



A quarterly from Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration
August-October 2016



Role of Andamans in the Freedom Movement

Face to Face
An Interview with
Freedom Fighter
Late Shri Pratap Singh





*A quarterly from Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration
August-October 2016*

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सम्पादक की कलम से



प्रिय पाठकों,

अंडमान तथा निकोबार त्रैमासिक के दूसरे अंक में मैं सर्वप्रथम उन सभी पाठकों को धन्यवाद देना चाहूँगी जिन्होंने प्रथम अंक को बहुत शौक से पढ़ा, अपनी प्रतिक्रिया सम्पादकीय टीम के साथ बांटी और सकारात्मक सुझाव भी दिए।

द्वितीय अंक का विषय "आज़ादी" है क्योंकि इसे भारत के 70वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस के अवसर पर प्रकाशित किया जा रहा है। ज्यादातर लेख/कृति इसी विषय से संबंधित है और मैं उन सबकी बहुत आभारी हूँ जिन्होंने इस विषय पर अपने बहुत बहुमूल्य कृति या विचार का आदान-प्रदान किया है।

इस अंक के विषय में यह कहना अतिशयोक्ति नहीं होगी कि जहाँ पूरे भारतवर्ष में 15 अगस्त एक राष्ट्रीय पर्व का स्थान रखता है, अंडमान तथा निकोबार द्वीपसमूह में इस दिन का और भी विशेष महत्व है। यहाँ पग-पग पर स्वतंत्रता संग्राम से जुड़ी हुई अमूल्य गाथाएँ हैं, जो एक ओर हमें गर्व देती हैं तो दूसरी ओर रुलाती हैं। वह चिरपरिचित सैल्युलर जेल हो या फिर पोर्ट ब्लेयर में हाल ही में स्थापित आज़ादी की गाथा की एक सृजनात्मक प्रदर्शनी — "कालापानी", जिसके विषय में आगे पन्नों पर विशेष उल्लेख भी है।

आज़ादी के बाद विकास के सफर में द्वीपसमूह भी प्रगति के पथ पर अग्रसर रहा है। उच्च शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में पिछले कुछ वर्षों में उल्लेखनीय प्रगति हुई है। इन द्वीपों के नागरिकों के लिए शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य एवं यातायात के क्षेत्र में अनेक ठोस कदम उठाए गए हैं।

द्वीपों की नैसर्गिक सुन्दरता और ऐतिहासिक परिदृश्य के माध्यम से आय के स्रोत में वृद्धि के लिए द्वीपों में पर्यटन क्षेत्र के विकास में भी उल्लेखनीय प्रयास किए गए। इस सफर के कुछ मील-स्तम्भ चित्रों के माध्यम से इस अंक में प्रदर्शित किए गए हैं।

किन्तु वर्तमान संदर्भ में कुछ अपेक्षाएँ भी हैं जिनसे विकास की गति और भी तेज़ हो एवं समाज में ज्यादा खुशहाली आए। आज वक्त है कि हम सब अपने आप से प्रश्न करें कि कहीं हम राष्ट्र-भक्ति की भावना को मात्र प्रतीकात्मक रूप से ही व्यक्त कर अपना राष्ट्र धर्म पूरा करने का आधार ढूँढ़ रहे हैं या उससे परे राष्ट्र-प्रेम की भावना अपने नित्य जीवनचर्या में प्रतिलिखित करने के लिए संकल्पबद्ध हैं। राष्ट्रभक्ति की भावना सिर्फ एक भौगोलिक इकाई से ही नहीं होनी चाहिए बल्कि इसमें रहने वाले नागरिकों की उन्नति, उनकी खुशी से जुड़ी होनी चाहिए।

एक और चिन्ता का विषय यह है कि भारत में आत्महत्या के मामले में अंडमान तथा निकोबार द्वीपसमूह तीसरे स्थान पर आता है। अंडमान तथा निकोबार के इतने सुंदर द्वीपसमूह में जहाँ सुंदरता-सुषमा कूट-कूट कर कण-कण में दिखती है वहाँ क्यों सब सदैव प्रसन्न नहीं? यह स्वतः मेरे आगे एक प्रश्नचिह्न बन कर आता है। इस विषमता को दूर करने के लिए अंडमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन ने 'वेलनेस सेंटर' की स्थापना कर एक नवीन पहल की है जहाँ सलाह-परामर्श, प्रथम उपचार, कानूनी सलाह की सुविधाओं के साथ तरह-तरह की गतिविधियाँ चलाई जा रही हैं। इसका नाम "अरुणोदय" है जो जिन्दगी के प्रति एक उमंग, रोशनी, आशा, स्फूर्ति का परिचायक है। इसके माध्यम से एक नए कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत की गई है, जिसका उद्देश्य प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को अपने जीवन को उत्सव के रूप में मनाने के लिए प्रेरित करना व जागरूकता लाना है।

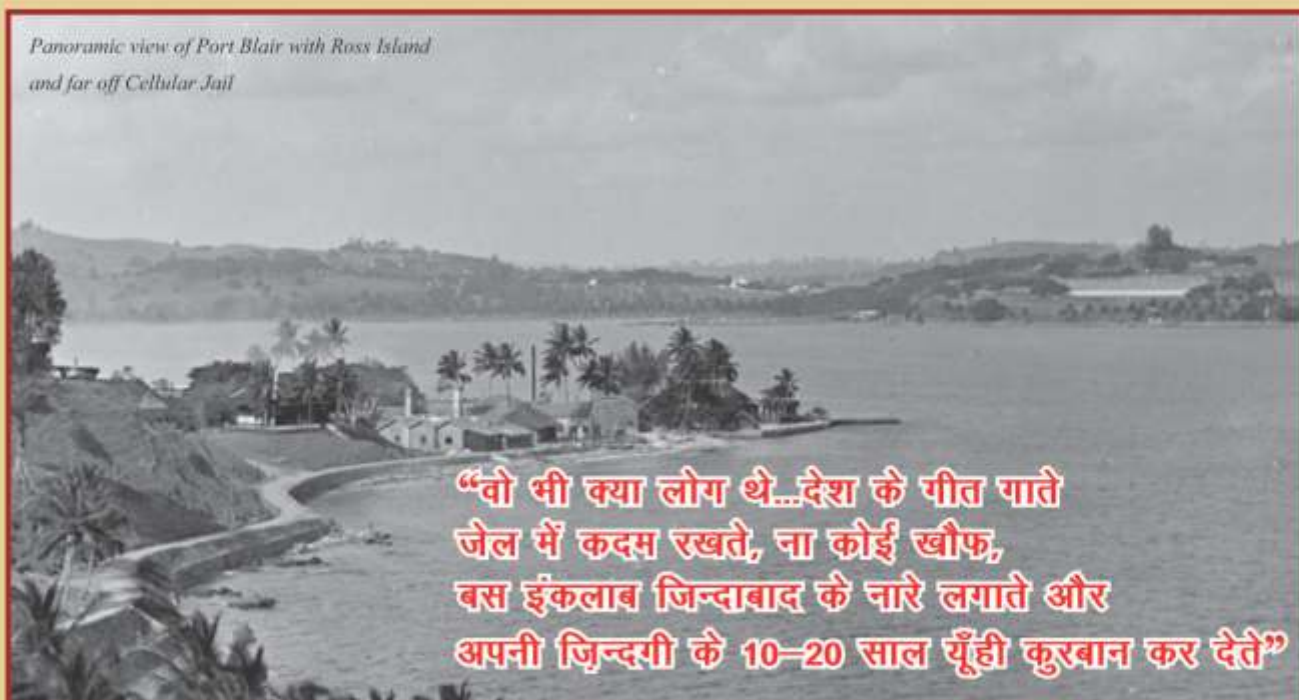
सभी भाइयों और बहनों, विशेषकर बच्चों से मेरी अपील है कि वे भौतिक सुख को अपना ध्येय नहीं बनाएँ बल्कि औरों के सुख से सुखी होना सीखें। स्वयं को आनन्दित करें और साथ ही समाज में आनन्द का प्रकाश फैलाएँ।

एक तरफ स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के लिए बलिदान होने वाले वीरों की अनगिनत गाथाएँ और दूसरी तरफ प्रकृति की अत्यन्त वैभवशाली संपदा जिसमें सागर है, वन एवं पहाड़ी हैं— क्या यह पर्याप्त नहीं हमें प्रेरित करने के लिए कि सभी निराशाओं, शंकाओं, आलस्यों को दूर करते हुए हम लक्ष्य रखें, जीवन में निरन्तर सार्थक रूप से आगे बढ़ते रहें यानि "चरैवेती-चरैवेती....।"

जय हिन्द

रश्मि सिंह,
सचिव,
अंडमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन

*Panoramic view of Port Blair with Ross Island
and far off Cellular Jail*



“वो भी क्या लोग थे...देश के गीत गाते
जेल में कदम रखते, ना कोई खौफ,
बस इंकलाब जिन्दाबाद के नारे लगाते और
अपनी जिन्दगी के 10-20 साल यूँही कुरबान कर देते”

Role of Andamans in the Freedom Movement

The Andamans in general and the Cellular Jail in particular played a prominent part in the history of our glorious freedom struggle.



*An Artist's Depiction of the
Penal Punishment*

There are few parts of India which are as fascinating and mysterious as the Islands of Andaman and Nicobar. Unfortunately for millions of Indians these beautiful Islands have been perceived as desolate 'Kalapani', an inhospitable shore far from civilization. People on the mainland have many hazy perceptions about these islands, but how many of us are aware of the role played by Andamans in India's Freedom Movement? Let us here take a journey of role of Andamans in the freedom movement.

The Inception

The Andamans in general and the Cellular Jail in particular played a prominent part in the history of our glorious freedom struggle. Political prisoners who took part in various anti-British Movements such as the First War of Independence, the Wahabi Movement, the Burmese Rebellion, and the revolutionary freedom struggle of the early 20th century were sentenced to transportation for life and deported to the Andamans. They lived under the most barbaric punishments and unimaginable indignities were showered on them by the British Government; but these sufferings could not conquer their indomitable spirit.

As a result of oppression by British rule, the local people often revolted against the British but all these revolts were confined to smaller areas. The War of Independence of 1857 was the first outbreak on a national scale when people from all over India regardless of all social, regional

and linguistic barriers became involved.

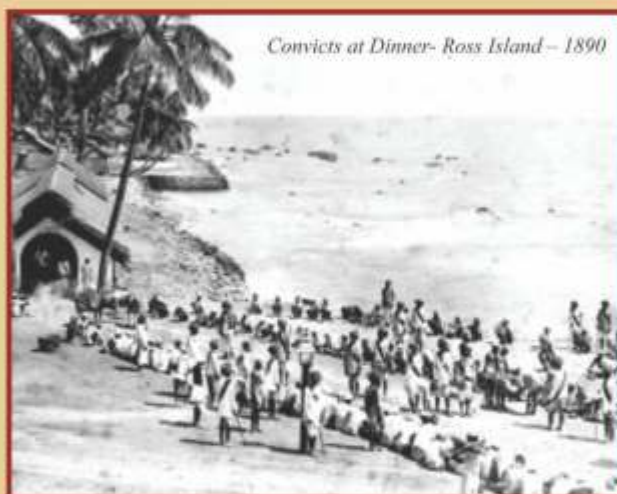
The War of Independence of 1857 marked the watershed in the history of these Islands. From a very early period, the British rulers conceived the idea of establishing a penal colony for the Indian convicts across the sea. A convict colony was also established in the Andaman Islands in 1789 but it was withdrawn in 1796.

After the outbreak of the First War of Independence in 1857, the British Government started devising methods to deal effectively with the revolutionaries in order to have a permanent and effective hold over the country. Such a situation forced them to reconsider the Andaman Islands where they could transport the "mutineers" and "rebels". Thus, an Andaman Committee was constituted on 20 November, 1857 under the Chairmanship of Dr.F.J.Mouat "to examine the shores of the Islands and select the best site which may be found there for the establishment of a penal settlement".

Based on the feedback from the Committee the Governor General in Council decided on 15th January, 1858 "to establish a penal settlement in the Andaman Islands for the reception in the first instance of convicts sentenced to long imprisonment and for the crimes of mutiny and rebellion and for other offences connected therewith and eventually for the reception of all convicts under sentence of transportation".

Captain H.Man was appointed the Superintendent of the Islands and the Union Jack was hoisted for the first time here on 22nd January, 1858. The First War of Independence supplied the first batch of 200 Freedom Fighters to Andamans, who arrived here on 10th March, 1858 marking the beginning of an important chapter of India's freedom struggle in the Andamans.

In the later years "mutineers" and "deserters" of 1857 were brought to the Andamans from different parts of the country by utilizing all three ports of Calcutta, Karachi and Madras. Captain Man was replaced by Dr.J.P.Walker who treated convicts with much severity and fetters were used on them even while they were



engaged in work. The task of cutting and clearing the jungles was given to the revolutionary freedom fighters of 1857 who mostly belonged to the Well-to-do Sections of Indian Society.

The cruelties inflicted on the freedom fighters, sometimes, exceeded the limits and in such cases they preferred an end to their lives rather than face indignities. As a result of these situations, during March and April 1858, 251 convicts escaped. Out of these 88 were recaptured and executed in one day by Dr.Walker.

A large number of freedom fighters of 1857 were transported to the Andamans, but unfortunately their names are yet to be discovered. Serious efforts of the A&N Administration in this field have now uncovered more than 300 such names of freedom fighters who were sent to the Andamans from different regions of India. Fazal-Haq-Khairabadi, Musai Singh, Liaqat Ali, Bhima Naik, and Gulgur Dhobe are a few names of those who were banished beyond sea for life by the British for "waging war against the British Government" in 1857.

Dudhnath Tiwari was a Sepoy of the 14th Bengal Native Infantry Regiment. He was convicted for mutiny & sentenced to transportation for life to the Andamans. He escaped from the Penal Settlement on 23rd April, 1858 with 90 other convicts. These convicts were either killed by the aborigines or died of starvation. Dudhnath, somehow earned the sympathy of the Aborigines. He was allowed to stay with them. He married two of their girls and even picked up their language. When the Great Andamanese planned to attack the settlement he returned to the convict station and informed the Britishers about it. The battle took place between the aborigines and the British on 17th May, 1859 and is known in the history of the islands as "The Battle of Aberdeen".





Aerial view of Cellular Jail

After the First War of Independence in 1857, the Indian Wahabis came onto the scene and their movement opened a new chapter in the history of the freedom struggle. The Wahabi Movement was one of the preludes to the uprising of 1857. It was started by a sect of Muslims led by Abdul Wahab Nejd, a native of Nejd in Saudi Arabia, from whose name the movement came to be called as the "Wahabi Movement". It soon spread to many countries. In India, it became a strong movement under the leadership of Syed Ahmed Barailvi of Patna.

During 1864-72 a series of trials were held and Wahabis were sentenced to transportation for life and deported to the Andamans. Wahabi "rebels" who were deported to the Andamans had to pass through a hard time. Ahmedullah who was transported to the Andamans in 1865 died at Viper Island Jail (the Viper Jail was erected in 1864-65 during the regime of Col. Barret Ford to deal effectively with those who violated the discipline of the Penal Settlement) on 21st November 1881 at the age of 80. He was buried at Dundas Point in South Andamans.

An important event which shook the very foundation of British Rule in India was the murder of Lord Mayo in the Andamans. Lord Mayo, then the Viceroy of India, visited the islands on 8th February 1872 where he was murdered by Sher-Ali, a Pathan convict from Peshawar. Later Sher Ali was sentenced to death and executed at Viper Island.

The Cellular Jail, a unique symbol of India's revolutionary struggle for freedom, was first of its kind in India which provided 698 cells for solitary confinement.

The Birth of Cellular Jail

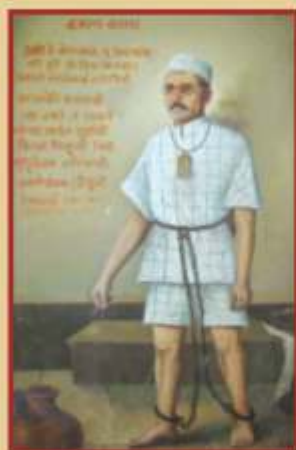
Yet, the British Government was not satisfied with the present system of Penal Settlement in the Andamans. They started to consider making the Penal Settlement more 'Penal' in character and their dream came true in the form of the "Cellular Jail".

