

Majority of forest and resource rich areas are adjacent to the jurisdiction of panchayats and zilaparishad authorities. As far as the same is concerned in Andamans, there are some other functionaries such as Department of Environment and Forest and a special body called Andaman Aadim Janjathi Vikas Samiti of A&N Administration meant exclusively for undertaking welfare activities of these tribes. AAJVS is doing their best in ensuring the peaceful coexistence of tribes scattered in different areas with other population groups. It is a conspicuous fact that this organization alone cannot fulfill the objective or the desired goal and all should come forward for the protection of these tribes and their habitats for the betterment of our environment and the society at large. The involvement of Public Health authorities is also a dire need as it seems that the major cause of the dwindling populations of the tribes is malnutrition and inadequate public health measures. The interaction of the general public should be restricted and forest, being the habitat of the tribes, should be protected and bio-diversity ensured. More power should be vested to the tribal authority (Council) also so that they could play a vital role in it. The local bodies, the Panchayat, are requested to maintain harmony between the tribes and other population groups. They should make the public understand the importance of any community and bio-diversity.

I once again request to take a special initiative so that our autochthon brethren of these islands could ~~live~~ live with out any interference by outsiders. Please follow the instruction laid down in **Do's** and **Don'ts** by the AAJVS of A&N Administration along the ATR and Cooperate with them.