



The Voice Of The Nicobari Community

VOL. I :: ISSUE: 2 :: MAY 2010 :: MONTHLY :: PAGES: 6

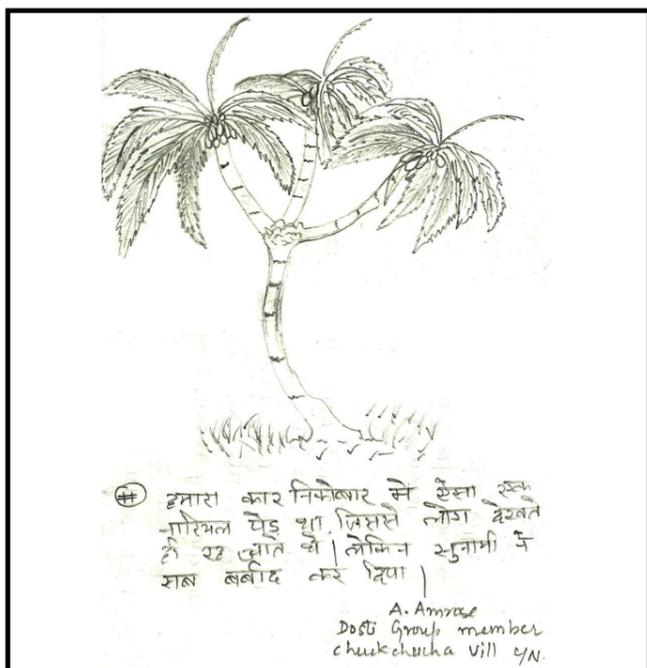


The picture shows Nicobari ladies and children from Car Nicobar in the year 1954. The photograph was clicked by Dr. I.R. Austin (referred to as Doc Austin by the Nicobarese then) while he was posted in RAF, Car Nicobar. Austin is presently in England and wants to share his experience in the Nicobar and the photographs he had clicked during his stay in the Indian island. (Read Austin's diary in page 4)

Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Tribal Councils) Regulation 2009 passed

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Tribal Councils) Regulation 2009 has been published in The Gazette of India on 31st December 2009. The regulation promulgated by the President of India is to establish Tribal Councils in the Nicobar District of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands to provide greater autonomy for the Nicobari Scheduled Tribes in managing their affairs and for the matters concerned therewith.

The details of the regulation can be had from the Andaman & Nicobar Administration and is also made available with the Rural Knowledge Centers in the Nicobar District for the benefit of the tribal members.



Winners don't do different things, they do things differently: DOSTI

DOSTI group demonstrates coconut oil press to the A&N Administration

Car Nicobar: A group of likeminded Nicobari youth trained by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai in the name of 'DOSTI', on 15th of April 2010 demonstrated the coconut oil press to the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Development Commissioner and other delegates. The delegates had flown down all the way to Car Nicobar to witness the process of virgin coconut oil extraction, which is being done for the first time in the islands.

In his address the Chief Secretary Shri Vivek Rae expressed his admiration for the DOSTI group for taking up the challenge, which he felt is a breakthrough in the traditional Nicobar method of oil extraction. The Chief Secretary further assured all possible support from the A&N Administration for funding, branding and marketing of the virgin coconut oil being produced by the group.

The CS also called upon the women folk to take advantage of this machine and the market potential of Virgin Coconut Oil locally as well as in the National front.

Prof. Rauf Ali, who initiated and supported the project for the DOSTI group by arranging the oil press, training the members and providing them initial funding explained in detail the background and concept of the project.

Prof. Ali said that the Coconut press was developed by FERAL, Pondicherry under a scheme of the Science and Society Division, of the DST, Govt. of India, to extract coconut milk from freshly grated coconut. This press weighs about 40 kilos and costs



around Rs. 25,000 and can process approximately 60 coconuts in an hour.

"Four prototype presses have been extensively tested by the Dosti group, Car Nicobar and they have used this successfully to manufacture virgin coconut oil".