On the recommendations of C.J.Lyall and Surgeon Major A.S.Lethbridge, who visited the Penal Settlement in January, 1890, construction of the Cellular Jail was started in 1896 and completed in 1906. In order to make imprisonment in the Andamans more severe in character, solitary confinement for a period of six months after the arrival of a convict at Port Blair was recommended.

The Cellular Jail, a unique symbol of India's revolutionary struggle for freedom, was first of its kind in India which provided 698 cells for solitary confinement. This three storied Jail has seven wings, each radiating towards different directions from a central tower. The jail got its name from the fact that it has only cells and no dormitories. Many Freedom fighters and revolutionaries were sent here. India's revolutionary struggle for independence had gained considerable momentum in the first decade of the 20th Century. Political leaders started making people more aware of the plight under foreign domination resulting in great intellectual awakening and political awareness amongst the people of Bengal. Many revolutionary organizations were formed there to overthrow British rule, which openly preached violence. As a result, a large number of revolutionaries from Bengal were transported to the Cellular Jail to undergo their penal servitude. Revolutionaries convicted in the "Alipore Conspiracy Case" were the first to be sent to the Cellular Jail of the Andamans. These prisoners included Barindra Kumar Ghose, Hem Chandra Das, Ullaskar Dutta, Indu Bhushan Roy and others.

A few Editors of "Swarajya" Paper were among others who were sent to the Andamans for writing seditious articles. The **Savarkar brothers** were convicted in the Nasik Conspiracy case and transported to the Andamans. During this period (1909-

1921) a large number of "Gadar Heroes" were also deported here in the first Lahore Conspiracy case.



Veer Savarkar with his writings on the jail wall

In later years a number of revolutionaries involved in cases of conspiracy, dacoity, murder and other revolutionary activities were convicted and transported to the Cellular Jail.

Revolutionary freedom fighters of India spent an inhuman life in the Cellular Jail until they were released. David Barry, the Head

Overseer of the Jail, was the one who tried his best to make the life of political prisoners, most miserable. In order to break the spirit of the political prisoners, the quantity of work given to them was much more than that allotted to an ordinary criminal. **Coir pounding, rope making and oil grinding** were some of the severest tasks in which they were employed. The specific quota of each job was fixed. If they failed to complete the fixed quota of work, barbaric punishments followed to reduce them to mental and physical wrecks. The food given to them was not only insufficient but was of a very bad quality. No one could get more than two cups of water for drinking. For bathing there was sea-water. Hurling abuses and indulging in inhuman behaviour with the convicts were an everyday affair.

V.D.Savarkar, who was deported to the Andaman in 1911 to undergo a 50 year sentence (two life sentences) **wrote his memoirs in Marathi** which depict in detail, the tortures and punishments the political prisoners underwent in the Cellular Jail. He wrote, "who can describe the sufferings, these agonies of mind and body? I may give you an instance, to point the moral. Of all the hardships of prison life in the Cellular Jail of the Andamans—grueling work, scanty food and clothing, occasional thrashing and others – none was so annoying and disgusting as its provision for urinals and lavatories. The prisoners had to control the demands of nature for hours on end, for want of these arrangements in the cell itself. Morning, noon and evening were the only hours when prisoners were let off for this purpose and at a stated time only. It was an outrage to ask the Jamadar for this convenience at any other moment than the stipulated hours..."

As a result of inhuman tortures and barbaric punishments inflicted upon the political prisoners, many became insane, many fell ill, a lot of them

went on hunger strike and a few committed suicide. During this period Bhan Singh, Pandit Ram Rakha and Indu Bhushan Roy died in the Cellular Jail as martyrs.

In 1921 the Government of India declared that the "Government have decided to abandon the Andamans as a Penal Settlement". By 1921, most of the political prisoners were repatriated to other Indian jails. Though the government decided to close down the Penal Settlement, a large number of Moplahs and Rumpas peasants were deported to the Andamans.

The Malabar Rebellion of 1921, broke out in the context of the Non-Cooperation Movement and Khilafat Movement in 1921. The British

Let us not forget that our freedom was not a gift handed over to us on a platter. Great sacrifices were made to achieve our Independence. These islands played a most significant role in the Indian freedom movement and represent a glorious chapter of our history which will inspire the generations to come.

Government put down the rebellion ruthlessly. The Moplahs were arrested, prosecuted and sentenced. In order to relieve congestion in the jails of the Madras Presidency, Moplahs were transported to the Andamans and some of them were even allowed to take their families with them. These Moplahs were first received in the Cellular Jail; later they were granted "agricultural tickets" and allowed to settle down in the Andamans.

New political prisoners of the Cellular Jail resorted to hunger strike in January, 1933 on account of the inhuman treatment given by the jail staff and poor living conditions. When the Chief Commissioner gave them an assurance to look into grievances, they agreed to give up the strike. However, the officials of the Penal Settlement did not show any concern to their demands in the next few months and they were compelled to restart the hunger strike. On 12th May, 1933 they went on hunger strike which was followed by force feeding process. As a result of brutal force feeding, three sons of Mother India laid down their lives.

The political prisoners of the Cellular Jail resorted to another hunger strike in July, 1937. Gandhiji sent a telegram to the hunger strikers requested them to call off their strike. After a long discussion the political prisoners decided to bow before the

national mandate. Government promised to repatriate the political prisoners from the Andamans. As a result, by 1938 all the political prisoners were repatriated. However, this was not an end to the sufferings of the people who settled down in the Andamans – mostly the descendents of convicts.

The Japanese Invasion

The Second World War broke out in September, 1939. The British Government in Andamans, realizing that they are not capable of defending these islands from Japanese Imperial Forces, decided to evacuate all the British and Indian civilians to mainland. The permanent residents of the Islands, called the "Local Born", had no link left outside on the mainland and therefore, decided to stay in the Andamans.

On the night of 23rd March, 1942 the Japanese attacked the Islands of Ross and Chatham and occupied them without any difficulty. During the three and a half years of Japanese rule, the islands witnessed unprecedented tortures on the innocent people of the Andamans. During this period a branch of the Indian Independence League was formed at Port Blair.

In the beginning, the Japanese were very friendly to the local people but later they arrested a number of them on false charges of spying. All the arrested people were confined in the sixth wing of the Cellular Jail and subjected to inhuman torture. Out of the arrested persons, 7 were shot dead at Duganabad shore on 30th March, 1943. On 30th January 1944, forty four persons were taken out

from the Cellular Jail to a place called Homfraygunj. They were shot dead there and buried in a common "L" shape grave.

During 1943-45, at least 20 people died in the Cellular Jail as a result of inhuman torture. What to talk about those who were drowned in the sea near Havelock and Tarmugli as a solution to the food problems in the islands!



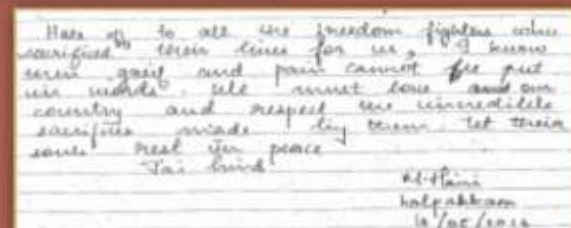
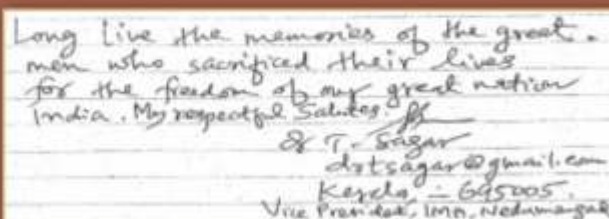
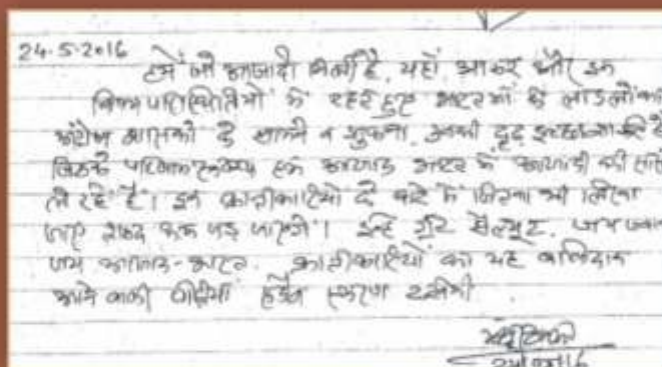
Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose addressing a meeting

It was in this situation that Supreme Commander of the I.N.A., Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, visited the Islands on 29th December, 1943. It was here on 30th December, 1943 Netaji unfurled the Tricolor for the first time on the Indian Soil. After the unconditional surrender of Japan in the IInd World War, these Islands were again occupied by the British Forces in October, 1945 followed by the total abolition of the Penal Settlement.

Let us not forget that our freedom was not a gift handed over to us on a platter. Great sacrifices were made to achieve our Independence. These islands played a most significant role in the Indian freedom movement and represent a glorious chapter of our history which will inspire the generations to come.

Source: Publication by Directorate of Information, Publicity and Tourism, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, December 1997 during the Visit of the President of India to Andaman & Nicobar Islands to Felicitate Freedom Fighters Incarcerated in the Cellular Jail

Excerpts from Visitors Book at Cellular Jail





आजादी के मायने

मैंने एक पाँच वर्षीय बालक से पूछा – यदि मैं तुम्हें आज बिलकुल आजाद छोड़ दूँ, तो तुम क्या करोगे? उसने बड़ी मासूमियत से जवाब दिया – ‘आज कार्बिनस कोव तट’ पर जाऊँगा, लहर से खेलूँगा, वह पास के रेस्टोरेंट में जाऊँगा तथा बहुत सारी आईसक्रीम खाऊँगा।

मैंने एक पाँच वर्षीय बालक से पूछा—यदि मैं तुम्हें आज बिलकुल आजाद छोड़ दूँ, तो तुम क्या करोगे? उसने बड़ी मासूमियत से जवाब दिया – ‘आज कार्बिनस कोव तट’ पर जाऊँगा, लहरों से खेलूँगा, वहीं पास के रेस्टोरेंट में जाऊँगा तथा बहुत सारी आईसक्रीम खाऊँगा।

इस पाँच वर्षीय बच्चे के लिए आजादी के जो मायने हैं, हम बड़ों के लिए इससे बहुत भिन्न नहीं हैं। आजादी हमें वे सारे काम करने से नहीं रोकती जिसका हम आनन्द लेना चाहते हैं, बशर्त वह किसी और की आजादी में खलल नहीं डाले। आजादी हमें यह मौका देती है कि हम अपना धर्म चुन सकें, अपने ढंग से जीवन—निर्वाह कर सकें, अपने विचारों का अभिव्यक्त कर सकें। यह आजादी की भावनाएँ आज के संदर्भ में बीते समय से भिन्न हो गई हैं, इसमें कोई दो-राय नहीं है। अंग्रेजों के समय में आजादी का अर्थ आततायी विदेशियों को देश के बाहर धकेलना था और अंडमान के संदर्भ में अंग्रेजों व जापानी, दोनों ही इस विदेशी आततायी के चेहरे थे। उस समय की जो अंग्रेजों के धंगुल से निकलने की जो बलपत्ती भावना थी, वह यहाँ अंडमान व निकोबार प्रशासन संचालित ‘राष्ट्रीय स्मारक ‘सेल्यूलर जेल’, अंडमान पुलिस द्वारा संचालित जापानी आक्रमण का ‘संग्रहालय’ तथा हाल में उद्घाटित निजी संग्रहालय ‘कालापानी’ सजीव रूप में हमारे सामने पेश करती हो तथा हम सतत् रूप से अपने क्रांतिकारी भाईयों के बलिदान की गाथा से रू-ब-रू कराती हैं। जरूरत है इन जीवाजों की कुर्बानी को याद करने की और अपने आजादी को सहेज कर रखने की।

आमतौर 1857 के युद्ध को भारत की आजादी की पहली लड़ाई समझा जाता है, परन्तु इससे दो वर्ष पूर्व ही झारखंड के स्थाल आदिवासियों ने देश का पहला जन-आंदोलन ‘हूल’ की शुरुआत की थी। 13 महीने की लड़ाई के बाद अंग्रेज सरकार इस आंदोलन को दबाने के लिए मार्शल लॉ लागू करने पर मजबूर हो गई थी। इसी जनजाति को अंडमान में रॉची समुदाय के नाम से जाना जाता है। आजादी की लड़ाई में अबरदीन का ‘युद्ध’ भी मील का पत्थर माना जाना चाहिए। ‘ग्रेट अंडमानीज’ आदिवासिया ने अंग्रेजों को अंडमान की भूमि पर कदम न जमाने देने के लिए 27 मई, 1859 में लड़ाई लड़ी, पर दूधनाथ के दगाबाजी के कारण बड़ी संख्या में मारे गए। तीर धनुष ने गोली-बारी के आगे घुटने टेक दिए। पर अपनी आजादी के लिए इन लोगों ने जो जज्बा दिखाया, वह स्मरणीय रहेगा तथा वे हमारे लिए एक सीख छोड़ गये कि ‘दूधनाथ’ जैसे लोग हमारी आजादी आज भी छीन सकते हैं। सेन्टिनलीज ने अपने बीच किसी दूधनाथ को घनाह नहीं दी तथा अपनी आजादी सहेज कर रखी है।

आगे बच्चों को स्कूली ‘परिधान’ में देखकर अच्छा लगता है कि विकास के साथ-साथ वे अपने समाज को बचाए हुए हैं। जारावाओं ने अपनी आजादी पर आँध आने पर 24 फरवरी, 1902 को ब्रिटिश अधिकारी परदे वॉक्स की हत्या कर दी थी। इसके पहले व बाद में भी वे अपनी स्वतंत्रता के लिए यदा-कदा लड़ते रहे। निकोबारियों ने 1942 में जापानियों के सहायतार्थ हवाई पट्टी तैयार की। हालाँकि जापानियों ने पोर्ट ब्लेयर में आम लोगों को काफी यातनाएँ दी पर इससे निकोबारियों का योगदान कम नहीं होता और आजादी के बाद भी वह हवाई-पट्टी हमारे बहुत काम आई। शाम्पेन आदिवासियों ने कैम्पेल बे में अंग्रेजों के आगमन व शहर बसने के बावजूद अपनी आजादी का हिराजत से रखा।

इस तरह हम देखते हो कि आदिवासियों ने हमें अपने ढंग से लगातार स्वतंत्रता का पाठ पढ़ाया है। जरूरत है इनके अंदर व अपने अंदर आजादी की भावना बरकरार रखने की और यह विश्वास बनाये रखने की कि भारत उनके साथ खड़ा है और उन्हें उन्हीं के ढंग से जीने देने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। जरूरत है उन्हें यह समझाने की और खुद यह समझने की कि आर्गेनिक ‘जरावा’ देश की छवि धूमिल कर सकती है तथा विदेशिया की ये घृणाधित उन्हीं ही वाहवाही दिलाएगी, हमारे पास राशन व अन्य सुविधाएँ नहीं पहुँचा सकती।

आज अंडमान व निकोबार द्वीप-समूह में समस्त भारत के लोगों का प्रतिनिधित्व है तथा यहाँ पर आये हर राज्य के लोग फल-फूल रहे हैं। सबको मिलकर देश को एक सुर में आगे ले जाने की जरूरत है। भारत सरकार की योजनाओं को जन-जन तक पहुँचाने की आवश्यकता है तथा लोगों के अंदर यह विश्वास भरने की जरूरत है कि ये योजनाएँ उनके भले के लिए ही बनाई गई हैं। बिना किसी संकोच के, बिना किसी डर के, बिना किसी भेदभाव के, साथ मिलकर अंडमान-निकोबार को आगे बढ़ाने की और देश की तरक्की में योगदान देने की जरूरत है। जरूरत है हिन्दु-मुस्लिम-सिख-ईसाई के एक होने की व लोकल बॉर्न व परवर्ती आवासियों के एक साथ कदम मिलाकर चलने की, जब तक ऐसा नहीं होगा, अंडमान-निकोबार व देश के ऊपर आईसिस, अल-कायदा, आई एस आई का खतरा बना रहेगा और वे हमारे बीच के मतभेदों को औजार बनाते रहेंगे।

आज के दौर में देश के सामने सबसे बड़ा खतरा यह पैदा हो गया है कि हम सभी आजादी की बात करते हैं, अपने अधिकारों की बात करते हैं, सूचना के अधिकार की बात करते हैं। यह बुरा नहीं, पर हम अपने दायित्व को बिलकुल नजर अंदाज किये बैठे हैं। यदि व्यक्ति के अंदर दायित्व का बोध न हो, तो, आजादी भी उत्थ्रुखल हो जाती है। उत्थ्रुखलता समाहित आजादी देश के लिए घातक साबित हो सकती है। आज हम अपनी आजादी का प्रयोग मात्र घरना-प्रदर्शन, आरोप-प्रत्यारोप के लिए कर रहे हैं, जिससे आजादी के मायने झुंघले पड़ते जा रहे हैं। सिर्फ विरोध के नाम पर विरोध हो रहा है। हम अपने बच्चे, पड़ोस, समाज, राज्य व देश के बारे में कम सोच रहे हैं। ऐसे में, हम सभी को जरूरत है प्रण करने की कि अपनी असली आजादी के लिए सजग रहें, कालापानी के इतिहास को विस्मरित न होने दें, पर साथ ही अपने दायित्व से कभी मुँह नहीं मोड़ेंगे तथा इस देश को आर्थिक, सामाजिक व अध्यात्मिक आजादी की ओर उनमुख रखेंगे।



श्री शिवनाथ, पोर्ट ब्लेयर

Freedom Circuit

“Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom.”

