

1 **Shoreline and Land Use Land Cover Changes along the 2004 tsunami-**
2 **affected South Andaman Coast: Understanding Changing Hazard**
3 **Susceptibility**

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11

12 **Abstract**

13 The 2004 tsunami affected the South Andaman coast, experiencing dynamic changes in the
14 coastal geomorphology, making the region vulnerable. We focus on pre-and post-tsunami
15 shoreline and Land Use Land Cover changes for 2004, 2005, and 2022 to analyse the dynamic
16 change in hazard. We used GEBCO bathymetry data to calculate Run-up (m), arrival times
17 (Min), and inundation (m) at a few locations using three tsunamigenic earthquake source
18 parameters, namely the 2004-Sumatra, 1941-North Andaman, and 1881-Car Nicobar
19 earthquakes. The Digital Shoreline Analysis System is used for the shoreline change estimates.
20 The Landsat data is used to calculate shoreline and Land Use Land Cover (LULC) change in
21 five classes, namely Built-Up Areas, Forests, Inundation areas, Croplands, and water bodies
22 during the above period. We examine the correlation between the LULC changes and the
23 dynamic change in shoreline due to population flux, infrastructural growth, and Gross State
24 Domestic Product growth. India industry estimates the Andaman & Nicobar Islands losses
25 exceed INR 10 billion during 2004, which would see a five-fold increase in economic loss due
26 to a doubling of built-up area, a three-fold increase in tourist inflow, and a population density
27 growth. The unsustainable decline in the forest cover, mangroves, and cropland would affect
28 sustainability during a disaster despite coastal safety measures.

29 **Keywords: Geomorphology, Land use Land cover, Shoreline, Tsunami, Remote sensing**

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31 **1. Introduction:**

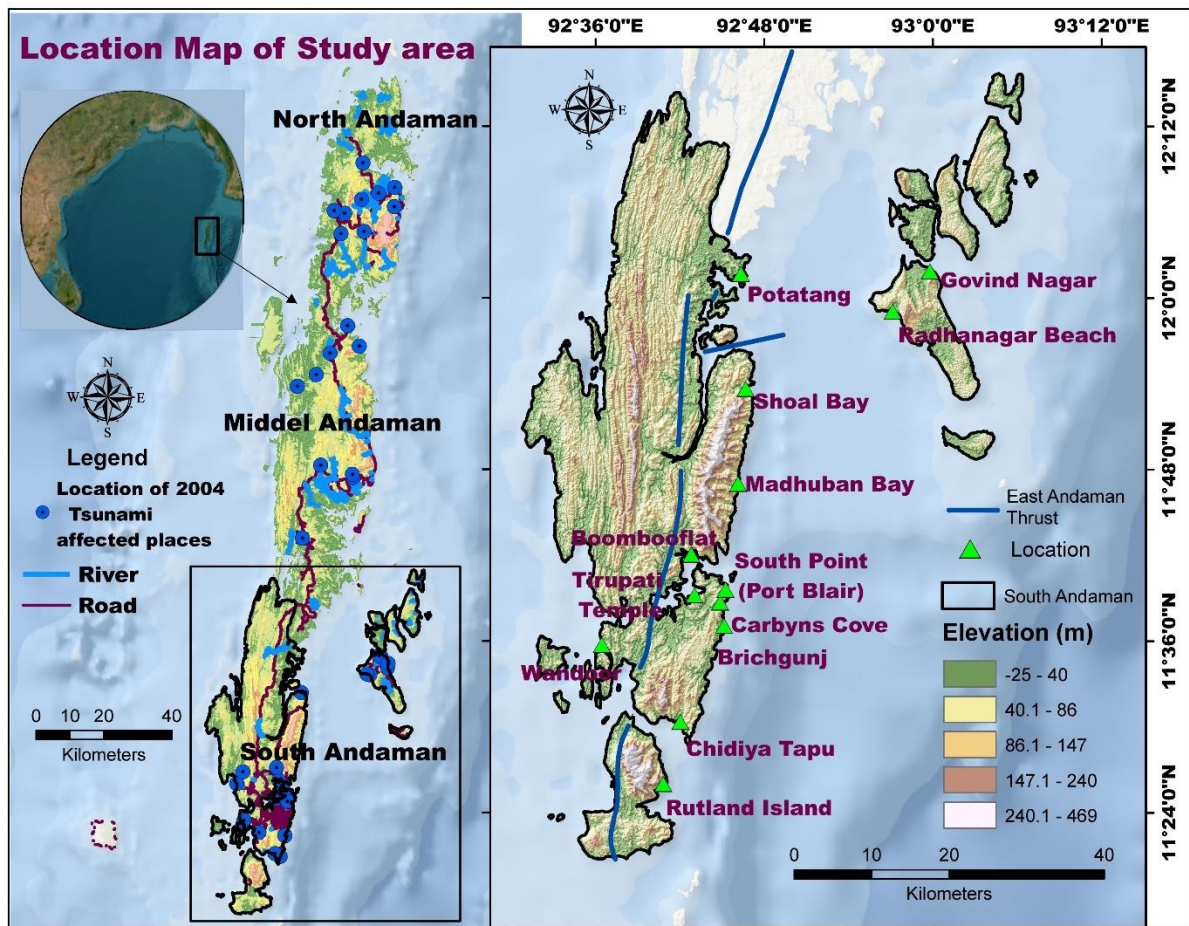
32 The Coastal shorelines are dynamic and highly vulnerable to erosion and accretion caused
33 by hydrodynamic, tectonic, geomorphic, and climate forcing, including tsunamis, cyclones,
34 flooding, storm surges, wave action, wind and tide changes, and sea level variations (Nayak
35 2002; Boak & Turner 2005; Kumar et al., 2010; Mukhopadhyay et al., 2011). In addition to
36 natural coastal processes, coastal resources are constantly under stress due to anthropogenic
37 activities, such as industrialization, port construction, beach sand mining, garbage dumping,
38 urbanization, trade, tourism, and recreational activities, which significantly impact the
39 shoreline and results into damage to natural ecosystems (Yi et al., 2018; Davis, 2019). It is
40 important to regularly monitor spatiotemporal along shorelines, Land use / Land Cover
41 (LULC), and geomorphic features (Moran, 2003; Cooper et al., 2004; Scheffers et al., 2005;
42 Jayakumar & Malarvannan, 2016). Several studies have analyzed various coastal processes,
43 including mapping shoreline change, LULC change detection, and analysis of
44 geomorphological landforms using satellite data. The temporal multispectral satellite data
45 allow for the identification of regions undergoing erosion or accretion change (Misra and
46 Balaji, 2015; Kumari et al., 2012; Tonisso et al., 2012; Murali et al., 2013; Sudha Rani et al.,
47 2015; Rowland et al., 2022; Thiéblemont et al., 2021). The M 9.3 undersea earthquake on
48 December 26, 2004, near the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, triggered the Indian Ocean tsunami
49 and caused massive destruction of the coastal ecosystem in the Andaman region (Sheth et al.,
50 2006; Ramalanjaona, 2011). The shoreline and geomorphological changes of the 2004 Sumatra
51 tsunami were analyzed using statistical techniques on remote sensing data (Kumari et al., 2012;
52 Yuvaraj et al., 2014; Yunus and Narayana, 2015; Yunus et al., 2016).

53 Since the 2004 tsunami, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have experienced notable
54 population growth, infrastructural development, and flourishing tourism activities over the past
55 decade (Yuvaraj et al., 2014). The development is profound in the south Andaman region. This

56 is a cause of concern for the tsunami vulnerability as the region is prone to large earthquakes
57 and is a seismo-tectonically active plate boundary. In this study, we Compute Tsunami arrival
58 times, run-up heights, and inundation extent along the south Andaman region. We also
59 analyzed dynamic vulnerability using temporal and spatial changes in shoreline and LULC for
60 the tsunami-affected areas (Velmurugan et al., 2006; Ghadamode et al., 2022). The analysis
61 covers three time periods: 2004 (pre-tsunami), 2005 (post-tsunami), and 2022 (current state) of
62 shoreline changes using multi-temporal Landsat data employing the End Point Rate (EPR) and
63 Net Shoreline Movement (NSM) methods (Himmelstoss et al., 2021) and LULC changes. A
64 relationship between LULC changes and vital socioeconomic factors such as population
65 dynamics, tourism trends, and the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is established to
66 assess the potential future impacts of tsunamis in the region. The results would provide
67 actionable insights to the policymakers, coastal planners, and stakeholders in disaster
68 management and sustainable coastal development.

69 **2. Study Area**

70 South Andaman region, with ~1,262 km² area and a 413 km coastline, is the
71 southernmost island of the Great Andaman, where most of the Andaman Island's population
72 and infrastructure are centered. As per the 2011 Indian census, South Andaman has a
73 population of 238,142 people, which increased to 266,900 in 2021 (estimate based on
74 www.census2011.co.in). The most habitable areas in the eastern part of South Andaman are
75 located on low lands at bay heads in addition to the higher slopes bordering bays and coastal
76 flat lands (Ghosh et al., 2004), which experienced devastation and losses during the 2004
77 Tsunami (Fig. 1). We selected 13 locations, namely South Point in Port Blair, Rutland Island,
78 Corbyn's Cove Beach, Madhuban Bay, Brichgunj, Chidiyatopu, Thirupatti Temple,
79 Wandoorjetty, Bamboo Flat, Potatang, Shoal Bay, Radha Nagar, and Govinda Nagar (Fig. 1)
80 for vulnerability assessment in the present study.



