वतन बी. संघी, भा. प्र. से
CHETAN B. SANGHI, IAS
मुख्य सचिव
CHIEF SECRETARY

सत्यमेव जयते

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DO No. 1-272/2018-TW

Dear Sir,

Port Blair, dated the 18th July, 2019.

As you may be aware that there are six aboriginal tribes as per the A & N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 i.e. PAT Regulation in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands i.e. Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas, Sentinelese, Nicobarese and Shompens. Except Nicobarese, remaining five tribes are categorized as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

The Administrator has declared approx. 3279 Sq Kms area as reserved area under PAT Regulation and entry of non-tribal without pass, transfer of land and establishment or operation of tourist or commercial establishment is prohibited. Further photography and videography of the aboriginal tribes into the reserved area is also a punishable offence with imprisonment and fine up to three years and Rupees Ten Thousands respectively as per the PAT Regulation.

The Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) has recently brought out a priced publication titled "People of Andaman & Nicobar Islands" containing a number of photos of aboriginal tribes, which was sought to be released by Hon'ble Lt. Governor of A & N Islands.

The Director, AnSI was advised on 19.6.2019 in person not to release or circulate the priced publication as the photographs of aboriginal tribes may lead to unwarranted criticism and promote tribal tourism. He was advised to consider publishing a textbook without pictures of aboriginal tribes. However, the AnSI has since circulated the said priced publication.

In this context, it is pertinent to mention that the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) is also very particular and has shown concern towards the objectionable and inappropriate videos posted on the "YouTube" and asked the UT Administration to take appropriate action.

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