Viktor E. Frankl

Freedom can be best expressed as, "the world is full of beauty when your heart is filled with freedom". Freedom cannot be expressed in a nutshell, it is as vast as ocean; and that vastness of freedom is there where beauty lies; a beautiful creation of God known as Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The feeling of immense joy in these islands known for their exotic and enchanting feel for freedom and the sacrifices made by the legendary warriors which is known not only to you and me but to the whole world.

Come let's travel into the world of sacrifices and freedom!!!

Ross Island

An island of ruins with its beauty and mysteries was named after the marine surveyor Sir Daniel Ross. It is just a ten minute boat ride away from Port Blair. Looking from Port Blair the Island appears very calm and beautiful with a colourful sky adding to its beauty.

Ross Island, small in the size, less than a square kilometre gives us a peep into an era where Britishers made their headquarters during the time of making this a penal settlement till an earthquake rocked the Islands in 1942. One can reach this island by a boat ride from the water sports complex.

It is interesting to know that this island was called the "PARIS OF THE EAST" by the British, as the Island was once very popular with lavish accommodation and facilities for the British officers and their family. One can see the beauty of

Royal Dining Hall of Chief Commissioner's Bungalow at Ross Island



Front View of P. Church at Ross Island- 1880



From Ross Island far off Cellular Jail



Ross Island



Ruins of P. Church, Ross Island

the ruins through the glory of the Church, Cemetery, Swimming Pool, Water Purification Plant, Ice-making Plant, Chief Commissioner's residence with its huge gardens and grand ballrooms which today is hugged by wild vines and huge roots and trunks of century old trees. One cannot help admiring the British sense of lifestyle by looking at the structures in this island.

Beauty is everlasting, it can be ended up with devastations and ruins as it again recreates and promotes a joy of freshness and freedom. The warmth of this Island called Ross touches every being's heart and soul.



Ruins camouflaged by trees, Ross Island

Viper Island

As per my experience the most important kind of freedom is to be free and not merely to cast off one's chains but to live in one's way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.



"What light is to the eyes-what air is to the lungs-what love is to the heart, liberty is to the soul of man."

Though today it is resplendent with scenic beauty, Viper Island holds a dark past. This marked the site for the British gallows where political prisoners were imprisoned, endlessly tortured and finally hung to their deaths.

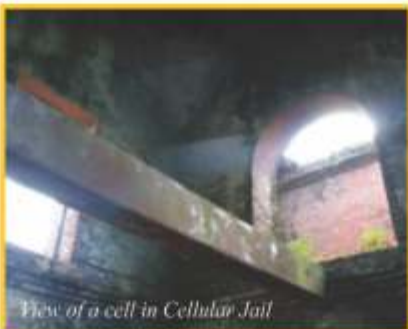
This place is visited by number of tourists as it has multiple attractions and historical importance and also has mesmerizing picnic spots with natural picturesque environments. Boats are easily accessible and available for the tourists at water sports complex in Port Blair.

The most interesting fact I desire to share it is that this island was part of

the great Indian Independence history and had witnessed the sufferings and sacrifices of Indian nationals involved in freedom struggle and this small island derives its name from the vessel "Viper" in which Lt. Archibald Blair came to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The vessel, it is believed, met with an accident and its wreckage was found near the island.

Param Vir Chakra Memorial

May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right. A memorial built as a testimony to the sacrifices made by soldiers has been dedicated to the nation at the marina park in Port Blair. Expressing hope that this memorial would invigorate feelings of courage and love for the country among the youth, the Lt. Governor complimented the Port Blair Municipal Corporation for developing the memorial.



Ruins of Gallows, Viper Island

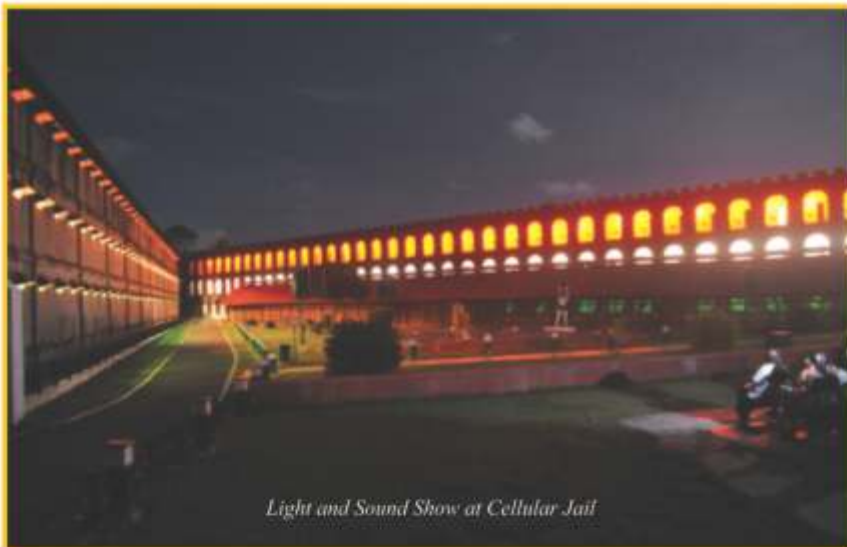


Cellular Jail- National Memorial

Cellular jail, a struggle for freedom and sacrifices for the living lives of others is a testimony to the sacrifices made by our martyrs in the post independence era. Savarkar brothers, Hotilal Verma, Babu Ram Hari, Pandit Parmanand, Ladha Ram, Prithvi Singh Azad, Indu Bhushan Roy and many charismatic freedom fighters were imprisoned in this jail and were incarcerated here as well among others. This memorial is constructed of seven wings spread in a circle where each of the seven wings had three stories upon completion. No dormitories and a



Swatantra Jyots in the Cellular Jail

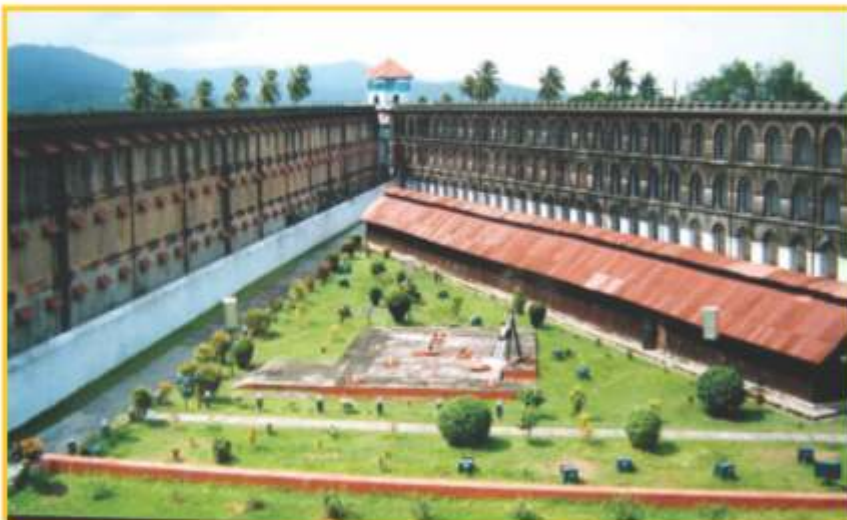


Light and Sound Show at Cellular Jail

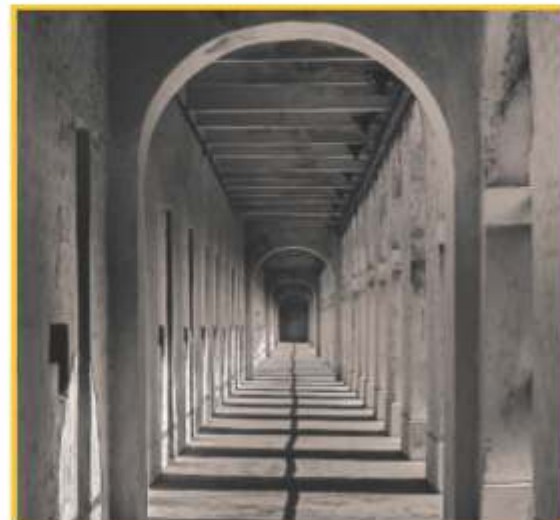
total of **698** cells. The very word “Cellular” derived from the solitary cells which prevented any prisoner from communicating with each other.

Added attraction of the national memorial is the Light and Sound Show. One of the **interesting facts** about this memorial is that Cellular Jail is also known as **Kalapani** (derived from Sanskrit Words '**Kal**' which means Time or Death and '**Pani**' which means Water), was a **colonial prison** in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Prison was used by the British especially to exile political prisoners to the remote archipelago.

“These islands will remain the land of the free only as long as it is the home of brave.”



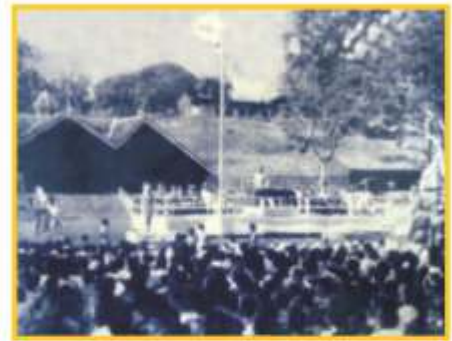
A view of Cellular Jail



Passage inside the Cellular Jail

Memorial of 30th December

The only freedom which deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good, in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of their efforts to obtain it. On this day in the year 1943, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose hoisted the National Flag for the first time at the Gymkhana Ground (present Netaji Stadium). His historic visit to the Andamans as the head of provisional Government of Azad Hind during the Japanese occupation made a symbolic fulfilment of his promise that INA would stand on the Indian soil by the end of 1943. A commemorative function is held here every year on 30th December.



Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Hoisting the Tricolour, Dec 30, 1943



Aerial View of Chatham Island

Chatham Island

The tiny island of Chatham located near the Port Blair town, about 5km from the airport. The legacy of Chatham began in the year 1789, when Lt. Archibald Blair landed here with the aim to establish a Naval Base. He started the survey from Chatham Island for establishing the British footholds in the Islands. The Chatham island houses the age old Govt. Saw Mill, affectionately referred to as "CHATHAM SAW MILL". It was earlier known as "MARK ISLAND", after the first war of independence of 1857, the British decided to establish a Penal Settlement on the island. A flabbergasting and interesting fact about it is that Chatham saw mill is one of Asia's biggest

and oldest saw mill, and is a popular tourist destination.

Hence, Port Blair became the starting point of various activities to develop the islands as a safe place to deport hard-core convicts and to develop the harbour base. This one is a perfect gateway for the ones interested in having a sneak peek in the life and history of Port Blair.



Balidan Vedi

Balidan Vedi

(The State Martyrs Memorial, Humfreygunj)

The most heart throbbing word "SACRIFICE" when translated is called "BALIDAN" in Hindi. Balidan Vedi is located on the way to Wandoor (Jolly Bouy Island). "Balidan Vedi" the state Martyrs' Memorial stands as a mute symbol to the Japanese reign of terror in the islands.

Most of the British left the Islands when the Second World War stepped on the battle field. The Japanese easily occupied the Islands and this period is though brief is the most brutal episode of the history of Andamans.



P. Tanuja, Port Blair



"Freedom" is the theme for this issue but seems a contradictory statement when it comes to think of the Andamans-- a place specially chosen for restricting the same freedom we long for. Yes, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands were chosen for the confinement/forced labour and punishment of humans. They were chosen specially because of their dreaded reputation throughout the ages as the home for the so called savages/cannibals who tore up outsiders and ate them raw, people who had dog like faces and shot poisoned arrows. Also, with the deep sea all around, escape was next to impossible. Freedom was a prohibited word. When a new colony came up in Port Blair in 1858, the paraphernalia for restricting freedom were already in place. A jail - a hell on earth- solitary cells, chains, handcuffs, fetters, barred doors, chain gang and other instruments of torture were already in place. And for those who tried to escape to freedom, a gallows was the final reckoning.

Andamans became the exact opposite of Freedom- but they also showed that the more one restricts physical freedom the more the spirit yearns for it. The colonial rulers decided to further restrict the freedom. A monstrous machine, based on Jeremy Bentham's panoptic principle, a huge jail with radiating wings from a central Tower, a massive masonry structure of 693 solitary cells, a machine designed to kill the spirit of freedom took the shape in the form of the Cellular Jail.

However, the result of this experiment was the exact opposite. As the Hon'ble Lt.Governor frequently says - "the spirit of the freedom struggle itself came to reside in the Cellular Jail". It became a university of the freedom struggle. Great stalwarts of the freedom struggle, confined in the solitary cells with heavily barred doors, bolts and locks, transformed the jail into a university- a place where the thinkers, participants of the freedom struggle gathered and spread the message of freedom to

"the spirit of the freedom struggle itself came to reside in the Cellular Jail". It became a university of the freedom struggle. Great stalwarts of the freedom struggle, confined in the solitary cells with heavily barred doors, bolts and locks, transformed the jail into a university

others. In spite of the strictest security arrangements, their messages and writings crossed the seas and fired the hearts of millions to rise against the oppressing colonial rule. Andamans became synonymous with Freedom Struggle.

The muster roll of the Cellular Jail read like a virtual "Who's Who" of the Freedom Struggle - Veer Savarkar, Barindra Kumar Ghose, Fazl-e-Haq Khairabadi, Maulvi Liaquat Ali, Baba Prithvi Singh Azad, Batukeshwar Dutt, Bhai Parmanand, Nand Gopal etc., all gathered here entering the jail, not with dread, but with rejoicing. They composed verses in praise of freedom, wrote books, held discussions, went on strikes that brought the authorities to their knees and broke the jail rules whenever they got the opportunity. Even the cruel jailors and wardens or the torturous jail discipline could not break their resolve. Finally the alien government had to yield. There was no other choice but to close down the jail after letters from Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindra Nath Tagore in

support of the political prisoners.

Then came the Second World War-the Japanese occupied the Islands, Netaji was made the titular head of the Islands. On 30th Dec 1943, the Tricolor flew proudly for the first time, on free Indian soil. The Andamans gained freedom from the British, long before the rest of the country. But the atrocities of the Japanese occupation dampened the euphoria of freedom. Freedom was once again restricted. However, none could stop Independence. Tricolor once again flew in Andamans on 15th August 1947.