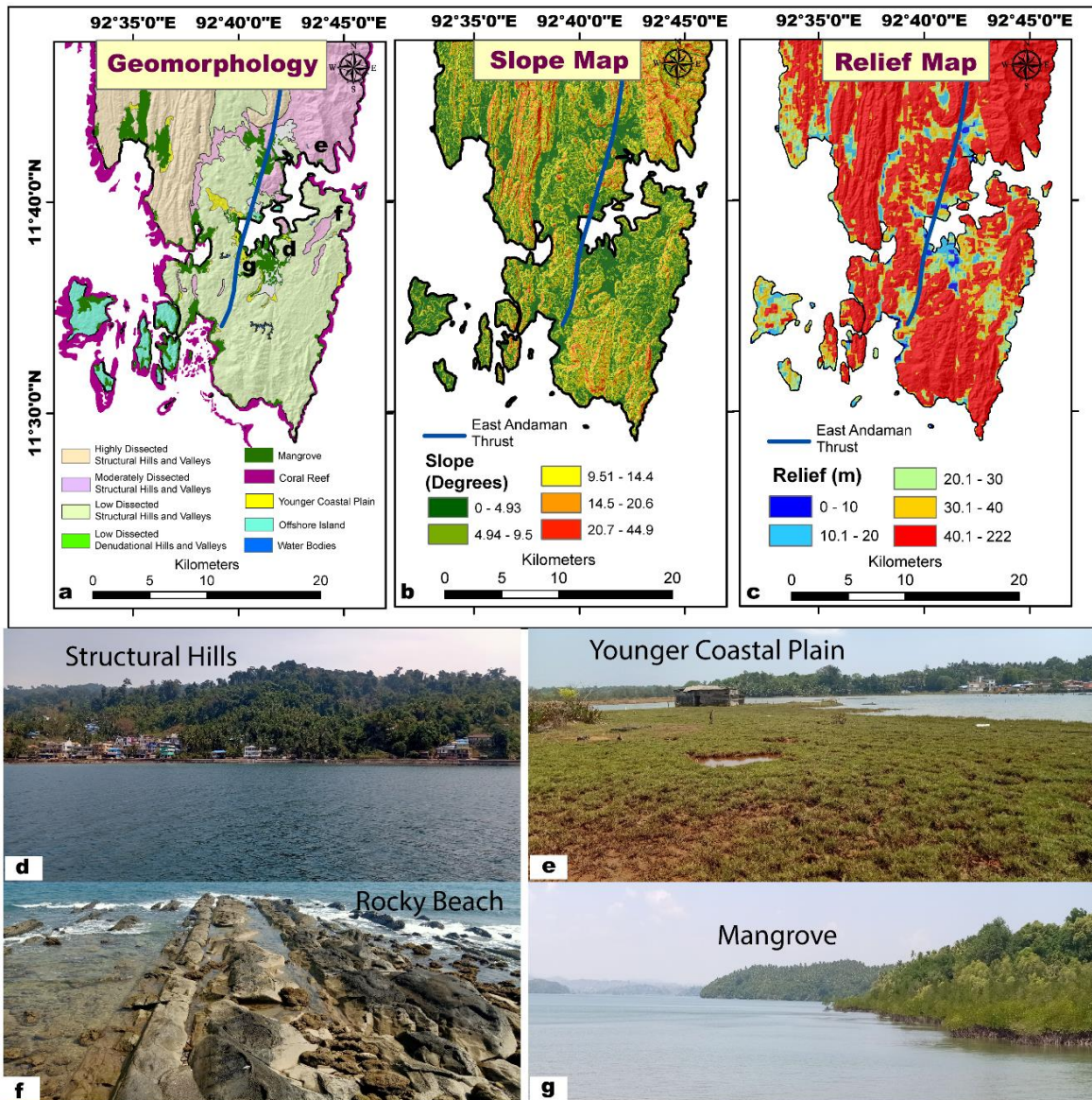
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82 *Figure 1 Location Map of the South Andaman Region (© Google Maps & © Google Earth).*

83 The tectonic activity and weathering processes have influenced the region's topography
 84 growth and evolution (Curray, 2005; Bandopadhyay and Carter, 2017). The East Andaman
 85 Thrust, also called East Boundary Thrust, is a linear/curvilinear ~500 km long fault zone and
 86 is the locus of ongoing convergent and crustal deformation along the Sunda-Andaman plate
 87 boundary. This structure is pivotal in creating accretionary prisms within the outer-arc ridge of
 88 the Andaman and Nicobar subduction zones (Fig. 1; Bhat et al., 2023).

89 The structure-bound major geomorphological features in South Andaman include hills,
 90 valleys, beaches, mangroves, and coral reefs (Fig. 2a). The highest peak on the island is Mount
 91 Harriet, with approximately 1,200 m (3,937 feet) (southandaman.nic.in). The north-western
 92 and north-eastern parts of South Andaman are highly and moderately dissected, whereas the
 93 Southern part has low dissected structural hills and valleys (Fig. 2a, b, c, and d). The upper

94 slopes of the region are covered with high dissected structural hills with dense pristine forest
95 (Fig. 2a). The slope ranges between 0 to 44.9 degrees, with lower slopes in the coastal region
96 mostly inhabited and undergoing rapid coastline modification and Land Use Change. The
97 North, Northeast, and Southern portions of South Andaman have the steepest slope and relief
98 area, while the Eastern, Southeastern, and western parts have relatively lower slopes (Fig. 2b
99 and c). The island has a rough coastline with various bays, inlets, and headlands (Fig. 2). The
100 Younger coastal plain is a relatively flat and low-lying area adjacent to the coastline, which is
101 formed through the accumulation of sediments brought by the ocean (Fig. 2e). A wave-cut
102 platform, formed by the erosive action of waves, are flat or gently sloping rock surface are
103 found along South Point coastlines in Port Blair (Fig. 2f). These platforms can be exposed at
104 low tide, which gradually wear away the rock over time, are unique feature of rocky coastlines.
105 Coral reefs along the coast contribute to forming sandy beaches and barrier islands (Reguero
106 et al., 2018). Mangrove forests are found on coasts in South Andaman Island, primarily in the
107 brackish water and muddy sediments lagoons and tidal zone (Fig. 2g). Mangroves are crucial
108 in stabilizing coastal ecosystems and providing habitat for various species. Wandoor, Chidya
109 tapu, and Sippighat are some notable locations of mangrove forests in South Andaman coastal
110 areas. The coastal plains in south Andaman are dynamic and prone to tsunamis due to their
111 location and active plate boundary. Therefore, studying shoreline change and LULC change is
112 especially important because of the potential impacts on local communities and ecosystems.



113

114 **Figure 2 (a) Geomorphology, (b) Slope map, (c) Relief Map, (d) Structural Hills, (e) the younger coastal plain, (f)**
 115 **Rocky Beach with a wave-cut platform near south point, Port Blair, (g) Mangrove.**

116

117 3. Materials and Methods

118 It is imperative to generate a spatial dataset that may have a bearing on the dynamic changes
 119 to assess the vulnerability.

120 3.1 Data Used

121 Landsat satellite data, such as Thematic Mapper (TM) and Operational Land Imagery
 122 (OLI) sensor for the years 2004, 2005, and 2022, is used to analyze shoreline and monitor the
 123 LULC changes along the South Andaman coast in the present study. The Shuttle Radar

124 Topography Mission (SRTM) Digital Elevation Model (DEM) is used to prepare the study
 125 area's slope and relief map. We used the General Bathymetry Chart of the Ocean (GEBCO) for
 126 run-up and inundation studies along the south Andaman coastal areas (Table 1).

127 **Table 1:** Data used in the present study region

Data	Purpose	Date & Year	Resolution	Sources
GEBCO bathymetry	Inundation and Run-Up	2022	90 m	GEBCO (https://www.gebco.net/)
Landsat 5 TM, Landsat 8 OLI	LULC and Shoreline Change Analysis	26-02-2004 27-01-2005 27-02-2022	30 m	USGS Earth Explorer
SRTM DEM	Slope, Relief	-	30m	USGS Earth Explorer
Geomorphology	Geomorphology	-	1:250k	bhukosh.gsi.gov.in
Socioeconomic data	Population, Tourism, Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)	1991-2021 2001-2020	-	(censusindia.gov.in) (Directorate of economics and statistics) (Rbi.org.in)

128

129 **3.2 Tsunami Run-ups and Inundation**

130 Several attempts have been made to model tsunamis to calculate inundation and
 131 determine run-up heights to evaluate their impact and hazards along mainland Indian coastal
 132 areas (Rani et al., 2011; Srivastava et al., 2021). However, despite experiencing historical
 133 tsunamis during the 31 December, 1881-Car Nicobar, 26 June, 1941-North Andaman, and the
 134 26 December, 2004-Sumatra earthquakes, the south Andaman region is yet to be explored for
 135 scenario hazard assessment. We used the Tohoku University's Numerical Analysis Model for
 136 Investigation of Near field tsunamis (TUNAMI-N2) to simulate the tsunami run-ups and
 137 impact using finite-difference methods to solve shallow water wave equations, incorporating
 138 bathymetry, earthquake source parameters, and fault geometry (Imamura and Imteaz, 1995;
 139 Imamura, 1996). In deep-sea regions with longer wavelengths a coarse grid spacing to model
 140 linear effects is sufficient to resolve the wave with minimal error. As the tsunami wave
 141 propagates from deep to shallow waters, where the wavelength shortens and the amplitude

142 increases, it follow a non-linear pattern of amplitude dispersion, energy dissipation, bottom
 143 friction and require finer resolution grids with more node points to accurately capture the wave
 144 dynamics and minimize errors. The grid spacing should follow the Courant-Friedrich-Lewy
 145 conditions for checking the convergence of the numerical code to a certain asymptotic limit
 146 using following relationship,

147
$$\Delta x/\Delta t = \sqrt{2gh_{max}}$$

148 Where Δt and Δx are temporal and spatial grid sizes, h_{max} maximum still water depth in
 149 the computational domain, and g is the gravitational acceleration. Based on above conditions
 150 we used GEBCO bathymetry and topography data formatted into four grid of 81, 27, 9 and
 151 3arc seconds resolutions at spacing ratio of 1:3 for grids A, B, C, and D, respectively.

