

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.