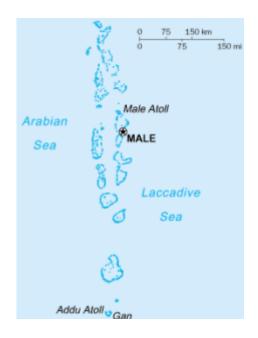
Addu atoll

June 14, 2021

In news- Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has stated that no decision has been reached on opening an Indian consulate in its southern Addu Atoll. A "#SaveAddu" social media campaign is organised by a section of Maldivians sceptical of another Indian mission presence, in addition to the Embassy in Male.

About Addu atoll-

- Addu Atoll, also known as Seenu Atoll, is the southernmost atoll of the Maldives.
- Administratively, Addu Atoll is the location of Addu
 City, one of the three cities of the Maldives.
- Addu City consists of the inhabited areas of Addu Atoll, namely the natural islands of Hulhudhoo, Meedhoo, Maradhoo, Feydhoo, and Hithadhoo and uninhabited islands.
- Addu is the second largest city in the Indian Ocean archipelago.



 Unlike other atolls of the Maldives, it has a lagoon that is a natural anchorage, accessible through four natural channels.

- This results in a natural harbor that is very calm and safe for sea vessels at all times and is not affected by seasonal changes.
- The four channels are arranged around the atoll are the Kuda channel and Maa channel on the north, the Gan channel on the south, and the broad Villingili channel on the southeast.
- The islands are protected from the storms and high waves of the Indian Ocean by barrier reefs.
- There are small lakes, wetlands, and marshy taro fields that are unique to Addu Atoll.
- During the Second World War, it was the site of a secret
 Royal Navy base called HMS Haitan.
- The dialect spoken is called "Addu bas".
- India is helping to build a \$33-million Maldivian police training facility in Addu.