Discussion 07: - On 20th September, 2019, the Andaman and Nicobar Police organized a day-long seminar titled “Andaman and Nicobar Islands – Changing Security Paradigm”. The seminar was attended by senior officials of the Andaman & Nicobar Police, the Tri-Services Command, the Intelligence Bureau and the Cabinet Secretariat.

A brainchild of the Director General of Police Sh. Dependra Pathak, IPS, the seminar was a continuation of the discussions held during the DGPs/IGs conference held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister during December, 2018 last year. The aim of the seminar was to bring about awareness, disseminate information and change the usual perspective with regard to the Islands and their strategic importance for India.

The speakers discussed the prevailing security threats in the Indian Ocean Region and pointed out the need for synergy between various arms of the government and the need for a constant vigil in the current scenario prevailing internationally along with its ramifications in the island territory. They also brought about the means to detect subversive activities in the islands themselves, and how to intercept and contain the same. The seminar brought forward the facets of maritime security and intelligence, and highlighted how the Islands will play a pivotal role in bringing about the Connect East policy of the country to fruition, while ensuring strategic depth and a mutually beneficial relationship with neighbouring countries.

The programme ended with a detailed question and answer session covering the discussions in detail. All the participants appreciated the seminar, and stressed upon the need for such dialogue to continue further to bring about actionable change in the security of Indian union in general and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in particular.