Miss Irene Mary, Secretary DOSTI in her address thanked the dignitaries to come all the

way to their village to witness the demonstration. She explained that the members of DOSTI have been involved in social works for the community and have been helping psycho-social patients by providing them free counseling. The oil press is the latest activity of the group. She said although DOSTI has been working but it needs to be registered and

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Enlightened Nicobari Youth Reading The First Edition of Their Community Newspaper 'Hamara Nicobar'

" हमारे दोस्ती बर्कशर रहेंगे जब हम एक साथ कार्य करेंगे। हम यह चाहते हैं कि हमारे "दोस्ती ग्रुप" नीडर होंगे कार्य करें, और अपने-2 Community और पूरे Nicobar District के साथ कार्य करें और उनकी सहायता करें। और पूरे Nicobar District की हमारे साथ दें ताकि हम अपने कार्य को आगे बढ़ा सकें। Nicobar Administration से हमारा ये Request है कि वे हमारे ग्रुप को तुरन्त Registration कराएं ताकि हमें अपने कार्य को आगे बढ़ा सकें। हम Car Nicobar में ही नहीं बल्कि पूरे Nicobar District में कार्य करना चाहते हैं।"

A. Amrose
Dosti Group member
chuckchucha Vill c/n.

Winners don't do different things ... from P1

funded so that it is able to spread its wings in the entire district. Irene therefore called upon the Chief Secretary to speed up the process of registration of the group under the Societies Act, and also support the group in marketing the virgin oil produce.

At the conclusion of this project a demonstration workshop was held in the community hall in the Small Lapathy village where the machines were demonstrated to the dignitaries. It was felt by all present that this machine could be a substantial increase in the income of the people of Car Nicobar. The new technology needs to be replicated and adopted universally, dignitaries felt.

Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were Shri Tapan Mondal, Development Commissioner, Shri Binay Bhusan, Director of Tourism, Shri N Cherian, Director of Civil Supplies, Dr. M.A Salam, Director of



Agriculture, and Shri Lucas Robert Director of Sports & Youth Affairs. The function was presided over by Shri T. Sreekanth, Deputy Commissioner of the District.

समय की यादें

- अपने द्वीपों की बदलती दशा को देखकर, उस समय की याद आती है। जिब इन द्वीपों के लोग अलग अलग द्वीपों में रहने के आवजुप में लोग एक दूसरे से सम्पर्क बनाने शुरू करते थे। Chowwa से लेकर Great Nicobar तक सब एक दूसरे से सम्पर्क रखने के लिए बहुत कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ता था। क्योंकि उस समय डिफ पत्र के द्वारा सम्पर्क किया जाता था। और उस पत्र को पहुंचाने के छोड़ी ही सम्भवा साधन था।

- एक द्वीप की समस्या का होना या विकास का कार्य किया जाता होता तो सारी द्वीप को खबर दिया जाता था जिससे लोग एक साथ मिलकर उन बातों के बारे में एक दूसरे की राय को लेकर सारी गाँव की विकास या समस्या को सुलभता

वे। लेकिन आज गाँव में बुकिधार और विकास हुई है। कि अगर लोग चाहे तो हर द्वीप की खबर रख सकते हैं। लेकिन ऐसा नहीं है। इसलिए कि लोग आजकल एक दूसरे से दूर-दूर रहने लगा है। समय ने इतनी अच्छी सफा को तोड़ दिया है। जो किसी ने कभी देखा करता था।

- काश को बीती समय लौट पाता - जब लोग एक दूसरे में इतना प्रेम करता था दूर रहकर भी लोग साथ रहते थे।

- "हम एक दूसरे से उल्ला क्यों होना चाहता है। जिब कि हमें बता है कि हम सब — "Tö Kasatö" है।

(Signature)
John Abraham.
Ex-Student TISS
Champion Village
Nankowrie Island

Tribal youth leaders participate in workshop for exploring livelihood opportunities in tsunami hit Nicobars



Port Blair: The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) organised a day long workshop on February 19, 2010 to explore livelihood opportunities in the tsunami hit Nicobars. The workshop was held at Hotel TSG Emerald View from 10.00 am onwards in which tribal leaders, representatives of tribals, government officials of A&N Administration, members of SIF and TISS Mumbai participated.

Tata Institute has been working in the Nicobar district

since the tsunami of 2004. To begin with TISS had trained as many as 120 tribal youths in its university at Mumbai and provided them with certificates. The project was supported by the A&N Administration and Action Aid. This was followed by establishment of Rural Knowledge Centres across the Nicobars by signing MoU with the Agriculture Directorate.

