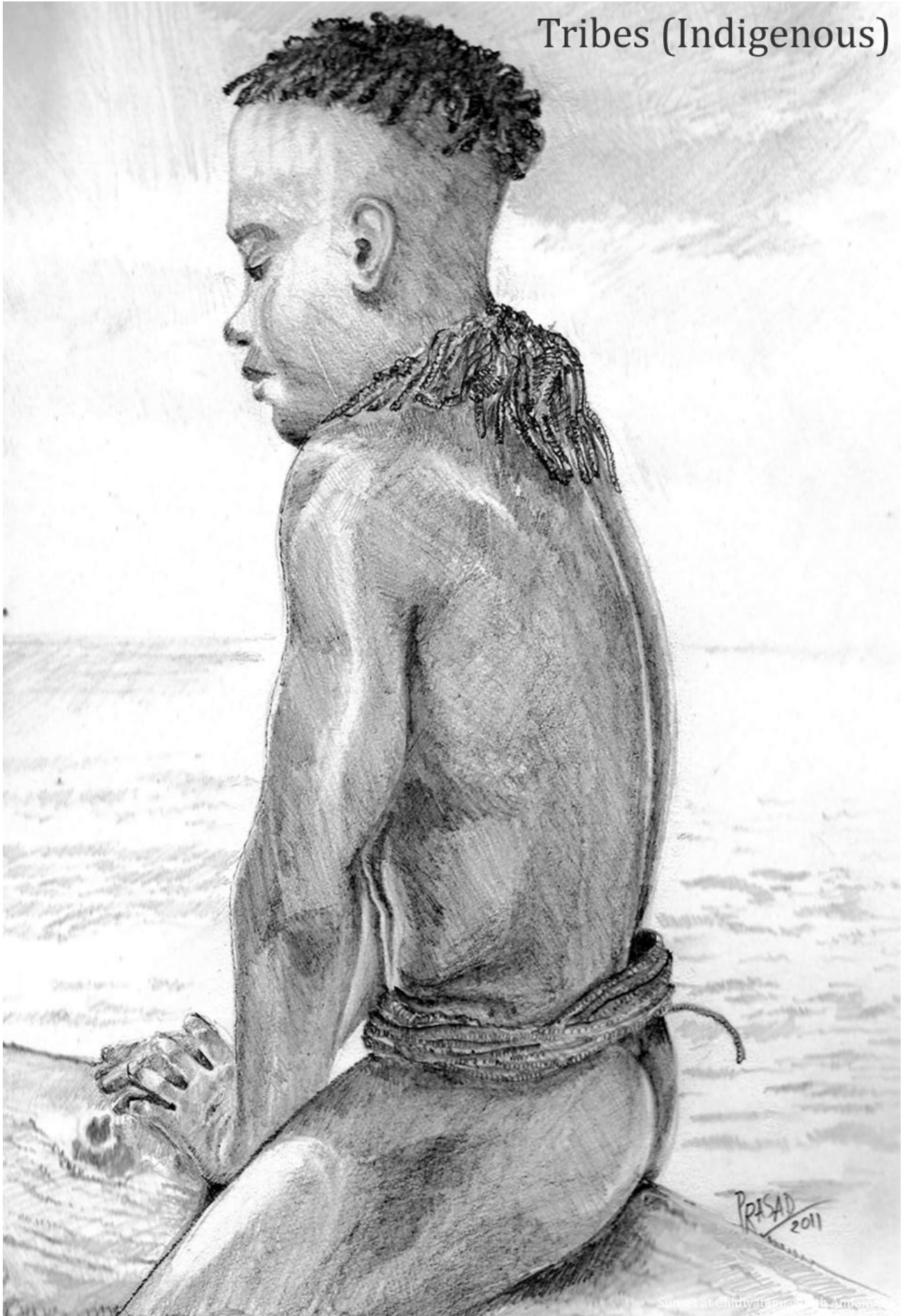


Tribes (Indigenous)



Chief Electoral Officer, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2.6 Tribes (Indigenous)

