

Vikas Samity in extending medical facilities and other amenities, only when demanded by the tribes.

**Shompens:** Shompens live in different bands in thick tropical forests and in coasts of the Great Nicobar Island, and number approximately 220. The ANI Administration has framed the Shompen Policy, 2015 in consultation with subject experts and it has been approved by the Expert Committee of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India on 11.03.2015.

**Sentinelese:** This hunter-gatherer tribe numbering approximately 50, lives in North Sentinelese Island having an extent of 60 Sq Km. The Administration has adopted an 'eyes-open and hands-off' policy to ensure that no poachers enter into the island. A protocol of Circumnavigation of the North Sentinel Island has been made and notified in consultation with Govt of India.

**Jarawas:** Protection and welfare measures are extended to the Jarawas as per the Jarawa Policy framed in the year 2004. The extent of Jarawa reserved area is 1028 SqKm, meant exclusive for them. The Administration, through AAJVS, extends health and other calibrated amenities preferably *in-situ*. A Buffer Zone of 5 Km band around JTR has been notified, banning all commercial and tourism establishments detrimental to their existence. It is ensured that no interaction by non-tribals takes place with Jarawas. Movement of vehicles on the Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) is regulated and monitored by convoy system. The Administration is taking steps to provide an alternate sea route. Due to the constant efforts, today the population has reached upto 441, which had once plummeted to around 200. On the advice of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, ethnographic studies on the culture, livelihood activities, health issues etc of Jarawas and empirical study on Jarawas have been carried out by subject experts in ANTRI and with the support of AAJVS. Based on the study reports entitled "Calendrical movements of Jarawas" and "Kangaapo" (a Stitched garment in Jarawa language) submitted by the Experts, the ANI Administration has taken following steps: -

- (i) Community centres (~~Honahaley Chadda as suggested by Subject Expert~~) have been built within the Jarawa Tribal Reserve namely Jhao Kona, Tirur and Potatang in South Andaman and Phooltala, Lewis Inlet and Lakra Lungta in North & Middle Andaman District for exchange and sharing of information between the staff and AAJVS.
- (ii) Based on the recommendations of the study report of experts, "Kangaapo" the stitched garments are being given to Jarawa women on their specific demand and on barter basis, for protecting their self respect..
- (iii) A protocol of surveillance has been put in place to secure Western Coast of South and Middle Andaman islands, bordering Jarawa Tribal Reserve from intruders/poachers by three layers of surveillance through Joint Patrol Parties in the seaward side of the Western Coast involving Navy, Coast Guard, Police Marine force, AAJVS and Forest Departments;
- (iv) The first phase of provisions of books of bilingual and bicultural curriculum namely "Ang Katha" for the Jarawas has been made to instill community identity vis-à-vis the "outside world".

**C) Other Initiatives by A&N Administration:**

ANTRI has been made functional from 02.10.2013 and was formally inaugurated by Hon'ble President of India on 12.1.2014. First National Conference of ANTRI held on "THINKING FUTURES: The PVTGs of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands" on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2014.