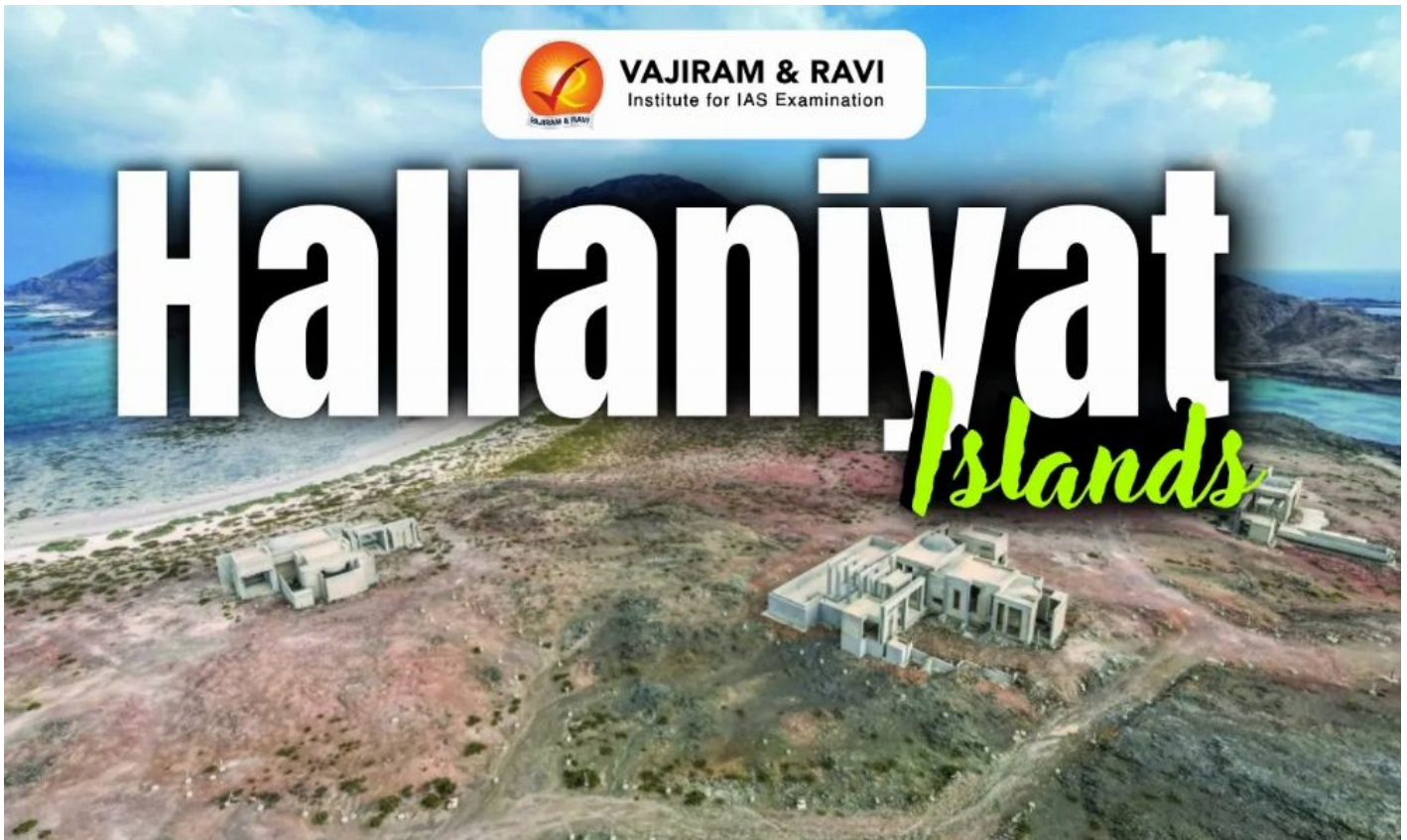


Hallaniyat Islands

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Hallaniyat Islands Latest News

A recent crude oil spill from the tanker Caroline Bezengi is threatening the pristine nature reserve near Oman's Hallaniyat Islands.

About Hallaniyat Islands

- The Hallaniyat Islands, also known as the **Kuria Muria Islands**, is an **archipelago of five islands** located off the **southeastern coast of Oman** in the **Arabian Sea**.
- From west to east, the islands are Al-Hasikiyah, Al-Sawda, Al-Hallaniyah, Qarzawit, and Al-Qibliyah.
- **Al-Hallaniyah**, the **largest** of the islands, is the **only one inhabited**.
- The habitat is characterised by **rocky patches, coral reefs**, and **sandy substrates**.
- The area **overlaps with** the **Halaaniyaat Islands Key Biodiversity Area** and the **Oman Arabian Sea Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area**.
- The shallow water of the islands is characterized by its virgin nature and **high diversity of corals, sponges, seaweeds, algae, fish**, and other species.

- The Arabian Sea here is defined by the **Somali Current** and **seasonal upwelling** that creates one of the most **productive marine zones** in the Indian Ocean.
- **Cold, nutrient-rich water rises** from the deep **during and after the monsoon season**, fuelling **plankton blooms** that attract everything from whale sharks to humpback whales.
- The islands have significant **strategic** importance, as they lie along **sea routes connecting the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea**.

News: DEVD

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/hallaniyat-islands/>

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