The Andaman and Nicobar Islands lie between 6° 45' N and 13° 30' N latitudes and 90° 20' E and 93° 56' E longitudes. A total area of landmass of these islands is approximately 8249 Sq Km and coastline is about 2000 km. (Tikader and Das, 1985). These Islands constitute the physiographic continuation of the mountain ranges of Naga and Lushai Hills and Arakan Yoma of Burma through Cape Negrais to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and South-east of Sumatra (Achin Head). The chains of these islands are in fact the camel backs of the submerged mountain ranges projecting above the sea level running north to south.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are broadly divided into two groups, separated by the Ten Degree Channel, about 150 km wide and 732 meters deep.

The Andaman group consists of 324 islands of which 20 are inhabited. The Main part of the group is collectively known as the Great Andamans comprising of five closely adjoining Islands, North Andaman, Middle Andaman, South Andaman, Baratang and Rutland Island, all separated by narrow channels. Total land area of the Great Andaman group is 6408 sq.km. The southern most island of the Andaman group is the Little Andaman which is separated by a strait called Duncan passage. This island is 48 km long and 27 km wide and its land area is about 980 sq. km.
The Nicobar group comprises 24 islands of which 13 are inhabited. The total land area of this group is 1841 sq.km. The distance between Car Nicobar and southern most tip of Great Nicobar (Pygmalion Point) is 310 km. The Pygmalion Point is in fact the southern most boundary of India and is about 144 km from Achin Head of Sumatra. Great Nicobar is the longest of the Nicobar group. Its area is about 1045 sq. km with a length of 55 km, between Murray Point in the north and Pygmalion Point in the south. Other notable islands of the group are Car Nicobar, Choura, Camorta, Trinket, Nancowry and Little Nicobar. Car Nicobar is the Capital of the Nicobar group of islands. It is a coral island and has a shape more or less like that of Australia with a land area of 127 sq. km. Large portions of the coastline of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are stony and full of coral; the coastal flats are admixture of sand, silty clay and alluvial material together with fine fragments of coral lime. The soil, in general, is mild to moderately acidic with appreciably high humus on top.

These islands are tropical with a warm, moist and equable climate. The influence of sea and abundant rainfall prevent extremes of heat and temperature remains within 23°C to 31°C. Except for three months (December to February) there is rainfall throughout the year.

Mangroves line the shores, creeks mouth and island channels, covering an area of about 100,000 hectares (Blasco, 1977). The
species of mangrove forests of these islands are *Rhizophora mucronata*, *R. apiculata*, *R. stylosa*, *Bruguiera parviflora*, *B. gymnorrhiza*, *Sonneratia sp.*, *Avicennia officinalis*, *Heritiera littoralis* and *Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea*. 