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Initiatives of ANI Administration towards mainstreaming of Jarawas and Policies for different tribes of A&N Islands

There are six Scheduled Tribes, viz., Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas, Sentinelese, Nicobarese and Shompens constituting 7.5% of the UT population.

- **Nicobarese:** The Nicobarese constitute the largest group among the tribals. They inhabit 12 of the 22 Islands in the Nicobar District. The Nicobarese are an advanced Mongoloid tribe, who got mainstreamed.
- **Andamanese:** The Andamanese belong to the Negrito race. Originally the Andamanese inhabited the Andaman Islands and due to British India Policy, the tribes got decimated. In the year 1969, the Administration rehabilitated and settled them at Strait Island, North and Middle Andaman District.
- **Onges:** The Onges belong to the Negrito race. Initially the Onges were scattered all over the Little Andaman Island in different bands, and after Tsunami they have been settled at Dugong Creek, Little Andaman Islands, South Andaman District.
- **Shompens:** Shompens live in different bands in thick tropical forests and in coasts of in Great Nicobar Island. A tribal reserve of 992 Sqkm has been declared for their exclusive use. Policy of Shompen drafted by ANI Administration has recently been approved by Govt of India, which is under Notification.
- **Sentinelese:** They belongs to Negrito race, inhabit in the North Sentinel Island of the South Andaman District (54Km west of Port Blair) having an extent of 60 Sq Km. This is the only tribe probably in the world which still professes active hostility towards outsiders and remains in total isolation. The Administration has adopted an '*eyes-on and hands-off*' policy to ensure that no poachers enter into the island.
- **Jarawas:** - Jarawa tribe, inhabit the western coast of South and Middle Andaman. As per the Jarawa Policy framed in the year 2004 by the Central Govt, the A&N Administration takes measures to protect and preserve Jarawas from any exploitation. The reserve base of Jarawas has been enhanced by notifying 1028 sq.km as Jarawa Tribal Reserve Area, under Protection of Aboriginal Tribes (PAT) Regulations, 1956. The ANI Administration, through Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS) and Expert Members, extends health and other calibrated amenities preferably in-situ due to which their population has now risen to 441. "Kangapo" the stitched garments are being issued to Jarawa women on their specific demand and on barter basis so that the individuals do not lose their dignity. ANI Administration with the approval of Govt of India has started the process of schooling among Jarawa w.e.f. 22.10.2014 with the intention to ensure and instill community identity vis-à-vis the "outside world".

The welfare policy measures taken up by the Administration are being reviewed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt of India periodically. Hence, this agenda point may be dropped.