With the Cellular Jail becoming a National memorial, the Andamans became a place of pilgrimage for those who love freedom. The Cellular Jail, with its moving sound and light show, museum, galleries, eternal flames, statues of martyrs and the martyrs' column is the star attraction for visitors to the islands. The spirit of the freedom struggle does live in the Cellular Jail.

Independence brought about the responsibility of protecting it from the constant attempts by enemies. Freedom demands sacrifice. The islands contributed their mite when freedom was at the stake, during the Kargil conflict. The contribution of the islanders was acknowledged by the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The islanders too shed blood at the frontier. CRPF Jawan Ramesh Singh, Capt. Ashim Kumar Bhattacharya, Sepoy Dilli Rao, all sons of the soil became martyrs on the distant frontiers. Today the island youth have shown great enthusiasm in joining the armed forces during the recently held army recruitment drive. More are likely to join in future. The islands themselves are sentinels of the country in the Bay of Bengal-an outpost and a springboard ... sending out a message of a new and resurgent India- to anyone who cast an evil eye on its sovereignty .

Once, the islands of torture and confinement have today become Islands of Freedom.



by Dr Francis Xavier
Principal, JNRM



*Battle of
Aberdeen Memorial*

The Battle of Aberdeen in Retrospect

"This monument is built in the memory of those Andamanese aborigines who bravely fought the Battle of Aberdeen in May 1859 against the oppressive and retaliatory policy of the British regime".

The Memorial for the Battle of Aberdeen at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar has this inscription: "This monument is built in the memory of those Andamanese aborigines who bravely fought the Battle of Aberdeen in May 1859 against the oppressive and retaliatory policy of the British regime".

A brief episode in the annals of Andaman's history has come to immortalize a decisive battle fought against the British by an ancient tribe of India, the Andamanese; a race of near-naked aborigines that has existed in the archipelago for centuries.

This colonial chapter in the history of Andaman and Nicobar Islands also records the enigma of Dudhnath Tewari which continues to be intriguing till today, even after a century and a half of his

incarceration in the erstwhile 'Kalapani' or the dreaded penal settlement of the Andamans.

Dudhnath, the convict number 286 of Cellular Jail, was deported to Port Blair on September 27, 1857 on charges of mutiny and desertion during the First War of Indian Independence while he served as a sepoy with the 14th Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry at Jhelum in Punjab. It was, however, his life in captivity in the Andamans in later years which made him a subject of debates. Whether he is to be condemned or glorified for his deeds remains undecided till now.

On April 06, 1858 Dudhnath, along with 90 other fellow prisoners, escaped from the British prison at Ross Island with hopes of crossing over to the neighbouring Burma. The short-lived freedom of

the escapees, however, very soon gave way to sheer desperation as nothing but endless sea and the hostile wilderness of the scattered islands trapped them, slowly claiming their lives one after another. At that time the tribal lands of Andaman were the home of the fearsome Andamanese, a primitive Negrito tribe that killed at sight any stranger intruding into their territory. Dudhnath and his mates were attacked on several occasions by the tribals. Each ambush claimed more lives till one fateful day he was shot with poisonous arrows and laid at the mercy of his attackers. A sheer twist of fate, a rather queer happening, saw the tribals spare his life for reasons not even known to Dudhnath himself. He was nursed and looked after by the tribals till he regained his health.

Having fled the jail and the prospects of finding a way back to his homeland bleak, Dudhnath took the company of the Andamanese as his fait accompli. He almost became one of them – hunting, fishing and participating in their daily rituals. The Andamanese also took him to be one of their own. So much so that they made Dudhnath marry two Andamanese girls -Leepa and Jigah. Jigah was to bear his child later.

Destiny played its pranks. According to Dudhnath's statement recorded by the then Superintendent of the Cellular Jail, Dr. J.P. Walker, it was the summer of 1859, exactly one year and twenty-four days of his stay with the Andamanese, when he saw some unusual activities in the tribal camp. He was more intrigued when he heard the Andamanese planning an attack on the convict station of Aberdeen at Port Blair and to follow it up with the massacre of everyone in the adjoining islands. The Andamanese warriors were assembling from across the islands. 'Horried to the hilt', as Dudhnath described his own state, and concerned about the lives of fellow

The battle of Aberdeen resulted into consolidation of colonial power in the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago and the premature march to extinction of the Andamanese of whom a mere 36 live a protected life

countrymen living in Port Blair who were sure to be killed in the attack, he deserted the aborigines and came to Port Blair to forewarn his former captors-the British-about the impending danger.

On the fateful day i.e., May 17, 1859 the tribals attacked as planned. Their armies faced the pre-alerted British at Aberdeen. The tribal bows and arrows were hardly a match for the fire power of the forewarned British garrisons. The Andamanese were slaughtered in thousands and their attack repulsed. In fact, the loss of lives was so huge that a considerable part of the Andamanese race was wiped out in one single day in the Battle of Aberdeen. The tribals retreated, never to battle again. Portman, the British PRO with the aborigines, later wrote in his report "I have heard accounts of it from Lt. Warden; a British officer who took part in the battle. It was the most desperate and determined attack ever made on the British settlement. The intention of the aborigines was to exterminate us".

The battle of Aberdeen resulted into the consolidation of colonial power in the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago and the premature march to extinction of the Andamanese of whom a mere 36 live a protected life in the tribal settlement at Strait Island, about a hundred kilometres north of Port Blair. As for Dudhnath, according to later accounts, he was kept in British captivity for some time after the battle and was subsequently pardoned by the British. He left the islands for his native village in North India forever.



Andamanese Tribals Attacking the British, 1859

Source: Press Information Bureau
Port Blair



Every Day a number of people visit the Funeral Tomb of (Maqbara) of Allama Fazl-e Haq Khairabadi

A Brave and Noble Story From **Mazar Pahar**

One should
not forget
that the
history of
Andaman
begins on
10th March
1858

Every Indian salutes the great revolutionaries incarcerated in the cellular jail, but one should not forget that the history of Andaman begins on 10th March 1858. Those were the valiant soldiers of the First War of Independence who lived and died here unsung and unwept long before the British dreamt of construction of Cellular Jail. They were pioneers, some known and a large number unknown, who were deported to the Islands after the great rebellion of 1857. It would be appropriate to remember the life of a great hero of First War of Independence who led a life of pain and agony in the penal settlement along with his fellow freedom fighters i.e. Allama Fazl-e Haq Khairabadi.

Allama Fazl-e Haq Khairabadi (1797-1861) was born in Khairabad town of Sitapur district in Uttar Pradesh. His father Maulana Fazle Imam Khairabadi was the Sub Judge in the Civil Court of Delhi and later the Mufti of the Court. Allama Fazl-e Haq Khairabadi received his education in Islamic Sciences from Shah Abdul Qadir and Shah Abdul Aziz, the Muhaddith of Delhi and in rational sciences from his

father. At the age of thirteen, he completed his education and engaged himself in teaching. Later, he joined the services of the British Government at the age of nineteen in 1816 and appointed the Chief of the Civil Court in Delhi.

Allama Fazl-e Haq was a renowned Sufi, philosopher, poet, religious scholar, but was most remembered as a freedom fighter. In 1831, Allama Fazl-e Haq resigned from the Government job and spent most of his time in the scholarly work. Soon after his resignation from the services of the British Government, Allama Fazl-e Haq got an opportunity to serve the Nawab of Jhajjar. After his stay at Jhajjar, he was employed at Alwar, Tonk and Rampur. Then he went to Lucknow and became the Sadrus Sudoor and Mohtamim-i-Huzoor-i-Tehsil (official in charge of a tehsil). He was also a magistrate in Delhi also.

Allama Fazl-e Haq played the most significant part in the revolt of 1857. He issued a fatwa against the British to unite the religious sentiments of the people especially Muslims against the British. It is well known that due to the scarcity of the funds, most of the sepoys left the battlefield and moved towards their homes. In these crucial situations, the Mujahedeen mercenaries, who were fighting without salary and wages, were only hoping to continue the war of independence of India until their last breath. Allama Fazl-e Haq Khairabadi's efforts, in this regard, were appreciable. On 20th September 1857, Delhi was re-occupied by the British. Further Allama Fazl-e Haq was sent in the custody of Deputy Commissioner on 30th December, and subsequently, arrested and sent to Lucknow in January 1859. From Lucknow, he was sent to Calcutta and thereafter Andaman Islands by a ship known as "Fire Queen". He reached Port Blair on 8th October 1859.

Allama Fazl-e Haq wrote three classic books in Arabic in the prison titled "*Al Sauratul Hindiya*",

"*Qasida Hamzia*" and "*Qasida Dalia*". These are fine source of knowledge regarding the Indian revolt of 1857 and the conditions of prisoners in the Andaman Islands. These books, particularly, deal with the socio-political conditions of that time, the cruelties committed by the British on Indian people and also British plan to convert Indian people into Christianity. His book *Al Sauratul Hindiya*, deals with the whole period of the revolt starting from the beginning of the revolt to the time of his imprisonment in Andaman Islands. He covers all aspects of the revolt, including causes, progress and consequences of the revolt of 1857. He says that he was suffering such a hardship, which nobody could even imagine. The British killed his sons and presented their heads to the Emperor. Most of the peoples were killed, including the kinsmen of the Emperor. He explains that only those people survived, who left their abode in the darkness of the night. While complaining the extreme hardships of the people, Allama Fazl-e Haq says that it was exactly the scene of doomsday, where everybody would have to save his life and not even caring for their relatives.

After one year, 10 months and 13 days imprisonment, Allama Fazl-e Haq passed away on 20th August 1861. He was buried in the same Island. He had made his last will that he should be informed in his grave when the English would leave the country.

Allama Fazl-e Haq's grave is now considered as a holy shrine of Andaman Island. People from all walks of life are visiting the Mazar Pahar and taking care and cure from Allama's noble spell. And he is living for the islanders even after his death.

It would be appropriate to remember the life of a great hero of First War of Independence who led a life of pain and agony in the penal settlement along with his fellow freedom fighters i.e. Allama Fazl-e Haq Khairabadi.

By P.J Mohammed
Naufal Ahsani
PhD Research Scholar,
Pondicherry
University, Port Blair



The grave tomb of Allama Fazl-e Haq Khairabadi

स्वर्गीय सरदार प्रताप सिंह



नेताजी बोलते थे कि जब देश आज़ाद होगा, तब आई. एन. ए. के लोगों को उनका हक जरूर मिलेगा। नेताजी ने एक दफा स्पीच के लिए हम सबको बुलाया। उस समय अंग्रेजों के हवाई जहाज़ आ गए। नेताजी ने कहा कि डरने की कोई जरूरत नहीं है। हमको हरा सके ऐसी कोई गोली तैयार नहीं हुई।

आज़ाद हिंद फौज के भूतपूर्व सेनानी स्वर्गीय सरदार प्रताप सिंह के साथ, आकाशवाणी के पूर्व उद्घोषक श्री मदन मोहन सिंह द्वारा की गई बातचीत के संपादित अंश

मदन मोहन सिंह

सरदार प्रताप सिंह जी। आपका अभिनंदन। पहले तो ये बताएँ फौज में आने की प्रेरणा आपको कहाँ से मिली ?

प्रताप सिंह

घर में बहुत गरीबी थी। फूफा फौज से रिटायर्ड हुए थे। हम उनसे मिलने गए। वो बोले तुम फौज में भर्ती हो जाओ। मैं बोला मुझे अंग्रेजों के लिए काम नहीं करना है। वो समझाए। फिर अंग्रेज कर्नल साहब के पास ले गए। वो बोले थे लड़का तो अच्छा है। भर्ती कर लगे। तीन महीना का प्रशिक्षण हुआ। बाद में बॉम्बे भेज दिया उसके बाद फिर अफ्रीका भेज दिया।

मदन मोहन सिंह

ये कब की बात है ?

प्रताप सिंह

ये सन् 1941-42 की बात है।

मदन मोहन सिंह

अच्छा। आगे बताइए।

प्रताप सिंह

हम लड़ रहे थे। अंग्रेज कमज़ोर थे। जर्मन के पास अच्छे हथियार थे। मिडिल ईस्ट अफ्रीका में उन्होंने आक्रमण किया और हम को हरा कर कब्ज़ा कर लिया।

मदन मोहन सिंह

कितने हिंदुस्तानी थे ?

प्रताप सिंह

रहे होंगे 15,000। लेकिन जर्मन ने हम पर जुल्म नहीं किया। हमको आराम से रखा। उस समय तक नेताजी सुभाष

मदन मोहन सिंह

चंद्र बोस जर्मन पहुँच चुके थे।

कुल मिलाकर अंग्रेजी सेना में आप कितने दिन रहे ?

प्रताप सिंह

मैं डेढ़ साल था।

मदन मोहन सिंह

फिर आज़ाद हिंद फौज में कैसे आए ?

प्रताप सिंह

नेताजी हम लोगों से मिले। उन्होंने कहा कि कौन कौन वोलन्टियर बनना चाहता है। हम सब देश के लिए लड़ेंगे। हमने कहा हम तैयार हैं। नेताजी बहुत खुश हुए। उन्होंने हिटलर से बात की, कि हिंदुस्तानी युद्ध बंदियों को हमको दे दो, आज़ाद हिंद फौज के लिए। हमारी अंग्रेजों के साथ बहुत टक्कर हुई। अमेरिकन आर्मी के साथ बहुत टक्कर हुई। बहुत जवान शहीद हुए। हमारे सिर्फ 5000 जवान बचे थे। लेकिन हम पीछे नहीं हटे। फिर हेडक्वार्टर से आदेश आया कि जगह छोड़ दो। अमेरिकन आर्मी हावी हो रही थी। हम फिर हेडक्वार्टर आ गए। इस तरह करीब 4 साल हमने लड़ाई की।

मदन मोहन सिंह

आज़ाद हिंद फौज में किस पद पर थे आप ?

प्रताप सिंह

हम हवलदार थे। मेरे पास दो गन और मेरे सेक्शन में 100 जवान थे। टोक

- मदन मोहन सिंह**
प्रताप सिंह तोड़ने की महारथ थी। नेताजी के निकट कैसे पहुँचे ? नेताजी को ड्राइवर की जरूरत थी। हम मैकेनिकल ड्राइवर थे। तीन महीने थे, हम उनके साथ।
- मदन मोहन सिंह** उनके साथ रहते हुए आपको कैसा लगा ?
- प्रताप सिंह** बहुत अच्छा लगा। नेताजी बोलते थे कि जब देश आजाद होगा, तब आई.एन.ए. के लोगों को उनका हक जरूर मिलेगा। नेताजी ने एक दफा स्पीच के लिए हम सबको बुलाया। उस समय अंग्रेजों के हवाई जहाज आ गए। नेताजी ने कहा कि डरने की कोई जरूरत नहीं है। हमको हरा सके ऐसी कोई गोली तैयार नहीं हुई।
- मदन मोहन सिंह** क्या बात है !
- प्रताप सिंह** कुछ दिना बाद हमने सुना कि नेताजी हेमबर्ग से पनडुब्बी के जरिए सिंगापुर आए हैं। जब जर्मन खत्म हुआ, सन् 1945 में।
- मदन मोहन सिंह** नेताजी तब उसी दरम्यान अंडमान आए। झंडा फहराया, भाषण दिया। तो आपको इसकी खबर मिलती थी ?
- प्रताप सिंह** हाँ मिलती थी। हमारे जनरल शेर खान बताते थे। हम अब जल्द आजाद हो जाएंगे।
- मदन मोहन सिंह** क्या आपके मन में तड़प नहीं हुई कि काश हम भी नेताजी के साथ अंडमान जा पाते।
- प्रताप सिंह** हाँ! बहुत मन था। लेकिन आ नहीं सकते थे। क्योंकि हम लड़ाई में फंसे थे। लड़ते लड़ते अंत में हम थोड़ा कमजोर हो गए, और हमे स्विटजरलैंड के बॉर्डर में अंग्रेजों ने बंदी बना लिया। हम करीब 6000 जवान थे। काफी जवान शहीद हुए। कई लोग घायल हो गए।
- मदन मोहन सिंह** अच्छा लाल किले में आप लोग का ट्रायल हुआ। मुकदमा चलाया अंग्रेजों ने। आपके साथ कौन कौन लोग थे ?
- प्रताप सिंह** हमारे साथ तो बहुत लोग थे। अभी नाम याद नहीं है। हमे कोप में रखा गया था। रोज शाम को अंग्रेज आते, और दो-चार लोगो को अपने साथ ले जाते। उन्हें मार कर कहीं फेंक देते थे, हमे कोई पता नहीं होता था।
- मदन मोहन सिंह** आप बचे कैसे ?
- प्रताप सिंह** उस समय भोला भाई देसाई और पंडित नेहरू ने हमारा केस अपने हाथ ले लिया। और भी लोगों का समर्थन मिला। हम केस जीत गए। जेल से हम आजाद हुए। अंग्रेजों ने कहा कि तुम सब अपने-अपने घर जाओ और रोज पास के थाने में दो बार हाजिरी देना।

मदन मोहन सिंह

तो प्रताप सिंह जी आपने अपने और नेताजी के बारे में बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी आज हमको दी। आम लोग इन तथ्यों के बारे में कम ही जानते होंगे। ये हमारा सौभाग्य है कि इस समय आप हमारे बीच बैठे हुए हो। अच्छा ये बताइए कि देश आजाद होने के बाद, एक सेनानी के रूप में आपने कैसे महसूस किया ?