With the Rural Knowledge Centres successfully fulfilling the knowledge requirement of the tribals, TISS now is into

exploring livelihood opportunities for the tribals, who had lost their only source of livelihood i.e. coconut production after tsunami. An interactive session was held with the tribal representatives where the institute tried to identify the areas that can be explored for livelihood.

During the interaction session the Miss Irene, a member of DOSTI Group, Car Nicobar said that the RKC's are of great help to the villagers and should be spread in all the villages instead of confining it to the

Headquarters. Joseph, presently working as a staff in one of the RKC's expressed his gratitude to TISS for training him. "Today I am confident in talking to the heads of the government departments", he said.

John, another member of DOSTI group said that after joining DOSTI, I had a chance of exposure visits which has improved my knowledge. "TISS has changed my life", he said.

Portifer, a tribal youth leader from Trinket was again of the opinion that the RKC should be located in an ideal place which is inside the villages. "Our villages are scattered unlike Car Nicobar. Lack of connectivity is one of the major constraints", he said. "If the RKC is located in the villages, it will definitely have a good impact on the villagers", Portifer added.

There were other suggestions from the participants who felt that even if RKC's were located in the villages and people received regular information, the poor ship services would always defeat the purpose. The members demanded that there should be reserved seats for tribals in the passenger ships, which would help the youth

write exams, attend interviews etc. It was also felt that the RKC should organise regular programs like 'Capacity Building' the tribal youth.

The session was later followed by multimedia presentations by various departments of A&N Administration viz. Fisheries, Agriculture, Industrial Training Institute, Registrar of Coop. Societies, Polytechnic, NABARD, Tribal Welfare, ANIFPDCL and KVIB. The presentation was followed by an interaction session between the Administration and the tribals where various queries and doubts of the tribals were cleared. It was also decided in the workshop that TISS will work in close coordination with the tribals to identify the areas of livelihood and later submit a report to the A&N Administration for successfully implementing the schemes of the GoI.

Among the delegates who participated in the workshop were Dr. Parashuraman, Director TISS, Mumbai, Prof. Surinder Jaswal, Project Incharge, TISS, Mumbai, Shri Mahesh Kamle & Tanmoy Chatterjee from TISS, Mumbai, Ms. Ruchi, Shri Ullas, Ms. Calista and Shri Rajendran from TISS Port Blair apart from the representatives from SIF, Vienna.



The Agriculture Department of A&N Administration organised a 'Kisan Mela' at Kamorta Island, where agri products and seedlings were displayed for the benefit of the tribal farmers.



Picture shows the Community Information Centre at Kamorta Island, where Nicobari youth go through the reading materials made available through TISS.

Car Nicobar, Memories Of An Indian Island

Photos & writeup by Dr. I.R. Austin

At 18 I got my call-up papers for National Service. On the 29th July 1952 I went to Southend-on-Sea for a medical and during that visit I signed up for the RAF and also for an extra year of service, which gave me more money and an increased chance of a decent posting.

My basis training was held at West Kirby from 29th October 1952 for a period of eight weeks - during that time my soul was not my own, and I never questioned instruction given to me - but let me hasten to add that on the passing out parade I felt that it had been worth it.

After Christmas I started my trade training for the medical branch at Lytham St. Annes for a further eight weeks - covering all aspect of the trade from basic first aid to hospital work and national emergency's.



(Photo Above: HT Lancashire) My first posting in April 1953 was to RAF Andover in Hampshire, being a small grass airfield it was quiet in one respect, but we were involved with doing medicals for service and civilian pilots, also providing cover for the ambulance service in the Andover area. Whilst there I was promoted to corporal in July 1953, then in October I was advised of my posting to Hong Kong.

After 3 weeks embarkation leave in December 1953 I joined HTL Lancaster (Bibby Line) at Liverpool Docks in February 1954. The journey took 4/6 weeks going through the Mediterranean to Port Said, where we re-fuelled and took on fresh provision. From there we went through the Suez canal, into the Red Sea for a further stop of Aden, before going into the Arabian Sea. Then on to Ceylon (now-Sri-Lanka) before the Indian Ocean and finally Singapore.

