

uits
3
n

ividuals as
doctor

ed the charges in Information Re-
) from Section 307
to murder) to Sec-
murder) of the In-
ial Code and ar-
persons.
g these, the tenth
P. Iyappan turned
, and was there-
oned.
st of the accused
were put on trial
basis of the evi-
f a person who
to have witnessed
event when he had
A. Puram to pick
d air-conditioner
house nearby but
the incident to
e only two days af-
cident.
thorough investi-
police had con-
bat Mr. Ponnusa-
d his family
; had engaged the
ill the neurosurge-
o a property dis-

Book on perils of development project proposed for Great Nicobar Island launched

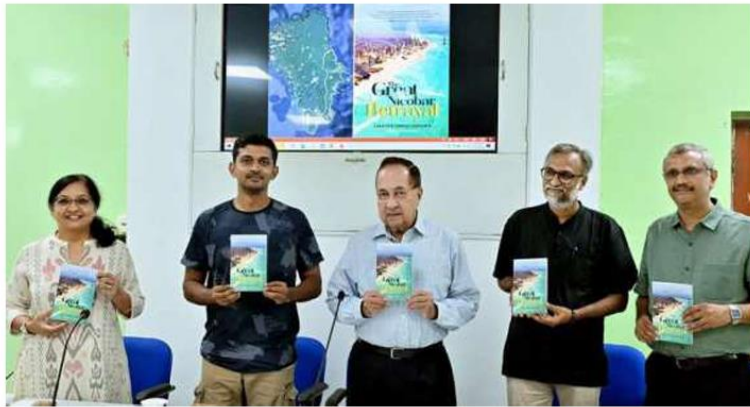
The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A book examining the perils of the proposed ₹72,000-crore mega infrastructure development project in the Great Nicobar Island, the southernmost island in the Nicobar islands, part of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, was launched in Chennai on Friday.

Titled *The Great Nicobar Betrayal*, the book, published by *Frontline*, has been put together by Pankaj Sekhsaria, an associate professor at the Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas, IIT Bombay and a diligent chronicler of the Andaman and Nicobar islands. It is a compilation of articles by different authors published in *Frontline* and other news publications.

NITI Aayog project

The massive project envisioned by NITI Aayog, includes construction of a transshipment port at Galathea Bay – a significant hotspot for leatherback turtle nesting – an international airport, a power plant, and a greenfield township on more than



From left, Vaishna Roy, Editor, *Frontline*, Yuvan Aves, naturalist and writer, N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group, Pankaj Sekhsaria, author and academic, and M. Suresh Babu, Director, Madras Institute of Development Studies at the book release event in the city on Friday. R. RAVINDRAN

160 square kilometres of land, of which 130 sq.km. is primary forests.

Releasing the book at Madras Institute of Development Studies, N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group, said the book is a valuable tool for both understanding and for advocacy.

"The articles are short, accessible, and technically competent," he said, and suggested that along with a digital version, translations of the book into regional languages and Hindi should also be brought out.

Mr. Sekhsaria, explaining the unusually quick pace at which the project received clearances from different government departments, said the Environmental Impact Assessment prepared for the project lacked scientific rigour and cautioned against the folly as the Great Nicobar Island is not only pristine with invaluable biodiversity and vulnerable tribal population, but is also a geologically-sensitive island.

In a conversation with naturalist Yuvan Aves fol-

lowing the book launch, Mr. Sekhsaria said it is unlikely that the project could be for strategic purposes. "This is not a defence project at all. Except for the airport, which has dual purpose, the entire project is for tourism," he said.

Through this book, Mr. Sekhsaria has tackled the challenge of bringing attention to an island in the margins of India, said Vaishna Roy, Editor, *Frontline*. "Development does not have to come at a great cost," she noted.