प्रताप सिंह

हम बहुत खुश हुए कि आजादी का हमारा सपना पूरा हुआ। लेकिन दूसरी तरफ हमने आजादी का मोल नहीं समझा। रिश्ततखोरी, बेईमानी देखकर बहुत दुख होता है। आज नेताजी अगर होते तो देश को बहुत आगे लेकर जाते।

मदन मोहन सिंह

आप जैसे सेनानी ने क्रांतिकारिया की सरजमीन को अपना घर बनाया। ये बताइए कि अंडमान में रहकर आप कैसा महसूस कर रहे हो ?

प्रताप सिंह

बहुत अच्छा लगता है। लोग सम्मान देते हैं। हाल ही में राष्ट्रपति कलाम साब ने हमे दिल्ली आमंत्रित कर मेडल दिए। पूरे देश में आजाद हिंद फौज के हम 11 लोग ही हैं। बाकी खत्म हो गए।

मदन मोहन सिंह

ओह! क्या आप फिलहाल खुश हो ? आपके परिवार के लोग ?

प्रताप सिंह

सब राजी-खुशी हैं।

मदन मोहन सिंह

तो सरदार सिंह जी हम आपके आभारी हैं कि आपने नेताजी और आजाद हिंद फौज से जुड़े अपने संस्मरण हमे सुनाए। नई पीढ़ी आपसे प्रेरणा लेगी। हमे समय देने के लिए बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद।

प्रताप सिंह

धन्यवाद। जय हिंद।

सामार: आकाशवाणी पोर्ट ब्लेयर



नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस अंडमान के दीरे पर



Wellness Rules over Port Blair

On the eve of International Yoga Day

Wellness Rules!-the Pro-active Wellbeing Conclave; aimed at throwing light and inspiring interest in preventive wellness and its various facets - Physical, Emotional, Spiritual, Creative and Intellectual. The conclave brought together experts who enlightened the audience with the latest developments and shared their experiences in the field of Proactive Wellness.



The Wellness Rules! Conclave was held in Port Blair on 20th June 2016 on the eve of International Day of Yoga. It was the first partnership event conducted by Sleepwell Foundation with Directorate of Social Welfare, Andaman & Nicobar Administration.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lt. General A.K. Singh, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM (Retd) inaugurated the Conclave.

In his inaugural address, the Lt. Governor appealed to the people of A&N Islands to live in hope and urged them to look beyond self; in the larger interest of the society and the nation, asking people to come out of negative discourses leading to despair.

The LG complimented the organisers for conducting the conclave at Port Blair and

said that it was a very topical seminar and aimed to benefit the Islanders. "The Wellness Conclave is happening on the eve of the Yoga day, which itself is a great way to achieve wellness." He also launched the quarterly magazine on A&N islands.

Vice Admiral Bimal Verma, AVSM, Commander-in-Chief, A&N Command, also addressed the Conclave, and the Chief Secretary of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, (i/c), Shri Raajiv Yaduvanshi, delivered the concluding address.

Many Senior officers from Defence and Civil Administration and civil society groups attended the Conclave.

In her introductory address, Ms. Namita Gautam, Managing Trustee, Sleepwell Foundation, said, "Sleepwell Foundation team is delighted to be in Port Blair and hopes to make these Islands more beautiful with mantras of Proactive Wellness."

*"Life is not a race,
pause for a while;
catch your breath
& look at the
beautiful moments
that surround us.
Live in hope rather
in despair. Don't
let your ego drive
your discourse."*

*-Lt. General A.K. Singh, PVSM,
AVSM, SM, VSM (Retd)*



Participants at the Conclave were inspired and counselled by a panel of eminent experts in various disciplines drawn from different parts of India...Dr. Sadhna Gupta, Yogacharya Dr. Kapil Bajaj, Ms. Arvinder J. Singh, Ms. Shubra Gupta, Ms. Harmeet Bajaj, Ms. Revathy Menon, Ms. Rene Singh, Ms. Avni Sethi and Mr. Kamal Ahmed.

In her welcome speech, Smt. Rashmi Singh, Secretary Social Welfare, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, expressed her happiness that the Department of Social Welfare succeeded in organising this prestigious wellness conclave in Port Blair.

She also shared details about the wellness centre, Arunodaya that was to be opened the next day. She said, "The Wellness Centre is meant for holistic wellness to address needs of women facing physical, sexual, emotional, psychological and economic problems by actively associating a pool of resource agencies which can support different interventions including outreach services. Women in need can call at the helpline numbers which will be attended by counsellors who will then offer solutions to cases reaching out to them."

In his concluding remark, the guest of honour, Chief Secretary (i/c), Shri Raajiv Yaduvanshi stated that heart is the only way to experience the beautiful potential as a human being. "It is in sharing, that we feel the bliss", he said, adding that the positive experience one feels and radiates for the well being of others is the most blissful feeling. Life is a celebration, the beauty & joy is to be shared, he said.

The inaugural session was followed by a lecture cum demonstration of 'Yoga on Holistic Wellness' presented by Dr. Sadhna Gupta, Integrative Health Sciences & Yogacharya Dr. Kapil Bajaj





who stressed on the need for a holistic wellness in order to be happy and healthy in life.

Thereafter, Corporate Trainer and Psychotherapist, Arvinder J Singh took an engaging session on how to connect oneself with emotional wellness. She also conducted a small progressive relaxation exercise which helped spread a positive feeling across the participants.

This was followed by an interactive session on creative and intellectual wellness led by Shubhra Gupta, senior



Journalist of Indian Express, Harmeet Bajaj, designer and businesswoman and renowned actor and director, Revathy Menon sharing their inspiring stories. They spoke in detail about their journeys, roadblocks that came their way, learnings they have had and how motivationally they moved ahead in life, training their minds from time to time and kept on associating it with creative and intellectual wellness.

Finally a soul stirring spiritual wellness session wherein a performance of soulful

"Our mission is to sensitize and positively impact lives through Our Awareness Programmes, Actions and Advocacy on proactive wellness."

Namita Gautam, Managing Trustee, Sleepwell Foundation



The Conclave concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Shri M.N. Murali, Director, Social Welfare.

An exhibition titled "Wellness4everyone" put up by local entrepreneurs focusing on different attributes and products of wellness and well-being was also a part of the conclave.



Sleepwell Foundation is the Corporate Social Responsibility arm of Sheela Group, an Indian multinational with a global footprint and the makers of 'Sleepwell', India's leading Mattress brand.

music, dance and wellness was presented by vocal artist, Rene Singh and classical dancer, Avni Sethi, with Ustad Kamaal Ahmed Khan on saarangi and Chinmaya on tabla. The beautiful rendition awakened the spiritual realms among the gathering.

"Wellness Conclave is not just a one day event but it is a drive against negativity and is aimed at overcoming negative thoughts."

Rashmi Singh, Secretary, Social Welfare Andaman & Nicobar Administration



Crossing the Sandbar @ *Ross & Smith*

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and
I took the one less travelled by. And
that has made all the difference."

I remember these lines of Robert Frost when I think about the experience I had while crossing the sandbar @Ross and Smith, two islands connected with a strip of sand thus earning the nickname "Twin Islands" which in itself is a unique spectacle of nature. While on a trip to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, if you have been to

Radhanagar beach in Havelock and thought you have seen the best beach in Asia, then wait till you have set foot on the Ross and Smith Islands in Diglipur.

Being a traveller, I always seek out and include lesser known destinations and this is how I chanced upon the town of Diglipur and included it into my itinerary during my trip to

Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Located quite far off from Port Blair coupled with connectivity issues, this place has been hidden and off limits to tourists for a long time. But with the opening up of the Andaman Trunk Road (ATR), it has become a possibility to travel so far to the remote northern end of Andaman Islands. The journey is as important as the

destination and here I share this journey and the destination with you:

The Journey: Andaman Trunk Road

Sometimes the right path is not the easiest one. The journey from Port Blair to Diglipur by road was quite long (325 kms) but interesting. We experienced the other side of Andaman Islands; the abode of the aborigines, the lush green rainforests, and the villages formed as a result of settlers from mainland India making them their home since decades coexisting and living in harmony.

As a stretch of the ATR passes through the restricted area of Jarawa Tribal Reserve, the speed limit is specified at 40 kmph and there are certain time slots during which the vehicles are let inside in convoy system with policemen at the start and end of convoy. Here I would like to emphasize that tribals are the true souls of Mother Nature and deserve respect and they shouldn't be seen as an object of entertainment. As a result of past incidences of their harassment by tourists, there is strictness observed in this part of the road. Photography, interaction

or giving food items to the tribal people is strictly not allowed.

At the end of this segment is a creek to be crossed by Vehicle ferry and then you reach the Baratang Island famous for its Limestone caves, mud volcano and Parrot Island. Many tourists do a day trip from Port Blair to Baratang and hence you will see this road full of tourist vehicles till this part of the journey.

But we kept on moving further ahead as we had a lot more distance to cover in a single day. Now our vehicle moved with a better speed until we reached another creek to be crossed by vehicle ferry. After crossing the second creek we had a few more miles to cover till we reach the town of Diglipur where we had our room booked in the only private resort. Now we were really exhausted and looking forward to crash on our beds.

The Destination: Diglipur

Encountering a place which shows negligible signs of tourist influence is like hitting a jackpot for an explorer. In this era of urbanisation and fast paced life, it is a pleasure to stumble upon an experience of a laid back life

where business happens as usual and life sets its own pace.

Diglipur is the largest town of North Andaman Island. This is the place where agriculture is still the norm and the city of Port Blair (apart from mainland) gets its supplies of farm produce and fresh vegetables.

As we were now really tired of the long day on the road, we had a quick refreshment, checked into our room and had a sound sleep. The next day we woke up early and went to the beach approachable from the resort area. We witnessed one of the most surreal sunrise on that day and we forgot all our tiredness of travel the day before. And now it was time for us to get ready for the attraction for which we took so much pain: Ross and Smith Islands.

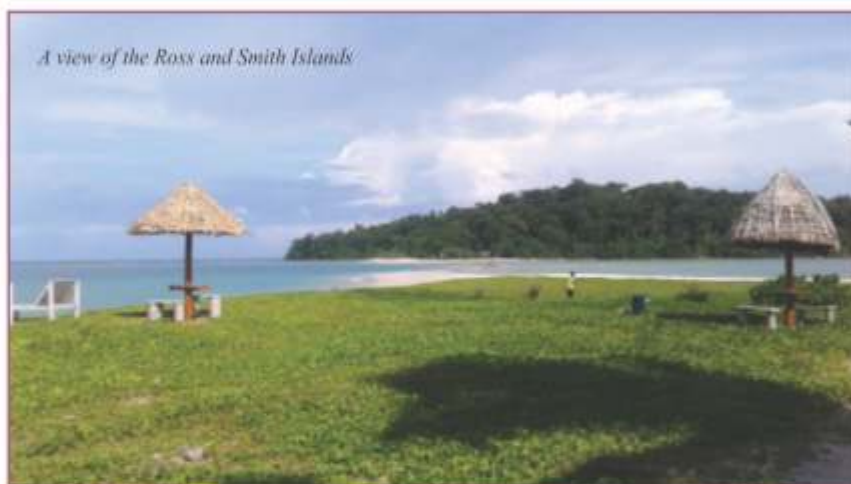
Local Haat at Diglipur



Ferry for Crossing the Creek



Turtle nesting at Diglipur



A view of the Ross and Smith Islands



Sunrise at the Islands

Our driver took us to the jetty from where we had to take a shared boat to the Ross and Smith Islands. After a 20 minute boat ride, we were on the one island and we would see another island. It was just the two of us and a family of four apart who shared the boat ride with us to that beach. Having heard that the water would be waist deep and that we can cross the sandbar to the other island, we decided to keep walking on the narrow sandbar which eventually vanished into the sea midway between the two islands. Being non swimmers we honestly didn't want to take a risk in this no man's territory. Just where the sandbar vanished, both of us sat down and enjoyed the

marvel of nature. We were there in the middle of nowhere and surrounded by sea all around us. Once we sat there, we felt childlike thrill inside.

Let me introduce you to the twin islands of Ross and Smith; a hidden paradise in the Andaman Islands where a negligible fraction of tourists venture. Calling them beautiful is an understatement. A visit to these islands is simply an 'out of the world' experience for those who love exploring and setting foot on places less travelled. The pair of islands is home to untamed wide virgin beaches, offering shallow swimming area on one side and best dive and snorkelling sites on the other.

The Ross & Smith islands are located far-far away from the tourist centres of Andaman Islands and eventually very few visit or even know about their existence. The two islands are uniquely connected by a sandbar making it an experience to cherish for life! The sea tide plays hide and seek by submerging the sandbar during high tide and revealing it during low tide. The scene looks like those exotic destinations shown in the movies with awesome hues of blue and tropical islands with sand around it. So be here before more

people find out this little secret and they turn it into a typical touristy place.

Those who make it this far are fully rewarded by ruggedly beautiful natural wonders. Apart from the experience of the twin islands of Ross & Smith, the place is also famous for turtle nesting which happens from December to March every year. Kalipur beach is an ideal turtle nesting ground and is the only beach of its kind, where four species of Sea Turtles viz; Olive Ridley, Leather Back, Hawks Bill and Green Turtles call their home.

Another attraction here is the Saddle Peak, the highest point of Andamans. A trek passing through the subtropical forests with a local guide is possible here from Kalipur beach and it takes approximately seven hours giving incredible views of the archipelago from the peak. A range of lush evergreen forest territory with 13 indigenous birds species, 36 indigenous species of insects, 6 species of indigenous trees, this place is rich bio-diverse nature paradise. **This is also home to Kalpong river; the only river of Andaman Islands.**

All in all, this entire place has a lot of tourism potential but still to be discovered by many. So don't forget to make them a part of your itinerary when you travel next to Andamans. Come here and enjoy another side of Andaman but be cautious of being a responsible traveller. **Enjoy the place and help sustain the beauty for generations to come.**



**Padmavati
Tayaru
Madipalli**

*Young Professional,
National Career Service
Ministry of Labour and Employment,
currently posted at Port Blair*

To Mothers & Daughters!

Breaking all stereotypes this mother-daughter duo spent time holidaying in Andamans!!!

To begin with, this article gives me the opportunity to describe the most wonderful moments spent with my mother in Andaman Islands. Breaking the notion of Andamans being a honeymooner's type of holiday spot, the two of us set out on this journey from Delhi to these enchanting islands. **After our initial inhibitions of safety we realized that these islands are one of safest places for girls to travel alone.**

The day we landed in Port Blair, it was coincidentally the Mother's day. We celebrated our bond to the fullest by visiting the Corbyn's Cove beach and engaging in water sports activities. After enjoying the speed and splashes of sea, we went on to our next stop on the same day; Munda Pahar beach at Chidiyatappu. The main attraction of the beach is the spectacular view of the sunset.

