# Geography · GS - I

**How are climate change and the sea level rise affecting the very existence of many island nations? Discuss with examples.**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
|---|---|---|
| 2025 | GS - I | Geography |

| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 10 | ~150 words |

## Answer Hint

**Sea level rise, coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion, extreme weather, freshwater stress, displacement, Maldives, Tuvalu, Kiribati, climate justice**

## Model Answer

### Introduction

Small Island Developing States are disproportionately vulnerable to climate change despite contributing relatively little to global greenhouse-gas emissions.

### 1. Physical Impacts

Sea-level rise causes coastal erosion, inundation of low-lying settlements and loss of habitable land. Storm surges and stronger tropical cyclones further intensify these risks.

### 2. Freshwater and Agriculture

Saltwater intrusion contaminates groundwater and agricultural land, reducing freshwater availability and food security. Coral bleaching also threatens marine ecosystems and fisheries.

### 3. Socioeconomic Impacts

Loss of land can destroy homes, infrastructure, tourism assets and livelihoods, creating displacement and potentially raising questions of climate-induced migration and state continuity.

**4. Examples**

The Maldives faces severe exposure because much of its territory is extremely low-lying. Tuvalu and Kiribati similarly face threats from inundation, erosion and freshwater stress.

**Conclusion**

For island nations, climate change is not merely an environmental challenge but an existential threat requiring adaptation finance, resilient infrastructure, emission reduction and international climate justice.

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