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BRIEF ABOUT TRIBES OF A&N ISLANDS AND INITIATIVES TGAKEN:

The tribes of the Islands belong to two different races. The Andamanese, Jarawas, Onges and the Sentinelese living in the Andaman group of islands belong to the Negrito group while the Nicobarese and Shompens, living in Nicobar islands belong to the Mongoloid group. The tribes in the two regions have shown a marked difference in racial, linguistic and cultural terms as also the way of life adapted by them over the centuries.

a. Nicobarese

The Nicobarease constitute the largest group among the tribals. They inhabit 12 of the 22 Islands in the Nicobar District. The Nicobarease are an advanced Mongoloid tribe. Tsunami, 2004 destroyed the houses and infrastructure of Nicobarease. The Administration has provided permanent shelters to all Nicobarease who have lost their houses. Essential services like drinking water supply, power supply, postal services and telecommunication services have been provided in all Tribal Islands.

Due to spread of western-style education the literacy rate is high and it is increasing rapidly. A sizable number of Nicobarese (i.e. Group-A number 25, including 18 Doctors, Group-B : 400 & Group-C number 1179) are holding responsible jobs in different Government offices and in private organisations as administrators, doctors, teachers, clerks, nurses, extension officers, and so on. Also, quite a few Nicobarese are in the Army, Air Force, Navy and central Reserve Police Force, posted to various parts of the country.

b. Andamanese

The Andamanese belong to the Negrito race. Originally the Andamanease inhabited the Andaman Islands. But due to British India Policy of providing contacts, they got decimated. They are only 61 Andamanese as on date and the Administration has settled on the Strait Island. The Administration has introduced a few economic activities like rearing of poultry for the tribals to improve their economic condition and the nutritional status. Administration provides free rations and clothes to the Andamanese. Potable water supply, electrification of Andamanese settlement, free medical care, school and other amenities like police wireless for communication - Direct Receiving Set for T.V., Community Hall, footpath, jetty for berthing of the boats etc. have been provided at the settlement.

At present, 22 Andamanese children are studying in various schools and colleges, the total expense of which is borne by the Govt. through Andaman AdimJanjatiVikasSamiti (AAJVS). 22 Andamanese are employed in various Govt. Departments. For the first time during academic session 2011-2012, two