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**ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR GAZETTE
EXTRAORDINARY**

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ADDENDUM TO "POLICY ON JARAWA TRIBE OF ANDAMAN ISLANDS, 2004"

Introduction and background

The "Policy on Jarawa Tribe of Andaman Islands, 2004" was notified pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta (Circuit Bench at Port Blair) dated 9.4.2004 in W.P. No. 048 of 1999 (PIL)-Ms Shyamali Ganguli v/s Union of India and others.

The Policy is required to be reviewed periodically as per the provision of clause VI (e). Therefore, in 2007, an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Tribal Affairs was constituted whose mandate included, inter alia, to monitor and review the implementation of Jarawa Policy 2004, taking into account any subsequent reports and studies on the Jarawas. In 2010, Ministry of Tribal Affairs had set up a "Sub-Committee" to review the policy. The Sub-Committee had meetings on 8.4.2011, 7.6.2011 and 14.10.2011. In the meeting held on 14.10.2011, it was decided that "for the present, 'facilitation' was required and there is no need for a change in the policy at this juncture, as the suggestions made are already covered by the present policy and that for change in the policy, if required, A&NI may undertake evidence based research studies..."

In its meeting held on 02.02.2012, the Expert Committee decided that since there is little data and ethnographic studies about Jarawas, studies may be undertaken urgently through the Ethnographical Survey of India and universities having expertise in the subject.

A study was carried out by experts viz. Professor Vishvajit Pandya, Shri Manish Chandi, Director (Tribal Welfare), A&NI and officers of Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samitie (AAJVS) with thrust on ethnographical observation and anthropological understanding of the concerns relating to livelihood security of Jarawas, their social organization, forms of education and learning and health & nutrition well being. The research team submitted its findings entitled "A field work based report- Jarawa movements in relation to time and space". The second phase of the work on Jarawa study to access the free will of the tribe is underway. An ethnographic research study report titled "Kangapoo" (stitched garments in Jarawa language) prepared by Professor Vishvajit Pandya was also submitted.

The Expert Committee in its meeting held on 8.1.2015, after considering various inputs, decided upon further strategies/ guidelines for the welfare and protection of the Jarawas. These are accordingly added to the "Policy on Jarawa tribe of Andaman Islands, 2004":

1. Protection of Cultural Identity

- (a) Based on the recommendations of the study report "Kangapo" the stitched garments are being issued to Jarawa women. This should be done on their specific demand and on barter basis so that the individuals do not lose their dignity.