During the voyage my posting was changed from Hong Kong to Singapore. At Singapore I was assigned to work in the surgical ward in

RAF Hospital Changi, many of the patients I was involved with were wounded service personnel as a result of the conflict in mainland Malaya with the Communist. During my off duty periods I was able to visit the island of Singapore and the mainland.

In August 1954 I was advised of a new posting to the Indian island of Car Nicobar, an island I knew nothing about. After a week of training in jungle survival, run by the Malay army and instruction on sole running of a base station sick quarters, I was on my way out in a Dokota of the RAF. The three and a half hour flight took me up to Butterworth in North Malaya, then on to Car Nicobar. **(Photo: Right : Route Guide & India Map)**

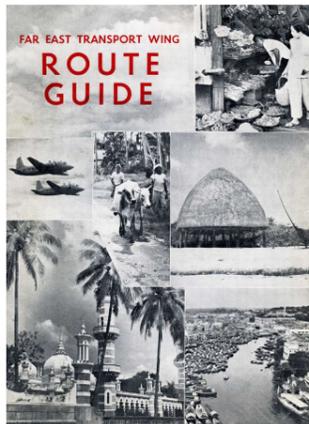
First sight of the island was amazing - a small dot in the middle of the Indian Ocean. As we got nearer and lower I saw the dark green foliage of the island, glimpses of lovely crescent bays

of golden sands and villages with beehive houses; then the small air strip appeared with a collection of building, the camp to be my home for the next year.



(Photo Above: Airforce Station) Once I arrived I was soon off with the person I was replacing, as he had to show me the sick quarters and give me a quick run down of what I was responsible for, before he caught the same plane back to Singapore after it has been re-fuelled.

The air strip has been built by the Japanese during the Second World War - before it was liberate in September 1945. During the occupation a number of the Nicobarese were murdered by the Japanese.



My Duties: Running the station sick quarters and keeping it clean and fully stocked, also maintaining the health and hygiene of the camp.

The following list covers my duties:-

- * Administration of first aid to staff and Nicobarese.
- * Ensuring all staff had taken their daily anti-malaria tablets (paladrin)
- * Guarantee that salt tablets were always available
- * Ensure drinking water was safe and that the correct PH factor was maintained
- * Spraying camp site with

- DDT solution against mosquito's breeding
- * Control of rats, mice and other vermin (snakes & crabs)
- * Driving the ambulance and maintaining it
- * Daily inspection of camp building with hygiene in mind
- * Ensuring all staff inoculations were up to date
- * Checking the camps emergency rations in the bonded store
- * Liaison with the islands Indian Doctor.

I had one Nicobarese working for me, but his help was

very much as and when. His name was Nicholas Thomas.

During my stay I was referred to as "Doc" or "Doc Austin". **(Photo below: Nicholas Thomas and helper)**



As most of the planes came and departed during the morning (unless there was an emergency) most people were able to stand-down for the remainder of the day, to do their main duties. Because it was such a small camp, while aircraft were about to fly, we all helped to turn them around. The main aircraft we had landing were Hastings, Dakota's, Avro's Bristol's and Mosquito's.



(Photo above: Carnic RAF Station) General working

The camp itself had approx 20 to 25 staff. Four days of the week we had at least one aircraft that would use this staging post. Occasionally we had two. The aircraft would either bring staff and provisions for the camp, topping up with fuel for onward journey or sometimes planes either had to make emergency landings.

Our working days were governed by which aircraft were due in and when. This information was circulated round camp by word of mouth and the sounding of the fire bell.

About half an hour before the aircraft was due all the people involved moved in their vehicles to the landing strip to clear it of locals and livestock. Then we waited, blocking off all

the tracks until the plane landed. On landing we followed it to the dispersal point, where all hands would help to load, un-load, and re-fuel.

On departure the process was reversed. We waited till the aircraft cleared the field, then we returned to base. All hands stood down once the aircraft had passed the point of no return.

Any in-coming flights from Singapore would bring in mail, staff, supplies and provisions for the kitchen and shop, plus any other items needed for the camp.

