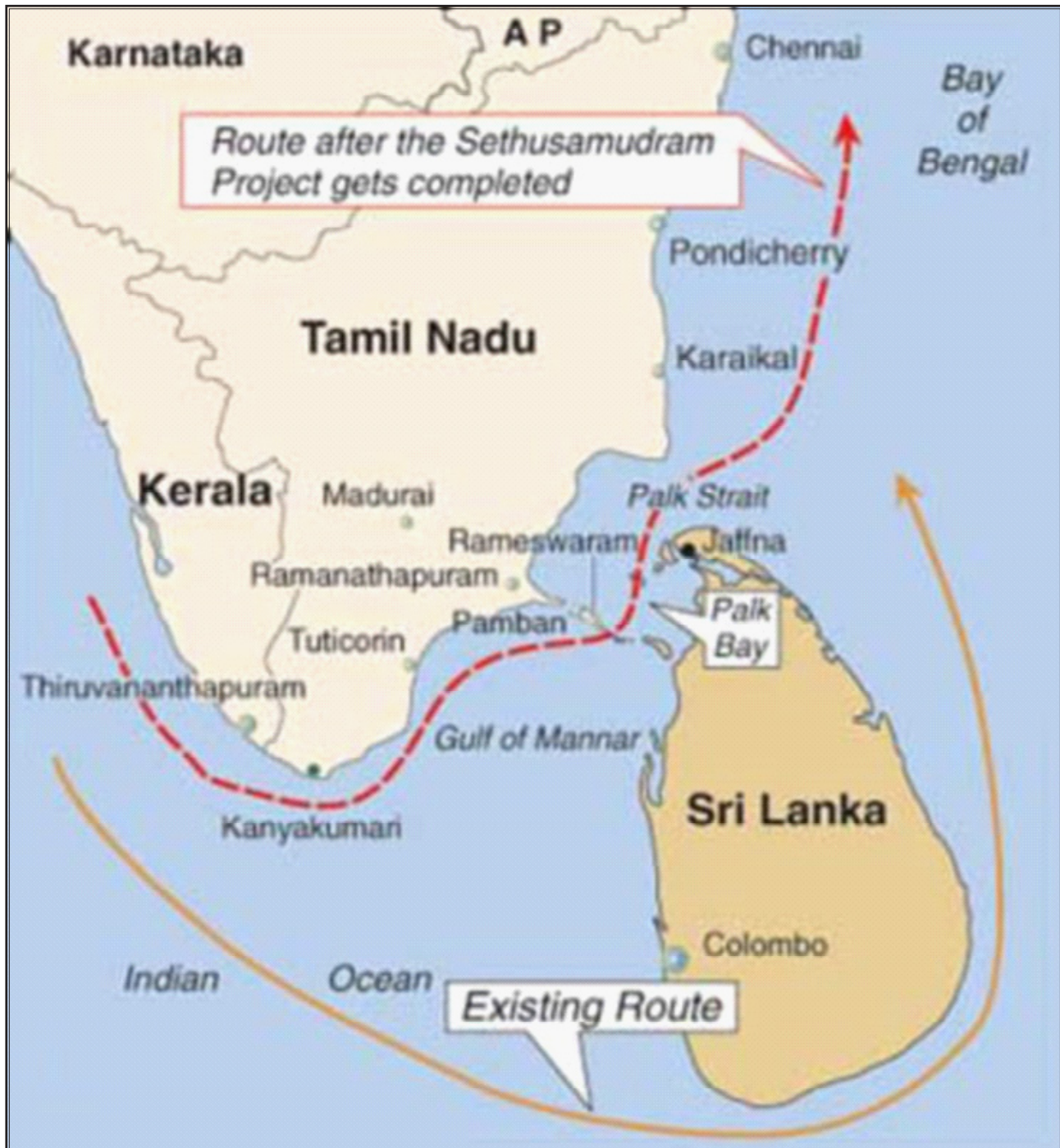
STRAITS

- A strait can be defined as a narrow, navigable body of water that is located between two landmasses and serves as a connection between two large water bodies.

