



*A quarterly from Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration
May-July 2016*

Epitome of Governance:
face to face with
Lt. Gen A. K. Singh

Fascinating Forests

Heritage & Culture
Aboriginal Tribes of A&N Islands





***A quarterly from Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration
May-July 2016***

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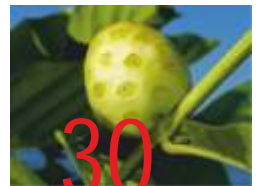
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From the Editors' Desk



Dear Reader,

It gives me immense pleasure to introduce the first issue of the A & N quarterly to you. This quarterly envisages showcasing the unique islands of Andaman and Nicobar to the visitors and providing a platform for the islanders to rediscover their rich heritage. We sincerely hope that this initiative will bring about much deserved appreciation of the role played by Andaman in the history of India's freedom struggle and shall become an effective medium to inform, educate and inspire not only the local population but also other readers.

While the idea of having a magazine for the A & N Administration originated from the Hon'ble Lt. Governor himself, the onus of taking the concept forward was entrusted to me, soon after my recent posting to this Administration. This indeed turned out to be a very educative and memorable experience, since with each passing day I could discover newer and richer

dimensions of this place. The process involved talking to a very wide cross section of stakeholders from the academia, artists, authors, industry, students to those in the administration.

I am extremely grateful for the trust and confidence reposed in me by the Hon'ble Lt. Governor and the Chief Secretary since it is because of their unstinting support that I could take this initiative forward with freedom to use my imagination in drawing up the contours of what this should entail. I thank all those who have been in this exploratory journey, from the bottom of my heart.

We have tried to weave in such content which encapsulates not only places of tourist interest, flora and fauna, local handicraft, local cuisine, local manufacture, but also highlights Island's achievers, change makers and unsung heroes, while using the platform to present the forays being made through various governance initiatives.

Our effort through this initiative is to encourage respect for diversity, and harmony in this multi-cultural society for fellow beings as also for ecology and environment. Taking a clue from the sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble Lt. Governor General A.K. Singh that 'the soul of freedom struggle resides in Andaman', our effort would be to stir the emotions of nationalism and patriotism by bringing out from time to time stories of selfless contribution and sacrifice of our freedom fighters housed at the Cellular jail here

While our attempt has been to connect various stakeholders at the concept stage for this maiden issue, we hope to have even greater participation in the days to come so that this does not just remain a paper text but embodies a feeling of brotherhood and ownership amongst all those who reside here.

In this issue, we feature heritage as the core theme, and have tried to bring out a rich tapestry of islands' history, culture, ecology, besides other regular features. What comes first in our mind when we talk of heritage is the Cellular Jail, but we are consciously keeping this reserved for the next issue which will be the Independence Day special, where we hope to bring rare insights on this national monument, besides bringing to light the saga of some of the patriots and freedom fighters associated with this place.

We are also featuring interviews of people who are making a difference to these islands in its forays towards development while maintaining an ecological balance. The face to face column brings out thoughts from a visionary leader, while the Governance section has the Chief Secretary sharing his views and plans for steering the administration towards ensuring human development and protecting the interest of the last mile. We are also introducing the elected public representatives, and in the ensuing issues we hope to get more and more insights from them on their vision for the islands.

I would like to share that lot of effort has gone in to collect pictures from different sources, and also for sourcing relevant content. For instance one can see some rare pictures from the archival gallery giving us a visual connect to the island's history. Yet the maiden issue may suffer from imperfections, for which I would humbly seek your support in taking it in the right spirit. We look forward to your suggestions to enrich the forthcoming issues of the periodical. Suggestions could be sent to us on singhrashmi.ani@gmail.com. We hope to encourage E-readership to maximize our audience base by popularizing this periodical on our websites and social media. We also hope to invite people's participation in days to come so that a much wider cross-section may share with us various dimensions about the Islands yet unexplored.

Rashmi Singh

Secretary
A & N Administration

Aboriginal Tribes of A&N Islands

The archipelago of Andaman & Nicobar is known to outside world on account of its inhabitants, the unique contemporary yet Paleolithic communities apart from its geomorphologic features like live volcano of Barren Island, dormant volcano of Narcondum Island and of late the islands are being known as tourists' destination. While some of the aboriginal communities have undergone varying degree of changes due to contact with outsiders, one group still continues to lead the isolated pre-historic way of life.

At present there are six communities recognized as the Scheduled Tribes in the islands namely Andamanese (61), Onge (115), Jarawa (452) Sentinelese (50 estimated), Shompen (220 estimated) and Nicobarese (27676). First four tribes belong to Negrito race and last two to Mongoloid.

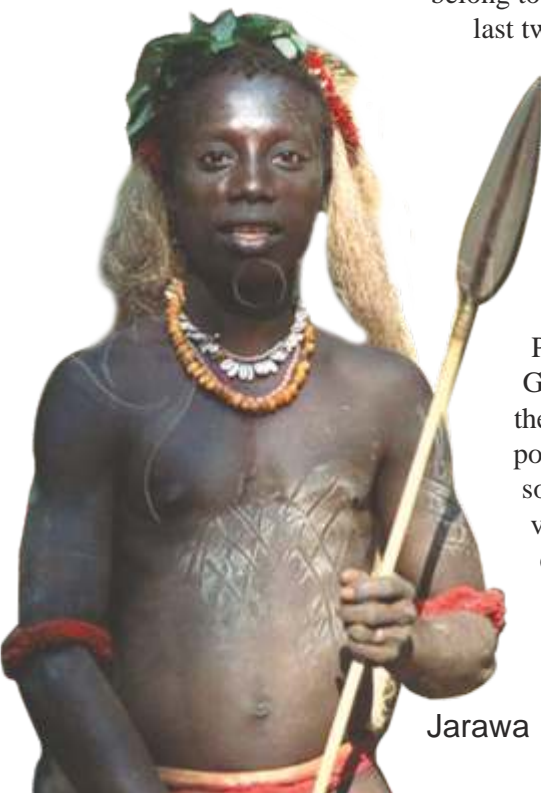
The first five tribes come under the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), earlier known as Primitive Tribal Groups because of their small population and socio-cultural vulnerabilities especially in the face of fast

The archipelago of Andaman & Nicobar is known to outside world on account of its inhabitants, the unique contemporary yet Paleolithic communities apart from its geomorphologic features like live volcano of Barren Island, dormant volcano of Narcondum Island

modern civilization and the last one is an advanced community.

Andamanese: With more than 5000 population, it was the largest tribe prior to 1858. Its population was reduced to less than 20 due to epidemic diseases and conflicts / war during colonial administration. Later, in 1969 the A & N Administration rehabilitated the surviving soles of Andamanese on Strait Island. Due to welfare measures and health care the population of Andamanese has increased to 61.

Onge: Onges are settled at Dugong Creek, Little Andaman. They get free rations, clothing and health care under welfare programme. Coconut plantation has been raised for them. Basic Infrastructure facilities are provided at Dugong Creek. 42 Onge



Jarawa



Heritage & Culture



Tai Family
of Onge



Sentinelese



Sentinelese



Shompens



Nicobari

children are studying in School at Dugong Creek and 11 Onges are employed in service (Police, Forest etc).

Jarawa: Jarawas inhabit the western coast of South and Middle Andaman Islands. With bow & arrow Jarawas hunt wild boar, monitor lizard etc. Gather variety of fruits, roots, tubers and collect honey from the forests. Health care is provided in situ by visiting medical personnel/ doctors. Whenever required Jarawas are shifted to separate special wards in the hospitals for the treatment. Joint patrolling is carried out by Police, Forest and Welfare officials to prevent unauthorized contact and exploitation by non-tribals.

Sentinelese: Sentinelese are the lone inhabitants of North Sentinel Island. They practice fierce hostility towards outsiders. Constant vigil from a distance through Police and Coast Guard is maintained to protect them from the attempts of poaching by non tribals. A team of experts from the Administration goes for circumnavigation of North Sentinel Islands occasionally to make observations from distance

Shompens: Shompen, a Mongoloid tribe, inhabits the Great Nicobar Island. The majority of the Shompen bands live in the interior of the island. They are the hunters and gatherers. A variety of wild life like pigs, monitor lizard, snakes and variety of fruits, roots, tubers and honey form the food resource base for the Shompens. They go for fishing in the streams and also maintain pandanus plantation along the banks of

A & N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 is the law of the land for the protection of the STs of these islands. Under the Regulation the areas inhabited by the STs is declared as tribal reserve

the streams. They have a strong herbal medicine practiced particularly by interior Shompens.

Nicobarese: They are horticulturists having coconut plantations. Copra forms their main economic item. Nicobarese also maintain patches of pandanus plantations. Rice constitutes the main food item of the Nicobarese now. Nicobarese have successfully joined the mainstream society and their literacy rate is high (80%). They have large extended joint family (tuhet). Nicobarese have the Tribal Councils the elected local self governing bodies.

Protection of Aborigines: (i) A & N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 is the law of the land for the protection of the STs of these islands. Under the Regulation the areas inhabited by the STs is declared as tribal reserve. Transfer/ acquisition of the land out of

A & N Administration has decided to meet the genuine aspirations, protect and carefully nurture the interests of tribals Entry of non-tribals into the tribal reserve is restricted

the tribal reserve is prohibited. Entry of non-tribals into the tribal reserve is restricted so that the tribals and their resources are available exclusively for them.

Welfare of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs):

- A & N Administration has set up (in 1976) a autonomous organization namely Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS) to look after the welfare of PVTGs.
- Lt. Governor of A & N Islands is the President of the General Body of AAJVS and Chief Secretary, A & N Administration is the Chairman of the Executive Council of AAJVS.
- Apart from the senior officers of the Administration, the subject experts including anthropologists are the members of the General Body and Executive Council.

Other Initiatives:

- A National Conference-Thinking Futures: The PVTGs of the Islands was held at Port Blair on