152 The TUNAMI-N2 code uses Mansinha and Smylie's (1971) deformation model to
 153 estimate the seafloor upliftment near the source and the focal mechanism solutions and fault
 154 parameters are necessary to compute the initial deformation at the source at $t=0$ seconds. In
 155 addition to the grid resolution, the calibration requires earthquake source parameters (e.g., slip
 156 distribution, fault length, and width), which we adopted based on Ioualalen (2007), Rani et al.
 157 (2011), Mishra et al. (2014), and Srivastava et al. (2021) (Table 2). The five segments with
 158 different slip distributions of Sumatra earthquake (December 26, 2004) with ~1400 km rupture
 159 length (Ioualalen, 2007) are considered for modeling. We run the TUNAMI-N2 code with
 160 above input parameters to get the directivity map, wave amplitudes (run-up heights) at different
 161 tide-gauge locations in the study region.

162 **Table 2** Tsunamigenic earthquake deformation parameters used to simulate different scenarios
 163 a) 1881-Car Nicobar, and b) 1941-North Andaman earthquakes (Mishra et al., 2014), and
 164 c) 2004-Sumatra (Ioualalen, 2007).

	1881-Car Nicobar	1941 -North Andaman	2004 Sumatra Earthquake				
Input Parameters			Seg1	Seg2	Seg3	Seg 4	Seg5
Longitude (DD)	92.43	92.5	94.57	93.90	93.21	92.60	92.87

Latitude (DD)	8.52	12.1	3.83	5.22	7.41	9.70	11.70
Focal Depth (km)	15	30	25	25	25	25	25
Strike angle (°)	350	20	323	348	338	356	10
Rake (°)	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
Slip (m)	5	5	18	23	12	12	12
Fault Length (km)	200	200	220	150	390	150	350
Fault Width (km)	80	80	130	130	125	95	95
Dip (°)	25	20	12	12	12	12	12
Magnitude (Mw)	7.9	7.7	9.3				

165

166 **3.3 Shoreline Analysis in DSAS**

167 The USGS's digital shoreline analysis system (DSAS) version 5.1 (an ArcGIS
168 extension) estimates shoreline changes. The procedures are executed in 4 steps: shoreline
169 digitization, baseline generation, transect generation, and computation of the shoreline change
170 rate (Raj et al., 2020; Natarajan et al., 2021). The digitized shorelines for 2004, 2005, and 2022
171 years have been added to a personal geodatabase in a single shapefile. The shoreline image
172 data is added to the attributes as MM/DD/YYYY, and the baseline is in the meter UTM
173 projected coordinate system. To estimate rates of change, DSAS uses baseline measurements
174 of a time series of shorelines and a shapefile (Leatherman, 2003). Generating transects involves
175 initially choosing a predefined set of parameters from the personal geodatabase, including
176 settings for the baseline and shoreline. Subsequently, we placed these transects perpendicular
177 to the shoreline, extending 800 m at intervals of 150 m along the entire shoreline, originating
178 from the baseline. A 50 m smoothing distance was applied using the 'cast transects' tool within
179 DSAS to ensure a smoother outcome.

180 The evaluation of uncertainty encompasses natural and anthropogenic forces such as
181 wind, waves, tides, currents, and human influences, along with the accuracy of measurement
182 techniques, including digitization, interpretation, and GPS error. The uncertainty in the

183 shoreline analysis is due to the influence of tides on the Landsat satellite imagery, which is
184 minuscule in the extensive coastline of the study area. The tide gauge data of Port Blair station
185 for 2004-2005 and 2022 are unavailable in the Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level
186 (PSMSL) database (<https://psmsl.org/data/obtaining/stations/206.php>). We calculated
187 uncertainty of 7.46m and 7.13m for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, respectively, and the same is
188 adopted for 2022 owing to similar ranges. To quantify uncertainty, we have adopted a
189 confidence interval of 90% and assigned a shoreline uncertainty value of 10 meters as per the
190 recommendations of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) under the National
191 Assessment of Shoreline Change project (Himmelstoss et al., 2021; Den and Oele, 2018 and
192 Joesidawati, 2016). We used End Point Rate (EPR) and Net Shoreline Movement (NSM)
193 methods to analyze the shoreline change. The statistical mean of these parameters was
194 computed using USGS's DSAS tool (Himmelstoss et al., 2021).

195 **3.3.1 Net Shoreline Movement (NSM)**

196 NSM is a statistical parameter used to determine the net change in the shoreline position over
197 a specific period by finding the perpendicular distance between the most recent shoreline (in
198 this case, 2022) and the oldest shoreline (2004) along each transect. The formula for NSM can
199 be expressed as:

$$200 \quad \text{NSM} = \{d_{2022} - d_{2004}\}m$$

201 **3.3.2 End Point Rate (EPR)**

202 EPR is a statistical parameter quantifying the shoreline change rate over time is calculated by
203 dividing the Net Shoreline Movement (NSM) by the time elapsed between the oldest and most
204 recent shoreline measurements, which indicates the rate of erosion or accretion. It is important
205 to have data from at least two shoreline dates (Dolan et al., 1991; Crowell et al., 1997). The
206 formula for EPR can be expressed as follows:

$$207 \quad \text{EPR} = \left\{ \frac{d_{2022} - d_{2004}}{t_{2022} - t_{2004}} \right\}$$

208 **3.4 Land Use Land Cover Analysis (LULC)**

209 The LULC map uses Landsat 5 TM (2004 and 2005) and Landsat 8 OLI (2022). False Colour
210 Composite (FCC) satellite images combine near-infrared, red, and green bands to delineate five
211 classes: Forest, built-up, Cropland, Water bodies, and Inundated areas. (Prabhbir and Kamlesh,
212 2011). Tone, texture, size, shape, pattern, association, and other visual interpretation techniques
213 also were used to interpret different land use classes. Maximum likelihood is a supervised
214 classification method used in this study to detect LULC change. Each pixel in the classified
215 Landsat images varies over time due to changes in land cover.

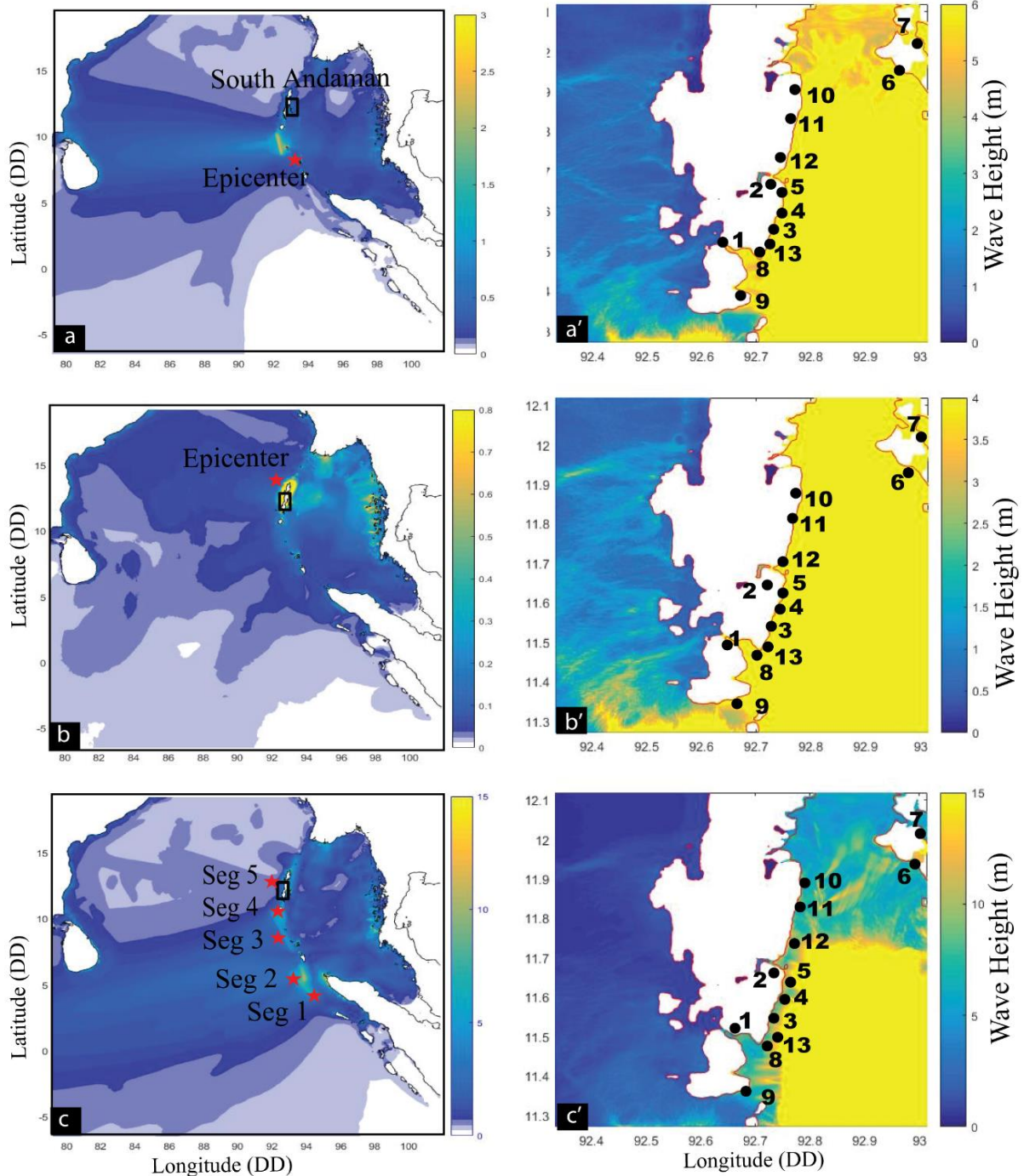
216 **4. Results**

217 An analysis of the 2004 tsunamigenic earthquake's impact on the South Andaman
218 region, focusing on tsunami directivity, arrival times, run-up heights, shoreline changes, and
219 LULC impact, is examined in detail.

220 **4.1 Tsunami studies along the South Andaman Region**

221 We have considered three tsunamigenic seismic scenarios, namely, a) the 1881-Car
222 Nicobar earthquake, b) the 1941-North Andaman earthquake, and c) the 2004 Sumatra
223 earthquake, and generated the directivity and run-up model (Fig. 3). The directivity map shows
224 that most of the energy propagation is in the East-West direction (Fig. 3 a,b,c), and the
225 shallower waters surrounding the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has significance influence on
226 the east-west propagation of tsunamis (Singh et al., 2012). The run-up height along the eastern
227 coast of South Andaman is greater than the western coast (Fig. 3 b', c', d'; Table 3). This
228 difference is due to the wider continental shelf on the Western coast of the south Andaman
229 region and shallow water depths. In the case of a higher magnitude of tsunamigenic earthquakes
230 in the Car Nicobar or the North Andaman region, higher run-ups will be observed along the
231 gauge locations, which are considered for the present study (Table 3).

