



# International Container Transshipment Port in Great Nicobar Island

[Source: PIB](#)

## Why in News?

Recently, the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) visited the site of the proposed [International Container Transshipment Port \(ICTP\) at Galathea Bay in Great Nicobar Island](#).

- ICTP is envisioned to be a transformative initiative aligning with the [Maritime India vision 2030](#) as well as one of the key projects in the [Amrit kaal Vision 2047](#).

## What are the Key Facts About the ICTP Project?

### ▪ About:

- The ICTP is a major infrastructure project that aims to facilitate the [transshipment of containers between different ports](#).
  - A transshipment deepwater seaport facilitates the **handling of large cargo vessels**, featuring a **deep water channel** and expansive **berth** areas for efficient loading, unloading, and the seamless transfer of goods between ships at the port.
- The proposed ICTP at Galathea Bay, Great Nicobar Island, is strategically positioned just **40 nautical miles** from the [International shipping trade route](#).
- The ICTP aims to become a **leading container transshipment** port by leveraging its strategic location, natural water depth, and capacity for the transshipment of cargo from nearby ports.

### ▪ Significance:

- In India, nearly **75% of transshipped cargo** is handled at ports outside the country.
  - **Colombo, Singapore and Klang handle more than 85%** of this cargo with 45% of it handled at Colombo Port alone.
- India is banking on the strategic location of Galathea Bay for export-import trade as it lies on international shipping routes.

### ▪ Benefits:

- The project is expected to generate [forex savings](#), attract [foreign direct investment](#), and boost economic activity at other Indian ports.
- It will **also** contribute to enhanced logistics infrastructure, employment generation, and increased revenue share.
- The development of this Mega Container Terminal is a **part of the holistic development of Great Nicobar Island**.

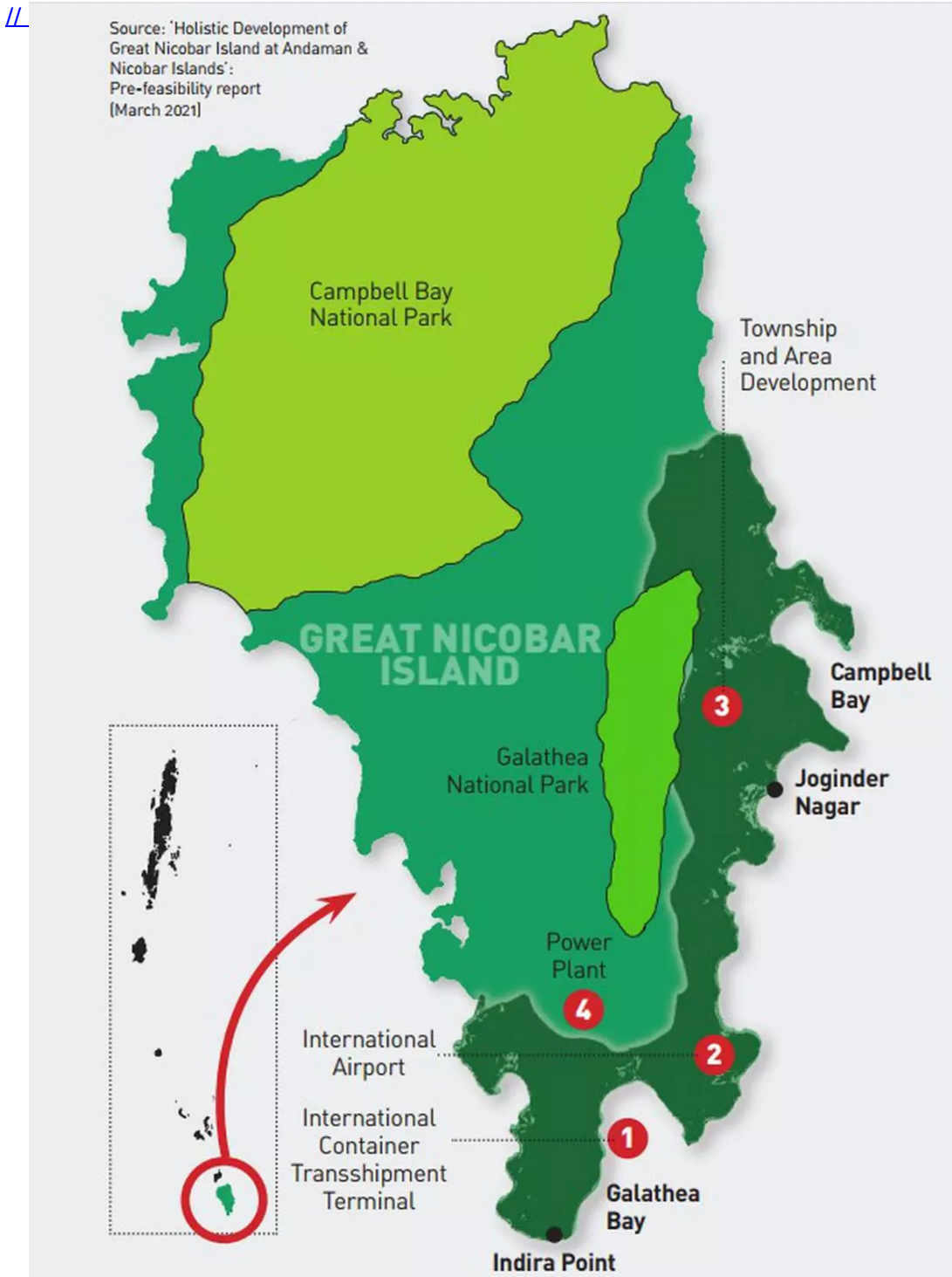
### ▪ Status of the Project:

- The project has received **environmental clearance** from the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
  - Stage 1 forest clearance has also been obtained for the project.
- The project is planned to be developed in four phases, with Phase 1 proposed to be commissioned in the year 2028 with a handling capacity of approximately **4 Million (twenty-foot equivalent units)TEUs**.
  - The handling capacity is expected to increase to **16 Million TEUs in the ultimate**

stage of development by 2058.

## Key Facts About Great Nicobar

- **It is the southernmost island of the Nicobar Islands Archipelago.**
  - The Indira Point is the southernmost point of India's territory at the Great Nicobar Island of [Andaman and Nicobar Islands](#).
- It has tropical evergreen forest ecosystems. It is home to very rich ecosystems.
- The **Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve** harbours a wide spectrum of ecosystems comprising tropical wet evergreen forests, **mountain ranges reaching a height of 642 m (Mt. Thullier)** above sea level, and coastal plains.
- The Nicobar Islands are home to two 'Mongoloid' tribes they are the **Shompen and Nicobarese**.



## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims

**Q1. Which of the following have coral reefs? (2014)**

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2. Gulf of Kachchh
3. Gulf of Mannar
4. Sunderbans

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only  
(b) 2 and 4 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Ans: (a)**

**Q2. Which one of the following pairs of islands is separated from each other by the 'Ten Degree Channel'? (2014)**

- (a) Andaman and Nicobar  
(b) Nicobar and Sumatra  
(c) Maldives and Lakshadweep  
(d) Sumatra and Java

**Ans: (a)**