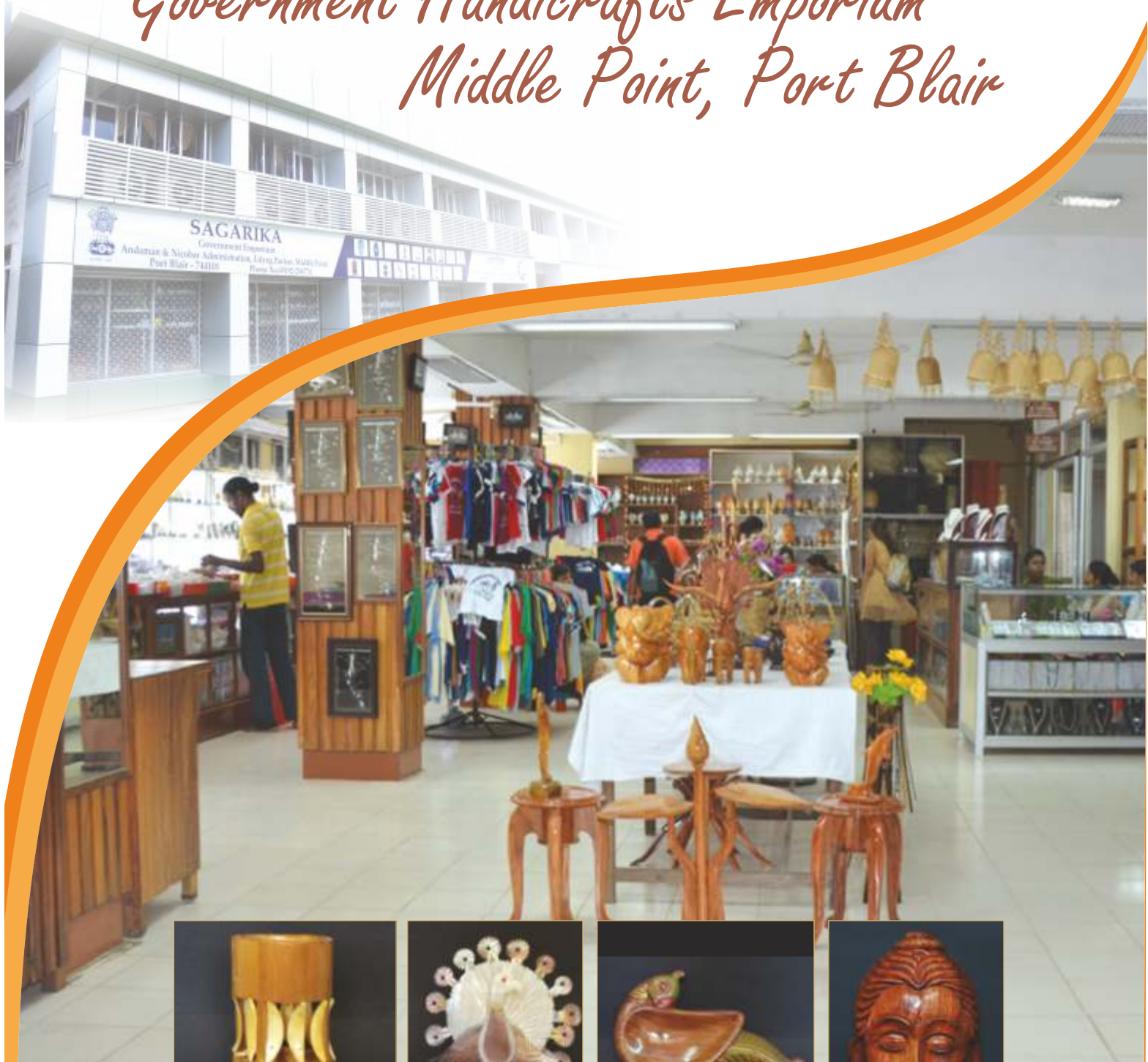
4th and 5th December, 2014 with participation from experts/ anthropologists. Suggestions emerged during the Conference are broadly as under:

- ◆ Meet the genuine aspirations, protect and carefully nurture the interests of tribals. They should be allowed to retain their socio-cultural identity and be given right to make informed choices, at their own will and pace.
- ◆ Bring in harmony between issues of development, ecology and tribal concerns. Research driven welfare policy be implemented.
- ◆ Ensure responsibility and accountability in respect of those who are involved in tribal issues.
- ◆ As the PVTGs have lost the comfort of their isolation with the arrival of modern societies, they have now no option but to co-exist with complex immigrants. Co-existence should necessarily mean sustainable living with: (a) sufficient livelihood (b) sound health and (c) cultural identity.
- ◆ Sustainable living should be free from exploitation and free from precarious dependence on a system outside their own.
- Established 'hotspots'/community centers at specific locations within the Jarawa Reserve as a platform for exchange of information and to address the health, education and other



SAGARIKA

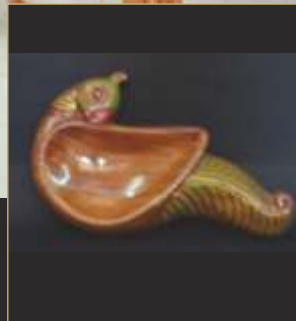
Government Handicrafts Emporium Middle Point, Port Blair



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

requirements for wellbeing of the community.

- Under the advice of an expert “kangapo” clothes are provided to Jarawas in exchange their handicrafts. Informal education system through bilingual bicultural curriculum namely “Ang Katha” for the Jarawas, has been introduced to provide them the basic learning to count, read and write.
- The PVTGs rely predominantly on forest for their livelihood. To augment their food resource base, the Administration has been assisting them with saplings to plant in the Jarawa reserve and settlements of Andamanese and Onges.
- Developed Protocol for “Disease Surveillance” to provide health care delivery in situ and to address the epidemiological emergencies among the Jarawas.
- Andaman and Nicobar Tribal Research and Training Institute (ANTRI) established and formally inaugurated by Hon'ble President of India on 12th January, 2014. (A & N Administration intends to develop the ANTRI into a Centre of Excellence with assistance of Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Required land has been allotted.)
- A plan prepared is underway in ANTRI to retrieve and rejuvenate the Andamanese tribe from the sedentary and vegetative existence to a self-reliant and vibrant community. They are being assisted in raising plantation of fruit bearing trees and bee-keeping and are encouraged to follow their customs.
- The retrieval and rejuvenation plan for Onges is also taken up. They are being encouraged to go for hunting, fishing and gathering activities. Maintenance of their coconut plantation and copra making are the tasks which will keep them active and agile thereby ailments like obesity and hypertension connected to sedentary life are eliminated / prevented.
- To tide over the water scarcity in Jarawa reserve territory during summer, eco-friendly check-dams are being raised in association with Forest Department and also involving the Jarawas.
- Project for an Alternate Sea Route from Port Blair to Baratang has been approved to reduce the tourist traffic on the ATR abutting the Jarawa reserve.
- A Vision Document for Andaman Adim Jan Jati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS) has been finalized.
- The Shompen Policy with approval of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India has been notified.
- Two projects viz. 'mapping and encouragement of tribal sports' and 'use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in reaching health care and in enforcement of tribal protective laws in the islands' have been taken up to replicate the Prime Minister's Award winning projects.
- A major applied research in preservation of endangered tribal languages of A & N islands in association with apex organizations like Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) on the advice from the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been initiated.



Basket made by Jarawa tribe



"Kangapo" clothes given to Jarawa community

Article Courtesy: Andaman & Nicobar Tribal Research Institute (ANTRI), Department of Tribal Welfare, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Fascinating Forest Wealth of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Approximately 94 per cent of the geographical area (8000 sq km) is covered by thick lush green forests having rich faunal and floral biodiversity. The biodiversity of these islands is not just limited to land but also extends deep into the sea with its unique ecosystem of corals, fishes and sea life.

“We all have heard stories of mermaids in the sea and wondered if they really exist. Some stories suggest that the sailors in the earlier times saw a mammal called dugong and mistook it for a mermaid because of its appearance! Dugong is nicknamed sea cow as it survives on eating sea grass and is the UT Animal of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Today they are on the verge of extinction and efforts are being taken by the department to conserve their population and habitat.”

An aerial view of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (ANI) will show hues of green forests bordered by sandy patches of the beaches which are gradually

merging with the hues of blues of the azure seas of Bay of Bengal. Miles apart from the mainland India is are these unique groups of islands comprising of 500 islands out of which only 35 islands are inhabited.

Interestingly, Andaman group of islands trace their roots in the submerged Arakan Yoma mountain range of the Burmese peninsula while Nicobar group of islands are known to originate from Sumatran Barisan range of



mountains. Therefore, the Andamans flora and fauna has its affiliation to the Burma while Nicobar's biodiversity is close to Indo-Malaysian peninsula. . Approximately 94 per cent of the geographical area (8000 sq km) is covered by thick lush green forests having rich faunal and floral biodiversity. The biodiversity of these islands is not just limited to land but also extends deep into the sea with its unique ecosystem of corals, fishes and sea life.

From the mangroves to the lush green tropical rainforests, one will be surprised to see such a wide range of forests in these islands. The forests of these emerald islands support a wide assortment of plants and wild animals having characteristics of the Indian, Indo-Chinese and Malayan type. Owing to isolation of the Andaman and Nicobar islands, unique plants and animal species have evolved over millions of years due to natural process of evolution. The archipelago also hosts more than 5,100 species of animals and 2,200 species of flowering plants, of which 223 plant species are endemic. It has 52 species of mammals of which 33 are endemic. These islands constitute one of the hotspots of biodiversity with a variety of ecosystems such as tropical forests, wetlands, mangroves and coral reefs. There are 9 national parks and 96 sanctuaries comprising of small to medium islands and 1 biosphere reserve. The forests of Andaman & Nicobar Islands contain

various forests like evergreen, semi evergreen, moist deciduous forests, mangrove swamps and littoral forests.

Andaman padauk (*Pterocarpus dalbergioides*), the famous timber tree is endemic to Andaman group of islands besides other plant and tree species. This tree is the favorite among timber aficionados and you can still find the furniture and oblong table tops in old local houses of the islands made from this wood. Likewise, the Narcondum hornbill is endemic to Narcondum island which is a wildlife sanctuary spread over around 5 square kilometers. An endemic species of Crocodile namely (*Crocodylus porosus*) is found in the back waters, creeks and marshes of these beautiful islands besides variety of other small wild animals and birds like emerald dove, Andaman wood pigeon and great Andaman wood pecker among many others.

Nature has endowed these islands with a unique and varied animal life both on land as well as in sea. Faunal distribution in these islands is influenced by fauna of both Indo-Chinese and Indo-Malayan regions. Large mammals are absent in both Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Geographic isolation of these islands has resulted in high degree of endemism.

The spotted deer were introduced to these forests by Britishers in 1920's to supplement protein requirement. Now the spotted deer population has



Travel

acclimatized with the Andaman & Nicobar Island's environment well by adapting to eating crabs and drinking sea water. Besides spotted deer, barking deer is also common in Andaman forests. The other very important wildlife is Andaman wild pig (*Sus andamanensis*) which is the main food item of Jarwa tribes inhabiting south and middle Andamans. The elephants found in Andaman Islands are basically feral elephants which were left over by P C Ray and Company which was undertaking felling and logging operations in the Interview islands when Second World War broke. They left the elephants engaged in extraction operations which over the years became semi wild and feral. To protect this elephant population, the Interview Island was later declared as a wildlife sanctuary by Andaman & Nicobar administration.

Marine turtles viz Green sea turtle, Olive ridley sea turtle, Leather back sea turtle and Hawksbill sea turtle visit different beaches of Andaman and Nicobar islands like Cuthburt bay beach in Middle Andaman, Ramnagar and Ross & Smith island beaches of Diglipur and different beaches of nicobar islands like Shasthri nagar beach, Galathea bay beach etc among numerous others for nesting. Forest department provide protection to turtle eggs and help hatchlings to reach the sea waters without mass casualty by establishing permanent hatcheries on prominent beaches where mass nesting takes place. Andaman and Nicobar islands are very rich

As soon as one gets the first glimpse of these islands from their aircraft; the view of islands scattered in the sea look like green gemstones spread in a carpet of shaded of emerald blue colors.



in snake population. Many species of snake like King cobra, South Andaman krait, coral snake, Green snake, Nicobar python are a treat for wildlife enthusiasts.

The Nicobar groups of islands are also blessed with beautiful and dense forests having rich biodiversity by the nature. The Great Nicobar biosphere reserve is the southernmost land mass of India and is covered by contiguous undisturbed primary forests which are still virgin and rich in species content. The biosphere hosts a fascinating world of tropical forests, endemic birds and coral reefs. The characteristic tree fern *Cyathea albobaccata* and the beautiful ornamental orchid *Phalaenopsis speciosa* are endemic to Great Nicobar Island. The Nicobar Megapode (*Megapodius freycinet nicobarensis*) one of the rare, endemic and endangered bird is found only on this island. It is a mound building bird and the young ones hatch on its own with the heat generated due to humus. It is also known as the



thermometer bird. The forests of Great Nicobar islands are home to a semi-nomadic monogamic aboriginal tribe with mongoloid features called Shompens.