To be continued in the next edition of Hamara Nicobar

**ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIES
PORT BLAIR**

NOTIFICATION

Port Blair, dated the 22nd January, 2010

No. 18/2010/F. No 2-386/subsidy/IND/PL/2009-10- In supersession of the Notification No. 84/2009/ f.No. 2-93/PL/IND/2007-08 dated 8/06/2009.- The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has been pleased to frame a New Scheme / Scheme/ Programme, for the Grant of 90% subsidy on procurement of Copra dryer, Coir processing equipments, Bakery equipments, Hand Tools for General Engineering, Carpentry and Handicraft to vulnerable tribals of Andaman & Nicobar Islands to uplift the socio economic condition of Tribal of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

1. Name & Title of the Scheme: This programme may be called "90% subsidy of Copra dryer, Coir processing equipments, Bakery equipments and Hand Tools for General Engineering, Carpentry and Handicrafts to Tribals of Andaman & Nicobar Islands."

2. Commencement & Duration : The Scheme ?/ Programme will be implemented during Eleventh Five Year Plan period 2007-2012. The Scheme shall come into effect from 1st April, 2007 and shall remain in operation up to 31st March, 2012.

3. Applicability/ Eligibility: I. Tribal entrepreneurs / individual, Tribal Self Help Groups and Tribal Co-operative Societies of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
II. The entrepreneur / units who come into production/ operation/substantial expansion on or after 01/04/2007 up to the date of Notification shall submit the claim within one year from the date this Notification .
III. The entrepreneur /units come into production/operation/substantial expansion after the date of this Notification (till 31/3/2012) shall submit the claim within one year from the date of production/ operation/ substantial expansion.

4. Definitions:

"Tribal" means a " Vulnerable Tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands born & brought up in Andaman & Nicobar Islands as per the guidelines of GOI for A& N Islands Tribes.

"Individual Entrepreneur" means any tribal entrepreneur of Andaman & Nicobar Islands intend to avail assistance under the programme.

"Tribal Self Help Group" means a self help group formed among the members of vulnerable tribal community of A&N Islands.

"Tribal Co-Operative Society" means co-operative society formed among the members of vulnerable Tribal community of A&N Islands and registered with the Registrar of the Co-Operative Society, A&N Islands.

"Subsidy" means the amount reimbursable to the individual entrepreneur, tibal SHG tribal Co-operative Society on the investment for procuring Copra dryers, Coir processing equipments, Bakery equipments, Hand Tools and other equipments for Wood working, General Engineering, Handicrafts related activities.

" Maximum Limit of Subsidy"

a. For individual Entrepreneur/ Shelf Help Groups/ co-operative societies 90% of the cost for procurement of hand tools and other equipments of Wood working, General Engineering Handicrafts related activities or Rs 5000.00(Rupees Five Thousand only) whichever is less.
b. For individual Entrepreneur /Self Help Groups/ co-operative Societies 90% of the cost for procurement of improved copra dryers and coir processing equipments or Rs 25000.00 (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only) whichever is less.
c. For individual Entrepreneur / Self Help Groups / Co-operative Societies 90% of the cost for procurement of Bakery equipments or Rs.25000.00 (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only) whichever is less.

"Improved Copra Dryer". Means the improvised copra dryer as designed by the Coconut Development Board of India.

"Bakery Equipment" means the equipments which is used for manufacturing of bakery items like Bred, Biscuit, Cake etc.

"Tool & Equipments" means tools or equipments that are equipment that are required for wood working, general engineering like two wheeler repairing, plumbing, electrician, gas stove repairing, se wing machine repairing, etc.

"Coir Processing Equipment" means the equipments/ machinery required for processing of coir like motorized spinning rats, door mat frames and other machinery& equipments required to process coir.

"Implementing Agency & Disbursing Agency" means the Directorate of Industries, A&N Administration.

"Policy Maker" means the Directorate of Industries, A&N Administration.

5. Terms & Condition

I. The entrepreneur should be a "Vulnerable Tribe of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and should be in possession of Tribal certificate issued by competent Authority.
II. Individuals claiming subsidy under this scheme must satisfy any one of the following conditions; in clause 5(ii) (a), (b) and(c). The condition mentioned at clause 5(ii) (d) is mandatory.

