

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.

**(i) 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. Tsunami, 2004 destroyed the houses and infrastructure of Nicobarese. The Administration has provided permanent shelters to all Nicobarese 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.

**(ii) Andamanese**

The Andamanese belong to the Negrito race. Originally the Andamanese 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 Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS). 22 Andamanese are employed in various Govt. Departments. For the first time during academic session 2011-2012, two Andamanese boys have successfully passed X Std under CBSE pattern of education and one boy has joined ITI in welding trade. One girl completed ANM Training with Govt. support and she has been given regular appointment in the Health Department.

**(iii) Onges**

The Onges belong to the Negrito race. They have been in contact with the civilization for just over 100 years. The present population of the Onge is 117. Initially the Onges were scattered all over the Little Andaman Island in different bands, but later they have been settled at two places viz. Dugong Creek and South Bay in Little Andaman Island. After Tsunami, 2004, all the Onges have, on their own choice shifted to Dugong Creek, Little Andaman. Onges have been provided with permanent houses. There is an Onge Multipurpose Co-operative Society to collect and sell the coconuts and provide consumer goods to them. All the Onge are members of the Society and the Chief of Onge is the President of the Society. The Administration provides free ration to the Onges. Potable water supply, electrification of Onge settlements, free medical care, school and other amenities like police wireless for communication, Community Hall,