The forests of Andaman & Nicobar Islands are bestowed with pristine natural beauty in abundance by some divine intervention and as such these emerald islands of India are having immense landscape value attracting visitors and tourists not only from mainland India but also from other countries of the world. As soon as one gets the first glimpse of these islands from their aircraft; the view of islands scattered in the sea look like green gemstones spread in a carpet of shaded of emerald blue colors. For the visitors to connect with the beauty of this paradise, Forest department maintains a number of ecotourism spots at various places of these islands. To mention few famous ecotourism spots in the forests of Andaman and Nicobar islands are Mount Harriet National Park, Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park Wandoor, Limestone cave of Baratang Island, Radhanagar and Kalapaththar beaches of Havelock island and one of the most beautiful places in Andamans that is Ross and Smith island in Diglipur. The Smith Island which is a reserve forests and the Ross island, a Wildlife Sanctuary are beautiful forested islands of substantial size connected by a sand bar which is submerged during high tides separating the islands whereas during low tides they appear connected by this beautiful sand bar making them famed twin islands, a prime tourist attraction.

The forest department of Andaman and Nicobar islands is taking all measures and making all efforts to protect, conserve and further develop the unique forest wealth of these islands containing varied species of plants, wild animals and marine life like sea cucumber, sea corals, sea shells besides variety of other marine life.

To sum up we can say that the famous lines of great English poet John Keats “a thing of beauty is joy forever” is personified by Nature in these beautiful emerald green islands of India.



Shri Yogesh
IFS, CCF (Wildlife)
A&N Islands

Face to Face with *Lt. Gen A.K. Singh* Lieutenant Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Q.1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&NI) have largely been considered a secluded place. Under your tenure, various initiatives have been undertaken to connect the Islands with India. Please give details of a few.

Ans. Indeed, the Islands have been considered an 'outpost' in the middle of the Bay of Bengal for a long time. Earlier known as Kalapani, some on the mainland were not even aware that they are a part of India. It was mainly because of poor communication and connectivity. Today, the Islands are being viewed as a most sought after tourist destination the world over. The only way to achieve this was to have better connectivity, be it telephone, internet or air connectivity. I had started working on these areas from day one. Our mobile and internet connectivity has considerably improved during the past two years, though it is still a work in progress. With the blessings of our Prime Minister, an undersea cable for communication between Chennai, Port Blair and five other major islands has been approved by TRAI, recently. Air connectivity used to be quite restricted. Today, we have flights connecting Port Blair with Chennai, Kolkata, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Delhi and Bangalore. These flights have onward connections with other major cities also. It has become easier to travel between the Islands and the mainland. Just a few days ago, GoAir has started a night flight between Bangalore and Port Blair. This is a landmark event and we expect more airlines to follow. Port Blair is an international airport and the day is not far when international airlines start touching down at Port Blair. Car Nicobar is already connected by a weekly flight and our

future plans include connecting Campbell Bay and Diglipur also.

The Islands have certainly emerged from their seclusion and are making their presence felt, not only in tourism but in other major sectors also. Shipping, which is our life line is being modernized and we have invited expression of interest for cruise ships too.

Q. 2. How different is Andaman from the other Union Territories?

Ans. Andaman is quite different from the other UTs. The main difference is geographical. Although Lakshadweep is also an island territory, it is much closer and has only one ethnic community. Andamans has a much larger area than all other UTs. There are 556 islands forming a 750 kms long chain, a



Q & A
Today the islands are being viewed as a most sought after tourist destination the world over.

logistical nightmare. 94% of the land is protected forest. The islands have a multi-cultural, multi-linguistic composition, but united by one language – Hindi. They have vast, untapped marine resources and huge bio-diversity. There are still particularly vulnerable aboriginal tribes living in parts of these islands. The only live volcano of India “Barren” is on these islands. The southern-most tip of India is in Great Nicobar Island around which pass almost 900 ships a day between Indian and Pacific oceans, thus enhancing the strategic importance of these Islands. The natural beauty of the islands is unparalleled. On the whole, the peace and serenity you find here cannot be found anywhere else in the world. The Administrative set up is also unique to these islands.

Q.3. The Islands are also a strategic location from the defence point of view.

Ans. I have always held that strategic importance and security is the first centre of gravity of these



islands. The islands bestow a great strategic advantage for India, extending our reach far into the Indo Pacific. The islands are a springboard for our engagement with the East in conformity with India's Look East – Act East policy. The strategic environment has changed and today India is looked upon as a net security provider in this area. Threats to the island's security have also been changing, with a greater dimension of non-conventional threats, be it poaching, illegal immigration or other sub-conventional threats.

The Marine Police is being upgraded, as are the capabilities of Andaman Nicobar Tri-service Command. We are looking at both short term and long term capabilities, including requisite infrastructure development in specified islands from North-Diglipur to South- Campbell Bay.

The capability development focuses on the both human resource and optimum utilization of technology with a special focus on intelligence and surveillance of our vast EEZ (Almost 30% of India's EEZ is here).

Q.4. What about tourism, which is the main resource of Andaman and Nicobar islands?

Ans. There are two future key areas for the islands. One is tourism, the second is fisheries. Till a year back, we used to get about 2 lakhs plus tourists, which has now exceeded the 3 lakhs mark. That is a fair number for the kind of infrastructure available here. A lot of people tell me, General why don't you make it like Singapore or Maldives and I tell them, our tourism is a unique brand of sustainable tourism. It will be aligned to ecology, nature, sea and water sports. As you are landing at Port Blair, you can see the bottom of the ocean, so clear are the waters. Our tourism offers opportunities for all, not just high end tourism but also middle level, because that is what gives employment to our people.

We will develop our infrastructure further so that the place is not overwhelmed. We need a little more capacity to spread tourism throughout the year. Many other beautiful islands and beaches are being developed and opened; the Taj Group is coming up with an eco resort at Havelock. Newly introduced Sound & Light show at Ross Island is one of the best in the country. We have issued expression of interest for cruise ships. So a whole lot of things are happening, slowly but surely!

A part of my job is also to look at the future and not just my tenure. We had ordered a study on Andaman and Nicobar Islands-2030. Where do we see the Andaman Nicobar Islands going in the future? And to become a spring board for India's engagement with Asia Pacific, what concrete steps need to be taken from now onwards in various



Face to Face

fields. It has been completed and we are in the process of drawing up an action plan and also presenting it to the Centre.

Q.5. Andaman and Nicobar is seeing development after a long time under your dynamic leadership, say opinion makers here. How do you address the local issues?

Ans. When I came to the Andamans, the conventional wisdom was that there is only one centre of gravity, which is true everywhere. But as I got to understand the Islands better, I realized that in Andaman there are multiple centres of gravity and that is how I tried to change the discourse. These multiple centres of gravity have to learn to accommodate each other and live in harmony. There cannot be a conflict. Having understood this, I laid down my vision for these Islands. "Achieve comprehensive development, while keeping security concerns, ecology and tribal's issues to the fore". But let me add, that in the last two years, the



islands have seen unprecedented development; projects pending for decades have fructified, all due to our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision, focus and support for development, in sync with his clarion call for 'SabkaSaathSabkaVikas'.

Q.6. Andaman is undoubtedly a beautiful place. Would you like to retain your connections with these islands later in life?

Ans. No doubt, the Islands are a most serene and beautiful place. I hung my spurs as GOC-in-C Southern Army in Jan 2013, and I am grateful to the Government of India for giving me this opportunity to serve the country again. I already consider myself an Islander and have great affection and connection with the people here. Ditto for my family. Therefore, wherever I may be, my connection with these beautiful islands and its endearing people would always remain strong.

Q.7. What is that makes you so action oriented ?

Ans. I think it's about one's passion for your job

and being transparent and direct. Most of the time, people come expecting relief from the Lt Governor on issues that may have no solution. So rather than saying we'll look at it, I am direct in telling them whether the issue is doable or not. Over the years, I have developed a positive outlook, and that helps me in getting things done.

In the last two years, the islands have seen unprecedented development; projects have fructified, all due to our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision, focus and support for development, in sync with his clarion call for 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'.

When your 'Mind and Heart' are focused, results are bound to follow. Even in the Army, I was always action oriented. The job needs to be done and in time. Let me just say, am very conscious of my responsibilities and always try to do more than my best to fulfill them. I do try and take maximum people along, but would not allow vested interests to derail development projects which are in the interest of the citizens of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

In the end I would like to thank the people of Andaman and Nicobar islands for their affection and support. And on their behalf would like to express our gratitude to the Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi ji and the Central Govt for their guidance and support, which has been critical to our success.



*Compiled by Shri.K.Venkatesan
Assistant Professor & Head, Dept of Home
Science, JNRM, taking excerpts from interviews
which appeared in "Corporate Citizen" and at
'KhasMulakat' organised by JNRM*

Evolution of Trade & Business In Andaman Islands

The post Independence period saw the Islands being settled with those who had been displaced during partition. They came from different parts of the country with different linguistic and cultural backgrounds, with the promise and the hope of a new beginning. At that time administrative set up was caught in challenges of transporting men & materials from the mainland. During the process of resolving the issue, it paved a way for the growth and development of trade & commerce.

During the British period SS Maharaja was the only mode of Trade & Travel between Port Blair and Calcutta. It took three weeks to complete the voyage. The islanders were fully dependent on the supplies brought by this ship. The market on the day of arrival of the ship did brisk trading. Same was the condition at the Post Office for collection of post mail by the individuals themselves. Post mail could be sent and receive only once in three weeks. A sailing to and from Madras was only once in two months.

Subsequently with a shift in the Government Policy to value addition in timber for the export led to setting up of Large Scale Industries.

The early economy of the islands was primarily based on plantation crops, viz. Coconut. Other agricultural activities were undertaken mostly for the purpose of sustenance, copra making, which was the only major export from these islands before independence.

Subsequently with a shift in the Government Policy to value addition in timber for the export led to setting up of Large Scale Industries such as Andaman Timber Industries, Western India Match Company, Asian Woods & Polymers and Jayshree Timber Products in the 1960s and 1970s. Other than these industries, the other economic activities like shipping, transport and internal trade were providing employment to a major part of the population.

Extraction of timber was banned by the Hon'ble Supreme Court during 2002. This created layoffs of industrial workers and it is estimated that more than 10,000 people were directly or indirectly lost their means of livelihood.

Fortunately the policy of liberalization and globalization led to opening of unrestricted access to the islands which led to new opportunities in tourism sector. This sector was in its infancy during the early 1980s and by 1990's tourism had taken a strong foothold in the islands. Tourism infrastructure was simultaneously developed through both private and public initiatives which further boosted the sector.

26th December, 2004 was the turning point in the history of the Islands, with the devastating

earth-quake and Tsunami hitting these islands and causing untold damages to life and property, the scars of which still remain. However, the Government of India and A & N Administration stepped in not only to re-build the entire infrastructure, but also kick-start the economy.

The Islands have become a major tourist destination across the globe. It is known as an eco-friendly destination with historical importance. Due to the improvement of connectivity between island mainland the tourist traffic increased and is likely to grow in the coming years.

The ACCI has identified areas which need to be re-examined to achieve growth in trade & commerce— both physical and virtual such as CRZ Regulation, review the ban imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, promoting high-value agriculture, encouraging establishment of shore-based marine processing units and the export of finished marine products, studying the prospects/feasibility of using the advantage of our islands geographical location for transshipment and trade hubs in the Bay of Bengal.

There is a need to have a long term perspective and to put in place such policies to ensure planned development and invite investment for growth.

Girish Arora
*President,
Andaman Chamber
of Commerce and Industry*



आन्दोलन

विरासत में मिली हैं उनकी यादें
उन अपनों की यादों को,
सहेजते सँभालते आते हो जब मुसाफिर
वे पूछते हैं —
कहाँ हैं मेरे अपने ?