Next we headed to watch sound and light show at the Cellular Jail. The entire feel of the show and the stories which were told of the legendary heroes of our freedom struggle gave us goose bumps. It reminded us that the things that we value the least are the ones which are most important to us.

The next day we left for Havelock Island. Most of the resorts here are spread on the eastern coast along the beach giving the tourist a real feel of the islands. We were staying at the Dolphin Resort in Havelock. Ours

was a beach facing cottage and the view from it was ethereal. We used to wake early in the morning to experience that surreal feeling of the sunrise.

On our next day at Havelock, we went for our much awaited scuba experience and it was an enthralling experience. We saw

diverse aquatic life and sea corals. We also witnessed the 'Nemo' fish, the one which is there in the movie 'Finding Nemo'. I was personally too excited to see so many of those tiny clown fishes coming in and out of their home of sea anemones.

The star attraction of Havelock Island is its beaches! Radhanagar beach known as Asia's best beaches with its vast crescent coastline, fine white sand and tropical rainforest overlooking the beach gave it a dreamlike feeling.

Later in the evening we went to a lovely local shack called 'Fat Martin' as we wanted to try some local delicacies. According to us, it's the place where food lovers must visit if one is at Havelock.

On our last day there we visited the Elephant Beach for another round of water sports activities. The shades of blue of the vast sea at this beach were mesmerizing.

Now, it was time for us to head back to Port Blair. We know that these memories would be etched in our minds forever. So next Mother's Day don't forget to bring your mother for a vacation in Andamans!

"NATURE IS BEAUTY AND BEAUTY IS NATURE.....ALWAYS BE IN THE LAPS OF NATURE.....BECAUSE A THING OF BEAUTY IS A JOY FOREVER."



Jayashree Parihar &
Seema Mehra Parihar

Seventy years of Independence and Nicobar

India, with her kaleidoscopic diversity is a country whose charming variety emanates from its history, shaped by its geography and adorned by myriad cultures. A few days from now, we shall be celebrating our 70th Independence Day. Years ago, India made a “tryst with her destiny” and the hopes and dreams of a great nation were envisioned and dreamt.

Today, we are a proud nation with the third largest economy (in PPP) and possess the second largest human resources. We have sent *mangalyana* and are envied by the world for our indigenous technology. We are also poised to fight the demons of unequal development and socio-economic infrastructure bottlenecks.

Here, in the southernmost district of the country, we are proud of being a part of India's progress. The district has seen the worst of natural disaster and yet its people are so resilient that they have bounced back to normalcy in record time. This quality of people of Nicobar is our greatest asset.

Usually, we associate growth and development only with the economy and completely ignore the social aspect of it. From Nicobar, the materialistic world can learn a lesson or two. Whereas, in the rest of the country, the position of women even after 70 years of independence is still questionable, the Nicobari women are independent, free from the fear of foeticide, gender discrimination, eve-teasing, dowry deaths, domestic violence, acid attacks and even the social ostracism which only a woman faces in case of child out of wedlock. It is indeed a great achievement that the people of Nicobar treat their women so well and help in materializing the true spirit of freedom envisaged by thinkers like Tagore and Rousseau – the freedom from the fear and a dignified life.

The *tuhet* system that takes care of the orphans, the old, the sick, the disabled is yet another strength of the people of Nicobar. It's indeed a great freedom from



A group of nicobari women in their traditional dress

insecurities that the people of the district ensure for one and all. **Our friendly neighboring country, Bhutan is well known for its high happiness index and the people of Nicobar too can boast of the same as they are so socially advanced, resilient in the face of adversities, so happy, simple and content.**

Yet, we are certainly not a Utopian district. We have more than our fair share of problems which have made administration in this district an arduous task. The biggest challenge for the administration is the long gestational period of developmental projects due to the very geography of this district. The district comprises of 22 islands and eight of them are inhabited. These islands are not only far from the nearest economic hub i.e. Port Blair but also separated from each other by a very tempestuous sea, making transportation of people, goods and everything that is important for the development of infrastructure a slow and cumbersome process. The lack of mobile and internet connectivity along with this geographical isolation also inhibits the islands from taking giant leaps towards progress. The smaller islands like Chaura and hamlets in Nancowry and little Nicobar also lack some very basic facilities like water and 24x7 electricity. Though the administration has been taking steps like floating a tender for de-salination plant in Chaura Island, installation of solar street lights, commissioning an exclusive boat for the southern sector etc, the common islander still has a lot to wish for. Therefore, a lot has to be done by the administration, by in fact everyone, from the lowest MGNREGA functionary to the district administration to the highest policy makers for the betterment of this beautiful district. With the 70th anniversary of India's independence not far off, we must understand that the only way forward is as enshrined by our national government's motto i.e. “together with all, development for all” and to achieve this, we all must join hands and play our small role in this glorious march to a better India. Jai Hind.



By Ms. Neha Bansal
IAS, DC Nicobars

Trade and Commerce of the Islands through the lens of Jadwet Family

MSV Safeena

A voyage through the tumultuous waters of history that Andaman & Nicobar Islands has been witness to; is a humbling yet awe-inspiring experience. The legacy of the Jadwet family is intricately intertwined with that of the islands.

Before Independence

The genesis of this affiliation traces back to the early 1900s when a Gujarati family 'Jadwet' based in Burma, built a Lloyd Registered sailing vessel namely Gunpati which started plying between Moulmein and Car Nicobar and Nancowry in A&N Islands. Although the Jadwets originally belonged to Surat, Gujarat, they had migrated to Moulmein, Burma for business expansion. Gunpati, under the company banner of Akoojee Jadwet & Company, regularly frequented the Nicobar Islands to obtain a cargo of coconuts and arecanuts to be sold in Burma.

This relationship was further cemented when during the separation of India, Burma and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), the three northernmost islands in Andaman and Nicobar Islands viz. Great Coco, Little Coco and Table Island were given to Burma, which were further leased out for 30 years to the Jadwets owing to their prior association with the islands.

The Nicobarese had gotten habituated to decades of pilfer, plunder and humiliation by traders from the South East Asia who preyed on the innocence of the tribals. The Jadwets introduced fair trade practices to ensure that the Nicobarese were treated with due respect and given just returns.

During the Japanese occupation of the island in the Second World War, trade and business was affected and the members of the company had to flee back to Gujarat. With the end of Second World War, the lease for Great Coco, Little Coco and Table Island resumed only to be

discontinued by the Burmese Government a few years later owing to political upheavals in Burma.

In September 1945, a contract was signed between the company and the Government of British India by which the former received the sole license to trade in the Nicobars on a certain royalty payable on exports.

The company was made responsible for distributing food and essentials to the Nicobarese. Following the agreement, the Jadwets arrived at Car Nicobar with the re-occupation forces in late 1945 and established their headquarters at Chukchuka village.

The Jadwets mandate was simple: to run a monopolistic but fair trade with the Nicobarese who even in the forties did not know the use of money and relied entirely on barter. The company was to take back in their sailing ships, like the famed vessel Safeena, betel nut and copra whilst providing the islands with necessary essentials.

In an Independent India

The introduction of cooperative movement in Nicobar Islands gave a new shape and meaning to the life of Nicobarese. The Jadwets in accordance with changing times, relinquished trade in Nicobar by forming a central co-operative society, wholly tribal owned, named EllonHinengo Limited (EHL) which is flourishing till date.

In the present times, while the Nicobar chapter came to a close, the business had acquired extensive ground in Port Blair.

Anointed as Jadwet Trading Company, Cassim Jadwet, JTC, a visionary by nature, apart from starting the first travel agency in these islands, Island Travels, he also spearheaded the building of the



first five star hotel in Port Blair, Bay Island designed by legendary architect Charles Correa, which was subsequently sold to ITC. The Light House Cinema hall was established along with a fully-fledged shipping company Raj Lines, owned and operated 8 cargo ships that sailed as far as Middle East & South East Asia.

The Jadwet umbrella today encompasses several diversified businesses in the Andamans, notably in Tourism and Hospitality. Shipping is also a primary concern, with both passenger (Makruzz), cargo ferries (MAK Logistics) and a Shipping agency (RSTI).

Logistics and Trade continued to be at the heart of their business, with Clearing and Forwarding Agencies and Warehousing, alongside Dealerships and Retail outlets of several fortune 500 multinationals such as Indian Oil Corporation, Godrej and Hindustan Unilever.

While the Jadwets among others, paved the way for thriving commerce in the islands through their rare foresight and pioneering ventures, the family also categorically acknowledges that these successes would not have been probable elsewhere. It is no surprise therefore, that the Jadwets are now deeply rooted to the islands and envision a bright and mutually beneficial future. While the journey with Andaman and Nicobar Islands began as a purely business venture, the islands have become closely knit into the fabric of the Jadwet family.

Source: Shri Mohammed Jadwet, Leading Businessman, Port Blair



सांसद आदर्श ग्राम फरारगंज स्वराज से सुराज का संकल्प

प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने लोकनायक जयप्रकाश नारायण की जयंती के दिन 11 अक्टूबर 2014 को सांसद आदर्श ग्राम योजना का शुभारंभ करते हुए कहा था कि "महात्मा गांधी की ग्रामीण विकास परिकल्पना को सही मायनों में पूरा करने के उद्देश्य से ये योजना शुरू की जा रही है। गांधीजी का मानना था कि स्वराज का सुराज (सुशासन) में रूपांतर कर आदर्श ग्राम का प्रारूप तैयार हो सकता है। ग्रामीण विकास, मांग और भागीदारी पर आधारित होना चाहिए।" वैयक्तिक, सामाजिक, आर्थिक और स्वच्छ परिवेश का विकास कर समग्र तौर पर गांवों की तस्वीर बेहतर करने का उद्देश्य रखा गया। पूरे देश में वर्ष 2019 तक 2500 आदर्श ग्राम तैयार करने का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया। सांसद अपने क्षेत्र में एक ऐसा आदर्श ग्राम तैयार करें, जो अन्य गांवों के लिए आदर्श हो और वहाँ के ग्रामीण भी अपने गांवों की दशा और दिशा को बदलते हुए अपने जीवन में खुशियों के फल जुटाने की ओर प्रोत्साहित हों।

दक्षिण अंडमान की फरारगंज पंचायत को आदर्श ग्राम योजना के तहत चुना गया है। करीब 2 साल की अवधि के बाद यहाँ संतोषजनक परिणाम दिखने लगे हैं जिनकी कुछ झलकियाँ यहाँ प्रकाशित हैं।

पेयजल व्यवस्था और सड़कों का निर्माण : आधारभूत सुविधाओं की मज़बूत होती बुनियाद –

इस पंचायत के अंतर्गत आने वाले सभी गांवों के लोगों की एक प्रमुख समस्या पीने की पानी की रही है। गर्मी के दिनों में ये समस्या और गंभीर हो जाती है। जल स्रोत सूख जाते हैं। लोगों की दिक्कतें बढ़ जाती हैं। माननीय सांसद श्री बिष्णु पद रे, पंचायत प्रधान मुनेश्वरन और प्रशासन ने इस समस्या के समाधान का बीड़ा उठाया और अंडमान लोक निर्माण विभाग ने मिशन मोड पर माइल तिलक के पास डींगा नाला इलाके में स्थित जल स्रोत की गहराई बढ़ाने का कार्य शुरू किया। इस साल मानसून से पहले इसकी गहराई करीब तीन मीटर बढ़ाई गई। पहाड़ से निकलने वाले करीब तीन नालों से पानी यहाँ इकट्ठा होता है। ग्राम प्रधान का मानना है कि इस जल से न केवल फरारगंज, बल्कि वृंदावन पंचायत को भी पानी की आपूर्ति की जा सकती है। सोना पहाड़ के एक अन्य जलस्रोत के आस-पास की परिधि भी बढ़ाई गई है, जिससे की अधिक से अधिक जल का संचय हो सके। डींगा नाला से जिरकाटांग तक करीब 8 किलोमीटर लम्बी पाईप लाइन बिछाने का काम पूरा हो गया है।

पंचायत के सभी घरों को पाईप लाइन कनेक्शन दिए जा रहे हैं। लोगों को आर.ओ.संयंत्र के जरिये शुद्ध जल की आपूर्ति का भी फैसला किया गया है। दुसनाबाद से जिरकाटांग नम्बर 2 की सड़क की मरम्मत तथा फुटपाथों के भी निर्माण कार्य जारी हैं।

शिक्षा की रोशनी : कौशल विकास की ऊर्जा से मज़बूत होते हाथ –

प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने देश के युवाओं में कौशल विकास पर विशेष बल दिया है, जिससे विभिन्न व्यवसायों में युवाओं को प्रशिक्षित किया जाए एवं रोज़गार के नए दरवाज़े खुले। इस क्षेत्र में विशेष कदम निम्न लिए गए।

सामुदायिक कॉलेज : इसी फरारगंज में सामुदायिक कॉलेज शुरू किया गया है। कॉलेज में बुनियादी विज्ञान, संचार कौशल, मोटर वाहन मरम्मत, विद्युत उपकरणों की मरम्मत और रख-रखाव तथा सॉफ्टवेयर तैयार करने का प्रशिक्षण दिया जाता है।

औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थान केन्द्र : आदर्श ग्राम में डॉलीगंज स्थित औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थान का एक केन्द्र खोला गया है, जिसमें मेसिन, प्लम्बर, बिजली उपकरणों की मरम्मत जैसे अनेक छोटी अवधि के प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम चलाए जाते हैं।

आदर्श माडल स्कूल

राजकीय आदर्श वरिष्ठ

माध्यमिक विद्यालय :

फरारगंज के माडल स्कूल में शिक्षा को प्रभावी बनाने के लिए कई कदम उठाए गए हैं। कक्षा 9वीं से सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी और पर्यटन जैसे अतिरिक्त विषय भी आरंभ किए गए हैं। विद्यालय के



कम्युनिटी कॉलेज



प्रतिपल
आदर्श माडल स्कूल



सांसद आदर्श ग्राम योजना का शुभारंभ करते हुए कहा था कि "महात्मा गांधी की ग्रामीण विकास परिकल्पना को सही मायनों में पूरा करने के उद्देश्य से ये योजना शुरू की जा रही है। गांधीजी का मानना था कि स्वराज का सुराज (सुशासन) में रूपांतर कर आदर्श ग्राम का प्रारूप तैयार हो सकता है।

प्राचार्य केशंकरन मानते हैं कि विद्यार्थियों को इन व्यावसायिक विषयों को पढ़ने का मौका मिलने से उनकी बुनियाद मजबूत होगी। 12वीं कक्षा उत्तीर्ण करने के बाद वे अपने मनपसंद पाठ्यक्रम में दाखिला लेकर विशेषज्ञता हासिल कर सकते हैं। इस वर्ष 11वीं कक्षा में वाणिज्य संकाय भी खोला गया है। दिव्यांग बच्चों के लिए विद्यालय में रैम्प की व्यवस्था की गई है, ताकि बच्चों को कक्षा और शौचालय आदि में आने-जाने में दिक्कत न हो।

स्वास्थ्य : आरोग्य की राह पर चल पड़े कदम :- इस ग्राम पंचायत के प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र में सेवाओं का विस्तार किया गया है। सभी निवासियों को स्वास्थ्य कार्ड जारी किए जा रहे हैं। प्रत्येक तीन महीने में चिकित्सा विशेषज्ञ शिविर लगाकर मरीजों की जांच और इलाज करते हैं। रात के समय भी अस्पताल में डॉक्टरों की मौजूदगी सुनिश्चित की गई है। नशाखोरी के खिलाफ अभियान चलाकर लोगों को नशे के जाल से बाहर निकलने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जा रहा है। आदर्श ग्राम में आरोग्य हो, लोग स्वस्थ हों, यही उद्देश्य है।

