

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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Table of Content

FCRA: Expanding State Control Over Civil Society

Draft Telecommunications (Television, Radio and Associated Services) Rules, 2026

PM Modi to Participate in 52nd G7 Summit in France

A New Phase in India-Nepal Relations

Mapping India's Employment Landscape

News In Short

El Niño

Estonia

Project Kusha

Four Sites on Nicobar West Coast Identified for Coral Translocation

FCRA: EXPANDING STATE CONTROL OVER CIVIL SOCIETY

Context

- The introduction of the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment (FCRA) Bill, 2026**, in the Lok Sabha has posed significant disruption risks to civil society.
 - ♦ By granting a designated authority sweeping powers to seize properties, the bill threatens to paralyze the working of the social sector.

Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010

- FCRA aims to **regulate the acceptance and utilization of foreign contributions** to prohibit activities detrimental to the national interest.
- It was **first enacted in 1976**, replaced in 2010, and further amended in 2016, 2018, and 2020.
- It is **administered by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- FCRA registration is **valid for 5 years** and **must be renewed before expiry**.
- Around **16,000 NGOs** are registered under **FCRA**, receiving nearly ₹22,000 crore annually.

Key Provisions of the 2026 Amendment Bill

- **Designated Authority for Asset Management:** The Bill proposes the creation of a Designated Authority as the core institutional mechanism for managing foreign-funded assets.
 - ♦ The authority will **take control of foreign contributions and assets** when an organisation's registration is cancelled, surrendered, expired, or not renewed.
- **Government Power Over Assets:** If registration is not restored, the government can transfer assets to a government department.
 - ♦ It can also sell those assets, with proceeds **going to the Consolidated Fund of India**.
- **Automatic Cessation of Registration:** A **new Section 14B** is introduced, providing for **"deemed cessation"** of FCRA registration upon expiry or refusal of renewal.
- Registration automatically stops in three situations:
 - ♦ Organisation fails to apply for renewal.
 - ♦ Renewal application is rejected.
 - ♦ Validity period expires without renewal.

- **Time-Bound Utilisation of Funds:** The amendment introduces mandatory timelines for the receipt and utilisation of foreign funds to improve financial discipline and transparency.
- **Restrictions During Suspension:** A suspended organisation cannot sell, transfer, or mortgage its foreign-funded assets. Prior government approval is mandatory for any such action.
- **Centralised Investigation Control:** Section 43 of the parent Act is amended, requiring any law enforcement agency or state government to obtain prior clearance from the Centre before beginning an inquiry into FCRA allegations.
- **Rationalisation of Penalties:** The amendment reduces the severity of penalties for violations under the Act. The maximum punishment is reduced from five years of imprisonment to one year, or fine, or both.
- **Individual Accountability:** The definition of "Key Functionary" now includes directors, partners, trustees, karta of Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), office-bearers of societies/trusts/trade unions, and any person with control over management.
 - ♦ They are personally liable unless they prove lack of knowledge or due diligence.
- **Permanent Vesting of Assets:** If an organisation shuts down, becomes inactive, or ceases to exist, its foreign-funded assets will permanently vest with the government through the Designated Authority.

Why is Regulating Foreign Contributions Necessary?

- **Protects national security** and sovereignty from foreign interference.
- **Prevents money laundering** and diversion of funds to illegal activities.
- Ensures funds are used **only for developmental and charitable purposes**.
- **Brings transparency and accountability** to NGO functioning.
- Prevents foreign funding of electoral candidates, journalists, judges, government servants, and political organisations — all of which are prohibited under FCRA.

Concerns over regulating foreign contributions

- **Administrative Delays:** The registration and renewal process is often time-consuming, affecting NGOs' ability to access funds and carry out activities.

- **Political Interference:** The government's discretionary powers to cancel registrations or freeze accounts of NGOs is seen as a form of political interference.
- **Lack of Transparency:** Some NGOs have been criticized for lacking transparency in their utilization of foreign funds received under the FCRA.
 - ♦ Concerns often arise when the specific purposes and beneficiaries of these funds are not clearly disclosed.

Way Ahead

- The government should ensure **transparent and time-bound approval** processes under FCRA.
- There is a **need to balance regulatory oversight with autonomy** of civil society organisations.
- **Judicial and institutional safeguards** should be ensured to prevent arbitrary use of powers.