जिनकी आवाजों से थर्रा उठती थी
सेल्यूलर की नीवें
और अब शिलाएँ बोलती हो
अनगिनत नाम
निगाह खोजती हो,
हजारों गुमनाम,
कहाँ गये वो गुमनाम ?

लाये गये थे जो बंदी बनाकर,
सन् 1857 म उन शहीदों के अपने
खोजते-खोजते
पता पूछकर ठिकाने पर जब पहुँचे,
शिलालेखों पर, दरो दीवारों पर।
अपनों का नाम न पाकर,
इस कदर बेचैन हो गये अपने।
ये कैसी बेबसी है,
आँखों में बेशुमार सवाल,
और होठों पर उदास खामोशी है—
समय का एक टुकड़ा,
जो उड़ गया उड़न तश्तरी बनकर—
कहता है इतिहास,
जो अंधकार की चादर में सिमटा है,
सेल्यूलर के आगोश में बैठा है।
सिसक रहा है निरंतर —
रो-रो कर गुमनाम थकी—
निगाहों से देखता है।
न हॉफता है न काँपता है,
शिलाओं से टकराकर उन
आँसुओं के अवशेष
सेल्यूलर की दीवारों को
आज भी नम कर देते हो।
सिसक-सिसक कर कहता है
आहत इतिहास इस नगर का,
और भेद जाता सन्नाटा सागर का स्वर
तट की सीमा पर निस्पंद उसकी साँस
पल-पल विस्फोरित आँखें
गुमनामी की गहराई में धकेला उन्हें
आंग्ल नीति साजिशें।
हाँ वो शहीद हो गये कैसे?

पूछो सेल्यूलर के अंतस से।
वक्त तह-तर-तह सरकता गया,
आस्था और विश्वास की ईंट भी,
देती हो सुराग जरा-जरा सी,
रह जाती आँख नम शबनम की बूदों सी।
ये कैसा आन्दोलन,
ये आन्दोलित कर देता है मन।
उद्वेलित निगाह खोजती हो,
अनुभव की धरा से उठकर,
आकाश में संकेतों का स्पन्दन,
भावना के भवसागर में डूब जाता है।
उद्वेलित मन।
तभी तो कहानी और कविता से पलवित
हो जाता है हर मन।
इसी बीच नगर के बीच खड़े
घंटाघर ने—
समय के जिन्दा होने का,
उद्घोष किया।
इतिहास के साथ वक्त मरता नहीं है,
सुनाकर जीवन का सुर सरगम,
आशा की किरण आ गयी,
जिन्दगी फिर रफतार में आई,
उन अपने शहीदों की धरोहर, सेल्यूलर
को करके नमन—
अपनों ने सफर को फिर
नया आयाम दे दिया
और उठर गया है—
सेल्यूलर की शिलालेख पर उद्वेलित मन।



अंडमान निकोबार द्वीप समूह में हिंदी में निरंतर लेखन करते हुए राष्ट्रीय एकता एवं राष्ट्रभाषा के विकास के क्षेत्र में श्रीमती डी. एम. सावित्री ने ऐतिहासिक महत्व का कार्य किया है। इस द्वीप में हिंदी के स्वीकार्यता निर्मित करने में इन्होंने महती भूमिका निभाई है। कवि-कथाकार श्रीमती डी. एम. सावित्री को 19 अप्रैल, 2016 को राष्ट्रपति भवन में महामहिम राष्ट्रपति प्रणव मुखर्जी द्वारा गंगशरण सिंह पुरस्कार से पुरस्कृत किया गया। 23 अप्रैल, 2016 को सतत साहित्य साधता के लिए अमृता प्रीतम साहित्य अलंकरण से अलंकृत किया गया।

डी. एम. सावित्री

अंडमा

कहाँ से शुरु हम करें यह फसाना
शहीदों की बातें वो गुज़रा ज़माना
सतावन की जंग मे फिरंगी खिलाफ
बुलंद जब किया था सभी ने आवाज़
आज़ादी गुनाह है बताया गया था
हजारों का फांसी चढ़ाया गया था
सज़ा कुछ ने पाई समंदर के पार
सेमीरमिस में फिर होके वो सवार
वतन के लिए चल पड़ा था दीवाना

कहाँ से शुरु हम करें यह फसाना
अथाह समंदर पहुंचा जो जहाज़
सुनाई पड़ी होगी बच्चों की आवाज़
नवाजा था माँ बाप ने भी दुआ से
कहा कुछ न पाया वो बच्चों की माँ से
रवाना हुआ बेड़ियों में बंधा था
न जाने क्या मुकद्दर में उसके लिखा था
बसाने चला अंडमा का वीराना

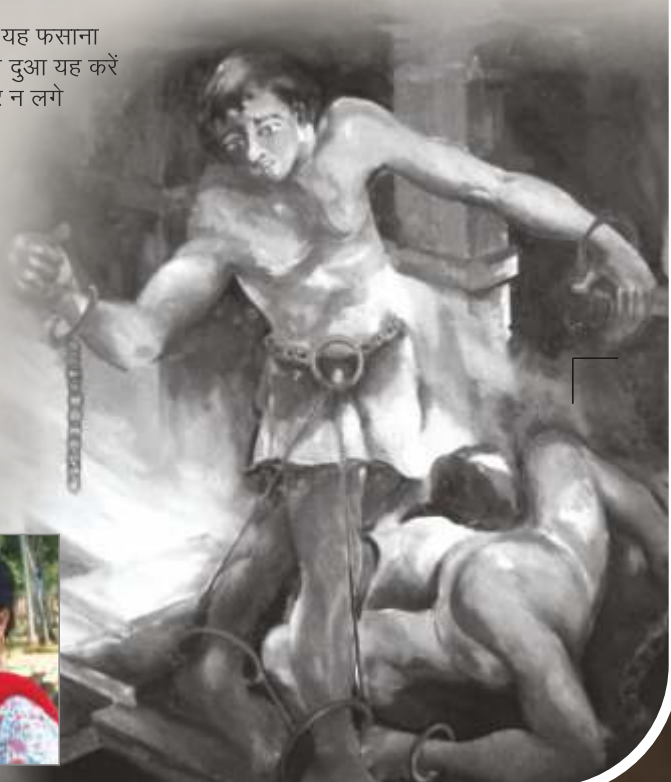
कहाँ से शुरु हम करें यह फसाना
आबाद की वतन के फरिश्तों ने चाथम
न खुशियाँ थी कोई, न था कोई मातम
नारायण था पहला शहीद अंडमा का
निरजन फज़ल हक़ बहादुर था भीमा
सभी ने वतन के लिए जिंदगी दी
इसी सरजर्मी के लिए रोशनी दी
न पानी था न था रहने का ठिकाना

कहाँ से शुरु हम करें यह फसाना
हजारों को कैद कर यहाँ लाया गया था
अबरडीन में कितनों को मारा गया था
पुरी के महाराज भी, आए वहाबी
मणिपुर से भी आए थे सेनानी
सितम पर सितम बहुत बढ़ चला था
उसी वक़्त शेर अली फांसी पे चढ़ा था
बड़ी मुश्किलों से मिला आबोदाना

कहाँ से शुरु हम करें यह फसाना
जुबान पर शिकायत न कोई गिला था
वतन पे था जिंदा, वतन पे मिटा था
जो लाये गए थे यहाँ सन अट्टावन
उन्ही खुशबुओं से बना ये मधुबन
हजारों सितम इम्तिहान से गुजरकर
उसी ने बनाई भयानक सेल्यूलर
शुरु फिर हुआ सिलसिला वो पुराना

कहाँ से शुरु हम करें या फसाना
मेरे अंडमान का मुकद्दर बुरा था
ब्रिटिश गए तो जपानी खड़ा था
सनी ज़ालिमों का बना था निवाला
खड़ा हांफरीगंज बन कर शिवाला
चवालीस फना हो गए इस जगह पर
चलो हम नमन कर झुखे इस धरा पर
बहुत ही भयानक था वो इक ज़माना

कहाँ से शुरु हम करें यह फसाना
चलो मिल के हम सब दुआ यह करें
मरे अंडमान को नज़र न लगे



डॉ रशीदा इकबाल

Public Representatives

Shri. Bishnu Pada Ray is the sole Member of Parliament representing Andaman & Nicobar Islands. He was born in Nalanda District, 24 Parganas West Bengal and had acquired B.Com Degree from Anand Mohan College Calcutta. He came to these islands in the year 1975 and rose from a very humble beginning by the dint of hard work and strong grass root connect. He is one of the pioneer members of Bhartiya Janata Party in A&N Islands. He was first elected to the 13th Lok Sabha during 1999 and subsequently he was a member of 15th Lok Sabha from the year 2009 to 2014. He has been elected for the 3rd time to 16th Lok Sabha in the year 2014 and is a member in various committees with the Central Government. His favorite game is Cricket.



Smt. Minati Biswas

assumed office as the 8th Adhyaksh, Zilla Parishad, Andaman & Nicobar Islands on October 11, 2002 and 8th Adhyaksha, Zilla Parishad, South Andaman on October 11, 2015 after a running political career of over two decades.

A woman of humble origin, Smt. Biswas was born in a small village of Wandoor as daughter of a fisherman.

She is a Member of Home Ministry Advisory Committee, Ministry of Home Affairs and Chairperson, District Planning Committee, South Andaman, A & N Islands.



Ms. Prabhavati Biswas

assumed office as the 4th Adhyaksha of Zilla Parishad, North & Middle Andaman on 11th October, 2015. She was also elected as Panchayat Samiti Member of Rangat during 2010-2015.

A woman of humble origin, Ms. Biswas was born in a poor family at Rangat. She has completed Graduation in Bengali Literature from Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya, Port Blair and also passed Junior Teacher Training (JTT) from Haryana.

She is a Member of Home Ministry Advisory Committee, Ministry of Home Affairs, Member of Administrator's Advisory Council and Chairperson, District Planning Committee, North & Middle Andaman, Chairperson, District Rural Development Agency, Chairperson, Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).



Smt. Sheela Singh

Chairperson of Port Blair Municipal Council

was elected third time consecutively from Ward. No. 10 as Member of Port Blair Municipal Council in September 2015. Smt. Sheela Singh was the first Chairperson of UT Commission for Protection of Child Rights, A & N Islands.

Her activism in social and political life started in the year 2000. She joined Bharitya Janta Party as a primary member and worked intensively in the field of women and child welfare, youth development, upliftment of backward classes.





Anindo Mazumder, IAS
Chief Secretary
Andaman & Nicobar Administration

Some highlights for the year 2016-17

- Provision of Rs. 2250.00 Crore for 2016-17 for the overall development of the Islands.
- Better inter-island connectivity to improve tourism and business opportunities.
- Green initiatives involving the sanction of 100 MW Solar Park and distribution of LED bulbs.
- Augmentation of satellite bandwidth from 1.2 Gbps to 1.5 Gbps.
- Flagging of new ventures in air travel in the form of chartered flights to Car Nicobar and introduction of helicopter and two seaplanes.
- Promotion of Eco tourism –Birding, Trekking, SCUBA Diving and Regulation and promotion of Safe Water/Adventure Sports Activities.
- To promote Ease of Doing Business, a Common Facilitation Centre for Entrepreneurs/Start Up would be set up.
- Construction of Sea Wall/ Shore Protection work at Mus, Car Nicobar and Chunna Batta, Forest Check Post to North Bay.
- Establishment of Law College.
- Branding products “Made in Andamans” & improving their market through E-commerce.

From the Desk of Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Administration

I am pleased that Andaman Nicobar Administration is reaching out to people through a periodical which includes a plethora of facts and interesting features. I am sure this magazine will become an effective tool to bridge the gap of information, education and communication between Administration and its people, including the tourists visiting these pristine Islands and also showcase the rich heritage, historical importance, uniqueness and creativity of the Islands.