कृषि : जैविक कृषि की तरफ किसानों का बढ़ता रुझान :- आदर्श ग्राम के सभी किसानों को मृदा स्वास्थ्य कार्ड जारी किए गए हैं। सिंचाई की पर्याप्त व्यवस्था को प्राथमिकता दी गई है। किसानों को जैविक कृषि अपनाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जा रहा है। पशुओं के लिए चारागाह की व्यवस्था की जा रही है। पंचायत में बीज बैंक और

ऊर्वरक भंडार बनाए गए हैं।

कृषि संतति फार्म — पर्यटकों के आकर्षण का केन्द्र :- पंचायत के अंतर्गत कॉफी प्लॉट इलाके में स्थित कृषि संतति फार्म में नए आयाम जोड़े गए हैं। फार्म में मधुमक्खी पालन शुरू किया गया है। सरेना इंडिका जैसी भारतीय प्रजाति और डैमर मधुमक्खियों के लिए हरे-भरे पेड़-पौधों और फूलों से घिरी ये जगह बेहद उपयुक्त जान पड़ती है। इससे काफी अच्छी मात्रा में शहद उत्पादन हो रहा है। फार्म के अंदर लॉग, दालचीनी, गोलमिर्च की नर्सरी तैयार होती है। ट्रंक रोड़ से आने-जाने वाले पर्यटक भी फार्म में आने से अपने को रोक नहीं पाते हैं और सुन्दर बागवानी, मधुमक्खी पालन और नर्सरी का मुआयना करते हुए आनन्दित होते हैं।



बिजली : ऊर्जा संरक्षण के आवरण में एलईडी बल्बों का बिखरता ऊजाला :- यहाँ के निवासियों को विद्युत विभाग की ओर से एलईडी बल्बों का वितरण किया जाता है। इन बल्बों के इस्तेमाल से जहाँ बिजली की खपत कम होती है, वहीं प्रदूषण मुक्त परिवेश तैयार होता है और लोगों के बिजली के बिल भी कम आ रहे हैं। विभाग की ओर से सौर ऊर्जा संयंत्र स्थापित करने का भी निर्णय किया गया है। सरकारी भवनों और लोगों के घरों की छतों पर सोलर पैनल स्थापित करने का कार्य भी प्राथमिकता सूची में है।

समाज कल्याण : सामाजिक सुरक्षा का बढ़ता दायरा :- आदर्श ग्राम में रहने वाले सभी बेघरों को आवास प्रदान करना प्राथमिकता तय की गई है। जिन लोगों के मकान

कच्चे हैं, उन्हें पक्का किया जा रहा है। इसके अलावा जो कच्चे शौचालय हैं उन्हें भी आर.सी.सी. बनाया जा रहा है। बायो-शौचालय के लिए लोगों को जागरूक किया जाता है और तरल तथा ठोस कचरे के निपटान का प्रबंध भी किया गया है।

समाज कल्याण विभाग की ओर से आदर्श ग्राम के सभी संबंधित लाभार्थियों को वृद्धावस्था पेंशन, विधवा पेंशन और दिव्यांगों को सहायता राशि का वितरण किया जा रहा है। सभी आंगनवाड़ी केन्द्रों का नवीनीकरण किया गया है। सरकार की सभी सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजनाओं को लागू किया गया है।

मत्स्य : मछलीपालन को मिलती नई ताकत :- पंचायत के अंतर्गत आने वाले गांव अनिकेत और कैडलगंज में तालाब निर्माण कर मछली पालन की योजना है। फरारगंज जंक्शन में नए मछली बाजार का निर्माण भी कार्यसूची में शामिल है। इसके अलावा शीत भंडारण भी यहां उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा।



पर्यटन : हरियाली के बीच स्वच्छता का सौंदर्य : फरारगंज के रास्ते बाराटांग और मध्योत्तर अंडमान में दर्शनीय स्थलों को देखने बड़ी संख्या में पर्यटक जाते हैं। जिरकाटांग नम्बर 2 के चेकपोस्ट की कार्याकल्प की गई है और इस पूरे इलाके का सौंदर्यीकरण किया गया है, ताकि वहां काफिले का इंतजार करते समय पर्यटक कुछ अच्छा महसूस कर सकें। ग्राम प्रधान ने चेकपोस्ट इलाके के आस-पास स्वच्छता पर विशेष ध्यान दिया है। पुलिस चेकपोस्ट जिरकाटांग, फरारगंज, दुसनाबाद का डिजिटलीकरण किया गया है।

सड़क किनारे फेरी लगाकर अपनी रोजी-रोटी कमाने वाले लोगों को लाइसेंस जारी करने का भी फैसला किया गया है।

उद्योग : कौशल विकास की प्रशस्त होती राह : उद्योग निदेशालय की ओर से युवाओं के लिए कारपेंट्री, सिलाई-कढ़ाई, वेल्डिंग, नारियल के खोल से तैयार होने वाले हस्तशिल्प आदि के बारे में समय-समय पर प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम चलाए जाते हैं। कारीगरों और शिल्पकारों को बम्बू और बेंत आदि बहुत ही कम मूल्य पर उपलब्ध कराए जाते हैं। कौशल विकास के माध्यम से यहां के लोग स्वावलम्बन की ओर प्रगतिशील हैं।

पशुपालन : गोशाला बनती किसानों के जीवन का आधार - पशुपालन

विभाग में राष्ट्रीय गोकुल मिशन के तहत आदर्श ग्राम में गोशाला तैयार करने का निर्णय लिया है। इसकी क्षमता 1000 मवेशियों की होगी। गोशाला से प्राप्त होने वाले दूध और तैयार होने वाले दुग्ध पदार्थों की बिक्री के लिए बाजार उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा। गोमूत्र से जैव ऊर्वक और औषधियां तैयार करने की दिशा में कदम बढ़ाए जाएंगे। गोशाला के गोबर का इस्तेमाल बायोगैस संयंत्र के लिए किया जाएगा। पशुओं की नियमित चिकित्सा जांच की व्यवस्था होगी। विभाग की ओर से लोगों को कम मूल्य पर मुर्गी, बत्तख के चूजे, बकरी और सुअर आदि दिए जा रहे हैं।

खेल : प्रतिभाओं के लिए बेहतर अवसर-स्कूली बच्चों और युवाओं के लिए खेल सुविधाओं में विस्तार की योजना है। फरारगंज में एक मिनी स्टेडियम तैयार किया जाएगा। इससे आस-पास के खिलाड़ी भी खेल प्रतियोगिताओं में भाग लेकर अपनी प्रतिभा का प्रदर्शन कर सकेंगे। खेल प्रेमियों को भी खेल देखने का मौका मिलेगा। माईल तिलक स्कूल के मैदान को विस्तार देते हुए इसका दायरा बढ़ाया जाएगा।

प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने विकास प्रकल्पों में जन-भागीदारी पर बल दिया है। समृद्ध गांवों से ही खुशहाली का रास्ता निकलेगा, जो देश को सशक्त अर्थव्यवस्था के शिखर तक ले जाएगा। आदर्श ग्राम योजना इसी दिशा में एक सकारात्मक पहल है।

Compiled by
Shri. Ashok Kumar Singh



Expressions by Young visitors to *Andamans*

who wrote these lines and submitted personally to Hon'ble Lt. Governor Shri A.K.Singh thanking him for giving them an opportunity to explore this enigmatic place

LONG ISLAND

'Are you sure we are at the right place?

Pinch me. Ouch!

Still real!

Oh My God, I can't believe it!!!

I'M LIVING THE DREAM!!!!

We got down from the boat at the Long Island jetty and a Maruti Omni, the famous 'Kidnap Van' from the 1980s bollywood movies, waited to take us all to Surmai Reef, our place of residence for the stay. We were allotted thatched roof guest houses with tent styled interior and the washroom's had 'Bajri' instead of common bathroom tiles! Apart from all this, mosquito bites and constant drizzling sealed the deal for a complete "tropical feel" package!

After having a meal, we left for the Lalaji Bay beach in a motor boat. The beach was secluded and for once it seemed that we were on an inhabited island, isolated in the wild. The sea was so perfectly calm and peaceful that we couldn't resist getting in the water. Somehow playing and childishly splashing water on people caught my fancy and I ended up doing nothing!

The ambience while on our return from the beach got to me and I went into a trance and suddenly everything changed.

I saw the sun turn blush crimson as it kissed the blue sky goodbye. With the jealous moon pecking through the clouds as a witness, the heavens changed colour to a breath-taking lilac with pleasure. My heartbeat caught on with the rhythm of the waves, the wind, and the sand. Before I knew I was swaying to this unfamiliar yet pleasant melody of their song. I was the spectator in the nature's magical playoff romantic comedy. Just when I thought it couldn't get any better, the majestic rainbow came out gracefully for the final act and left everyone breathless, speechless and completely enchanted.

As this ended a beautiful day and I remembered Thomas Edison's last words "It's beautiful over there". I don't know where 'there' is, I believe its somewhere and I hope its beautiful." I always wondered about his 'beautiful place'. Now I know that evening, I found mine. - Km.

Aarushi Gupta

MORE EXPRESSIONS

"We did Scuba Diving at Havelock. We dived to depth of 12 m and were really mesmerized seeing the diverse aquatic ecosystem. We saw fishes and corals which we had only imagined earlier. Even though it is tricky to breathe through oxygen tanks but the underwater scenes made it easy to breathe. It was a great experience, something I will remember for a long time," by Aayan Pushka

"My visit to the famous 'Cellular Jail' was a whole new experience. The setup of the jail was designed to perfection. I could imagine the condition of the prisoners locked up in the jail. The idea that you are surrounded by water and there is no where you can run itself gave me shivers." By Mandeep Dhodi

"The best part of Havelock Island for me was the location of our resort. 'Dolphin Resort' is an amazing Resort and the view from our room was unimaginable. I could stay in it for the rest of my life. It was just 40 meters away from the sea shore and the water was crystal clear and blue."

Varun Dhabe

Expressions by Young Islanders

A DAY WITHOUT A TEACHER

A day without a teacher,
Just my friend told to me and others.
We jumped with joy,
As no teacher was to come.

I said, "Let be honoured with the formal game",
They all just took off their shoes,
As they know what game was it.
"Kabaddi, Kabaddi" soon the voice came.

Oh! That was Kabaddi been played.
They told me to play with them,
And I was sent for the raid first!
So, I went.

My friend hid behind the lockers,
As we played at the backside where locker was.
He thought I didn't see him but.....did
I went before him and you know what.

He pushed the locker to fall.
The noise was terrifying
I soon thought that we were at tap floor class
I ran toward a teacher with my friend.

But the one I found with him
Was our schools chairman. Sir.
He asked then, "what was than noise" in range
I said, "Locker's noise".

He rushed to our class,
And found that there was nothing wrong at there
"who was that!" he anger,
Chairman Sir asked.

Our sports teacher soon came,
With a staff for beating.
Chairman Sir commanded him to beat us all.
I was terrifying right there.

"Should have asked for substitutions
Oh man its my turn, I will beat him nicely".
That what I thought and beat him,
My friend said, "Teacher's fault, A day without
Teacher, that's how it looks", he said.

Sameer Godara

I Wish I Were A Butterfly

I wish I were a butterfly !
Having the most beautiful wing,

Flying from flower to flower
Drinking as much nectar as I can !

I wish I were a butterfly !
Having the pride of being a beautiful insect.

And the pride of one whom all;
The children like very much !!

R. Soumiya

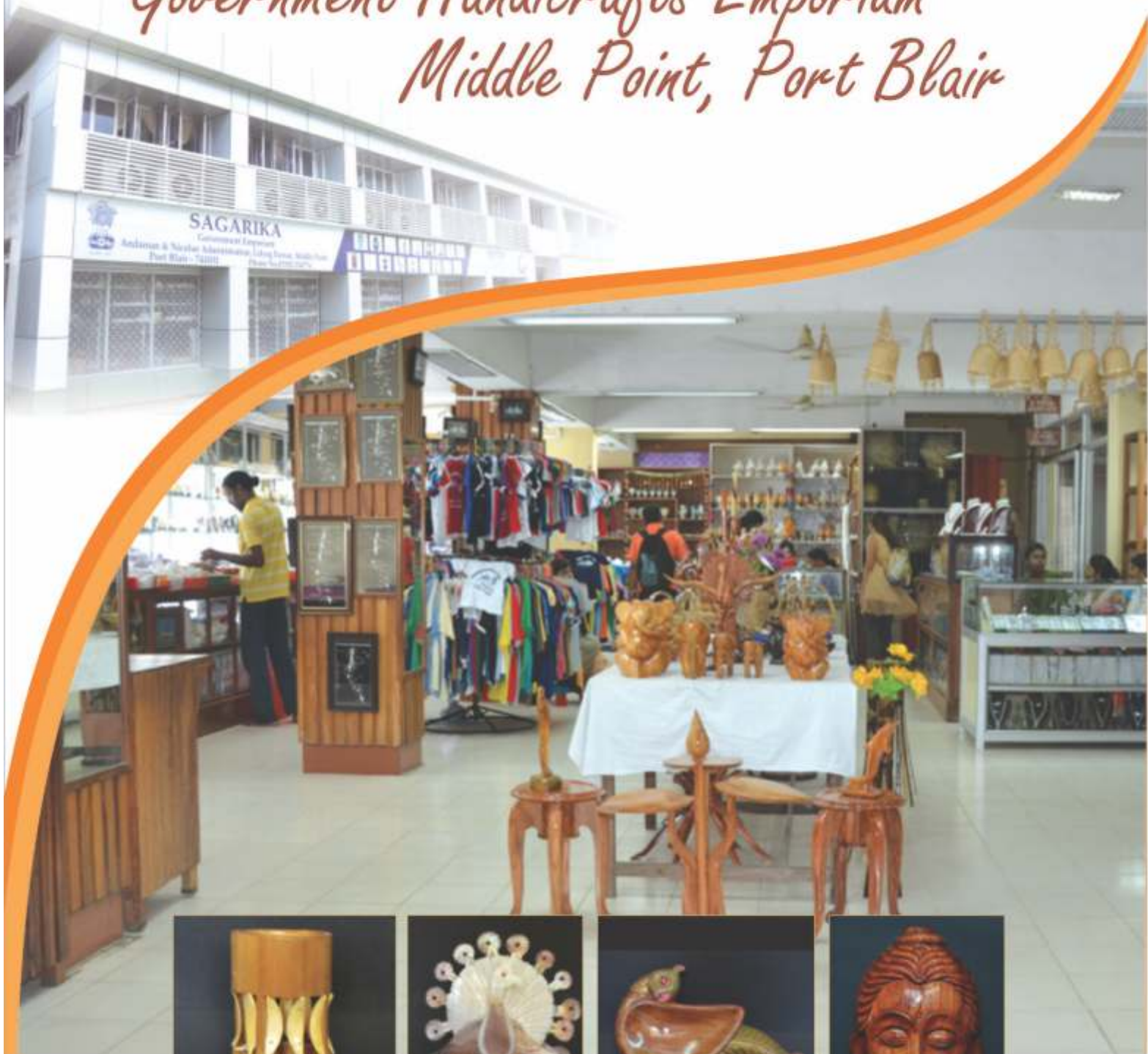
Rise Above

Don't bother what other say
Just look at the Sun's rays
If they are blocked by the clouds
They always make their way!
Don't be ignorant, don't be low,
But always rise, take the vow.
Have courage and all fear will dispel,
Truth and strength, there are magical spells
Be smart and have good heart,
Be good and angelic.
All goodness will come to your,
If you become a little strategic.
Never be frightened, never be scared.
Be kind and have love.
Always be honest, always be strong,
And surely you will rise above.

Nicholas Edwin

SAGARIKA

*Government Handicrafts Emporium
Middle Point, Port Blair*



Bamboo & Shell Pen Stand



Sea Shell Peacock



Wooden Parrot



Wooden Budha (BIG)

Branches:

Middle Point, Port Blair; National Memorial Cellular Jail, Port Blair; Veer Savarkar International Airport, Lambaline, Port Blair; Perka Village, Car Nicobar; Rajiv Gandhi Handicrafts Bhavan, Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi

Availability of 'Amber' in A & N Islands

Physeter (sperm whale) is an enormous heavy-bodied whale over 60 feet long. It is the largest toothed whale with large head and produced into a swollen rostrum which is a reservoir of spermaceti or liquid oil contained in a large cavity, spermaceti makes valuable whale oil which solidifies in air, it makes the animal hydrostatic. Lower jaw is long, narrow and armed with numerous conical teeth which fit into grooves of the upper jaw. Upper jaw has vestigial teeth in the gums. The skull is highly modified, maxillae and nasals of the two sides are unequal. All seven cervical vertebrae are fused together. Intestinal secretion forms a stone-like ambergris which is used in making perfumes. Physeter is a fast swimmer, it feeds on squids and is found in the Southern Seas.



