

Sentinel Island and no one has been permitted to go to the island for the last 4 years. However, given the incidence of poaching by foreigners from South East Asian countries in the waters around the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Navy and Coast Guard have been patrolling the waters around North Sentinel Island from time to time, and this is strictly a defence oriented measure and not a contact with the Sentinelese. Since there has never been any survey of the Sentinelese population, the precise number of Sentinelese tribesmen is not known. They do not figure in the voters' list.

Jarawas

The Jarawas, the fourth tribe in the Negrito group, have also been regarded as a hostile tribe. Here it should be mentioned that all the tribal areas in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are protected by the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956. Under this Regulation no non-tribal can enter any tribal area without a permit / pass issued by the Deputy Commissioners concerned. In so far as the Jarawa areas are concerned, no such permit / pass is issued to a non-tribal as a matter of Government policy. In case of the Onges and Great Andamanese, permit is issued on a very restricted basis and only to allow the Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti and medical personnel, as also those seeking to conduct studies, to visit these settlements. (In so far as the Nicobar District is concerned, tribal area pass is issued on a very restricted basis in the Shompen area to medical personnel and those conducting studies. As for the Nicobar area, tribal pass is issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Car Nicobar for the purpose of executing developmental works through APWD and other government agencies, who may bring in outside labour for limited durations. The Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti do not have any jurisdiction over the Nicobar areas.)

Almost every year, barring this year so far, there have been incidents of killing of non-tribal people by the arrows of Jarawas in the dry months of January, February and March. Such incidents occur due to occasional attempts at encroachment by non-tribals in the forest. Otherwise the fear of the Jarawas among non-tribals has traditionally been the best insurance, not only in the preservation of the Jarawas themselves and in ensuring protection from non-tribals seeking entry into their areas, but also of the thick tropical forests in South and Middle Andaman Islands. This Administration has always considered it important for the Jarawas to live in their traditional