We are committed to ensure flow of information about welfare and development programmes to the grassroot level which is a basic requirement of good governance.

The magazine, in the days to come would be showcasing several known and lesser known facts about the Island by involving a range of experts in the subject.

Our primary focus is to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth while keeping ecological concerns and tribal issues to the fore. Towards this end a number of initiatives have been taken in the past such as establishment of Medical College, Art College, introduction of Chartered flight to connect with mainland. However, we need to further improve inter-island connectivity and connectivity with mainland to match the rising aspiration of youth for better livelihood options.

Basic amenities like safe drinking water to all, improving connectivity would be the priority. Last mile delivery and making everyone count in the system is important.

Besides projects of renewable energy, better preparedness for Disaster Management,

emotional wellbeing and happiness index, take care of the “divyang” or the special abled. We are committed to improve basic amenities for tourist such as changing rooms, toilets on way side etc. We are also committed to simplify governance processes and adopt e-governance to the extent possible. Tribal welfare will be on the top of our list.

Even though A&N Islands is known for its beautiful beaches, yet a lot is still waiting to be explored. And I hope that through this initiative of bringing together a kaleidoscope of information we would go a long way in meeting the knowledge gap which normally exists.



Lt. Governor, Lt. Gen AK Singh (Retd.), laying the foundation stone for a 20 MW Solar Power Project at Attam Pahad. L to R; Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Chief Secretary, Shri Anindo Majumdar, Chairman-cum-MD, NLC, Shri S. K. Acharya, PBMC Chairperson, Smti Sheela Singh, Shri V.K. Jain, Advisor, MNRE, Shri Selva Kumar, Director (Planning & Project) NLC, Principal Secretary (Power), Shri Arun Baroka, May 30, 2016

Being Havelocked!

One...two...three...SPLASH!!!

I hold my mouthpiece like my life depends on it and take a leap from the edge of the boat and jump into the deep sea! A few seconds seem like eternity when I feel I am going to drown but thanks to my inflated jacket called BCD which brings me back to the floating position. Now it is time to see world of Ariel (the little Mermaid) and explore the surprises that lie below into the blue.

Welcome to this Scuba Diver's paradise; far away yet very much a part of our India. For majority of tourists, Andamans is synonymous with a quiet little island called "Havelock". Interestingly, many islands of Andamans derive their name from some British General reminding everyone of the stronghold that the Britishers once had in these islands. So comes the name Havelock.

The island is the hub for Scuba Diving even though we have more options.

So, here are the top 5-

Things to do when you are here:

Play with the waves

With fingers crossed I watch the next batch of waves furling and unfurling around me. They rise

For majority of
tourists, Andamans
is synonymous with
a quiet little island
called "Havelock"

so high that I feel I should have run away when I had the time but there is nothing that can be done now. The next moment they catch me into their grip and I try desperately not to get knocked into the sand while the waves turn me like a tumble in the washing machine. Phew! That was scary man! But hey I want to do that again.

Fine white sand, crescent coastline overlooking a lush green forest defines the best beach in Asia called the **Radhanagar beach** or Beach No. 7. This is the best place to be if you love sunsets as you are going to get one of the best views of your life here. If you are a daredevil, then explore the quieter side of Radhanagar beach called **Neil's cove** which is my favourite spot on this island. You need to walk

for almost 20 minutes to reach this spot parallel to the beach. This is a beautiful lagoon with crystal clear water ideal for swimming and snorkelling. However, there was an unexpected crocodile attack on a tourist here in the year 2010 consequently not many dare to venture here. I have been here many times and I am still alive to tell the story ;)

Once you have had your share of Radhanagar beach, make your way to **Elephant beach** known for its short trek (30-40 minutes) through the forest, watersports and snorkelling activities. You can also take a boat ride to this beach from Havelock jetty if you do not wish to trek all the way to the beach. In case of rainy days and bad weather this beach is generally shut. Last but not the least, do not miss the sunrise at serene **Kalapathar** beach and take celebrity pictures with its beaches full of huge trees fallen down and giving it a picturesque effect.



Travel

Scuba Diving

Havelock Island is the hub of divers from across the world because of its spectacular coral reefs, good visibility of water and myriad of fish life ranging from huge manta rays to sweet little clown fish. One is bound to be mesmerized with an unending charm of a different world altogether.

Most of the dive shops here in Havelock offer a 30-40 minute dive guided by trained divers for people who are first timers and wish to take an introduction into the undersea life. The reef called "Nemo Reef" is the popular spot for first timers and is full of tiny clown fish coming in and out of their houses called anemones. This kind of diving is called Discover Scuba Diving/Try Dive and does not require one to have swimming skills.

Good swimmers who wish to do some serious diving can also opt for international certification courses easily available in PADI and SSI. The best dive sites for Fun Dives are Jackson's, Dixon's and Jhonny's. Some dive shops organize an exclusive trip to Barren Island, India's only active volcano for some real serious diving. Only experienced divers are entertained as this trip is expensive and involves some skills in manoeuvring through the strong sea currents. The corals are at their best and you can always see a lot of sea creatures like manta rays, sting rays, dolphins, turtles if you are lucky.

Snorkelling

Snorkelling is yet another way of getting a peep into the sea below. All you need to do is put on the snorkelers and swim across the reefs while looking into the sea. This is a cheaper way of enjoying the undersea life. Many tourists who are good at swimming head



Welcome to this
Scuba Diver's
paradise; far
away yet very
much a part of
our India.



to Neil's cove, Elephant beach or Nemo reef which are easy to visit being close to the sea shore. Go a little farther for the sites -Lighthouse, South Button Island, Tamarind Bay and English Island.

Game fishing

Put your fisherman's cap on and set out for a day trip to catch your dinner. The sea is an assortment of fish and here is your chance to show your skills to your friends. Tuna, Travellies and Barracudas might be one of your catch if you are lucky.

Island Tours

There are some inhabited islands too around the Havelock. So those of us who like to set foot on the places less travelled, this is the place. A private boat trip needs to be arranged to get this experience. The Best way is to contact your resort to arrange one for you and get people to share the cost to make it more lucrative. Some of the islands which can be visited this way are Nicolson Island, Tamarind Bay and English Island. Only the day tours can be arranged to these islands as staying overnight is not permitted.



The best way to reach Havelock is by the air conditioned catamaran ferry, which takes only 90 minutes from Port Blair. There are government ferry services available as well which take about 2.5 hours. Do book your tickets in advance during peak season.



I have tried sharing most of the things one can do while spending their time in Havelock but this is not all. You can also indulge in Kayaking tours through the creeks and mangroves and if you come at the right time then night Kayaking tours will let you witness bioluminescence (sea sparkle) as the planktons glow in the dark when you row through the seawater. Forest treks along with a guide are also good option for bird watchers and wildlife enthusiasts. Being a perfect place to get some peace, you can also indulge yourselves in Yoga classes conducted by a couple of resorts. You can also do some cycling through a winding road with one side forest and one side sea. And last but not the least, if you are a seafood lover then don't miss exploring various food joints like Fat Martin and Welcome Restaurant to give a kick to your tastebuds. Vegetarians need not be disappointed as there are places which serve native vegetarian food too.

I have missed out on the most important thing that you could do here. That is “Do nothing”. Yes, just tie a hammock to the tree, relax by the beach and read your novel or listen to your favourite music and let the day gradually turn into night full of bright stars unlike the cities.



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

Photo Credits: Padmavati Tayaru Madipalli and Subhash Chandran

अण्डमान तथा निकोबार में हिन्दी!

अण्डमान तथा निकोबार द्वीपसमूह में अनेक अहिन्दी भाषी प्रान्तों की सीमाओं को लाँघती हुई हिन्दी का पहुँच विकसित होना और विभिन्न भाषा-भाषियों के बीच संपर्क भाषा के रूप में समादृत होना अपने आप में एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है। द्वीपों में हिन्दी का इतिहास उतना ही पुराना है, जितना यहाँ बस्तियों का बसाया जाना। 'कालापानी' की सजा पाये लोगों का पहला जत्था यहाँ 10 मार्च सन् 1858 को पहुँचा था। ब्रिटिश सरकार द्वारा स्वतंत्रता संग्राम-सेनानी या अपराधी जो दण्डित करने के उद्देश्य से यहाँ लाये गये थे उनमें तमिल, तेलुगू, मलयालम, कन्नड़, असमी, बंगला, उड़िया, पंजाबी, सिन्धी, गुजराती, मराठी, हिन्दी आदि बोलने वाले लोग थे। कुछ नेपाली और बर्मीज भी थे। भारतीयों के अतिरिक्त अंग्रेज अधिकारी भी थे, जो अंग्रेजी के साथ-साथ या तो उर्दू अथवा उर्दू-अंग्रेजी मिली हिन्दी यानी हिन्दुस्तानी बोलते थे। इस तरह विभिन्न भाषा-भाषियों के बीच विचार-विनिमय के लिए एक संपर्क भाषा की आवश्यकता थी। इसे पूरा किया हिन्दी यानी हिन्दुस्तानी ने। सन् 1875 ई. तक इस हिन्दुस्तानी का कोई विशेष रूप नहीं बन सका होगा, क्योंकि उक्त अवधि तक प्रकाशित दस्तावेजों में इसका कोई उल्लेख नहीं है। सन् 1908 ई. के 'लोकल गजेटियर' (स्थानीय भौगोलिकी) में इसकी चर्चा हुई है। इससे अनुमान होता है कि तब तक हिन्दुस्तानी ने अपना स्वरूप संपर्क भाषा के रूप में बना लिया था। समय-समय पर इसके शब्द-संग्रह तैयार हुए, जो 'इंडियन एण्टीक्वेरी' में प्रकाशित है।

स्वतंत्रता-संघर्ष काल में हिन्दी ने जिस प्रकार संपूर्ण देश को जोड़ने का कार्य किया उसी प्रकार इन द्वीपों में आगत-भिन्न भाषा-भाषियों के बीच भी यह एकता की कड़ी बनी। पराधीनता की जंजीरों में जकड़े लोगों के भीतर वह आशा और उल्लास की संवाहिका बनी। लोकरंग और लोक-संस्कृति के माध्यम के रूप में वह लोगों को अंग्रेजों के विरुद्ध एक मंच पर लाने वाली प्रमुख किरदार बनी। उसने लोगों को न केवल जोड़ा बल्कि आत्म-सम्मान और आत्म-गौरव का पाठ भी

पढ़ाया। इतिहास प्रसिद्ध सेल्यूलर जेल संपर्क-भाषा हिन्दी की प्रयोगशाला के रूप में अमर स्मरणीय है तो इसीलिए कि यह वह स्थान है जहाँ स्वतंत्रता-सेनानियों और कैदियों के बीच विचार-विनिमय का माध्यम हिन्दी थी। 'वंदे मातरम' के जयघोष के साथ ही साथ हिन्दी की जयगाथा का स्वर भी इस जेल में मुखरित हुआ था। जेल से रिहाई पाये लोग जब बस्ती बसाकर रहने लगे तब उनके बीच जोड़-भाषा हिन्दी थी। यह हिन्दी का ही महत्व था कि स्वतंत्रता-संघर्ष काल में यहाँ की जनता ने हिन्दी शिक्षक की माँग की थी और जब उनकी माँग पूरी नहीं हुई तब उन्होंने चंदा इकट्ठा करके हिन्दी शिक्षक का वेतन जुटाया था। जापानी आधिपत्य के समय जापानियों की क्रूरताओं और अत्याचारों की परवाह न करते हुए द्वीपवासियों ने हिन्दी की मशाल को प्रज्वलित रखा। विभिन्न सत्संग और गायन मंडलियों के द्वारा हिन्दी का प्रचार-प्रसार जारी रहा। नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस के पोर्टब्लेयर आगमन के अवसर पर उनके स्वागत-सम्मान में मास्टर केसर दास ने जो गीत गाया था उसकी अनुगूँज हिन्दी के विकास की सहयात्री बनी। आज़ादी के बाद द्वीपों में हिन्दी का व्यापक प्रचार-प्रसार हुआ। डिगलीपूर से कैम्पबेल बे यहाँ तक कि आदिवासी

