

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS POLICE

The Andaman and Nicobar Police comprises of 3141 personnel of various ranks under the over all control of an Inspector General of Police. Police Administration is divided into two districts of Andamans and Nicobars, with three sub-divisions in Andamans District and one sub-division in Nicobars District.

Law and Order

The law and order situation in the islands is by and large peaceful. There is no history of communal or caste violence in the islands. However, the overall law and order, crime and security scenario in the islands has undergone a change during the last few years throwing up new challenges to the police. Large influx of people, growth of various developmental activities, sudden increase in number of vehicles in Andamans have also given rise to new problems leading to law and order problems.

Crime & Traffic:

There has been a gradual rise in the registration of cases, largely due to police action against the illegal activities including bootlegging, poaching. 3695 cases were registered in 2000, 4238 by 2001 and 4924 in 2002. The registration of IPC cases has, however, registered a marginal decline in the last two years. The overall work out percentage of IPC cases has been over 70%. The police action under Local and Special Law has been quite good. Bootleggers are a big menace in these islands and a constant pressure is, therefore maintained on the bootleggers, both indulging in illicit distillation and illegal sale of liquor.

The vehicular population has increased rapidly over the last few years. However, the road network of approx.1116 kms, of which only 997 kms. are motorable has not correspondingly increased. With the inclusion of scheme on "Road Safety Measures" under the plan scheme the process of modernization of traffic police has started and the Police has acquired electronic traffic signals, electronic count down clocks and Interceptor for better traffic management and effective enforcement of traffic laws and rules. As a result the incidence of road accidents has gone down.

Internal security scenario:

Though the Andaman & Nicobar Islands do not have any history of communal riots, religious fundamentalism is picking up with great farvour in the last few years. In view of growing challenges to internal security, threats to the VVIPs, security of vital installations and for effective maintenance of law & order, three new plan schemes have been included in the 10th five year Plan to improve coastal area security and surveillance against intrusion in water and sea including poaching from littoral states of Bay of Bengal.

The security of these islands and water around them including intrusion from sea is jointly looked after by A & N Command and Police. The combined efforts of the Navy, Coast Guard and Police including joint operations have yielded tremendous results and have proved effective in checking intrusion of foreign poachers.

Use of Information Technology in Police:

As part of modernization of the police force, computers were provided to all Police units and important Police Stations. Andaman & Nicobar Police has launched its website <http://police.and.nic.in> to reach out to the public in order to provide information and facilitate police-public interface with police. As an important welfare measures an Internet Dhaba was inaugurated for the benefit of policemen and their families and the same has proved to be of immense help in creating awareness & interest for information technology and its various application in poaching.

The Motor Vehicle Section, a public facility has been computerized. Applicants can now obtain computerized registration certificate and plastic card driving licenses on the same day. The IT Committee of A&N Administration has further approved the proposal to provide computers to all the Police Stations of the Islands and the same are expected to be installed in the current financial year. 'Touch Screen Kiosk' has recently been installed for disseminating information about the department. Information about the rights of citizens, safety

precautions, guidelines for tourists etc. are now available to public and tourist on the touch of screen.

Raising of India Reserve Battalion:

Pursuant to sanction of one India Reserve battalion, over 500 policemen in various ranks have been recruited and appointed within a year. These police personnel are being trained by the BSF and CRPF at their training centers at Bangalore and Chennai respectively. Further recruitment and appointment for remaining posts is in progress and a full-fledged battalion is expected to be in position by the year-end.

Application of Scientific Aids & Methods in Policing:

A Mini Forensic Science Laboratory has recently been set up in association BPR&D and CFSL, Hyderabad to provide help in the investigation and create awareness for use of scientific methods and aids in investigation. Establishment of a small unit of Dog Squad for these islands is underway and two German shepherd and Labrador dogs each, have already been procured and are undergoing training at BSF training centre at Tekanpur.

Andaman & Nicobar Police hosted 34th All India Police Science Congress which concluded on 23rd of November, 2002. Over 40 delegates of the rank of Director Generals of Police, Inspector Generals of Police etc. from various Central Police Organisations and State Police Forces attended the Congress. The two themes' Delivery of service by the Police: Quality and Cost and Cyber Crime: Investigation and Prevention' were very much relevant in present day context and the efforts made by Andaman & Nicobar Police were applauded.

Andaman & Nicobar Police also organized the 2nd All India Water Sports Championship in the month of March, 2003 and over 150 participants representing various states police force and Central Police organisations participated and this was a boost for water sports in the islands as well as police organisations.