Source: TH

DRAFT TELECOMMUNICATIONS (TELEVISION, RADIO AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES) RULES, 2026

Context

- The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has released the draft Telecommunication Rules, 2026, pertaining to television, radio, and related services, for public consultation.

Background

- **The Telecommunications Act, 2023** replaced the colonial-era **Indian Telegraph Act, 1885**.
- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)** administers provisions relating to television, radio, and associated broadcasting services under the Act.
- At present, different broadcasting services such as **DTH, FM Radio, Community Radio, IPTV, HITS, and satellite television** channels are governed by separate policy guidelines issued at different times.
- The draft rules **consolidate various policy guidelines** that currently govern different broadcasting platforms.

Key Features of the Draft Rules

- **Unified Regulatory Framework:** The draft rules propose a single regulatory framework in place of multiple existing guidelines governing broadcasting services.

- **Removal of Grant of Permission Agreement (GOPA):** The requirement for signing a Grant of Permission Agreement has been removed.
 - ♦ This reform is intended to reduce administrative burdens and streamline approvals.
- **Public Interest Obligations:** TV channels are required to broadcast **30 minutes** of content daily on themes of national importance and social relevance, while private radio stations must dedicate one hour daily.
 - ♦ **Radio stations** will also be required to ensure at least **20%** of their daily programming comprises local content.
- **Digital Implementation:** The authorisation process will be implemented through digital platforms.

Guidelines Integrated Under the Draft Rules

- The Guidelines for Uplinking and Downlinking of Satellite Television Channels in India, 2022.
- The Guidelines for Direct-to-Home (DTH) Broadcasting Services, 2001.
- The Guidelines for Headend-in-the-Sky (HITS) Broadcasting Services, 2009.
- The Policy Guidelines on Expansion of FM Radio Services through Private Agencies (Phase III), 2011.
- The Revised Policy Guidelines for Community Radio Stations, 2024.
- The Guidelines for Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) Services, 2008.

Significance of the Draft Rules

- **Ease of Doing Business:** The rules simplify regulatory procedures and reduce compliance burdens for broadcasters.
- **Digital Governance:** Digital authorisation processes align with the government's broader objective of improving digital governance.
- **Broadcasting Sector Growth:** A simplified and modern regulatory ecosystem can encourage investment and innovation.

Source: AIR

PM MODI TO PARTICIPATE IN 52ND G7 SUMMIT IN FRANCE

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to participate in the **52nd G7 Summit in France**.

About

- This will be PM's seventh consecutive participation and **14th for India reflecting its growing importance in global affairs.**
- India's association with the **G-7 began in 2003.**
- India is the **only country to have the record of being invited 15 times** to this group of world's most industrialised nations.

What is G-7?

- **The G7 (Group of Seven)** is an **informal organization of seven** of the world's largest advanced economies.
 - ♦ These countries represent about **10% of the world's population** and nearly **30% of the global economy by GDP.**
- **Members:** Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and United States.
 - ♦ The European Union also participates in G7 meetings but is not counted as one of the seven members.
- **Background:** The group began in 1975 as the G6 (France, West Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US) in response to the oil crisis.
 - ♦ Canada joined in 1976, creating the G7. Russia joined in 1998, forming the G8, but its membership was suspended in 2014 following the annexation of Crimea, returning the group to the G7.
- **Although the G7 has no formal legislative power,** its members represent a significant share of global economic output and often coordinate policies that influence international affairs and the world economy.
- **Presidency:** It is held each year by one of the seven States as a rotating presidency.

Why is the G7 Summit Important?

- **Economic Influence:** The G7 comprises some of the world's largest and most advanced economies.
 - ♦ Its members collectively represent a significant share of global GDP and trade, giving the group substantial influence over international markets and economic policymaking.
- **Global Impact of Decisions:** Decisions and commitments made at G7 summits can have far-reaching effects on global trade, financial stability, climate policy, and humanitarian efforts.

- **Crisis Coordination Platform:** The G7 serves as a critical forum for coordinating international responses to global challenges, such as economic downturns, pandemics, wars, and geopolitical tensions.
- **Symbol of Multilateralism:** The G7 exemplifies the principles of multilateral cooperation and consensus-building among major powers, reinforcing a rules-based international order.