Heritage & Culture

समुदाय में भी आज हिन्दी अगर बोली और समझी जाती है तो इसका श्रेय उन सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक संगठनों, सरकारी तथा स्वैच्छिक संस्थाओं तथा व्यक्तियों को जाता है, जिन्होंने अपने योगदान से हिन्दी की चेतना को प्राणवान बनाया। हिन्दी के प्रचार-प्रसार के महायज्ञ में अपना नैवेद्य अर्पित किया।

अण्डमान तथा निकोबार में भाषा की तकरार व भाषा की दीवार नहीं है बल्कि भारत के विभिन्न भागों से आकर बसे यहाँ के निवासी अपनी समन्वयात्मिका दृष्टि के कारण इन्द्रधनुषी छटा का आभास देते हैं। राष्ट्रीय एकता का आदर्श प्रस्तुत करते हैं तथा हिन्दी को हर तरह से समादृत करने के लिए सचेष्ट रहते हैं। यहाँ के आदिवासी समुदाय तथा अहिन्दी भाषिया में हिन्दी सीखने की ललक कम महत्वपूर्ण नहीं है। कई लोग ऐसे हो, जो चार-चार, पाँच-पाँच भाषायें बोलते और समझते हैं। इसीलिए बोलचाल की हिन्दी में मानकता का अभाव दिखाई देता है लेकिन हमें यह ध्यान रखना चाहिए कि किसी भाषा की जीवंतता उसके सतत प्रवाहन में होने में है। इसके साथ ही अगर वह विभिन्न छोटी-बड़ी नदियों (बोली-भाषा) को अपने में समाहित कर प्रवाहित हो तो यह उसकी समृद्धि का प्रतीक है।

अण्डमान-निकोबार में हिन्दी का स्वरूप ऐसे ही है। इसने विभिन्न भाषा के शब्दों को पचाया है— चाहे वह दक्षिण भारत की भाषा के शब्द हो या आदिवासी बोली के। ये इस बोली में इस तरह घुल मिल गये हैं कि उन्हें सहघतया बिलगाना एक दुष्कर कार्य होगा। हमें यह भी याद रखना होगा कि इस बोली में कितने ही ऐसे शब्द हैं, जिन्हें स्थानीय आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति के लिए यहाँ की परिस्थितियों ने निर्मित किया है। काम का अर्थ देने वाला 'कमान' शब्द अंग्रेजी 'कमांड' का विकृत रूप है जिसके विकास का अपना इतिहास है। यहाँ कैदियों की टोली जब काम पर जाती थी, तब उसका संबंध किसी न किसी कमान्ड से होता था जैसे—सफाई कमान्ड लेकिन लोग कमान्ड को कमान यानी काम के अर्थ में प्रयुक्त करने लगे। उदाहरण के लिए —“वह कमान में आएगा करके बोलता है।” जिस भाषा के अधिग्रहण में अपनापन और प्रेमभाव होता है वह भाषा निश्चित ही सहज, सरल और आत्मीय होती है। यहाँ के लोगों ने जिस हिन्दी को बड़ी ही आत्मीयता के साथ पाला-पोसा है वह साहित्यिक हिन्दी से थोड़ी भिन्न जरूर है किन्तु वह है— विशिष्ट किस्म की टकसाली भाषा।

द्वीपसमूह में विकसित हो रही संपर्क भाषा हिन्दी की यह विशेषता ही है कि हिन्दी से नितान्त अनभिज्ञ कोई हिन्दीतर भाषी जब यहाँ आता है तो वह कुछ ही दिनों में काम चलाऊ हिन्दी का ज्ञान अर्जित कर लेता है। सरकारी अथवा गैर सरकारी प्रतिष्ठानों अथवा दुकानों/मकानों में काम करता हुआ वह व्यक्ति हिन्दी बोलने में असहज महसूस नहीं करता।

अण्डमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन का राजभाषा विभाग सरकारी काम-काज में हिन्दी की प्रगति बढ़ाने के लिए

निरन्तर प्रयत्नशील है। इसके द्वारा समय-समय पर गहन अनुवाद प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम और कम्प्यूटर पर हिन्दी में काम करने के प्रशिक्षण की व्यवस्था की जाती है। हिन्दी दिवस और हिन्दी पखवाड़े के दौरान अधिकाधिक काम-काज राजभाषा में निपटाने हेतु प्रेरित/प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है। पुरस्कार/सम्मान द्वारा वर्ष पर्यन्त हिन्दी में काम करने के लिए उचित वातावरण बनाया जाता है। इनके अलावा संगोष्ठियों/कवि सम्मेलनों के आयोजन द्वारा राजभाषा विभाग लोगों में हिन्दी के प्रति ललक और उत्साह जगाता है। इसी क्रम में दिनांक 8 और 9 जुलाई 2002 को 'हिन्दी का सरलीकरण' विषय पर एक राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी आयोजित की गई थी जिसका उद्देश्य उन अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों की इस शंका का समाधान करना था कि कार्यालय में प्रयोग की जाने वाले हिन्दी के शब्द अधिक तर कठिन होते हैं। बाद में वैज्ञानिक तथा तकनीकी शब्दावली आयोग, नई दिल्ली के सहयोग से एक दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी वैज्ञानिक तथा तकनीकी शब्दों की समस्याओं को लेकर आयोजित की गई थी। इन संगोष्ठिया ने कार्यालयी कर्मचारियों के साथ-साथ हिन्दी भाषानुरागियों को भी काफी प्रोत्साहित किया था।

साहित्य की भाषा के रूप में भी हिन्दी इन द्वीपों में काफी फल-फूल रही है। यहाँ परिष्कृत परिभार्जित खड़ी बोली ही साहित्य की भाषा है। उसी में रचनायें हुई और हो रही हैं। सीमित साधना के बावजूद विषय परिस्थितिया को झेलती हुई सृजनशीलता का गतिशील रहना हिन्दी की प्रगति के लिए एक शुभ संकेत है। यहाँ की कई संस्थाएँ हिन्दी की रचनाशीलता को प्रेरित/प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए प्रयत्नशील हैं। यहाँ की रचनात्मकता को पहले की अपेक्षा अब काफी प्रचार-प्रसार भी मिल रहा है। हिन्दी की सेवा-साधना और रचनाधर्मिता को राष्ट्रीय-अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पहचान मिल रही है। भारत सरकार के विदेश मंत्रालय द्वारा आयोजित दसव विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन में डा. व्यास मणि त्रिपाठी को 'विश्व हिन्दी सम्मान' से सम्मानित होना यहाँ की हिन्दी सेवा और साधना का सम्मान है।

अण्डमान तथा निकोबार में हिन्दी ने संपर्क भाषा, राजभाषा और साहित्य की भाषा के रूप में जो यात्रा की है, उससे उसका भविष्य उज्ज्वल है।



डॉ. व्यास मणि त्रिपाठी

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Flora & Fauna

Fascinating Orchids of Andaman & Nicobar Islands



Anoechilus nicobaricus

Terrestrial, Rare. Found in evergreen forests along streamside and densely shaded slopes of Great Nicobar Island. ENDEMIC. Flowering October to December.



Dendrobium formosum

Epiphytic, Occasional. Found in littoral and inland evergreen forests throughout Andaman Group of Islands. Flowering September to January.

Orchids – Crown Jewels of the Plant Kingdom

Orchids have long fascinated mankind with their showy, often scented and long lasting flowers. They are the ultimate flowering plants, the crown jewels of the Plant Kingdom. They display extreme floral complexities and the highest degrees of specialized adaptation to their habitats. All the species belong to the group Orchidaceae, - the second largest family of plants comprising of over 27,000 species. While the vast majority of plants are epiphytic (deriving shelter from host plants but not nutrition), some are terrestrial (growing in forest humus) and a few mycotrophic (dependent upon fungal associates for nutrition).

Found on all continents of the world except Antarctica, orchids attain their highest diversity in the tropics. India, sporting a diverse range of habitats, is home to 1331 species of orchids belonging to 184 genera, - which consists 9% of her floristic diversity. Regions within the country displaying high orchid diversity are the Himalayas, Western Ghats, North Eastern states and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Flora & Fauna



Eria bractescens

Epiphytic, Common. Found in inland & littoral forests. Flowering February to August.



Eulophia andamanensis

Terrestrial, Common. Found in inland & coastal forests on sea facing slopes facing sea throughout Andaman Group of Islands. Flowering October to March.



Papilionanthe teres

Epiphytic, Common. Found in open inland forests and forest edges throughout Andaman Group of Islands. Flowering January to April.



Phalaenopsis tetraspis

Epiphytic, Rare. Found in lowland evergreen and littoral forests of Nicobar Group of Islands. High ornamental value. Flowering July to September.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands – Treasure Trove of Tropical Orchids :

Andaman & Nicobar Islands, blessed with a hot and humid tropical climate and a forest cover well over 80%, - is a pristine haven for tropical orchids. The islands receive 3000 mm to 3800 mm of rainfall each year, with average temperatures ranging from 22°C to 32°C. Due to the insular nature of these islands and their isolation from mainland India, the flora of these islands is quite unique, and the orchid species display affinity to Mynamar, Malaysian and Indonesian flora rather than that of mainland India.

The large variety of habitats available in these islands support a wide array of orchid species growing abundantly in the forests. A total of 143 species are reported till date, with 98 epiphytic species and 45 terrestrials. Some more may await discovery. 23 of these 143 species (16%) are endemic to these islands (not found anywhere else). The orchid diversity shown by the Andaman group of Islands is higher than that of the Nicobar Group, and the Genera Dendrobium and Bulbophyllum shows the highest diversity.

Endemic Orchids of Andaman & Nicobar Islands :

23 species of orchids are endemic to Andaman & Nicobar Islands, of which 15 are strictly endemic to the Andaman Group of Islands while 7 are strictly endemic to the Nicobar Group of Islands. Aerides emericii is the only endemic species occurring in both the groups. Displaying this high degree of endemism, the fragile ecosystems of these islands are globally recognized as a conservation priority. Efforts by the Forest Department are afoot for both in-situ and ex-situ conservation of orchids. The Dept has established two orchidaria at Haddo, Port Blair and Campbell Bay, Great Nicobar to preserve and study these fascinating plants.



Text and photos by Agni Mitra. The author is an officer of Indian Forest Service. Pursuing his interest in wildlife, he has worked on tiger conservation in Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand states. At Andaman & Nicobars, - he has served as DFO, Nicobar Division and DCF Chatham Saw Mill before taking up his present assignment of DCF Silviculture Division.



Heritage

Presbyterian Church at Ross Island

Tourism



Viper Chain Gang Jail

In Andamans

The Islands of Andaman &

Nicobar have a beautiful culture, a perfect blend, a concoction of races, castes and creeds of different hues soaked in their varied colors of languages, traditions, folklore and dialects woven into the fabric of a society that we are proud of

Samhita Veda Acharya
Artist & Social Worker

The Andaman & Nicobar islands have a beautiful culture, a perfect blend, a concoction of races, castes and creeds of different hues soaked in their varied colors of languages, traditions, folklore and dialects woven into the fabric of a society that we are proud of. No Islander can deny the existence of a magical touch on our Islands – whether a resident or a visitor.

