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Changes in the behaviour pattern of Jarawa in recent times

For a few months, behavioural changes in the attitude of the Jarawas of Tirur area have been noticed. Their interaction with local settlers has increased. Jarawas are visiting the settlement areas for exchange of food items and sometimes they go for collection of food from plantation / garden of the settlers. Even incidences of snatching of food items have happened.

For the safety and protection of the Jarawas, a policy has been notified by the Government of India. This policy was framed during the year 2003-04 when their population was around 200.

The Jarawa population has increased from around 200 in the last decade to 421 as on date.

The 2003-04 scenario of Jarawa situation has changed so has the taste, food habit and behaviour of the Jarawas. Now the Jarawas speak Hindi and Bengali. They have started eating rice and dishes consumed by non-tribals. They ask for rice, dal, oil, masala and clothes frequently. They have started using torch light, tooth paste, tooth brush etc. They have frequent illicit contacts and interaction with the settlers. If settlers do not visit in Jarawa area, the Jarawas visit the settlers of the adjoining settlement village for barter of marine and forest products with rice edible oil, clothes etc.

During the past 15 to 20 days, four incidents of unauthorised contact / interaction with Jarawas by non-tribal (settlers) were reported which are given below:- (Flag A, B, C)

- a) A resident of Guptapara took a few Jarawas on an engine dingy and left them on Tarmugli island. They were brought back after a few days by the Tribal Welfare Officer, when the incident was brought to his notice. An FIR has been lodged against the culprit with Police Station Ograbraj.