

4.2 General Law and Order, History of the Districts

Andaman & Nicobar Islands is a Union Territory of India since 1956. It is administered by the President acting through the Administrator – that is the Lt. Governor. The East India Company developed the Andaman Islands in the eighteenth century for providing a safe harbor to its ships during the monsoons. Subsequently in 1858 the British founded a penal settlement here. Settlements were made after Independence under various colonization/rehabilitation schemes for settling mostly the refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), from other states (artisans, ex-servicemen etc). Till 1967, the President nominated the Member of Parliament from these islands. Historically, the contest for the lone parliamentary constituency has been between two major political parties and is very keenly contested.

The law and order situation has remained peaceful and normal in all the elections in the past. The Constituency as such has very few law and order problems and has no history of poll violence or booth capturing or other related offences which have been nil or near to nil in the past elections.

However, due attention was paid to the urban area (Port Blair Municipal and adjoining areas) in the UT as well as areas such as Billiground and Diglipur in North and Middle Andaman, which are traditionally very active politically. Police deployment took these factors into consideration. Thus, one company of CPF was deployed at Polling Stations here and the police presence in these areas highlighted above were increased proportionately

The District Magistrate of all three districts issued prohibitory orders under section 144 CrPC as well as orders for depositing arms in the nearest police station. Meetings with police officials were conducted at regular intervals to take preventive action against anti social elements for smooth conduct of elections.

Thus, it can be fairly held that while the main issues was to attend to the logistics by making fool proof arrangements, all directions of the ECI and arrangements including law and order were scrupulously followed. SDMs of the concerned areas were entrusted with the law and order maintenance in their areas assisted by the Executive Magistrates of the Tehsils. During the election period, the constituency was divided into Sectors and Sector Magistrates are also appointed.

Elections have always been a massive logistic exercise for this Territory. Many areas/islands are at remote locations, approachable only by sea and in some cases by foot or both. It becomes difficult to approach such areas particularly during adverse weather conditions. The weather per se is unpredictable. Therefore, logistics had to be planned taking into consideration all these aspects and the directions of the ECI as issued from time to time.



90% of power supply is being met through Diesel generation, 5% by Hydro generation and 5% through Solar Power Plant.

5 MW Solar Power Plant installed and commissioned at Garacharama, Port Blair (left)