STRAITS

PALK STRAIT

- The Palk Strait is a strait between the Tamil Nadu state of India and the Jaffna District of the Northern Province of the island nation of Sri Lanka.
- Palk Strait is an inlet of the Bay of Bengal between southeastern India and northern Sri Lanka.
- It is bounded on the south by Pamban Island (India), Adam's (Rama's) Bridge (a chain of shoals), the Gulf of Mannar, and Mannar Island (Sri Lanka).
- The southwestern portion of the strait is also called Palk Bay.
- It receives several rivers, including the Vaigai (India), and it contains many islands on the Sri Lankan side.
- The port of Jaffna, the commercial centre for northern Sri Lanka, lies on the strait.
- The shoals and numerous islands long have limited transit through the strait to smaller vessels.
- In addition, periods of unrest in northern Sri Lanka have disrupted shipping across the strait between Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu state in India.



SUNDA STRAIT

- Sunda Strait, is 16–70 miles (26–110 km) wide channel, between the islands of Java (east) and Sumatra.
- It links the Java Sea (Pacific Ocean) with the Indian Ocean (south).
- There are several volcanic islands within the strait, the most famous of which is Krakatoa, which erupted on August 27, 1883.
- The strait was the scene of an encounter between Allied and Japanese forces in March 1942.
- The Sunda Strait is an important passage connecting the Indian Ocean with eastern Asia.



BERING STRAIT

- Bering Strait links the Arctic Ocean with the Bering Sea.
- It separates the continents of Asia and North America at their closest point.
- There are numerous islands in the strait, including the two Diomede Islands and to the south of the strait lies St. Lawrence Island.
- The U.S.–Russian boundary extends through the strait.
- During the Cold War, the Bering Strait marked the border between the Soviet Union and the United States.
- The Diomede Islands—Big Diomede (Russia) and Little Diomede (US)—are only 3.8 km (2.4 mi) apart.
- Traditionally, the indigenous people in the area had frequently crossed the border back and forth for “routine visits, seasonal festivals and subsistence trade”, but were prevented from doing so during the Cold War.
- The border became known as the “Ice Curtain”.

FORMOSA STRAIT

- Taiwan Strait is also called Formosa Strait.
- It lies between the coast of China’s Fukien province and the island of Taiwan (Formosa).
- The strait extends from southwest to northeast between the South and East China seas.
- The Taiwan Strait separates the island of Taiwan and continental Asia.

- It reaches a depth of about 230 feet (70 m) and contains the Pescadores Islands (which are controlled by the government of Taiwan).
- The chief ports are Amoy in mainland China and Kao-hsiung on Taiwan.
- The area lies in a typhoon zone.
- The strait was named Formosa ("Beautiful") by Portuguese navigators in the late 16th century.



SEA

SOUTH CHINA SEA

- South China Sea borders the Southeast Asian mainland.
- It is bounded
 - on the northeast by the Taiwan Strait (by which it is connected to the East China Sea)



- ▶ on the east by Taiwan and the Philippines
 - ▶ on the southeast and south by Borneo
 - ▶ the southern limit of the Gulf of Thailand
 - ▶ the east coast of the Malay Peninsula
 - ▶ on the west and north by the Asian mainland
- The South China Sea and the East China Sea together form the China Sea.
 - The southern boundary of the South China Sea is a rise in the seabed between Sumatra and Borneo, and the northern boundary stretches from the northernmost point of Taiwan to the coast of Fujian province, China, in the Taiwan Strait.
 - It communicates with the East China Sea via the Taiwan Strait, the Philippine Sea via the Luzon Strait, the Sulu Sea via the straits around Palawan, the Strait of Malacca via the Strait of Singapore, and the Java Sea via the Karimata and Bangka Strait.
 - One-third of the world's maritime shipping passes through it.
 - Several countries have made competing territorial claims over the South China Sea.
 - Both the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of China (ROC, commonly known as Taiwan) claim almost the entire body as their own, demarcating their claims within what is known as the "nine-dash line".

