



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Per.uthalaivar Kamarajar"

MAP OF THE DAY 11-05-26

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Kamaraj IAS Academy

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Monday, 11 May 2026

MARINE NATIONAL PARKS OF INDIA

INTRODUCTION

- Marine National Parks are protected areas declared for the conservation of marine ecosystems, rare marine organisms, coral reefs, and biodiversity.

LOCATION (IN INDIA)

India currently has 4 Marine National Parks:

- Gulf of Kutch Marine National Park** – Gujarat
- Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park** – Tamil Nadu
- Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park** – Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- Gahirmatha Marine National Park** – Odisha

MARINE NATIONAL PARKS OF INDIA – LOCATION MAP



GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES (GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS)

- These parks extend from the intertidal zone to deeper marine regions.
- Ecosystems such as coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangrove forests, lagoons, and coastal islands are found here.
- Marine mammals, fishes, turtles, dolphins, sharks, corals, sea cucumbers, and marine birds are commonly found.
- These areas are considered important Marine Biodiversity Hotspots.

IMPORTANCE OF MARINE NATIONAL PARKS

- Help in the conservation of marine biodiversity.
- Protect rare and endangered species.
- Conserve coral reefs, sea grass, and mangrove ecosystems.
- Support the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources.
- Help reduce the impacts of climate change.
- Promote research, education, and eco-tourism.

1. Gulf of Kutch Marine National Park (Gujarat)

- Area: 457.92 sq. km.
- Features: Coral reefs, marine turtles, dugongs, dolphins.

2. Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park (Tamil Nadu)

- Area: 10,500 sq. km.
- Features: Coral reefs, dugongs, sea grass, sharks, sea cucumbers.

3. Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park (Andaman & Nicobar)

- Area: 281.5 sq. km.
- Features: Coral reefs, turtles, sharks, colorful fishes.









4. Gahirmatha Marine National Park (Odisha)

- Area: 1,682 sq. km.
- Features: Olive Ridley turtles' major breeding ground.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS

- Length of India's coastline: ~7,516 km
- Total National Parks in India: 106 (including Marine National Parks)
- First National Park in India: Hailey National Park (now Jim Corbett National Park), 1936
- Project Tiger launched in: 1973
- Project Elephant launched in: 1992
- Biological Diversity Act enacted in: 2002
- Wildlife Protection Act enacted in: 1972
- International Day for Biological Diversity: 22 May
- World Environment Day: 5 June

SOME OTHER IMPORTANT NATIONAL PARKS OF INDIA

National Park	State	Famous For	Established	Area (sq. km.)	Special Feature
 Kaziranga National Park	Assam	One-horned Rhinoceros	1974	430	UNESCO World Heritage Site
 Gir National Park	Gujarat	Asiatic Lion	1965	1,412	Natural habitat of Asiatic Lions
 Sundarbans National Park	W. Bengal	Royal Bengal Tiger, Mangroves	1984	1,330	Largest mangrove forest in the world
 Periyar National Park	Kerala	Elephants, Nilgiri Tahr	1982	925	Famous for Periyar Lake
 Ranthambore National Park	Rajasthan	Tigers	1980	392	Located near Ranthambore Fort
 Kanha National Park	M. Pradesh	Barasingha	1955	940	Initial Project Tiger reserve
 Bandhavgarh National Park	M. Pradesh	Tigers, White Tigers	1968	716	Highest tiger density
 Nanda Devi National Park	Uttarakhand	Snow Leopard, Musk Deer	1982	630	UNESCO World Heritage Site

 **FOR EXAM PURPOSE:**

- Location, state, area, famous species and special features are important.

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MAP OF THE DAY WORLD

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BOSPORUS STRAIT

LOCATION, IMPORTANCE AND GEOGRAPHICAL OVERVIEW

1. LOCATION

- The Bosphorus Strait is located in Türkiye.
- It passes through the city of Istanbul.
- It connects the Black Sea in the north with the Sea of Marmara in the south.
- The Sea of Marmara is linked to the Mediterranean Sea through the Dardanelles Strait.
- The region lies near the North Anatolian Fault Line, making it seismically active.

MAP

→ Length: ~30 km
→ Width: 700 m – 3.7 km

2. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- The strait is about 30 km long.
- Its width ranges from 700 meters to 3.7 kilometers.
- It separates the continents of Europe and Asia.
- The coastline on both sides is rocky and steep.
- Both sides have densely populated cities and major ports.
- It experiences a mix of Mediterranean and temperate climate.
- Several natural bays and coastal inlets are present nearby.
- It is a major center of cultural and economic interaction between Europe and Asia.

3. GEOGRAPHICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

- The Bosphorus Strait has a two-layered water system.
- On the upper layer, less saline water from the Black Sea flows southward.
- On the lower layer, more saline Mediterranean water flows northward.
- It has rich marine biodiversity.
- Dolphins, various fish species and migratory marine organisms are found here.
- The region supports fisheries and marine ecosystem balance.

4. IMPORTANCE

- One of the world's most important strategic and maritime routes.
- A key passage for Russia, Ukraine and other Black Sea countries to the Mediterranean.
- Crucial for international trade and energy transportation.
- Türkiye holds significant geopolitical influence through this strait.
- Control of the strait is extremely important during wartime.

5. OTHER IMPORTANT STRAITS

S. No.	Name of Strait	Location	Connects	Importance
1.	Dardanelles Strait	Türkiye	Sea of Marmara to Mediterranean Sea	Main link from the Sea of Marmara to the Mediterranean.
2.	Gibraltar Strait	Between Spain and Morocco	Atlantic Ocean to Mediterranean Sea	Connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea.
3.	Malacca Strait	Between Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore	Indian Ocean to South China Sea	One of the busiest trade routes in the world.
4.	Hormuz Strait	Between Iran and Oman	Persian Gulf to Gulf of Oman	- Crucial for global oil transportation.
5.	Bab-el-Mandeb Strait	Between Yemen and Djibouti/Eritrea	Red Sea to Gulf of Aden	Connects the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean.

6. INTERESTING FACTS

- The Bosphorus Strait passes through the heart of Istanbul.
- It has been an important trade route since ancient times.
- Many civilizations, including Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, controlled this region.
- It forms a natural water boundary between two continents.
- It plays an important role in regional security and maritime cooperation.

QUICK FACTS

- Country : Türkiye
- City : Istanbul
- Length : ~30 km
- Width : 700 m – 3.7 km
- Connects : Black Sea – Sea of Marmara
- Further Link : Dardanelles Strait – Mediterranean Sea
- Type : Natural Strait
- Strategic Value : Very High

7. EXAM POINTS (UPSC)

- Where is the Bosphorus Strait located?
- Through which city does the Bosphorus Strait pass?
- Which two seas are connected by the Bosphorus Strait?
- How does the Sea of Marmara connect to the Mediterranean Sea?
- What is the length and width of the Bosphorus Strait?
- Explain the two-layer water current system of the Bosphorus Strait.
- Why is the Bosphorus Strait strategically important?
- What are the major environmental features of this region?