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**Factual note on the Jarawa – An indigenous tribal people of Andaman District in the Union Territory of A&N Islands.**

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands have six indigenous tribes of which four are located in the Andaman District and belong to the Negrito group while two are located in Nicobar District and belong to the Mongoloid group. The four Negrito tribes are the Great Andamanese, the Onge, the Sentinelese and the Jarawas. The two Mongoloid tribes are the Nicobarese and the Shompens.

The Jarawas, a tribe in the Negrito group, have also been regarded as a hostile tribe. Here it should be mentioned that all the tribal areas in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are protected by the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956. Under this Regulation no non-tribal can enter any tribal area without a permit / pass issued by the Deputy Commissioners concerned. In so far as the Jarawa areas are concerned, no such permit / pass is issued to a non-tribal as a matter of Government policy. In case of the Onges and Great Andamanese, permit is issued on a very restricted basis and only to allow the Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti and medical personnel, as also those seeking to conduct studies, to visit these settlements.

Almost every year, barring this year so far, there have been incidents of killing of non-tribal people by the arrows of Jarawas in the dry months of January, February and March. Such incidents occur due to occasional attempts at encroachment by non-tribals in the forest. Otherwise the fear of the Jarawas among non-tribals has traditionally been the best insurance, not only in the preservation of the Jarawas themselves and in ensuring protection from non-tribals seeking entry into their areas, but also of the thick tropical forests in South and Middle Andaman Islands. This Administration has always considered it important for the Jarawas to live in their traditional habitat deep inside the forests. It may be relevant to mention that the Jarawas occupy an area of 649 sq.kms in the reserved forests along the West Coast in South Andaman and Middle Andaman Islands, and they are also found in a few smaller islands such as Spike Island bordering the west coast. The length of the territory inhabited by the