232 The arrival times of tsunamis vary from 21.75 minutes to 58 minutes across locations
233 for these earthquakes, with the 1881-Car Nicobar earthquake generally resulting in the shortest
234 arrival time (Fig. 3; Table 3). The run-up heights range from 1-13 m at different locations (Fig.
235 3; Table 3), which were influenced by earthquake magnitude, the source's proximity to
236 observation locations, and the local coastal topography that also affected inundations. The
237 extent of inundation, representing the area covered by the tsunami, ranges from 10m to 950m,
238 with a wide variation across locations and earthquake events. The 2004 Andaman Sumatra
239 earthquake resulted in higher run-up heights and inundations compared to the 1881 Car
240 Nicobar, and 1941 Andaman earthquakes and caused extensive damage. Therefore, we
241 considered the 2004- Andaman Sumatra earthquake for a detailed analysis of hazard
242 assessment and scenario analysis. The arrival times (Minutes), run-up height (meter), and
243 Inundation extent (meter) at 13 different locations along the South Andaman region by the
244 2004 Sumatra earthquake (Table 3) are considered for further analysis.



245

246 *Figure 3: (a) Directivity and (a') wave run-up height for the 1881-Car Nicobar, (b and b') for the 1941-Andaman,*
 247 *and (c and c') for the 2004-Sumatra earthquakes.*

248

249 **Table 3** Estimated Arrival times, Run-up heights, and inundations at the studied locations from
 250 tsunamigenic a) 1881-Car Nicobar, b)1941-North Andaman earthquakes, and c) 2004-Sumatra
 251 earthquake sources. The SN of locations is common for Figs. 3 and 4.

SN	Gauge Locations	Longitude Latitude (DD)	Earthquake Sources	Arrival Time(Min.)	Run-up (m)	Inundation (m)
1	Wandoorjetty	92.614750, 11.581667	a) 1941-North Andaman	22.5	1.25	180
			b) 1881 Car Nicobar	32.80	2.21	200
			c) 2004 - Sumatra	36.5	3.5	450

2	Bombooflat	92.715417, 11.700722	a) 1941-North Andaman	24.55	2.23	350
			b) 1881 Car Nicobar	31.2	2.35	650
			c) 2004 - Sumatra	42	5.5	90
3	Corbyns Cove Beach	92.770916, 11.642372	a) 1941-North Andaman	22.3	2.1	320
			b) 1881 Car Nicobar	28.8	2.3	580
			c) 2004 - Sumatra	33	12.7	900
4	South Point, Port Blair	92.702917, 11.652389	a) 1941-North Andaman	22	2.12	280
			b) 1881 Car Nicobar	28.4	2.31	500
			c) 2004 - Sumatra	31.5	9.6	550
5	Thirupatti Temple	92.703861, 11.581694	a) 1941-North Andaman	21.75	1.42	360
			b) 1881 Car Nicobar	46.5	1.65	400
			c) 2004 - Sumatra	38	1	200
6	Radha Nagar	92.951722, 11.979306	a) 1941-North Andaman	52	2.1	180
			b) 1881 Car Nicobar	54	3.8	220
			c) 2004 - Sumatra	54	2.6	156
7	Govinda Nagar	92.989139, 12.030167	a) 1941-North Andaman	56	1.8	220
			b) 1881 Car Nicobar	58	3.2	190
			c) 2004 - Sumatra	58	3.6	195
8	Chidiyatopu	92.716639, 11.499306	a) 1941-North Andaman	21.75	1.79	300
			b) 1881 Car Nicobar	26.5	2.05	500
			c) 2004 - Sumatra	36	3.9	585
9	Rutland Island	92.703818, 11.431497	a) 1941-North Andaman	25.9	1.01	585
			b) 1881 Car Nicobar	26.55	1.44	380
			c) 2004 - Sumatra	27	6	700
10	Shoal Bay	92.795963, 11.934202	a) 1941-North Andaman	34.8	1.77	180
			b) 1881 Car Nicobar	42.5	1.45	220
			c) 2004 - Sumatra	56	13	950
11	Potatang	92.801282, 12.027380	a) 1941-North Andaman	36	1.5	200
			b) 1881 Car Nicobar	46	1.4	180
			c) 2004 - Sumatra	58	12.5	210
12	Madhuban Bay	92.785534, 11.782775	a) 1941-North Andaman	32	1.9	180
			b) 1881 Car Nicobar	40	1.5	200
			c) 2004 - Sumatra	54	6.9	210
13	Brichgunj	92.770162, 11.618980	a) 1941-North Andaman	28	1.3	200
			b) 1881 Car Nicobar	32	4	300
			c) 2004 - Sumatra	30	10	585

252 The results show that the run-up heights range from 1 to 13 m, arrival times range from
253 27 to 58 min, and the inundation extent range from 90 to 950m, suggesting a significant
254 variability in the tsunami's impact across the South Andaman Region. Due to the effects of the
255 2004 tsunami, the stagnation of tsunami water in the agricultural lands and low-lying areas of
256 the Wandoor region resulted in increased soil salinity (Fig. 4a); it also damaged the bridge in

257 the Bombooflat area (Fig. 4b), and houses near the Sippighat area (Fig. 4c, d). Shoal Bay
258 recorded the highest inundation extent of 950m and experienced the highest run-up height of
259 13m, indicating significant wave impact (Fig. 3b; Table 3). Corbyn's Cove Beach and Rutland
260 Island experienced significant inundation distances exceeding 700m (Fig.3b, Table 3).
261 Potatang, Corbyns Cove Beach, and Brichgunj also recorded relatively high run-up heights that
262 exceeded 9m (Table 3). Most locations experienced arrival times between 27 and 58 minutes,
263 indicating a relatively quick propagation of the tsunami wave. Jain et al. (2005) mentioned that
264 tsunami waves arrived between 40 and 50 minutes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Our
265 results agree with the tsunami run-up heights estimation by Cho et al. (2008) and Prerna et al.
266 (2015) at a few locations in the present study. South Andaman experienced significant
267 inundations during the 2004 Sumatra earthquake, highlighting the urgent need for robust
268 mitigation and preparedness measures in these vulnerable coastal regions. We aim to contribute
269 to this broader goal by providing essential data and insights to support evidence-based decision-
270 making and mitigate the adverse impacts of tsunamis on coastal populations. The study will
271 provide workable input to the local risk management strategies involving local communities,
272 optimizing evacuation planning, enhancing early warning systems, fortifying infrastructure
273 resilience, and adopting a multi-hazard risk assessment approach (National Research
274 Council, 2011).

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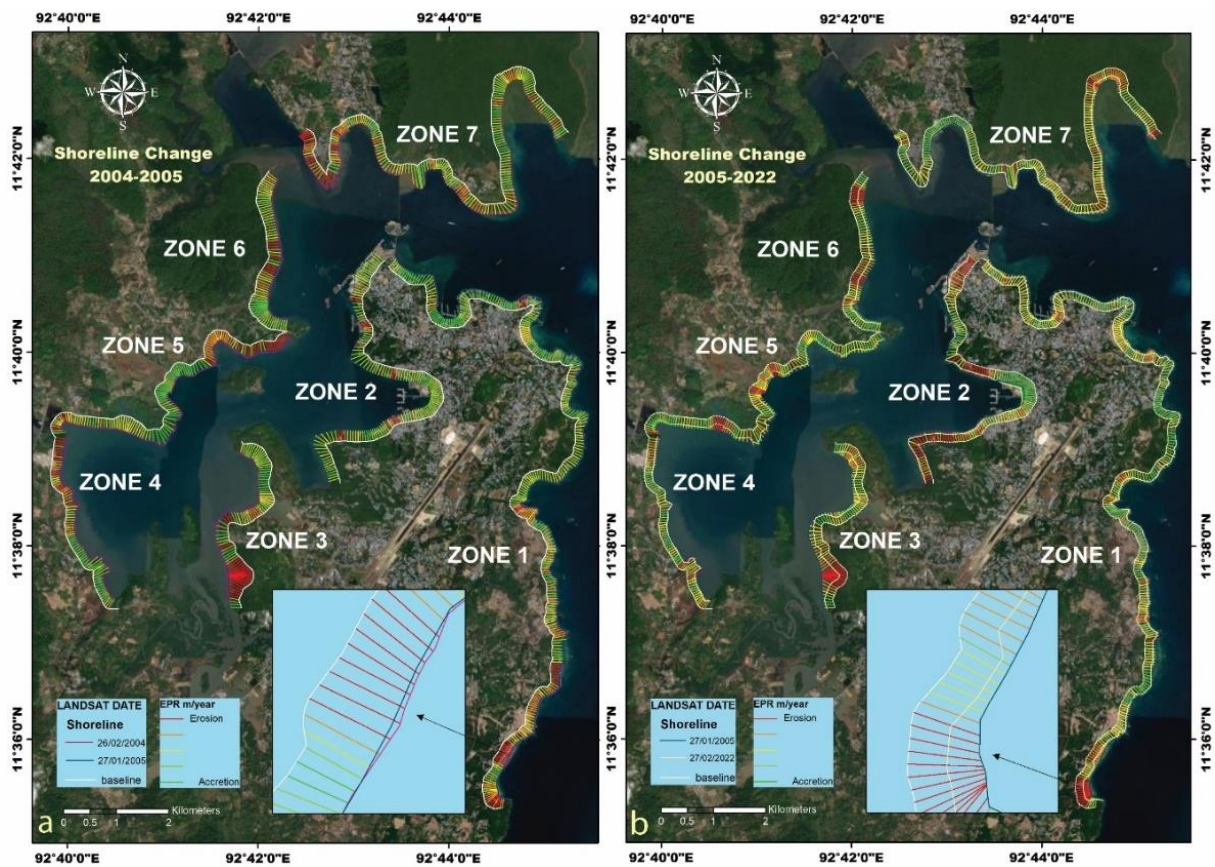
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277 *Figure 4: (a) Stagnation of Tsunami water in the agricultural field and Low-laying areas in Port Blair, (b) damaged*
 278 *bridge in Bombooflat, (c, d) damaged house in the Sippighat area near Port Blair (Photo: 01/03/2023). The*
 279 *number on the field photograph corresponds to respective locations as in Fig. 3.*

