

# **The Great Nicobar Mega Project Fiasco (in a nut-shell)**



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# What is this Project?

The mega infrastructure includes the construction of :-

1. **Shipment hub** (the International Container Transshipment Terminal or ICTT)
2. A greenfield **international airport**
3. Township and it's associate Infrastructre
4. **Gas-Diesel-Solar Power plant**

(These will come up on the eastern side of the Great Nicobar Island, including Galathea Bay)

Utter B.S. if u ask me!



**Dugong**

(endangered aquatic mammal)

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# **Conflicts**

**(What problems have arisen?)**

**The project will become the cause of major ecological and social problems, which can be broadly explained under the following headings:-**

- 1. Effects on the Flora and Fauna**
- 2. Effect of the Indigenous people**
- 3. Chances of natural disaster**

**This project is so problematic that the problems it may cause outnumber the no. of my kind in the wild.**

**Nicobar Megapode**

**(Only 400 breeding pairs left in Great Nicobar)**

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# 1. Effect on the Flora and Fauna

- Forest land amounting to 130sq.kms will need to be diverted from pristine rainforest, leading to the felling of 8,52,245 trees
- The proposed site of Galathea Bay is the nesting site of the Giant leatherback turtle. It is also the habitat for Dugong, Nicobar Megapode, Nicobar Shrew and other species which are critically endangered or endemic
- 11.2sq kms. of land from the Galathea Bay Wildlife Sanctuary were given over for the project which will lead to further loss of biodiversity



Hey (with the intention of saving  
8.5 lakh trees)



## **2. Effect on the Indigenous People**

- **The Shompen and the Nicobarese are the indigenous people, and their village Chingenh lies directly within the area of influence.**
- **After the tsunami of 2004, the villagers were moved to Campbell bay around 43 kms away from here and have always wanted to return and have asked permission for the same numerous times.**
- **The locals have pleaded to the NITI Ayog as well as the Government to cancel this project as initiation of the project would mean the elimination of any chance to return to their village.**



### **3. Chances of a Natural Disaster**

- **The Nicobar Coast is not only seismically active (prone to earthquakes) but also experiences Tsunamis (the tsunami of 2004) and very high waves.**
- **Just a week ago, Andaman and Nicobar Islands were hit with an earthquake of 4.8 Richter, with Campbell area being affected too.**
- **Chemical spill and other industrial or construction effluents/pollutants from the project can also lead to drastic loss of biodiversity and major ecological disasters**



# Resolutions

**So, what's the way forward?**

- **The tribal are the original owners of the land, thus their views should be given priority especially when planning such projects. (Shompen Policy of 2015)**
- **Proper environment impact assesment should be followed with experts from their respective fields.**
- **NITI Aayog and the agencies participating in planning should maintain transparency in data. The government should release the data on the rationale, the process of creation, consulted groups etc. in public domain.**



# Ways to Amplify

- Head over to [bit.ly/SaveNicobar](https://bit.ly/SaveNicobar) and send the email to the Minister of Environment
- Tweet @moefcc ask for scrapping of the proposed project
- Tag three friends and ask them to do the same

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