

Status Report on the Jarawa Tribe of Andaman Islands.

Introduction :

(1). Andaman & Nicobar Islands constitute a Union Territory. These Islands were inhabited solely by the aboriginal tribes prior to the colonisation and establishment of Penal Settlement by the then British Government. The Penal Settlement grew over the decades from 1858 onwards. After Indian Independence the Bengali refugees were brought under the Scheme of the Govt. of India to rehabilitate them in these Islands. On account of the Rehabilitation and Colonisation programmes, the population of non-tribal people has increased manifold. As per 1991 Census the population of these Islands is 2,80,661.

(2). There are six Scheduled Tribes in A&N Islands. They are:-

Name of the Tribe	Area / Island of Inhabitation
(1) Nicobarese	12 Nicobar Islands
(2) Shompens	Great Nicobar Island
(3) Andamanese	Strait Island
(4) Jarawas	Middle Andaman & South Andaman Islands.
(5) Onges	Little Andaman Island
(6) Sentinelese	North Sentinel Island

(3). Nicobarese are comparatively the advanced while the remaining five are the small primitive hunting and gathering tribes. The population of the six Scheduled Tribes together is 26,700. Nicobarese