

immigrants, who have come to these islands hardly half a century ago, are fighting the battle for the ATR. It is so only because the immigrants are numerically, economically and politically stronger than the Jarawas. On the other hand, the Jarawas are numerically, economically and politically feeble and voiceless.

It is true that we cannot undo the history. Once the Jarawas have been exposed to the outside world, they cannot be reverted to geographical and social isolation, as they lived before their exposure. We cannot stop the Jarawas visiting the townships near the Reserve. We cannot stop the Jarawas visiting Port Blair or taking lift on trucks and buses along the ATR. We cannot stop the Jarawas visiting the villages of Bengali settlers near the Jarawa villages. Nor can we stop the Bengali settlers and the others entering into the Jarawa Reserve for poaching. These are the hard realities one has to accept.

Only during the last one and a half decade the Jarawas suddenly appeared before the outside world. Because of their age-old hostility it was earlier believed in Andamans that "you could see a Jarawa once only in your life; either you kill them or they would kill you". Whether the Jarawas were hostile, or the world outside was hostile to the Jarawas, is a moot question? But it is true that they survived in spite of repeated onslaughts by the alien forces, only because of their alleged hostility.

We should take lessons from the plight of the Andamanese also. Therefore, we have to deal with Jarawas with utmost care. The Jarawas and the Sentineless are not only one of the two most primitive peoples of the world, but they have also maintained their age-old life style even to this day. If they are suddenly exposed to the 21st century civilization, the result could be benevolent to them or malevolent-even to the extent to the existence of their life and culture.

The Options for the ATR:

Now, that we cannot reverse the time clock, we have three options left with the ATR. First, the ATR should be opened and made a passage free-for-all. Secondly, the ATR