

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Exceptional problems require exceptional solutions, especially when what is at stake is the very survival and *dignified survival* of one of the oldest tribal groups in the world. There has been no dearth of studies and reports written by experts over the last few decades. Nor has there been paucity of recommendations and suggestions on what needs to be done. Of considerable import is the REPORT OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEE ON JARAWAS written in 2003. Yet, even ten years after the Enmei incident, all these recommendations have not been implemented in the spirit in which they were meant. The challenge, therefore, is to put something on the ground to actually translate intentions into actions. And this challenge has been successfully met before. We have found ways to sensitively, yet effectively reach out to the Sholiga, a hunter-gatherer community inhabiting the BR Hills of Karnataka. While the Sholiga experience shows that tribes can live with dignity in today's world, we must remember that the circumstances of the Andaman tribes are very different and hence the approach has to differ.

Institutional Mechanism

This sub-group recognizes the fact that contact has occurred, given the course of events post 1997. Every facet of this contact has proved harmful for the Jarawa. So, this sub-committee proposes the creation of a Jarawa Tribal Development Authority (JTDA) which would examine all aspects of the Jarawa situation, suggest policies and ensure their implementation. JTDA would monitor and suggest the areas and extent of contact to ensure the protection of the Jarawa. It would be responsible for documenting the Jarawa culture and act as the clearinghouse for all research related to this tribe. This mechanism might have worked for the Onge and Great Andamanese. Given the fact, however, that they have already come out of their isolation, albeit in a warped and undesirable power equation and have become more or less "mainstreamed", there may not be much reason to include them in this special mechanism. If only we could push the clock back some thirty years! The Sentinelese, meanwhile, remain a relatively isolated tribe. Therefore including them in such a mechanism is irrelevant. We only need to ensure that no intervention or