Significance of India in G-7

- **Economic Significance:** India is among the world's fastest-growing major economies. It is expected to remain a key engine of global growth amid economic stagnation in many developed countries.
 - ♦ India's large market and demographic dividend make it indispensable for global supply chains.
- **Voice of the Global South:** India has emerged as a leading voice of developing countries. Through platforms such as BRICS and G20, India articulates concerns on development, climate finance, food security and debt sustainability.
 - ♦ G7 countries increasingly seek India's support to bridge the North-South divide.
- **Indo-Pacific and Strategic Stability:** India's location and capabilities make it central to maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. India is an important partner in balancing China's growing influence.
 - ♦ Cooperation in maritime security, technology and resilient supply chains has become a major focus.
- **Trusted Democratic Partner:** India is the world's largest democracy. It offers a stable political system, growing technological capabilities and a rules-based approach to international relations. G7 nations view India as a reliable long-term strategic partner.

India's Gains from G7 Engagement

- Access to advanced technologies and investments.
- Cooperation in critical minerals, AI, semiconductors and clean energy.
- Greater support for reforms of global governance institutions.
- Enhanced strategic partnerships with major powers while retaining strategic autonomy.

Concerns

- India remains outside the formal decision-making structure of the G7.
- Divergences persist on issues such as sanctions, Russia-Ukraine conflict and climate commitments.
- Balancing engagement with G7 while maintaining ties with BRICS, Russia and the Global South requires diplomatic agility.

Conclusion

- India's evolution from a periodic guest to a consecutive attendee of the G7 reflects its rising economic weight, geopolitical importance and leadership of the Global South.
- While formal membership is not currently on the agenda, India's growing engagement demonstrates its increasing role in shaping the emerging multipolar world order.

Source: IE

A NEW PHASE IN INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONS

Context

- Recent high-level exchanges between India and Nepal signal efforts by both sides to strengthen bilateral ties despite differences over boundary issues.

India- Nepal Border Disputes

- India and Nepal share a border of about 1,751 km, but disputes persist in certain sectors.
- **Kalapani–Lipulekh–Limpiyadhura Dispute:** Nepal has asserted its claim based on the **Sugauli Treaty of 1816**, signed between the **East India Company and Guru Gajraj Mishra**.
 - ♦ Under the Treaty, the **Kali River was marked as Nepal's western boundary** with India.
 - ♦ Nepal claims the river originates at **Limpiyadhura, which would place the Lipulekh and Kalapani regions within its territory**. Conversely, India maintains that the river begins at a lower point near Kalapani, keeping the **Lipulekh Pass**, a strategic tri-junction between India, Nepal, and China, within its state of Uttarakhand.
 - ♦ The **Kali River has changed direction over the years**, causing confusion in defining the border.



- **Susta Border dispute:** Susta is a disputed territory between Nepal and India. It is administered by India as part of West Champaran district of Bihar.
 - ♦ Nepal claims the area a part of West Nawalparasi District under Susta rural municipality, alleging that over 14,860 hectares of Nepali land in Susta has been encroached upon by India.

Overview of India - Nepal Relations

- **Shared Border:** The country shares a border with **five Indian states - Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand**.
 - ♦ Land-locked Nepal relies heavily on India for the transportation of goods and services and access to the sea is through India.
- **The India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship:** Signed in **1950**, it forms the **bedrock of the special relations that exist between India and Nepal**.
 - ♦ Nepalese citizens **avail facilities and opportunities on par with Indian citizens** in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty.
- **Defence Cooperation:** India has been assisting the Nepal Army (NA) in its **modernisation by supplying equipment and providing training**.
 - ♦ Both countries conduct **Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN** alternately in India and in Nepal.
 - ♦ Since 1950, India and Nepal have been awarding each other's Army Chief with the **honorary rank of General**.
 - ♦ **The Gorkha regiments** of the Indian Army are raised partly by recruitment from **hill districts of Nepal**.
- **Trade and Economic:** India remains **Nepal's largest trade partner and Investment** where Indian firms account for **33.5 % of total FDI stock in Nepal**.

