GEOGRAPHY 30 July 2026

Great Nicobar Mega-Project: Key Details and Strategic Significance

Ground construction activities for the ₹72,000-crore Great Nicobar Island mega-development project are set to commence.

A holistic infrastructure initiative comprising an International Container Transshipment Terminal, greenfield airport, power plant, and township on Great Nicobar Island.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The development plan encompasses a total area of **16,610 hectares** phased through the target year **2047**.
- **Great Nicobar Island** is situated within **Seismic Zone V**, representing India's highest seismic risk classification.
- The project's flagship component is an International Container Transshipment Terminal (**ICTT**) located at **Galathea Bay**.
- The transshipment port is planned to handle a capacity of **14.2 million TEUs** upon full development.
- Galathea Bay lies just **40 nautical miles** away from the **Strait of Malacca**, one of the world's busiest maritime trade corridors.
- The project includes a greenfield international airport designed to accommodate up to **10 million annual passengers**.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

Ten Degree Channel separates the Andaman Group of Islands from the Nicobar Group of Islands in the Bay of Bengal.

Indira Point, located on the southern tip of **Great Nicobar Island**, is the southernmost point of Indian Territory.

Galathea National Park and **Campbell Bay National Park** are the two prominent national parks located on Great Nicobar Island.

Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve was added to **UNESCO**'s World Network of Biosphere Reserves in the year **2013**.

Six Degree Channel (Great Channel) separates Great Nicobar Island from the **Sumatra Island** of Indonesia.

The **Shompen** and Nicobarese tribes are the indigenous Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (**PVTGs**) inhabiting Great Nicobar.

Barren Island, situated in the Andaman Sea, holds South Asia's and India's only **active volcano**.

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Galathea Bay ICTT lies 40 nautical miles from Malacca Strait in Seismic Zone V with 14.2M TEU planned capacity.

Syllabus Relevance: Highly critical for Unit 3 Geography questions concerning Andaman & Nicobar geography, channels, and port infrastructure.

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