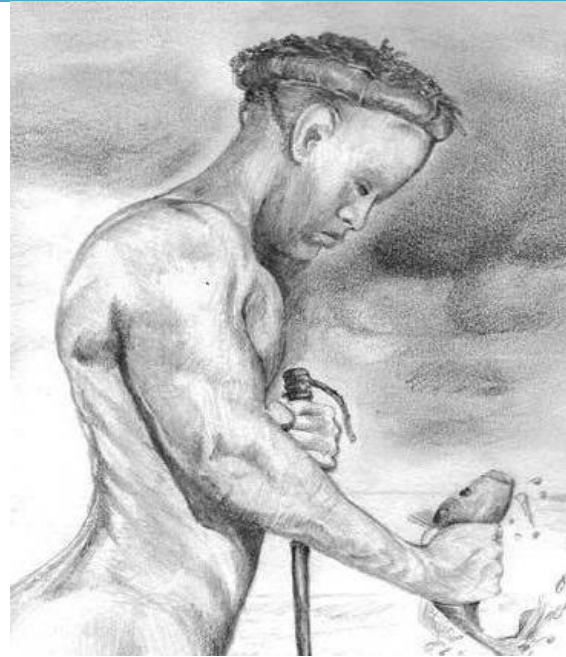
Population of PVTGs

SN	Name of tribe	Population (2013)
1.	Andamanese	58
2.	Onges	111
3.	Jarawas	416
4.	Sentinelese	50 *
5.	Shompens	219

Table 10

* Not surveyed; only estimated figure.
Source : Dept. of Tribal Welfare

Pencil illustration of Jawara Tribe



ANDAMANESE

- They were one of the largest tribes; severely impacted during the British Rule, present population is 58.
- In order to nurture and protect them, the population was moved to Strait Island (1969), a Tribal Reserve.
- Infrastructure like Jetty, Police Radio Communication, Water and Power supply, Medical Sub-Centre, and School provided at the new locations.
- They are engaged in maintenance of coconut plantation, poultry, fishing and hunting.
- The Department of Tribal Welfare, A&N Administration provides them free rations, clothing and health care.



Members of the Andamanese Tribe

ONGES

- The Onge tribe are settled at Dugong Creek and South Bay (Little Andaman) from 1978.
- Post-Tsunami, the South Bay Onges shifted to Dugong Creek.
- They are engaged in coconut plantations have also poultry, fishing and hunting.
- They retail consumer goods through their own co-operative society.
- The Department of Tribal Welfare, A&N Administration provides free rations, healthcare and clothes to them.



*Onge Tribe (above)
Pencil illustration of Onge (left)*

SENTINELESE



Members of the Sentinelese Tribe

- The Sentinelese are the lone inhabitants of North Sentinel Island.
- They are hunters and gatherers, who prefer isolation.
- The contact policy with the Sentinelese has been discontinued after 1993.
- Constant vigil at a distance of 3-5 nautical miles through Police and Coast Guard is maintained to protect the Sentinelese from poachers.

JARAWA



- The Jarawa tribe inhabit the western coast of South and Middle Andaman.
- They live in bands of 10 to 12 families in communal huts grown up children and widows / widowers live in separate huts.
- Men go for hunting, while women gather forest produce and do shallow fishing. Food is shared among members of the band.
- They are generally cheerful and fond of group singing and dancing.
- They hunt with bows and arrows for wild boar, monitor lizard etc. Then food is generally boiled or roasted.

Pencil illustration of Jarawa

SHOMPENS



They belong to the Mongoloid race and live in the Great Nicobar Island, in nine different bands. Friendly but shy. The females never come out of the jungle.

Pork, tortoise meat, honey and pandanus are their favourite foods.

Members of Shopmen Tribe

- Monogamy is social norm, while polygamy is in practice.
- Shompens are animists- the moon being their supreme goddess.
- After death, body is disposed without delay by burial, far away from the habitats.
- Shompen language is yet to be codified. They share a symbiotic relationship with coastal Nicobarese.
- Eco-type Shompen huts are constructed by AAJVS at 16 Km on East -West Road as Contact Point.
- Rice, Dal, Salt and Match Boxes as usually given as gifts to them on demand.
- Free medical coverage at PHC, main hospital / mainland.
- 2 children of Chingum Basti are studying in Primary School.

All information courtesy Department of Tribal welfare, Andaman and Nicobar Island Administration.

All Illustrations by M.Prasad Babu