



The Tale of Andaman & Nicobar Islands
'Islands in Flux' released at BNHS today

Mumbai: 3rd December: Known for its pristine beaches, tourism, water sports and the multitude of endemic species they harbour, Andaman and Nicobar Islands are a favourite with tourists and nature enthusiasts alike. The beauty of these islands is sure to garner attention but there are also lesser known facts and issues about these islands. The book, 'Islands in Flux – The Andaman and Nicobar Story' authored by Pankaj Sekhsaria, provides an important account that is relevant both for the present and the future of these beautiful and fragile but also very volatile island chain. This book was released today by Mr. Bittu Sehgal, Editor – Sanctuary Asia, at the Bombay Natural History Society.

About the Book

Located far away from mainland India, deep in the heart of the Bay of Bengal is the island chain of the Andaman and Nicobar. The islands constitute a unique system in the Indian context that is also one of the least understood. They have no parallels on multiple grounds – geological, ecological and socio-cultural – and form a unit that is complex and needs special attention and care.

Islands in Flux – the Andaman and Nicobar story, a compilation of writings on key issues and developments in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands over the last two decades, is Pankaj Sekhsaria's new book on the islands. Written by one of the islands' best known and most consistent chroniclers of contemporary issues, it features information, insight and perspective related to the environment, wildlife conservation, development and the island's indigenous communities.

The book provides an important account that is relevant both for the present and the future of these beautiful and fragile but also very volatile island chain. It is both a map of the region as well as a framework for the way forward, and essential reading for anyone who cares about the islands and indeed, the future of our world.

About the Author:

Pankaj Sekhsaria is the author of four books on the Andaman & Nicobar islands including *Islands in Flux – the Andaman and Nicobar Story*, which is a collection of 20 years of his journalism about the islands and his debut novel *The Last Wave*, a story embedded deeply in the ecology, history and people of the place. *The Last Wave* was translated into Kannada recently and published.

A prolific writer and photographer, he has more than 400 publications, four books and many photo exhibitions to his credit. He says he chose to release his latest book at BNHS as it is one of the best organisations for wildlife conservation. He adds, "My debut novel, *The Last Wave* was also released at BNHS and our association goes a long way back. My first research project in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, conducted nearly two decades ago, was thanks to support that the BNHS provided."

--- Bilwada Kale-Baxi,
Consultant Public Relations Officer, BNHS