- ◆ Nepal is India's 17th largest export destination, up from 28th position in 2014.
- ◆ Main exports from India to Nepal are petroleum, iron & steel, automobiles, machinery, cereals, etc.
- **Connectivity and Development Partnership:** India is the largest developmental donor of Nepal in the field of priority sectors such as health, education and connectivity.
 - ◆ Some of the major projects include **Gauchar Airport** (presently Tribhuvan Airport), East West Highway, development of cross-border rail links and establishment of **Integrated Check Posts**.
- **Operation Maitri & post-earthquake reconstruction assistance:** In the wake of the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, GoI was the first responder and carried out its **largest disaster relief operation abroad (Operation Maitri)**.
- **Cultural Ties:** The leaders of the two countries have often noted the **age-old 'roti beti' relationship**, which refers to **cross-border marriages** between people of the two countries.

Other Areas of Concern

- **Implementation Delays:** Slow progress in certain connectivity and infrastructure projects has occasionally generated concerns in Nepal.
- **Geopolitical Competition:** China's growing economic and strategic presence in Nepal has added a new dimension to regional geopolitics and India's neighbourhood diplomacy.
- **Perception of Asymmetry:** Sections of Nepal's political establishment and public discourse have at times expressed concerns over India's dominant role in the bilateral relationship, often referred to as the "Big Brother" perception.
- **Political Sensitivities:** Domestic political developments and nationalist rhetoric in both countries can periodically create mistrust and strain bilateral ties.
- **Water Resource Management:** Differences over the management of shared rivers, hydropower cooperation, and flood-control projects continue to require close coordination and dialogue.

Way Forward

- **Strengthen Diplomatic Dialogue:** Resolve outstanding issues, including boundary disputes, through existing bilateral mechanisms and sustained diplomatic engagement.
- **Enhance Connectivity and Trade:** Accelerate the implementation of cross-border infrastructure, railway, road, and energy connectivity projects.
- **Deepen Energy Cooperation:** Expand collaboration in hydropower development, cross-border electricity trade, and transmission infrastructure.
- **Promote Mutual Trust:** Address concerns through regular high-level exchanges and respect for each other's sovereignty and sensitivities.
- **Expand People-to-People Ties:** Strengthen educational, cultural, tourism, and youth exchanges to reinforce the age-old "Roti-Beti" relationship.

Source: TH

MAPPING INDIA'S EMPLOYMENT LANDSCAPE

Context

- Recent public debates and youth-led protests have renewed attention on the issue of employment in India.

Employment Indicators

- **Unemployment Rate (UER):** Unemployment Rate measures the percentage of unemployed persons within the labour force.
 - ◆ It is calculated as the number of unemployed persons actively seeking work divided by the total labour force.
- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** LFPR refers to the proportion of the working-age population that is either employed or actively seeking employment.
- **Employment Rate (ER):** Employment Rate measures the proportion of the working-age population that is employed.

Key Employment Trends in India (2016-17 to 2025-26)

- **Decline in Overall Employment Rate:** India's Employment Rate declined from about 42.7% in 2016-17 to **38.7% in 2025-26**.
 - ◆ Although the number of employed persons increased from around 406 million to **438 million**, employment growth failed to keep pace with the expansion of the working-age population.
- **Gender-wise Trends:** Male Employment Rate declined from approximately 70.5% to **64.8%**.
 - ◆ **Female Employment Rate** fell from around 11.8% to **9.4%**.

- **Age-wise Trends:** Employment Rates declined across most age groups, with only the 25–29 years and 55–59 years categories recording marginal improvements.
- **Educational Groups Affected:** Employment Rates fell across all education levels, though the decline was sharper among those with lower educational attainment and relatively lower among graduates.

Major Reasons Behind Employment Challenges

- **Jobless Growth:** Economic growth has been concentrated in capital-intensive sectors that generate limited employment opportunities. Labour-intensive manufacturing has not expanded sufficiently to absorb the growing workforce.
- **Structural Transformation Challenges:** A large proportion of workers remain dependent on low-productivity agriculture and the **transition from agriculture to manufacturing and modern services** has been slower than expected.
- **Skill Mismatch:** Educational outcomes often do not align with industry requirements.
 - ♦ Many graduates face difficulties securing suitable employment despite possessing formal qualifications.
- **Slow Globalisation:** Rising protectionism, trade restrictions, and global economic uncertainties have reduced export-led employment opportunities.
 - ♦ India's withdrawal from the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership** limited access to some regional value chains.
- **Technological Disruptions:** Automation and Artificial Intelligence are transforming labour markets. Routine and repetitive jobs are increasingly vulnerable to technological substitution.
- **Low Female Workforce Participation:** Social norms, safety concerns, inadequate childcare facilities, and wage disparities continue to constrain women's participation in the workforce.