A. The individual, SHG & Co-operative Society shall set up the activity/ Enterprise on his/ her own land.

B. The Individual. SHG & Co- operative Society shall set up the Enterprise on the land leased to him/her for a minimum period of five years from the date of disbursement of subsidy.

C. The Individual, SHG& Co-operative Society shall set up the Enterprise in a rented building, which is leased to it for a minimum period of five years from the date of disbursement of subsidy.

D. No Objection Certificate from the Chairman, Tribal Council of the respective area as the case may be, for site development shall be obtained.

6. Procedure of claiming Subsidy : Eligible individual Entrepreneurs, SHG's, Co-operative Societies intending to avail subsidy under this Scheme/ Programme shall furnish its claim in the prescribed form (Annexure-1 & Annexure-II) along with all supporting documents like copies of purchase bill, money receipt, project report and Scheduled Tribe Certificate and submit to the Officer In- Charge of Industries Departments of Respective Area.

7. Scrutiny Committees : The claim so received shall be placed before the Scrutiny Committee comprising O:-

- Assistant Commissioner of the respective area- as Chairman.
- Block Development Officer of the Respective Area-as Member.
- Chief Captain, Island Tribal Council of the respective area –as Member
- Officer In –Charge of Industries Department of Respective Area-Member

The committee shall scrutinize / conduct physical verification of the tools equipments with respect to the claim received for its feasibility and viability of the claim and submit the same with its recommendation to the Director of Industries, Andaman & Nicobar Administration for processing and sanction of the claim.

8. Sanctioning Authority

Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands shall be the sanctioning authority .

9. Documentation

On receipt of the sanction from the sanctioning authority the implementing agency (Directorate of Industries) shall issue sanction letter to the claimant stating the amount sanctioned and the claimant shall be required to furnish the following documents in order to avail the sanctioned subsidy:

- a. Attested copy of Islander Identity Card or Schedule Tribe Certificate issued by Andaman& Nicobar Administration.
- b. A Receipt of sanctioned subsidy amount in the prescribed format (Annexure-III)
- c. An undertaking from the claimant in Annexure- IV to the effect that subsidy shall be adjusted towards the loan account of the claimant in case he/has availed loan from any Bank, Financial Institution, Directorate of Industries for any purpose.

10. Disbursement of Subsidy: The Directorate of Industries, Andaman & Nicobar Administration shall be the disbursing agency for the subsidy and will be responsible for maintaining all records of such disbursement .

11. Recall of Subsidy : The Lt. Governor, A& N Islands may recall the subsidy disbursed under the programme in respect of a unit under any of the following circumstances:

- a. In case there is a breach of any condition of programme/ agreement by the Individual.
- b. In case the individual has obtained the Subsidy by mis-representation of facts or by furnishing false information.
- c. In case the unit is found ineligible.
- d. In case, if the beneficiary is found ineligible due to reasons, whatsoever, the Lt. Governor Shall have the liberty to consider recall of the subsidy in full or part thereof.

12. Power of Interpretation: Power of Interpretation of any clause under the programme shall lie with the A & N Administration .

13. Arbitration : In the event of any dispute or difference arising out of the programme or any of the claims therein, the same shall be referred to a sole Arbitrator appointed by Hon'ble Lt. Governor and the provision of Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996 shall be applicable. The decision of the Arbitrator shall be final and binding on both the parties and the proceeding of the Arbitrator shall be held at Port Blair.

By order and in the name of the Lieutenant Governor

Sd/-
(M.N. Murali)
Joint Secretary & Director of Industries.

The notification regarding 90% subsidy for tribal entrepreneurs by the Directorate of Industries has been published for the information of the community. Details of application forms, format etc. can be had from the Directorate of Industries at Port Blair or from any of the Rural Knowledge Centres in the Nicobar District.

A time wheel: Car Nicobar 1954 to 2010

Even after a long gap of 56 years, the Car Nicobarese still hold central their tradition and culture. May it be the British regime or the Japanese or let it be the devastating tsunami of 2004, it's how you keep your culture going... which is important.

The photographs Car Nicobar Islands in 1954 are a collection of Dr. Mr. I.R. Austin while the recent ones are from the Archives of TISS.



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