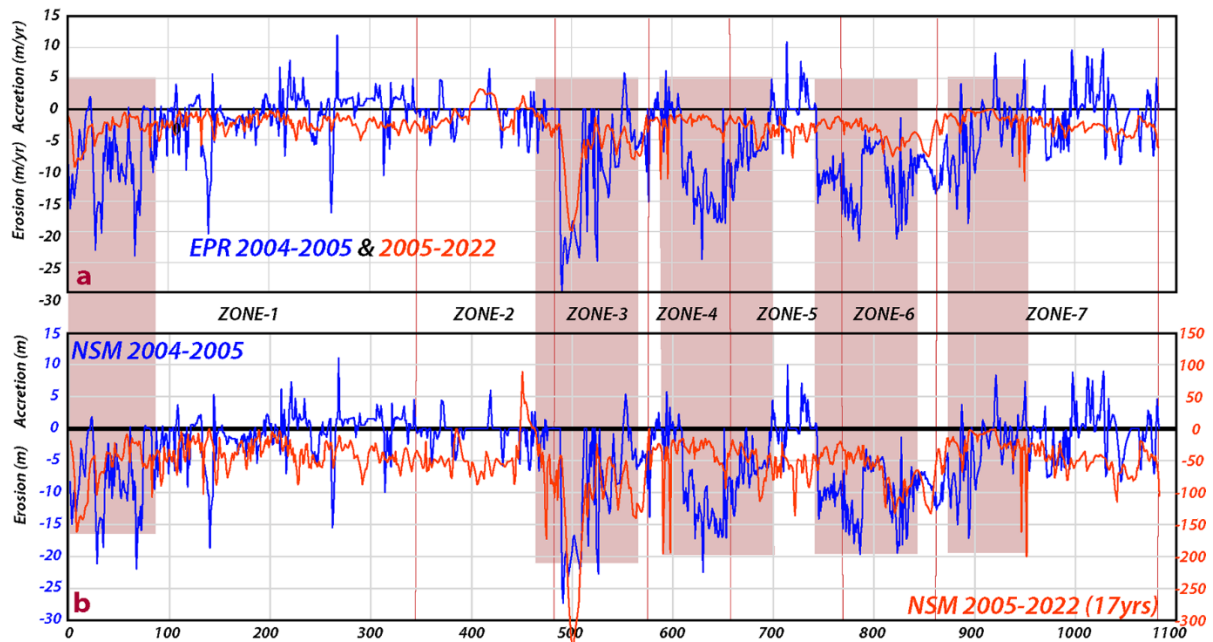
280 4.2 Shoreline Change during Tsunami (2004-2005) and post-tsunami (2005-2021)

281 The south Andaman coasts are divided into seven zones based on proximity with the
 282 inundation studies to calculate NSM and EPR to understand the short-term and long-term
 283 changes impact of coastal erosion (Fig. 5, Supplement Fig. S1-S7). The NSM and EPR are
 284 calculated over two separate time frames to comprehend the damages caused by tsunamigenic
 285 and regular wind-wave-surge events in South Andaman Island. These zones were used to
 286 understand erosion and accretion rates between (i) 2004 - 2005 (Fig. 5a) and (ii) 2005-2022
 287 (Fig. 5b). The EPR and NSM values from 2004 to 2005 indicate the direct effect of tsunami
 288 waves, whereas 2005 to 2022 values represent periodic wind-wave-surge dynamics. Periodic
 289 coastal shoreline changes refer to the regular and repeating fluctuations in the position of the
 290 shoreline along the coast. Natural and human-induced factors can influence these changes. A
 291 total of 1,083 transects are created at 50-m intervals, distributed among the zones as follows:

292 Zone 1 (339 transects), Zone 2 (147 transects), Zone 3 (89 transects), Zone 4 (74 transects),
 293 Zone 5 (137 transects), Zone 6 (73 transects), and Zone 7 (220 transects). The shoreline
 294 variation rates indicate positive accretion and negative erosion (Fig. 6, Table 4). The EPR
 295 Changes in meters per year (m/y) for the periods 2004-2005 show a higher erosion rate
 296 compared to 2005-2022, particularly in Zones 3, 4, and 5 (Fig. 6a). The NSM focused on two
 297 distinct time frames, indicate the NSM rates during the tsunami, for the year of 2004-2005, and
 298 the NSM rates over the extended 17-year period from 2005 to 2022 are measured in meters
 299 (Fig. 6b). The detailed analysis of the maximum (accretion), minimum (erosion), and mean
 300 shoreline changes for each of the seven zones that occurred during the tsunami event and the
 301 post-tsunami period are discussed below.



302
 303 *Figure 5: Shoreline changes observed (a) during 2004-05 due to the tsunamigenic process and (b) from 2005-*
 304 *2022 due to wind wave surges overlaid on Google Earth images (@Google Earth). The affected coastline is*
 305 *subdivided into seven distinct zones for detailed analysis.*



306

307 Figure 6: (a) The rates of erosion and accretion in seven distinct Zones along the South Andaman shoreline using
 308 EPR methods, and (b) NSM have been conducted between the years 2004-2005 and 2005-2022. Highlighted color
 309 indicating high erosion zone

310

311 **Table 4** Shoreline change in southern Andaman is observed for 2004-2005 and 2005-2022
 312 using USGS's DSAS methods (Himmelstoss et al., 2021).

ZONE		2004-2005		2005-2022	
		EPR(m/y)	NSM(m)	EPR(m/y)	NSM (m)
ZONE 1	Mean	-2.85	-2.62	-2.55	-43.57
	Minimum	-23.9	-21.29	-9.44	-161.21
	Maximum	12.05	11.06	0	0
ZONE 2	Mean	-0.54	-0.50	-1.0639	-18.174
	Minimum	-7.17	-6.58	-4.56	-77.93
	Maximum	6.54	6	3.25	55.56
ZONE 3	Mean	-9.92	-8.11	-7.10	-121.51
	Minimum	-24.71	-23.27	-19.87	-339.51
	Maximum	5.58	4.37	-1.02	-17.42
ZONE 4	Mean	-7.92	-7.72	-2.24	-38.34
	Minimum	-24.47	-22.46	-11.42	-195.03
	Maximum	6.23	5.72	-0.79	-13.42
ZONE 5	Mean	-6.594	-6.05	-2.94	-50.26
	Minimum	-21.47	-19.7	-7.95	-135.83
	Maximum	10.88	9.99	-1.03	-17.54
ZONE 6	Mean	-9.74	-8.94	-4.92	-84.05
	Minimum	-21.18	-19.44	-7.75	-132.39
	Maximum	-1.46	-1.34	-1.86	-31.73
ZONE 7	Mean	-2.16	-1.986	-2.43	-41.56
	Minimum	-18.65	-17.29	-11.7	-199.96
	Maximum	9.77	8.97	-0.04	-0.61

313

314 ZONE 1: This zone experienced a combination of erosion and accretion between 2004-05 and
315 2005-21. The maximum erosion rates are observed at Megapoda, with an EPR of -23.9
316 m/y. and -9.44 m/y., NSM analysis shows the estimated erosion is -21.29m and -161.21m
317 respectively (Fig. S1 a, b, Table 4). The southern part of South Andaman Island has more
318 shoreline erosion rather than accretion, which can be attributed to the heightened impact
319 of tsunamis on the southern region, a phenomenon that is more significant when
320 compared to the northern part of South Andaman Island. These Sediments eroded from
321 one coastline area are often transported along the shoreline by the longshore currents.
322 The angle of wave approach creates these currents and is responsible for moving
323 sediment parallel to the coastline.

324 ZONE 2: This zone experienced a combination of erosion and accretion between 2004-05 and
325 2005-21. The maximum rate of erosion is -7.17 m/y and -4.56 m/y (EPR) was recorded
326 at IOC Colony, while the maximum accretion rate of 6.54 m/y and 3.25 m/y (EPR) was
327 observed at Ashwin Nagar Respectively. The NSM analysis indicated a shoreline retreat
328 of -6.58 m at IOC Colony and -77.93 m advancement at Ashwin Nagar. The jetties in the
329 Jungli Ghat port played a role in controlling erosion and accretion at these sites (Fig. S2,
330 Table 4).

331 ZONE 3: This zone experienced a combination of erosion and accretion between 2004-05 and
332 2005-21. The maximum erosion rate is -24.71 m/y and -19.87 (EPR) at Flat Bay, while
333 the maximum accretion rate is 5.58 m/y and (EPR) at NLC Limited. The NSM analysis
334 revealed a shoreline retreat of -23.27 m and -339.51 m at Flat Bey. High wave energy
335 and exposure to strong currents, which are more common near Flat Bay, can lead to
336 increased erosion of mangrove shorelines (Fig. S3, Table 4).