Why Employment Matters More Than GDP Growth Alone?

- **GDP growth** reflects the **expansion of economic output** but does not automatically translate into employment generation.
- **Sustained employment creation** improves incomes, reduces poverty, enhances social mobility, and strengthens domestic demand.

- **Employment-intensive growth** is essential for realizing India's demographic dividend.

Government Initiatives for Employment Generation

- **National Career Service (NCS) Project:** A digital platform functioning as a one-stop shop for job seekers to access career counseling, vocational guidance, and information on both government and private vacancies.
- **Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs):** Provide entrepreneurship and vocational training for self-employment.
- **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM):** Enhances livelihood opportunities for the urban poor through skill development and self-employment support.
- **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi):** Provides collateral-free working capital loans to street vendors to support livelihoods and promote self-employment.
- **PM Vishwakarma Scheme:** Offers skill development, credit support, and market linkages to traditional artisans and craftspeople to enhance their income and employment opportunities.
- **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY):** Provides collateral-free loans to micro and small enterprises to promote entrepreneurship and job creation.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):** Imparts industry-relevant skill training to youth to improve employability and workforce participation.

Way Ahead

- **Boost Manufacturing Competitiveness:** Strengthen initiatives like Make in India and PLI schemes to expand labour-intensive manufacturing and exports.
- **Enhance Skill Development:** Align education and vocational training with industry needs, emerging technologies, and future job markets.
- **Leverage Global Value Chains:** Integrate Indian industries more deeply into global supply chains to generate large-scale employment.
- **Promote Formalization of Jobs:** Expand social security coverage, labour protections, and incentives for formal employment.
- **AI and Automation:** Managing job displacement while facilitating workforce transition to new opportunities.

Source: IE

NEWS IN SHORT

EL NIÑO

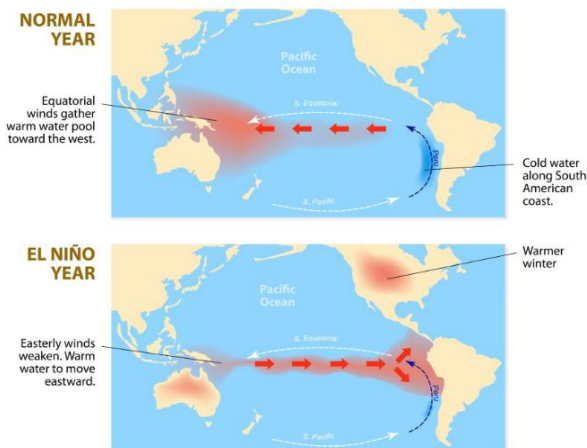
Context

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has officially confirmed the onset of El Niño conditions over the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

What is El Niño?

- El Niño is the **warming of seawater** in the central-east Equatorial Pacific that occurs every few years.
- During El Niño, surface temperatures in the **equatorial Pacific rise**, and trade winds, east-west winds that blow near the Equator, weaken.
- Impact:** El Niño causes dry, **warm winters in the Northern U.S. and Canada** and increases the risk of flooding in the U.S. gulf coast and southeastern U.S. It also brings drought to Indonesia and Australia.
 - In **El Niño years**, India faces **warmer temperatures and less rainfall**, causing droughts in some regions. This affects agriculture, water resources, and ecosystems.

THE EL NIÑO PHENOMENON



Source: HT

ESTONIA

Context

- Estonian government and business executives are expressing greater interest in cooperation with India in defence and trade.

About

- Estonia** is a country in **northeastern Europe**, the **northernmost of the three Baltic states**.

- Estonia's area includes some 1,500 islands and islets; the two largest of these islands, **Saaremaa and Hiiumaa**, are off mainland Estonia's west coast.
- To the east Estonia is bounded by **Russia** and to the **south it is bounded by Latvia**.