The pursuit of the Sperm Whale is the desire to obtain its extremely valuable product known as AMBERGRIS. Though local name is AMBER this substance has long been known but its true nature remained a matter of dispute. Ambergris is a product of the intestinal Canal of the Sperm Whale. It seems to be of the nature of Cholesterol and its place of origin was conclusively proved after finding the beaks of cuttle fish impeded in it. When first extracted from the alimentary canal, it is greasy to touch and has oily consistency. However, after some time it hardens and acquires its characteristic sweet earth odour. (Haxmer, at. Al. 1902). After floating and hardening, Ambergris resembles a lump of dark, dull, often "Marbled" Cobbler's Wax (Parker, T.J. et. Al. 1960).

Sperm Whale, the single species, *Physeter Cotodon*, is found in oceans of both the Hemispheres. The males are nearly twice as large as the females; the head and body length of males is 15 to 18 meters, whereas that of females is usually 10 to 11 meters. Colour is grey to bluish grey turning black with increasing

age, males may become paler. The animals are gregarious and polygamous, usually travelling in schools of 15 to 20 individuals and often migrating in the hundreds. They are abundant in tropical waters in the winter and migrate in spring towards temperate regions. Mating occurs after their departure to temperate waters. The gestation period is from 12 to 16 months. Maximum age is not known, but marking age records show that males can live for about 32 years and females at least for 22 years.



Sperm Whale feeds at great depths. Its diet is mainly large squid including that giant squid. Large sucker marks and scars on the head of the whales sometimes attest to the dramatic battles that take place in the depths between the Sperm whales and the giant Squid. The hard, parrot like beaks of large squid sometimes fail to pass through the digestive tract, remaining to form gradually a pathological foul-smelling dark sticky or waxy material known as AMBERGRIS. It may be spewed up by the Whales and subsequently found floating on the water or cast upon a beach (Mc Connaughey, B.H., 1970).

The Sperm Whale is chiefly a tropical animal. Examples that have been cast upon our shores are strayed individuals. It is said that every year AMBERGRIS is found in the sea-coast of Campbell Bay, Nancowry, Pillpillow, Katchal, Little Andaman, Wandoor, Kalapahad, Burmanalla, Havelock, Diglipur, Sethapur and Mayabunder of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



Prof. R. Lakshminarayana (Retd.)
Head of the Dept. of Zoology, JNRM



moment I thought that when I can win Gold at National events, why not in international? I then made up my mind to work hard and make my desire of winning Gold at international level cycling come true and thus, my hard works proved.

DT: How did you get into cycling competitions? Was that your ambition?

Deborah: Well, I am an athlete, having represented my School in Inter-school athletic meets as well as my village in NAA (Nicobar Athletic Association) meets and won first place in 100 mtr. 200 mtrs. races,



invited by the Korean Cycling Federation for incentive training for one and a half month, which proved to be very fruitful for me as I bagged two Golds and one Silver at the Junior ACC Track Asia Cup Cycling Championship at Thailand. Actually the Korean Cycling Federation was attracted by my performances during the 33rd Senior and 20th Junior Asian Cycling Championship at New Delhi and thus they invited us.

DT: What is the secret of your success in achieving such a marvelous feat?

Deborah: Determination, dedication and hard work, if any individual has these, nothing can stop him/her in pursuing his desire, be it excelling in sports or any other goals for that matter. I put up a lot of hard work and so I get the results. But yes, infrastructure and other facilities need to be in place for you to improve your physical endurance and speed, which is required in cycling events.

DT: Any messages for up-coming cyclists you want to share with?

Deborah: Well, I have mentioned earlier about determination, dedication and hard works, which are the key to success. I think anyone who wants to excel in any sports events including cycling should have these temperaments will surely succeed in life.

DT: Best of luck for your vision 2017.

Deborah: Thank you.
(Interview by Derick, DT Correspondent)

Flying Angel Cycling her way to glory

Deborah, the International Fame cycling legend of these Islands is the pride of the country (India). She is the first Indian female Cyclist to secure 4th rank in UCI Individual World Cycling ranking by winning 1 Gold and 2 Silver medals in the Track Asia Cup Tournament held at New Delhi. Her medal tally in International Cycling events has reached 20. Recently, 'The Daily Telegrams' interviewed Deborah. Here is the excerpt of the interview.

DT: The Daily Telegrams family congratulates you for the feat you have achieved in national as well as international cycling events. How did you react on accomplishing this feat?

Deborah: Well, It was really a great moment for me when I bagged two Gold Medals in the Track Asia Cup-2014 at New Delhi. My first appearance in international cycling event was in 2013, when I narrowly missed the Silver medal in the 500 mtrs Time Trial at the 33rd Senior and 20th Junior Asian Cycling Championship in New Delhi. At that

high jump and even in road cycling organized as part of these meets. In 2011, I was selected for training in cycling under Special Area Games, SAI Center Port Blair after securing first place in the Road Cycling. From there I represented the Islands in National Cycling Championship at Silaru (Shimla) and Amritsar and won 4 Golds, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze medals. From these events, I was selected for the Indian Camp at SAG SAI Center, New Delhi and till then, I am in the Indian Squad.

DT: 4th rank in female international ranking. Does this satisfy you?

Deborah: As long as I am still in the game and my physical endurance is with me I shall long to achieve more Gold in future endeavor. My target is to get Gold in Asian Championship and 2017 World Cycling Cup, once I am selected for these events. There is no end in the desire to win as long as you are in sound health.

DT: It is learnt that you went to Korea for exposure trip as well as training. How was your experience?

Deborah: Oh! Yes, it was a wonderful opportunity for me to visit Korea. I and my compatriot Manorama were



Vanilla Flower

Vanilla

andamanica

a very useful endemic plant of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

V*anilla andamanica* is an endangered wild relative of commercial vanilla, *Vanilla planifolia*, the source of Vanilla essence. It grows in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India in the Bay of Bengal and classified as a vulnerable species (VU) by the IUCN Red List. It has creamy yellowish fragrant flowers, and was first identified by botanist, Robert Allen Rolfe in 1918. **Today, it is part of Floriculture emphasis in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands which is conserved in the 'Dhanikhari Experimental Botanical Garden', Port Blair, by Botanical Survey of India as well as in the Department of Botany, JNRM Port Blair.**

Interestingly, green Vanilla beans are flavorless and develop its characteristic aroma only after, a fermentation process called 'Curing', performed on harvested and dried beans. This process includes various chemical and enzymatic reactions that probably break glycosides of flavor compounds present in vanilla beans. Though vanillin is the major flavor constituent of Vanilla, but it is believed, that many other compounds present in vanilla beans are also contributing towards distinct aroma and flavor of natural vanilla in comparison to synthetic one.

Vanilla Plant with Green Pods



Morphology and Growth Pattern of Vanilla

The stem growth of *Vanilla* is essentially monopodial and the growth of the plant is accomplished by the elongation of the apical

meristem. The growth is indeterminate with its vining habit and a root emerging from each node to attach the plant as it grows. The stem is long, cylindrical, succulent and branched. Vanilla can climb many feet on the support. Species of *Vanilla* are represented in two growth forms: green vines with leaves and those without leaves or with reduced leaves. Some of the leafless species may produce nodal scales, which soon fall off and others produce more expanded leaves, which nevertheless are still caduceus.

The vines produce two kinds of roots, short unbranched aerial ones (variously termed as clasping and anchoring) which clasp the supporting structure and are usually limited in extension growth; and long, branched, terrestrial or absorbing roots which penetrate the substratum and are presumably of unlimited extension growth. Both root forms originate at the nodes of the same plant, usually one root at each node. The roots at the base ramify in the humus or mulch layer.

The flowers are typical creamy yellowish with purple coloured interior. Inflorescences are axillary, usually simple and rarely branched racemes.



Vanilla Plant with Green Pods

Flowers are large, waxy, bisexual and zygomorphic. The lower part of the labellum envelops a central structure called the 'column' (gynostemium). The tip of the column bears a single stamen with two pollen masses (pollinia) covered by a cap or hood like structure called 'rostellum'. The stigma is physically prevented from coming in contact with the anther by this flap like structure, rostellum.

Quality Grading in Vanilla-Quality of vanilla beans are determined on the parameter like aroma, moisture content, vanillin content and microbial limits. Vanilla extract may contain one or more of the following ingredients: Glycerin, Propylene glycol, Sugar, dextrose, corn syrup. The proportional amount of above substances is also one of the parameter of quality grading.

Chemistry of Vanilla- Vanilla pods constitute vanillin, O-vanillin and these compounds have phenolic group – OH, which is responsible for the free radical scavenging activity. The main factor responsible for their radical scavenging ability is the reduction potential or the energy required for the conversion of vanillin/O-vanillin to its oxidized form.

Medicinal, Culinary and other Uses of Vanilla- Vanillin, one of the most popular flavouring agents used worldwide in food, beverage, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries is the commercial product obtained from species of the orchid genus *Vanilla*. (Fig-5,6) The medicinal potential of *vanilla andamanica* and other species of *Vanilla* have been subjected to extensive scientific study over the past two decades. Studies have demonstrated that in vanilla primary compound is vanillin, which possess anti-carcinogenic properties. More specifically, report shows that vanillin eradicates human cancer cells, limit movement of cancer cells from the original site to other parts of the body. Essential oil obtained from *Vanilla* has been proved to be an effective mood lifter, courtesy of its rich

yet unobtrusive scent. *Vanillin* rich oil also works as an aphrodisiac. *Vanilla* oil cures patients suffering from impotency, libido, loss of sexual frigidity, and erectile dysfunction. The oil works to stimulate secretions of human hormones to help in promoting arousal. People take vanilla to treat intestinal gas and fever. The plant is also used as an aphrodisiac. It is added to foods to reduce the amount of sugar needed for sweetening. Some people add vanilla to food to for reducing tooth decay.

Vanilla is the world's most popular flavor. It is a universally appreciated flavor on its own and it also provides smoothness and body when used in combination with other flavors. The aroma of vanilla extract is intoxicating. In manufacturing, vanilla is used as a flavoring in syrups used in making medications. It is also used as a fragrance in perfumes. Synthetic vanillin is often used as a substitute for vanilla. Sometimes vanilla extracts are diluted with less expensive extracts. Vanilla extracts from Mexico have been diluted with tonga bean extracts, but these contain a chemical called coumarin. Since 1954, the FDA has prohibited the use of coumarin in food. Now, vanilla cultivation, extraction, analysis, and marketing are major international industries. Vanilla is a very useful plant since it is under the category of vulnerable plant so it is need of hour to conserve and preserve it.



Vanilla Ice Cream



Vanilla Extract in a Clear Glass



By Dr. S.K. Jha
Assistant Professor, Department of Plant
Science, J.N.R.M., Port Blair



Elephant Working

Journey of A Log



Timber Working by Elephants

In olden days, the timber would sail from Chatham Saw Mill to Calcutta and Madras and eventually to all over India. For a long time Andaman Padauk used to be the timber of choice for sleepers of Indian Railways. Padauk is also reported to have travelled all the way to the dining room of the Queen of England at Buckingham Palace.



By Late Shri Govinda Raju

The nicobari canoe - the lifeline of these islands

Nicobarese hodi or "Ap" or "Ri" as it is called further south than Car Nicobar and chowra, used for a gamut of activities like fishing, for "Asol Ap" (canoe racing) and for pleasure rides, is made up of a single hollowed-out tree trunk with a single outrigger for support and is quite narrow, usually decorated with traditional and pre-christian motifs. Its beauty lies in its very lightness and maneuverability which makes it a much more dependable option than typical "dinghys" or even more sophisticated gemini boats in the tempestuous waters of bay of bengal as it can easily be flicked to drain the water that could have got in due to those furiously raging waves, making another boat heavy and susceptible to submergence.

The inhabitants of chowra island (in nicobar district) known for their eldritch and shamanic powers clearly dominated the trade of wood, arecanuts, lime etc which was done for manufacturing these canoes and



An Ap Canoe in the Carnic Waters

were feared and admired so, that their canoes (apart from pottery) were used by most other islanders as the rituals done by the chowrite shamans "kamasuon" seemed to have bestowed a protective power over these canoes. The sea-worthiness of the "ap" can hardly be challenged as even today it epitomises the very best of indigenious watercraft traditions. With length varying from 2m to 25m, these canoes are a sight to behold on the turquoise blue waters of these islands and especially during the canoe race.



Ap Canoe decorated with Kevadi Leaves

By Ms. Neha Bansal
IAS, DC Nicobars

Events &



"Arunodaya" – Dept. Of Social Welfare initiates a center for holistic wellness along with One Stop Center for women. The center was inaugurated by Lt. Governor, Shri A.K.Singh (Retd) on June 21, 2016.



"Sangam"- Artists of various cultural organisations performed in a program marking a confluence of yoga, culture and heritage at D'BRAIT on June 21, 2016.



International Yoga Day 2016 witnessed large number of enthusiastic participants across the Islands. The Lt Governor seen at Netaji Stadium along with senior officers of Andaman and Nicobar Administration



Kalapani, (a Centre of Research and Education), a first of its kind museum at Garacharma-II ATR Road, showcasing the history of these Islands was inaugurated by the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Anindo Majumdar and hon'ble Member of Parliament, Bishnu Pada Ray on July 8.

Happenings



LED bulbs being given to beneficiaries under PM's National Programme on Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELDP) scheme in the conference hall of the Zilla Parishad South Andaman on July 9.



Sub-regional Science Center: It was a dream come true for the people of North & Middle Andaman with the laying of foundation stone for a sub-regional Science Centre by Lt. Governor Shri A K Singh (Retd.), at Devpur under Mayabunder Tehsil on July 8.



ANCOL: Lt. Governor inaugurated the newly constructed ANCOL building on Jul 30, 2016 in the presence of Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray; Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Anindo Majumdar; Principal Secretary, Shri Raajiv Yaduvanshi and other stakeholders.



Vatika: Inauguration of an Agri Store named 'Vatika', (Flavours of Andaman) on Aug 1, 2016 adjacent to Sagarika Emporium at Middle Point, Port Blair.



The team of 20 Grenadier Army who won the RSC volleyball championship in the RSC Open League-cum-knockout Volleyball tournament-2016 played at Multipurpose Hall of Netaji Stadium on July 3.

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Made in Andamans

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Bamboo Pen Stand



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Dinner Coaster



Cane & Bamboo Photo Frame



Cane Wall Curtain



Statue



Bamboo Stand



Bamboo Photo Frame



Cane & Bamboo Flower Pot



Cane Mooda



Bamboo Handicraft



Bamboo Tray & Dispenser



The Nicobarese Gool Ghar



Freedom fighters clearing the Jungle being attacked by hostile Andamanese



The Duranta showing the Great Battle of Andaman fought between the Great Andamanese and the Britishers on 17 May 1858



KALAPANI

- WHERE HISTORY LIVES -



B. Shankar
Patron

KALAPANI

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Founder(M.D.)

Kalapani - Where History Lives - is a "History Museum" first of its kind in the country - that takes one on a journey across the "Black - Waters" - right from the early Andaman's, through the Stone -age tribes, occupation of the Nicobar Islands by the European Nation's, the first settlement of Andaman islands, 1857 War of Independence, the Penal Settlement of the Indian Revolutionary Movement, the Construction of Cellular Jail, Japanese Occupation of Andaman, the Re - Occupation of the island in 1945 and finally the Independence of India and the A & N Islands becomes the part of free India.

Depicting History through Dioramas, Photographs, Original Documents, Artifacts, Oral History, Lectures & Documentaries



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