Cesar Chavez had famously quoted that Preservation of one's own culture does not require contempt or disrespect for other cultures. Hence to be able to preserve, document and ultimately make people aware of the magnanimous pool of historical stories and the plenitude of heritage property that our Islands behold, the most potential tourism to be developed in our islands now is Heritage Tourism.

Mahatma Gandhi has rightly said that “A nation's culture resides in the hearts and the soul of its people.”

On the World Heritage Day 2016, a Heritage walk was inaugurated and a new concept seeped into the premises of tourism on our islands. The Andaman Club so lovingly preserved along the sands of time, which has witnessed the British, Japanese and the Indian Government and the metamorphosis of a society from slave trade, murder, arson and robbery to shipping, fisheries, horticulture and music the islands has seen it all.

Our islands have a plethora of heritage sites; some explored and mostly unexplored which if developed would perhaps bring historians, archeologists, research



Bakery Building in Ross Island (Light and Sound Show)

scholars and students in vast numbers and make Andamans as one of the most coveted heritage tourism destination.

The Japanese Bunkers strewn across the coastline, and a few scattered islands are also connected to each other by underground tunnels. If these are developed into heritage walks with statues of Japanese war soldiers, paintings depicting scenes of the then society, and Maps with the old villages marked and communities designated, they would make a wow factor unmatched to any other tourism destination.

The ruins at Dundus Point Namunaghar have their own stories to tell. DR. Deewan Singh who was tortured by the Japanese was posted in the Dispensary here. The Dispensary building still stands tall. The brick kilns there supposedly supplied a major quantity of bricks for construction of all British buildings in and around Port Blair. The Aquaduct at Panighat, is an engineering marvel that was used to bring down the water from the hills by the sheer magic of Gravity.

A walk from the site of Lord Mayo's murder to the Mt. Harriet National Park can be a welcome change to the otherwise mundane trips to the summit. The Viper Island had a majestic jail and the ruins can now be revisited for Viper and perhaps has an enormous potential as a Tourism Destination.

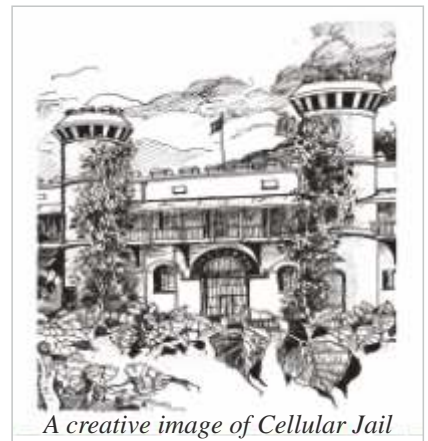
The National Trust defines heritage tourism as “travelling to experience the places, artifacts and activities that authentically represents the stories and people of the past,” and heritage tourism can include cultural, historic and natural resources.

History might not have been kind to our Andamans but our islands are ready to publish and exhibit all that it harbours and all that history has left behind.

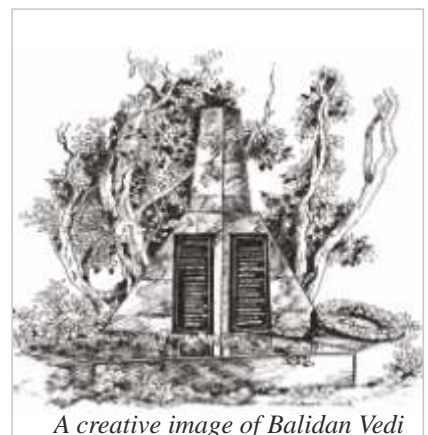
“Whenever anyone has offended me, I try to raise my soul so high that the offense cannot reach it.” - Rene Descartes, philosopher and mathematician.



Ruins of Presbyterian Church at Ross Island held together by roots of a tree



A creative image of Cellular Jail



A creative image of Balidan Vedi



Background of NONI Fruit

Noni is a traditional plant and has been in existence for more than 2000 years. This fruit is mainly grown in the tropical areas preferably on volcanic soil for best nutrition value. Hawaiians brought this fruit into light to the world. Hawaiians have been using Noni for generations. Interesting aspect of Noni is that it flowers on the outside of the fruit. There are relatively few fruits that produce flowers. Usually plants will grow flowers, and then from the flower comes the fruit.

The plant bears flowers and fruits all year round. The fruit has a pungent odour when ripened, and hence is also known as cheese

fruit or even vomit fruit. It is oval in shape and reaches 10–18 centimetres (3.9–7.1 in) size. At first green, the fruit turns yellow then almost white as it ripens. It contains many seeds. It is sometimes also called starvation fruit. Despite its strong smell and bitter taste, the fruit is nevertheless eaten as a famine food in some Pacific islands, even a staple food, either raw or cooked. Southeast Asians and Australian Aborigines consume the fruit raw with salt or cook it with curry. The seeds are edible when roasted.

Nutrition Value of Noni

Noni fruit is called as super fruit. Its powder contains carbohydrates and dietary fibre in moderate amounts. The main micronutrients of Noni powder include Vitamin-C, Niacin (VitaminB₃), iron and potassium.

Noni is a Nutrition food and the fundamental functioning units of our body are cells. Healthy cells leads to healthy body. To keep our body and cells healthy we require many micro-nutrients and 16 major nutrients, which should be free from chemicals. Today every human being is consuming chemically polluted food, air and water. Malnutrition and nutritional deficiency leads to bad health.

By God's grace scientists discovered the fruit called NONI, which has amazing healing properties.

- Noni acts as Adaptogen.
- Noni is Alkaline.
- Noni is Analgesic, Anti-Oxidant and Anti-Inflammatory.
- Noni as a Wellness product

Noni is known as one of the best wellness product available in the market, and more over many scientists are behind this amazing product. If we go along with wellness products, we will feel better, live longer and look younger. Good Health and Well Being are the two most powerful motivating factors for any type of human activity and from time immemorial; men of science have been working at discovering the easiest and most convenient method and way of achieving it.

Noni plant is found in the wild in the Nicobar Group of Islands and is cultivated in Andaman Islands

Images of *Noni* at Different Stages



Noni Nursery Plant



Noni Blossom



Noni Fruit in Tree



Noni Fruit

Its characteristics are as follows

- Scientific Name : *Morinda Citrifolia*
- Common Names : Indian Mulberry, Nuna & Ach (India), Noni (Tahiti & Hawaii)
- Family : Coffee family
- Type of Plant : Perennial Plant
- Type of Soil : Noni is best grown on Volcanic Soil
- Type of Climate : Tropical Climate
- Average height of Tree : 3 meters to 10 meters
- Description of Leaves : Wide Elliptical leaves, 5-17 cm length, 10-40 cm width

About Noni - the wonder fruit

- Description of Flower : Small tubular white flowers grouped in a bundle on the peduncle
- Color of fruit : Young fruits are green and fades to pale yellow when ripe
- Growing Area in Andaman: it is wildy grown in Nicobar Islands and in Andaman Island; however it is also cultivated by the farmers in these islands.

Ancient History of Noni :This fruit finds place in our ancient Ayurveda and Siddha. This tree was a must to grow in even Temple along with the Tulsi and Bail trees, for it was believed that the Goddess of all Gods made her abode in it.

This has been at the center of the Philosophy of the various Diets, and Nutritional Supplements that we have come to accept as Healthy and Contributory. The fruit of the botanical plant *Morinda Citrifolia*, belonging to the family of plants known as Rubiaceae. It more than suffices the requirements of a Nutritional Supplement of great advantage. Though in the ancient cultures this fruit was widely used, over the years its popularity diminished due to the unpleasant smell that emanates from the ripened fruit.

It is interesting to note what Dr. Scott Garson MD has to write about *Morinda Citrifolia* and India. "Several years ago, He was researching material for a book on Plants of India and became interested in a family of plants known as Rubiaceae, of particular interest was a plant known in Sanskrit as Ach which was attributed special properties by ancient scholars. The fruit of this Ach plant or as we now know it as *Morinda Citrifolia* has a rich history in India, where it has been used for tens of centuries in the system of Ayurveda. This holistic tradition was established in the north western part of India by people called Aryans who were reputed to be a cosmic civilization. *Morinda Citrifolia* was especially esteemed by the ancient Aryan because it protected the skin from becoming dry and cracked from the sun. Investigations of the published scientific literature on *Morinda Citrifolia* yielded more than 100 articles pertaining to this medicinal plant."



The Symbol of National Integration

"A MINI INDIA"

The Andaman and Nicobar islands have been called a mini India. It mirrorises the entire India from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. People belonging to different states and different religions live in harmony and peace. People have been brought to these islands from different parts of India . Not only from India, it has families from Burma and Bangladesh also.

We find the presence of multiple faiths such as Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Christianity, Jainism, Buddhism, Bahais and their practioners living in harmony. They all believe in peaceful coexistence and mutual respect. People celebrate every festival irrespective of the religion or caste. For every festival, friends and relative are invited and gather to spread the happiness all around. Dusherra is celebrated with great pomp and show with the active participation of all the communities.

Inter Caste or inter religious and inter-state marriages are a general phenomenon of these islands. There are families wherein people of different religions live under one roof. They share and celebrate each festival with respect and honour. Ganesh Puja is mainly celebrated by Tamil, Telugu and Maharashtrians here. The people of other communities also extend their cooperation in such celebrations. Id is also celebrated on these Island with various religious flavours. People of different communities come close and exchange greetings such as "Id Mubarak". Idi is exchanged between all communiteis, whether Hindu or Muslim. Such unity of love and affection among the communities is rarely found eleswhere.

Hindi is the local language of these islands. Though there are other spoken languages, yet Hindi is the communicating language of the people for interaction although many establishments are owned by Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Sikhs and Muslims. The working people and salesmen in most of the shops are Tamils and they speak Hindi very well.

The administrative work is done in English. There is a department of Hindi in the secretariat, which publishes a number of magazines in Hindi, besides it helps the administration in translating of notes and other documents. This union territory has been declared as Hindi speaking region by the Central Government.

Although Andaman and Nicobar islands have people from all over the country, belonging to different communities and religions, still they live in harmony using one common language, showing respect to all religions It truly is A Symbol of National Intergration "AMINI INDIA"

K.A.Samina is presently studying in B.Tech final year in BRAIT and likes creative reading and writing. She likes to take part in creative events to make her imagination work.