- Official language:** Estonian.
- Estonia remained a Soviet republic until 1991**, when, along with the other Baltic states, it declared its independence.
- It sought **integration with greater Europe** and in **2004** joined the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** and the **European Union (EU)**.
- Estonia is often **recognized as one of the world's most digitally advanced countries**, widespread online public services and electronic voting.

Source: TH

PROJECT KUSHA

Context

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has described the indigenous **Project Kusha** air defence system as a potential game changer for India's security architecture.

What is Project Kusha?

- Project Kusha** is a long-range indigenous **surface-to-air missile (SAM)** system being developed by **DRDO** to provide layered air defence against a range of aerial threats.
- The system is designed to rival advanced platforms such as **Russia's S-400 Triumf** and will feature three interceptor variants:
 - M1 interceptor with a range of around **150 km**
 - M2 interceptor with a range of around **250 km**
 - M3 interceptor with a range of **350-400 km**

- The system is intended to counter fighter aircraft, including stealth platforms, drones, cruise missiles, precision-guided munitions and certain ballistic missile threats.
- The project is also linked to the broader “**Mission Sudarshan Chakra**”, an initiative aimed at building a multi-layered air and missile defence shield for India by **2035**.
- **Development Status**
 - ♦ The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** granted **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** in 2023 for the procurement of five squadrons for the Indian Air Force.
 - ♦ Operational deployment is expected between **2028 and 2030**.

Source: TOI

INDIGENOUS AI MODEL VARYA

Context

- The IndiaAI Mission has supported the launch of Varya, an indigenous AI-powered video generation model **developed by Avataar**.

What is Varya?

- Varya is a **distilled video generation model** that converts text prompts and images into videos.
 - ♦ Model Distillation is a machine-learning technique in which a **smaller AI model** is trained using the outputs of a **larger AI model** so that it can achieve similar performance with lower computational cost, faster processing, and reduced energy consumption.
- It is designed to generate culturally relevant visual content reflecting India’s regions, festivals, traditions, clothing, food, and everyday life.
- The platform follows the workflow, **from Idea to Video to Story**, allowing users to create and extend visual narratives through simple prompts.
- **Key Features:**
 - ♦ Reduces video generation steps from **50 to 4**, significantly improving efficiency.
 - ♦ Generates videos at an estimated cost of ₹0.48 per second, and claims to be up to **10 times more cost-efficient** than several leading global video-generation models.

Source: AIR

FOUR SITES ON NICOBAR WEST COAST IDENTIFIED FOR CORAL TRANSLOCATION

Context

- **Coral colonies** and giant clams that will be impacted due to the work on the transshipment port proposed at **Galathea Bay** as part of the **Great Nicobar Island (GNI) mega project** will be translocated to **four sites on the west coast**.

Great Nicobar Island project

- The project received **Stage-I clearance in 2022**.
- **Implementing authority:** The project is being implemented by the Port Blair-based Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Ltd (**ANIIDCO**).
- **The Project involves** developing an **International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT)**, an international airport, township development, and a **450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant** on the island.
 - ♦ The site for the ICTT and power plant is **Galathea Bay** on the southeastern corner of Great Nicobar Island, where there is no human habitation.

What are Corals?

- Corals are **invertebrates** that belong to a large group of animals called **Cnidaria**.
 - ♦ Corals are formed by **multiple small, soft organisms known as polyps**.
 - ♦ They secrete a **rocky chalk-like (calcium carbonate) exoskeleton** around themselves for protection.
 - ♦ **Coral reefs** are therefore created by **millions of tiny polyps forming large carbonate structures**.
- **Appearance:** Corals range in colour from **red to purple and even blue**, but are most commonly shades of **brown and green**.
 - ♦ Coral are bright and colorful because of microscopic algae called **zooxanthellae**.
- **There are three types of coral reefs** – fringing reefs, barrier reefs and atolls.
 - ♦ Fringing reefs **form along shorelines**, **barrier reefs form in open water** and **atolls are circular reefs** that have formed around **sunken volcanoes**.

- **Coral reefs in India:** Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Mannar, Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep Island and Malvan.
- **Significance:** They provide food, shelter, resting and breeding grounds to a quarter of all marine life, acting as nurseries and refuges to protect critical biodiversity.
- They also support more than 1 billion people living in coastal regions around the world by providing food, livelihoods and recreation.

Source: IE