337 ZONE 4: This zone experienced a combination of erosion and accretion between 2004-05 and
338 2005-21. The maximum erosion rate is -24.47 m/y at Ferrargunj and -11.24 m/y (EPR)

339 at PLK Creek Resort, NSM estimated erosion is -22.46 m and -195.03m at Chouldari
 340 (Fig. S4). We observed the shoreline erosion area using the Landsat time-lapse satellite
 341 images between 2004-2005, and 2022 near Flat Bay, South Andaman, has revealed
 342 noteworthy environmental changes. The dark blue color observed in 2004 and 2005
 343 indicates the presence of deep-water bodies, whereas the light blue color in the 2022
 344 image suggests the water bodies have become shallow with significant fresh sediment
 345 load (Fig. 7; Table 4).
 346

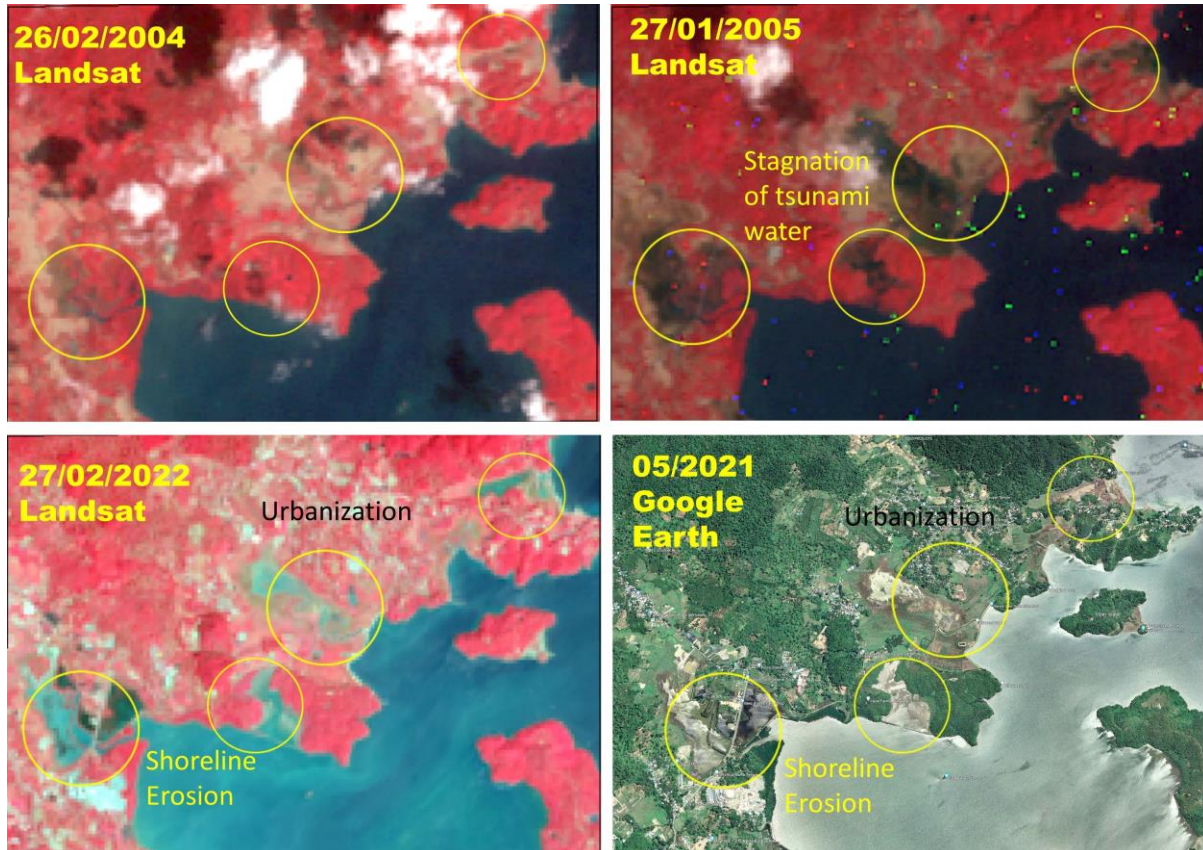


347
 348 *Figure 7 shows a time-lapse satellite imagery of Landsat 8 FCC near the Flat Bay area (marked in yellow circle)*
 349 *during the years 2004 and 2005 showing robust mangrove coverage is evident. However, when comparing the*
 350 *Landsat 8 image in 2022 and the corresponding Google Earth image (@Google Earth), it is apparent that the*
 351 *mangrove ecosystem in this area has experienced substantial erosion and the development of Solar panels.*
 352

353 ZONE 5: The maximum erosion rate of -21.47 m/y (2004-05) and -7.95 (EPR 2005-22) is
 354 recorded at Mithakhari. According to the NSM analysis, the shoreline retreated by -19.7
 355 m and -132.39m at Mithakhari (Fig. S5). In this zone, Coastal development,

356 infrastructure construction, and alteration of natural hydrological patterns can disrupt
357 sediment transport and exacerbate erosion (Fig. 8; Table 4).

358



359

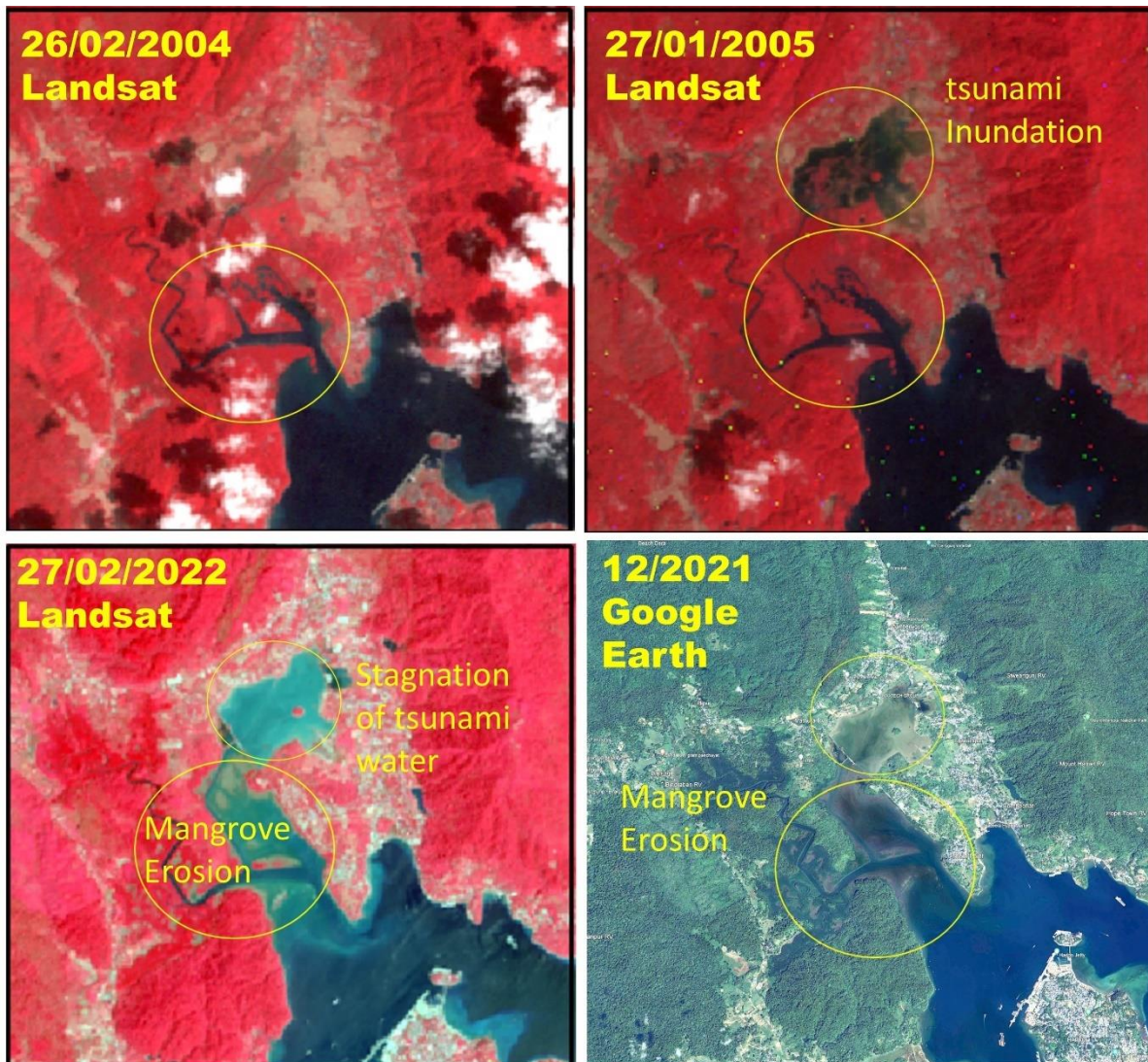
360 *Figure 8 shows Landsat 8 time-lapse imagery and © Google Earth imagery near the Ograbraj and Mithakhari*
361 *region depicting the erosion activity during and after the tsunami and the imagery shows a significant growth in*
362 *the built-up areas surrounding the tsunami-affected areas in 2004.*

363

364 **ZONE 6:** This zone is predominantly affected by erosion, with no observed accretion. The
365 maximum erosion rate is -21.18 m/y and -7.75 m/y (EPR) at Namunaghar, and the NSM
366 estimated erosion is -19.44 m and -132.39m at Namunaghar (Fig. S6). In February 2004,
367 immediately before the catastrophic tsunami event, there was no observable presence of
368 stagnant water in the area (Fig. 9). However, by January 2005, following the tsunami, the
369 images distinctly exhibited the stagnant water. In February 2022, the same location
370 exhibited substantial shoreline erosion within the extensive mangrove and agricultural
371 area, accompanied by increased urban development along the shoreline. The progression

372 of urban development was also validated using Google satellite imagery. The sediment
373 carried by ocean currents deposited in low-lying areas revealed caused shallowing and
374 significant changes in ocean water color.

375



376

377 *Figure 9 shows the Change detection of the shoreline using Landsat 8 time-lapse imagery and © Google Earth*
378 *imagery for 2004 before, 2005 after the tsunami, and the 2022 present status of the shoreline.*

379

380 **ZONE 7:** This zone experienced a combination of erosion and accretion between 2004-05 and

381 2005-21. The maximum erosion rate is -8.36 m/y and -11.7 m/y (EPR) at Shore Point,

382 while the maximum accretion rate is 9.77 m/y (EPR). The NSM analysis indicated an

383 erosion of -17.29 m at Shore Point and -199.96 m at North Bay (Fig. S7; Table 4).