द्वीप गौरव

पद्मश्री नरेश चन्द्र लाल

हौसला जज़्बा गर बुलंद है
आसमाँ को भी, धरती पर
ला सकते है हम।

इसी हौसले और जज़्बे को साकार कर दिखाया है, द्वीपों के प्रख्यात रंगकर्मी और फिल्म निर्माता निर्देशक श्री नरेश चन्द्र लाल ने, जिन्हें हाल ही में 28 मार्च 2016 को महामहिम राष्ट्रपति श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी के कर कमलों द्वारा, भारत का चौथा सर्वोच्च सम्मान "पद्मश्री" से सम्मानित किया गया। 28 मार्च को दिन के साढ़े ग्यारह बजे जहाँ राष्ट्रपति भवन का दरबार हाल तालियों की गड़गड़ाहट से गूँज रहा था, वहीं इस दूर जज़ीरे में भी लोग अपने अपने घरों के टी.वी. सेट को खोल कर उस अनुपम दृश्य का आनंद उठा रहे थे, जहाँ आज उनका एक धरती पुत्र कला और सिनेमा के क्षेत्र में उल्लेखनीय कार्य करने के लिये, देश का चौथा सर्वोच्च सम्मान "पद्मश्री" प्राप्त करने जा रहा था। यह सिर्फ नरेश चन्द्र लाल के लिये ही नहीं बल्कि समस्त द्वीपवासियों के लिये भी गौरव के क्षण थे।

श्री नरेश चन्द्र लाल का जन्म 29 अक्टूबर 1955 को पोर्टब्लेयर के जंगलीघाट में हुआ। आप स्थानीय समुदाय के सदस्य हैं। आप इन द्वीपों के एकमात्र राष्ट्रीय नाट्य विद्यालय, नई दिल्ली के स्नातक भी हो। जिन्होंने 1990 में (निर्देशन) के क्षेत्र में दक्षता हासिल की। राष्ट्रीय नाट्य विद्यालय नई दिल्ली से प्रशिक्षित होने के पश्चात् आपने द्वीप समूह के रंगमंच के इतिहास में एक क्रान्ति ला दी। विशेष तौर पर आपने "नाटक" को द्वीप समूह के कोने कोने तक पहुँचा दिया। "नाटक आपके घर तक" इस तथ्य को आधार बनाकर समस्त द्वीप समूह में आपने अपना मंचन कर लोगों को थियेटर की बारीकीयों से अवगत कराया।

1988 में आपने द्वीपों का पहला नुक्कड़ नाटक का मंचन किया – और समय समय पर भारत सरकार की अच्छी नीतियों को भी नुक्कड़ नाटक के माध्यम से जन जन तक पहुँचाया, ताकि जन समुदाय उसका भरपूर लाभ उठा सके।

आपके थियेटर के क्षेत्र में किये गये उल्लेखनीय कार्य को अंगीकार करते हुये आपको 26 जनवरी 1999 को उप राज्यपाल का पहला प्रशस्ति पत्र प्रदान किया गया। 2007 से आपने फिल्म निर्माण के क्षेत्र में भी अपनी अभिरुचि का प्रदर्शन किया और द्वीप समूह की गंगा जमुना संस्कृति को मूल भूत आधार बनाते हुये "अमृतजल" नामक लघु फिल्म को अपना खुद की बैनर "आइलैण्ड फिल्मस" के तले निर्माण किया, जिसे प्रथम नासिक इंटरनेशनल फिल्म फेस्टिवल में Best film on Social Message तक का खिताब मिला। आपके इस फिल्म के माध्यम से द्वीप का नाम रौशन करने के लिये आपको दूसरी बार 15 अगस्त 2008 को उप राज्यपाल का प्रशस्ति पत्र से पुनः सम्मानित किया गया।



आपके द्वारा बनायी गयी फीचर फिल्म "गॉंधी द महात्मा" को भी राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर और अन्तराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भी बड़ी ख्याति मिली, और जिसे दिल्ली दूरदर्शन ने भी चार बार नेशनल नेटवर्क पर टेलीकास्ट किया। इस फिल्म का प्रदर्शन लंदन के गांधी मेमोरियल हाल में भी किया गया। इस फिल्म के लिये आपको महात्मा गाँधी सेवा मेडल, स्वीटज़रलैंड/भारत, का माजा कोयने सोसियल एकटिविस्ट पुरस्कार, भारत ज्योति अवार्ड, हिमालय और हिन्दुस्तान गौरव सम्मान से भी अलंकृत किया गया। आपकी वृत्तचित्र "रनवे ऑन द सी" जो पहली समुद्री हवाई जहाज पर बनी थी, उसने भी काफी ख्याति बटोरी।

अभी आपकी एक फीचर फिल्म "The Queen of Indigenous Island" जो Censor हो चुकी है और जो नानकौड़ी द्वीप की Tribal Queen रानी लक्ष्मी पर आधारित है – रिलीज़ होने को है। आपने हमेशा इन द्वीपों पर द्वीपवासियों पर ही अपनी फिल्में बनायी हैं। कहीं आपने प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य को प्राथमिकता दी है, तो कहीं आपने यहाँ की गंगा जमुना संस्कृति को कहीं राष्ट्रीय एकता और अखंडता को तो कहीं राष्ट्रप्रेम, देशभक्ति को अपने फिल्म का आधार बनाया है।

आपका सपना है कि यहाँ एक फिल्म इंडस्ट्री का निर्माण हो, ताकि यहाँ के बच्चे, नौजवान जिनमें बहुत टैलेंट है, वे भी कलाकार बन सकें। Back Stage में लोगों को काम मिल सके और इस द्वीप समूह की सुन्दरता को फिल्म के माध्यम से ज्यादा से ज्यादा निखारा जाये, ताकि खूबसूरत स्थलों को देखकर ज्यादा से ज्यादा Tourist यहाँ आ सके। निकट भविष्य में यह फिल्म टूरिज्म स्थानीय युवाओं के लिये रोज़गार का एक बहुत बढ़िया जरिया बन सकता है।



Based on Interview taken by
Dr. Kandi Muthu
Assistant Prof. (Economics),
JNRM, Port Blair

Handicrafts

Handicrafts made out of Padauk, sea shells, coconut shell and coir are carried by tourists as souvenirs.



WOODEN BUDHA (SMALL)



WOODEN COCONUT TREE



WOODEN MASK



WOODEN OFF CUT SIDE TABLE



WOODEN COCONUT TREE



WOODEN GANESHA



WOODEN SHELL FLOWER

Events & Happenings

Distinguished Guests to the Islands

Shri Amit Shah, National President of Bharatiya Janata Party and Shri Dharmendra Pradhan Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, on a two day visit to the islands from May 28 to 29, 2016.



Shri Amit Shah unveils 'Veer Savarkar Jyot' on the 133rd Birth Anniversary of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar at National Memorial Cellular Jail



Paying floral tributes at the Memorial of First Flag Hoisting by Netaji Subhash Chandra on Dec. 30, 1943.



Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, inaugurating the renovated LPG Showroom of CCS Limited at Delanipur, Port Blair.



Shri Nitin Gadkari
Minister for Road Transport
and Highways- Feb 17, 2015



Shri Prakash Javadekar
Minister of Information
and Broadcasting- Jan 16, 2016



Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
Minister of Communications and
Information Technology-Jan 2, 2016

Heritage Walk

Heritage Walk, the first of its kind marked the commencement of day long World Heritage Day programme. It was organized by the Department of Art & Culture in collaboration with INTACH, Andaman Chapter on Apr 18, 2016 The Heritage Walk was flagged off from the historic Andaman Club. the walk passed through Supply Line, touching elements of amalgamation of cultures, like the Police Masjid, Police Gurudwara and Police Mandir etc.



Flea Market

Flea Market organized at Marina Park, Port Blair by the Tourism Department from April 2 to April 3, 2016, is a platform for the local artists and cultural organizations to perform/display and sell handicrafts, food items etc.



Adi Bimb

A three day festival of Adibasi's in Port Blair from Feb 26 to 28, 2016 organised by National School of Drama, New Delhi to promote tribal art and culture.



Fairs and Festivals

Andaman Bazaar

A buyer-seller meet organized by Department of Industries in collaboration with NABARD from Apr 27 to 30, 2016 with an objective to provide marketing opportunity for the produce of the women SHGs, farmers, artisans and other small entrepreneurs.



Beach Festival

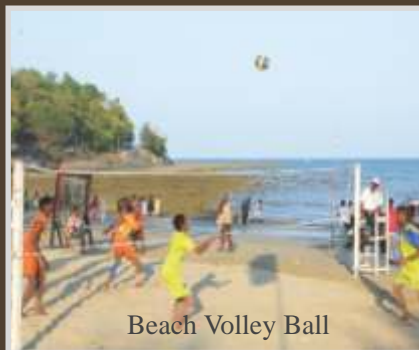
A 3 day long fun filled festival organized every year at Carbyn's Cove beach from April 17 to 19, 2016. During the event various sports activities like beach volley ball, Coconut tree climbing are witnessed. food stalls, entertainment programmes, fun activities for kids are also organized.



Tug of War



Tree Climbing Race



Beach Volley Ball

ITF: (Island Tourism Festival 2016)

An annual cultural event organized by A&N Administration is a 15 day festival which showcases dance, drama, exhibitions, art & craft, flora and fauna and marine life. It is witnessed by travellers from across the world. Apart from the performances by the tribals of the island, many known cultural troops & artists of national & international repute are invited to perform. This year the festival was held in the month of January.



Archives

नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस
की ऐतिहासिक सेल्यूलर
जेल यात्रा

NETAJI
SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE
VISITING THE
CELLULAR JAIL



Neil Island

Image behind the Rs. 20/- note



Allright, now that you have read the title of this post and seen the image, I want you to quickly grab your wallet and pull out your Rs. 20/- note from it and flip. Look at the photo on the back side of the note. Shocked? Surprised? Atleast I was when I visited Andaman islands late last year. During the first couple of days of local travel within and around the main Port Blair city, my guide-cum-driver took me to this place to show the exact frame which is behind the Rs. 20 note. This exact scene can be witnessed when you are on your way to Mt Harriet and there is one small opening which gives the exact view. The island what you see on the far end is the North Bay Island / Coral Island which is a very well know tourist place in Andaman islands especially for the ease at which you can see the corals and carry out a round of snorkelling. I personally have no reference or pointers as to how exactly the person who designed the note decided to include this frame behind the note, but nevertheless once you relate such things which you see in your day-to-day transactions and relate it to something within nature – it really brings out a nice smile.

And for all those of you (just like me on that particular day) who do not have a Rs. 20 note handy and want a quick reference, check the image below.



Taken from
<http://www.journeythrougnature.com/2012/02/image-behind-the-rs-20-note/>

Story of Milk Procurement

Dairy farming was a non starter in North & Middle Andaman due to non availability of assured market and fluctuating prices. To encourage dairying as a viable livelihood option and also to boost milk production with a view to attain self sufficiency, A & N Administration launched the milk procurement scheme from North & Middle Andaman. Under the scheme, the Department of Animal Husbandry provided Grant-in-Aid of Rs. 1.25 crores to ANIIDCO for setting up of cold chain facilities under RKVY. Accordingly, milk chilling centres were established in January, 2014 in Diglipur, Mohanpur and Kadamtala.

The programme has directly benefitted approximately 1025 farmers. From 200 litres of milk procurement per day in the first month, within a period of two years the procurement of milk has reached to more than 2000 litres per day. Simultaneously, the procurement price of milk was increased from Rs. 28/- per litre in January to Rs. 40/- per litre in April, 2015. Instead of the farmers having to come to the milk plant, a dedicated transport means has been provided by ANIIDCO for collecting milk from all the villages as per convenience of farmers. The farmers are paid on monthly basis and the funds are transferred to their bank account within 05 working days in the first week of every month. With provision of assured market and timely payment of remunerative prices for their product, the farmers are now encouraged to expand their dairy business and many unemployed youth are taking up dairy as a self employment.

Employment opportunity in allied business like feed production, sale of fodder, farm equipment, etc. has also registered a growth. Farmers those who sell milk from door to door now save time and money which they use for betterment of their livestock and increase in farming activity.

Considering the success of initial phase of milk procurement, there is demand for setting up of milk chilling centres in areas hitherto uncovered. Accordingly, Animal Husbandry department under the Govt. of India scheme of RKVY has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1.90 crores to ANIIDCO for augmentation of milk collection infrastructure in North & Middle Andaman. Under the augmentation programme, additional milk chilling centres are planned to be set up in Rangat, Mayabunder and Diglipur tehsil by ANIIDCO. Increase in fresh milk production has also reduced the dependence on milk powder being imported from mainland.



Milk plant at Dairy Farm



Milk collection at Diglipur



Milk chilling unit,
Dairy Farm



Milk collection at Rangat



Packaged milk products

Courtesy : ANIIDCO



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