

Mount Harriet

October 22, 2021

In news– Recently, the **Union government** rechristened **Mount Harriet**, a historical tourist spot in the Andaman and Nicobar islands, as ‘**Mount Manipur**’ recognizing Manipur’s role in the **historic** 1891 Anglo-Manipur war.

Anglo-Manipur war of 1891-

- The War was fought **between the kingdom of Manipur and the British** over a month in 1891.
- The British government took advantage of the “internal dissension” among the princes of the royal family.
- **This aggressive imposition of British law in a sovereign state was rejected by the king**, precipitating the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891.
- **In the first phase of the war, the British surrendered** and their officers – including Quinton – were executed in public.
- **In the second phase, the British** attacked Manipur from three sides, and **finally captured the Kangla Fort in Imphal**.
- **Prince Tikendrajit and four others were hanged by the British, while Kulachandra, along with 22 others, were banished to the Andaman Islands.**
 - Since the cellular jail (Kalapani) was yet to be built, Kulachandra and the prisoners **were kept on Mount Harriet, a hillock in what is now the Ferragunj tehsil of South Andaman district.**
 - 23 men, including King Kulachandra and his brothers, were “transported for life” to the Andamans.
 - The 23 are considered war heroes in Manipur and hence Mount **Harriet is an important symbol of the**

Anglo-Manipur War of 1891.

- In India, the war was viewed as being part of the general uprising against British rule in the country, soon after the Revolt of 1857.
- **The war led to Manipur officially becoming a princely state under the indirect rule of the British crown.**

Evolution of the name Mount Harriet-

- Mount Harriet is the **third highest peak (383 metres (1,257 ft) in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, next to Saddle Peak (732 metres (2,402 ft)) in North Andaman and Mount Thuillier (568 metres (1,864 ft)) in Great Nicobar.
- It served as the summer headquarters of the Chief Commissioner during the British Raj.
- **It is believed to be named after British artist and photographer Harriet Christina Tytler**, who was the wife of Robert Christopher Tytler, a soldier who served in the British Indian Army.
- Between 1862 and 1864, Tytler was the superintendent of the penal colony at Port Blair.
- Harriet is remembered for her work in documenting the monuments of Delhi and for her notes at the time of the Revolt of 1857 in India.
- Close by is the Mount Harriet National Park known for its wide variety of birds.



Mount Harriet National Park-

- The park was established in 1969.
- The park's well-known faunal species are Andaman wild pigs (an endangered species), saltwater crocodiles, turtles and robber crabs.
- The park is also a butterfly hotspot.
- A notable feature 2 kilometres (1.2 mi) away from the park is Kalapathar, where prisoners used to be pushed down the ravine to their death.
- The tribal community living in the tropical forest of the park are the Negrito people, who are hunter-gatherers.