384 Notably, a tsunami with a height of 9.6 m is observed at Shore Point.

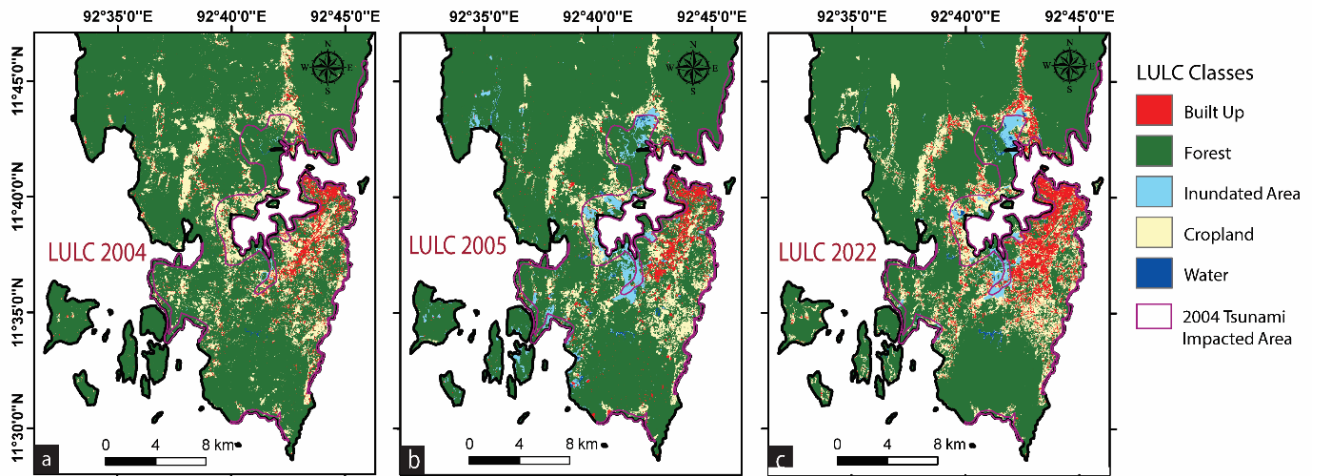
385 The natural rate of shoreline movement in the South Andaman region has increased
386 following the tsunami event, which is attributed to several factors, including the removal of
387 vegetation cover, the softening of exposed bedrock, and the destabilization of unconsolidated
388 materials caused by the tsunami, all of which have made the region more susceptible to erosion
389 (Yunus et al., 2016). Comparing the erosion and accretion rates suggests the erosion rates were
390 significantly less during the 2005-2022 period in comparison to the 2004-05 tsunami,
391 highlighting the adverse effect of the tsunami.

392 **4.3 Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) Analysis**

393 The LULC is categorized into 5 distinct classes: Built-up, Forest, Inundation, Cropland,
394 and water Bodies (Fig. 10). The overall accuracy obtained is 90.11%, 89.96%, and 90.30%
395 with a quantitative assessment of K_{hat} (Kappa) coefficient is 0.78, 0.762 and 0.79 for 2004, 2005
396 and 2022 images, respectively (**Table S1**). Our primary objective is to determine the extent of
397 land use pattern changes from 2004 to 2022 in areas affected by the 2004 tsunami. Several
398 researchers have already examined the vulnerability and impact of the 2004 tsunami on South
399 Andaman, including (Velmurugan et al., 2006; Debjani et al., 2012; Sachithanandam, 2014).

400 The LULC classification for the South Andaman region in tsunami-impacted areas in
401 the years 2004, 2005, and 2022 reveals significant changes (Fig. 10, Table 5). 1) The built-up
402 area decreased from ~7.38% in 2004 to 6.23% in 2005, marking a 1.15% decrease. However,
403 it subsequently increased by 11.11% by 2022. 2) Cropland coverage decreased from around
404 22.12% in 2004 to ~11.93% in 2005, indicating a substantial reduction of 10.19%. It then
405 increased to 17.15% by 2022. 3) Inundation areas increased from about 3.29% in 2004 to
406 27.65% in 2005, showing a notable rise of 24.36%. However, by 2022, they decreased by
407 ~18.57%. 4) Forested areas saw a significant decrease from ~66.46% in 2004 to about 51.10%

408 in 2005, signifying a reduction of 15.36%. This decrease persisted in 2022, remaining at
 409 ~51.10%. 5) Water bodies covered around 0.62% of the area in 2004, which increased slightly
 410 to about 0.76% in 2005. By 2022, there is a more significant increase, reaching 2.05%.



411
 412 *Figure 10 (a) LULC 2004 (b) LULC 2005, and (c) LULC 2022 in tsunami-impacted areas (pink color) and South*
 413 *Andaman.*

414 **Table 5** LULC Analysis for 2004, 2005 to 2022 in tsunami impacted area

LULC	2004 Area in km ²	2004 % of Area	2005 Area in km ²	2005 % of Area	2022 Area in km ²	2022 % of area
Built-Up	3.57	7.38	3.01	6.23	5.38	11.11
Forest	32.19	66.46	25.79	53.40	24.74	51.10
Inundation Area	1.64	3.39	13.36	27.65	8.99	18.57
Cropland	10.71	22.12	5.76	11.93	24.74	17.15
Water Bodies	0.30	0.62	0.36	0.76	0.99	2.05
Total Area (Sq. Km)	48	100	48	100	48	100

415
 416 The LULC classification for the South Andaman region in the years 2004, 2005, and 2022
 417 shows significant changes (Figure 10, Table 6)

418 **1) Built-Up Area:** In 2004, the built-up area covered 19.92 km², constituting ~3.84% of the
 419 total study area. By 2005, this area had reduced to 17.66 km², accounting for 3.41% of

420 the total area. by 2022, there was a significant expansion, with the built-up area
 421 occupying 45.07 km², representing 8.68% of the total region.

422 **2) Forest:** In 2004, forests dominated the landscape, covering 432.85 km², which was
 423 approximately 83.43% of the total study area. By 2005, this forested area slightly
 424 decreased to 420.79 km², comprising 81.27% of the total area. However, by 2022, the
 425 forest cover continued to decline, with an area of 408.66 km², accounting for 78.78% of
 426 the total region.

427 **3) Inundation Area:** In 2004, the inundation area was limited, covering 3.40 km² or 0.65% of
 428 the total area. In 2005, there was a substantial increase, expanding to 28.41 km², which
 429 represented 5.48% of the total area. By 2022, the inundation area decreased to 13.89 km²,
 430 making up 2.66% of the total region.

431 **4) Cropland:** Cropland covered 61.77 km² in 2004, accounting for 11.90% of the total study
 432 area. By 2005, this area reduced to 49.34 km², representing 9.53% of the total area. In
 433 2022, the cropland area further decreased to 48.65 km², making up 9.37% of the total
 434 region.

435 **5) Water Bodies:** In 2004, water bodies covered a small area of 0.83 km², approximately 0.16%
 436 of the total area. By 2005, this area slightly increased to 1.54 km², constituting 0.29% of
 437 the total region. There was a more significant expansion during 2022, with water bodies
 438 occupying 2.45 km², accounting for 0.47% of the total area.

439 **Table 6** LULC Analysis for 2004, 2005 to 2022 in the Study region

LULC	2004 Area in km ²	2004 % of Area	2005 Area in km ²	2005 % of Area	2022 Area in km ²	2022 % of area
Built-Up	19.92	3.84	17.66	3.41	45.07	8.68
Forest	432.85	83.43	420.79	81.27	408.66	78.78
Inundation Area	3.40	0.65	28.41	5.48	13.89	2.66
Cropland	61.77	11.90	49.34	9.53	48.65	9.37
Water Bodies	0.83	0.16	1.54	0.29	2.45	0.47

Total Area (Sq. Km)	518	100	518	100	518	100
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440

441 **5. Discussion**

442 The complex interaction between geomorphology, shoreline change, LULC changes, and
 443 economic factors in tsunami vulnerability and impact assessment in South Andaman is
 444 discussed below;

445 **5.1 Shoreline changes VS LULC**

446 The impact of tsunamis varies due to differences in landforms, relief, slope, elevation, and
 447 the presence (or absence) of natural barriers such as coral reefs and mangroves. It has been
 448 observed that for a given water depth on the shelf, if the continental slope is steeper, greater
 449 mangrove cover, greater relief, and higher elevation can result in a greater amount of energy
 450 being reflected, leading to a smaller tsunami wave height on the shelf. On the other hand, with
 451 a flatter slope, low relief, and less vegetation cover area on the coastal side, the reduced
 452 reflection and effect of shoaling can increase tsunami wave height (Siva et al., 2016). Coastal
 453 erosion is a natural process in south Andaman that occurs when waves, currents, tsunamis, and
 454 tides erode the shoreline, removing sediment and land over time. Factors such as sea-level rise,
 455 wave energy, storm events, and human activities can contribute to increased rates of erosion.

456 Over time, the geomorphological landforms continue to shape and modify the landscape.
 457 However, human activities and developmental pressures are significant drivers of LULC
 458 change in South Andaman (Fig. 10 a, b, c). Common LULC changes observed in the area
 459 include deforestation for urban expansion, conversion of land for agriculture, infrastructure
 460 development, and alterations to the coastal zone (Yuvaraj et al., 2014; Thakur et al., 2017;
 461 Jaman et al., 2022). The interaction between geomorphology and LULC change is particularly
 462 evident in the coastal regions of South Andaman, where coastal erosion and accretion processes
 463 influence both LULC patterns and development decisions. The erosion occurring near the

464 shoreline leads to the loss of valuable land, affecting agricultural areas and forest regions (Fig.
465 7,8,9). Conversely, accretion processes can contribute to the growth of coastal areas by building
466 new landforms and influencing land use decisions in those locations (Nagabhatla et al., 2006;
467 Ali and Narayana, 2015; Mageswaran et al., 2021).