Competing claims include:

- ▶ Indonesia, China, and Taiwan over waters NE of the Natuna Islands
- ▶ The Philippines, China, and Taiwan over Scarborough Shoal.
- ▶ Vietnam, China, and Taiwan over waters west of the Spratly Islands.
- ▶ The Paracel Islands are disputed between China, Taiwan and Vietnam.
- ▶ Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam over areas in the Gulf of Thailand.
- ▶ Singapore and Malaysia along the Strait of Johore and the Strait of Singapore.

ARABIAN SEA

- Arabian Sea is in the northwestern part of the Indian Ocean.
- It forms part of the principal sea route between Europe and India.
- It is bounded to the west by the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, to the north by Iran and Pakistan, to the east by India, and to the south by the remainder of the Indian Ocean.
- To the north the Gulf of Oman connects the sea with the Persian Gulf via the Strait of Hormuz.
- To the west the Gulf of Aden connects it with the Red Sea via the Bab el-Mandeb (Bāb al-Mandab) Strait.
- In Roman times its name was Mare Erythraeum (Erythraean Sea)



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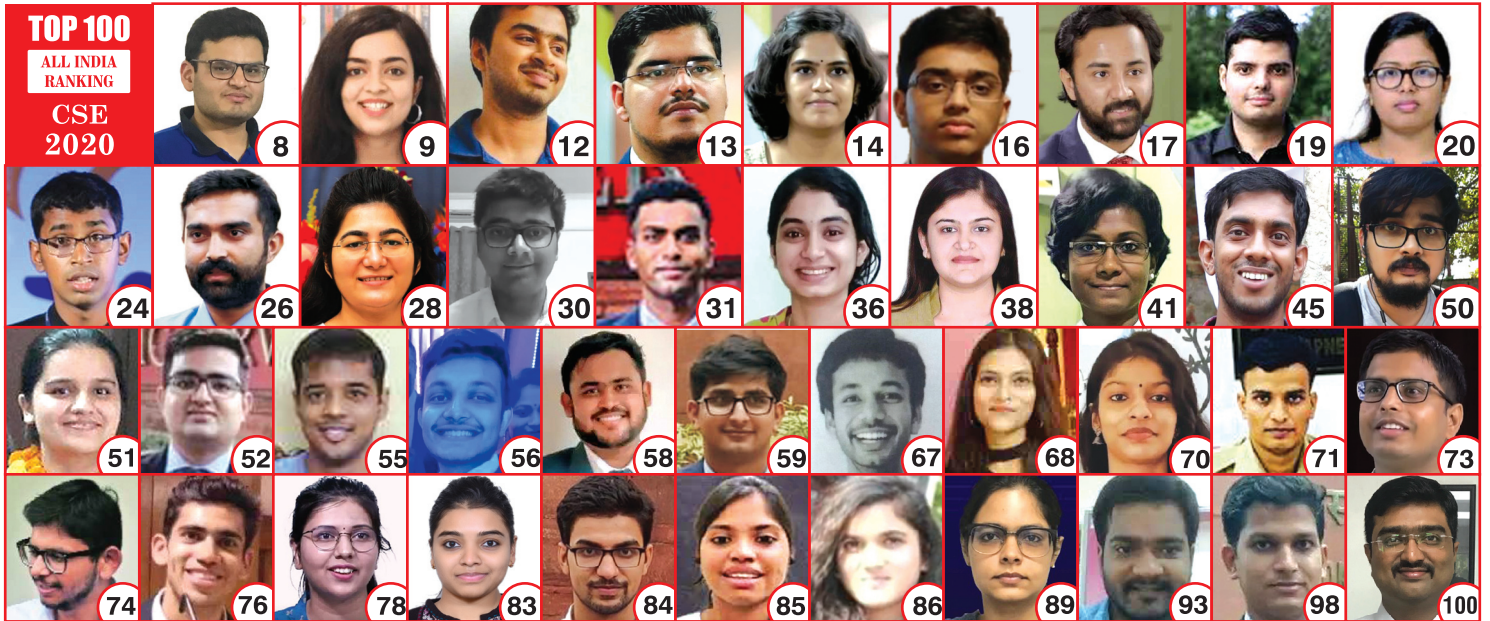
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