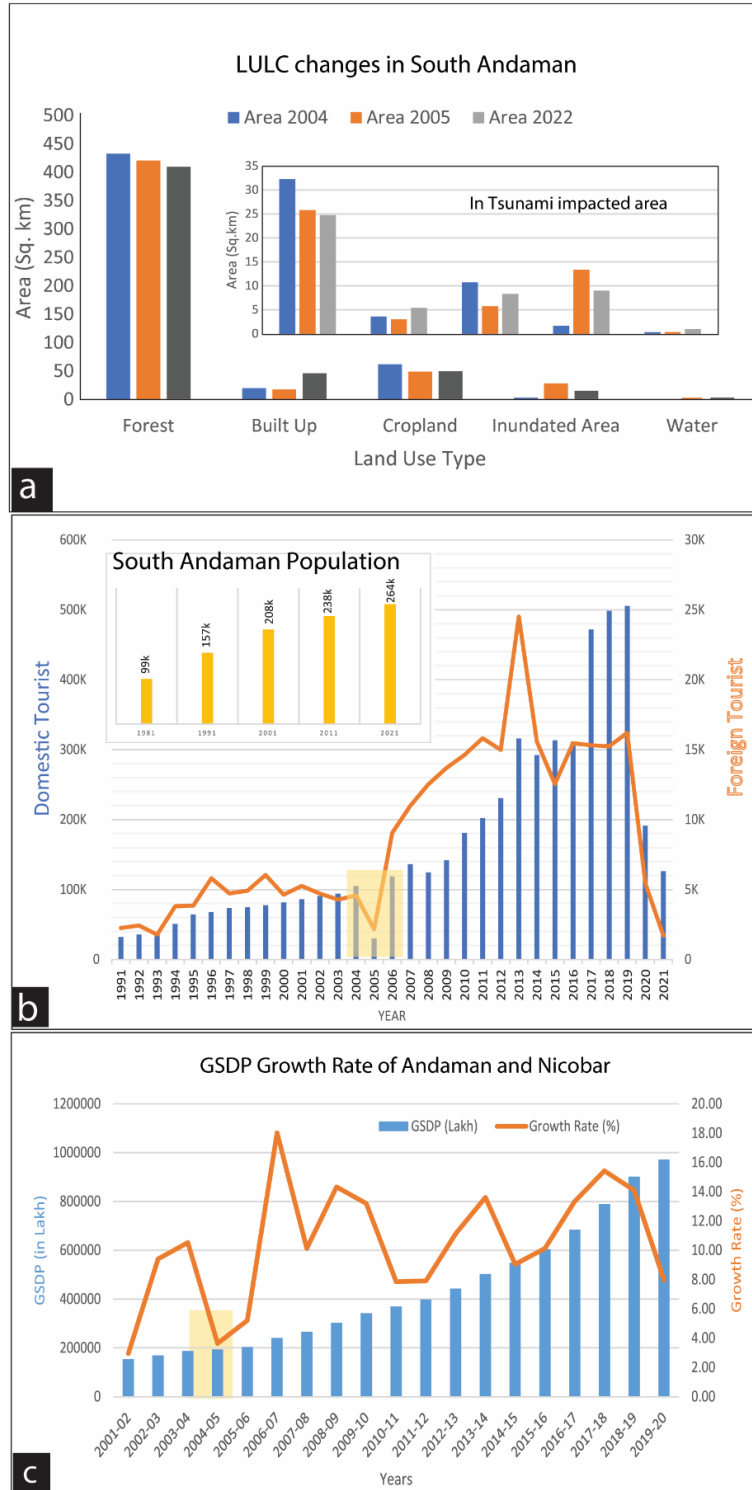
468 **5.2 Inundation and run observation**

469 Our computations have shown that the tsunami wave heights for around 5.5 m inundation 90
470 m are observed in Bombooflat (Fig.4b). Similarly, the harbor area of Port Blair has seen
471 structural failures in some building's foundations, and our computations show wave heights of
472 3.6m in that area. Chidiya Tapu, which is 25 km from Port Blair, the estimated run-up is 3.9
473 m, and the inundation is 585 m, which shows a gradual slope in the region (Fig. 2). Coming to
474 the Southpoint Magar area (Port Blair), a high run-up of 8.5 m is computed, and the inundation
475 level is 550 m. Houses located near the open sea were completely washed away. At Wandoor
476 Jetty in Port Blair, the calculated run-up is 3.46, the inundation is 450m, and the saltwater
477 intrusion was observed due to the tsunami.

478 **5.3 LULC vs economic change:**

479 The presence of people, infrastructure, or assets in a hazard-prone location is referred to as
480 exposure, and vulnerability is the degree to which a person, community, or system is
481 susceptible to the impacts of a hazard. Vulnerability is determined by physical, social,
482 economic, and environmental factors. (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction).
483 Several factors can contribute to changes in exposure, such as population growth, Industrial
484 development, and LULC change. It is anticipated that the population of the Andaman and
485 Nicobar Islands will double by 2050 (Nanda and Haub, 2007), and the islands are experiencing
486 an increasing influx of tourists. The increased population density in these regions intensifies
487 the strain on already vulnerable lands. As a result, when a disaster, such as a natural calamity,

488 occurs in these areas, it affects the tourists and has severe repercussions for the large local
489 population heavily dependent on tourism-related activities (Annan et al., 2005; Wood et al.,
490 2019; Sathiparan et al., 2020, Hamuna et al., 2019). The increases in population from 1971 to
491 2020, as well as built-up areas, are shown before and after the 2004 tsunami, and GSDP from
492 2001 to 2020 in tsunami-prone areas of South Andaman are observed in Fig. 11.



493

494 Figure 11 (a) LULC change in south Andaman and also in tsunami-affected areas of 2004. The LULC classification
 495 reveals that there has been a significant increase in built-up areas, inundated areas, and water bodies, while the
 496 agricultural land and vegetation have decreased. The increasing trends of tourists and local population in south
 497 Andaman can be seen in Fig. (b). The GSDP growth rate shows the macroeconomic impact on GSDP in 2005 due
 498 to the tsunami impact (c).

499 The increase in built-up areas could also positively impact the GSDP by boosting the
500 construction and real estate sectors and providing more job opportunities in the tourism and
501 hospitality industries (Fig. 11a). The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami significantly impacted the
502 GSDP of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, particularly in the tourism and fisheries industries
503 (Fig 11c). According to a report by the National Institute of Disaster Management, the
504 Andaman and Nicobar Islands suffered losses amounting to INR 7.5 billion due to the 2004
505 tsunami, with damages to the tourism industry being the most significant. It is important to
506 carefully manage this growth and ensure sustainable development practices protecting both the
507 natural environment and the local population's well-being. This includes implementing
508 effective disaster preparedness measures, promoting sustainable tourism practices, and
509 balancing economic development with environmental conservation in the region.

510 **5.4 Implication for changing scenario of vulnerability**

511 India Inc. estimates that the total losses surpassed Rs 3,000 crore. Specifically, the losses in
512 Andaman & and Nicobar Islands exceeded Rs 1,000 crore as per industry estimates
513 (Economicstimes.com). If a tsunami of similar magnitude were to occur again, the economic
514 loss would be five times as high as those experienced in 2004. After the 2004 tsunami, the
515 coastal area experienced significant development, with built-up areas expanding in already
516 affected areas from ~7.38 % in 2004 to ~11.11 % in 2022. This increase in urbanization and
517 infrastructure means that more properties, businesses, and critical facilities are now located in
518 the coastal zone. The affected region's local population grew from 208k in 2001 to 264k in
519 2021 (Figure 11b). With more people living in the coastal area, there is a higher risk of
520 casualties and a greater demand for resources and aid during and after a tsunami. The number
521 of tourists visiting the coastal area has increased significantly, from 98,000 tourists in 2001 to
522 500,000 by 2019 (Figure 11b). Tourists are generally less familiar with local hazards and
523 evacuation routes, making them more vulnerable during a tsunami. The presence of a large

524 number of tourists can add complexity to evacuation and relief efforts, potentially leading to
525 higher economic losses. The region has experienced a sharp decline in forest and cropland
526 areas. Forests act as natural buffers, helping to reduce the impact of a tsunami by absorbing
527 some of the wave energy. Additionally, the loss of cropland can disrupt the supply chain during
528 and after a disaster, affecting food availability and leading to economic losses beyond property
529 damage.

530 **6. Conclusions**

531 The South Andaman region is vulnerable to tsunamis due to its location in the seismically
532 active zone. In such an environment, tsunami preparedness and resilience are crucial. This
533 includes implementing effective early warning systems, raising public awareness, and
534 strengthening infrastructure resilience. Incorporating ecosystem-based approaches, such as
535 preserving and restoring natural coastal land, can also contribute to reducing tsunami
536 vulnerability. The South Andaman region is prone to shoreline changes due to natural processes
537 and human activities. Regular monitoring and assessing these changes is crucial to
538 understanding their impacts on coastal ecosystems and communities. Implementing
539 appropriate coastal management strategies, such as beach nourishment, dune restoration, and
540 erosion control measures, can help mitigate the negative effects of shoreline changes. It is
541 important to adopt sustainable land use practices that balance economic development with
542 resource conservation and responsible use. This involves promoting eco-friendly tourism,
543 protecting sensitive ecosystems like mangroves and coral reefs, and implementing land use
544 planning that considers the carrying capacity and vulnerability of the region. Tsunami modeling
545 along the coastal locations shall help decision-makers how to construct structures along the
546 coast. Decision makers will also be able to quantify the tsunami impact on sloping beaches,
547 Flat beaches, and areas having boulders/mangroves. Engaging local communities,
548 stakeholders, and indigenous knowledge holders in decision-making processes and promoting

549 capacity-building initiatives are critical for ensuring the sustainable development of the
550 Andaman region.

551 **Code availability**

552 No

553 **Data availability**

554 All data included in this study are available upon request by contacting the corresponding
555 author.

556 **Authors' contributions**

557 Vikas Ghadamode: Computations, Fieldwork, and Manuscript Writing.

558 K. Kumari Aruna: TUNAMI-N2 Computation and Fieldwork, Manuscript Writing

559 Anand Kumar Pandey: Manuscript Editing and Contribute Ideas and Suggestions

560 Kirti Srivastava: Paper Writing and TUNAMI-N2 Computations

561 **Competing interests / Conflicts of interest/**

562 The authors declare that they have no known conflicts of interest.

563 **Declarations**

564 The authors declare that they have no known conflicts of interest.

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571

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