MINUTES OF THE 44TH GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE ANDAMAN ADIM JANJATI VIKAS SAMITI (AAJVS) HELD AT RAJ NIWAS ON 28.4.2014 AT 10:30 AM

The Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N islands/ Chairman AAJVS welcomed the members of the General Body, Subject Experts and Special Invitees and asked the Secretary (Tribal Welfare) to take up the agenda items: -

Agenda No. 1 **Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 20.2.2013 and review of follow up action taken**

The house confirmed the circulated minutes of the last GB meeting held on 20.2.2013. While deliberating on the action taken report, the Chairman directed APWD to complete the construction of protection wall behind the quarters at Strait island and the Forest Department to complete the work of construction of separate Jarawa Ward at PHC, Ferrargunj. The House accepted the suggestion to carry out social audit through the A&N Tribal Research and Training Institute (ANTRI), to assess the impact of the welfare measures on the indigenous community.

Agenda No. 2 **Approval of the Annual Report for the year 2012-2013**

While approving the Annual Report 2012-2013, the house viewed that the Annual Report being a public document should correctly reflect the objectives and functions of the organization vis-à-vis the activities carried out during the period of report. Therefore, the Chairman directed that the Expert members may re-visit the present objectives and functions of AAJVS in relation to the contemporary situation and develop a template for preparing annual reports. The draft Annual Report for 2013-2014 may be circulated and discussed well in advance, before placing it in the GB meeting.

Agenda No. 3 **Consideration and approval of audited accounts for the year ending March, 2013 and placing of compliance report on the points raised by Auditors.**

The house approved the Audited Report and Annual Accounts of AAJVS for the year ending March 31, 2013. The General Body granted permission to

write-off the assets created at Onges settlement, South Bay, Little Andaman, worth of Rs. 12,85,921/-, which were washed off during the tsunami in the year 2004. CE, APWD stated that most of the works entrusted by AAJVS had been completed and for want of reconciliation, utilization certificates were not granted. The Executive Secretary, AAJVS was directed to do the needful. The GB authorized the Executive Council chaired by Chief Secretary to consider and pass appropriate orders in the matter of waiving off of the outstanding advances amounting to Rs. 79,863/- paid to staff.

Agenda No. 4 **Review of expenditure for the current year (2013-2014) and consideration and approval of Annual Plan for the year 2014-2015**

The Chairman noted that funds should not be a constraint to carry out the infrastructures and to extend welfare measures to PVTGs. He directed that the required funds should be released to AAJVS as Grant-in-aid in time by the Administration. The house reviewed the expenditure incurred by AAJVS during the year 2013-2014 and approved the Annual Plan of AAJVS for the year 2014-2015.

Agenda No. 5 **Status of implementation of Jarawa Policy and regulation of Andaman Trunk Road**

The house deliberated the status of the project of "Alternate Sea Route to Baratang" in the context of present Regulation of Andaman Trunk Road. In view of the policy of the Central Government, the discussions that took place in various Island Development Authority (IDA) meetings and the time-bound commitment made by the Administration before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Chairman directed that the Administration should address the concerned Ministries to expedite the sanction and completion of "Alternate Sea Route to Baratang" project, keeping the Apex Court in picture.

The house also deliberated the status of implementation of Jarawa Policy. Prof Visvajith Pandya, Prof T Subramanyam Naidu & Shri Manish Chandi shared their views in the meeting on the current welfare policy. The Chairman appreciated the positive gains made, especially in the health sector, due to the Policy of 2004, which resulted in doubling

of Jarawa population during the last decade. The Hot-spots constructed by the AAJVS at different identified locations should be activated to function as a place for dialogue with indigenous community to understand their culture, aspirations and will to negotiate with the world outside their forests. The staff of AAJVS should be properly oriented and trained to this end. The Chairman asked the Expert Members to update the existing Jarawa Policy, 2004 in the light of the field situation and the revision required, if any, should be placed before the next meeting of GB for discussion and thereafter it could be taken up with the Central Govt. The Chairman directed the Education Department to introduce a syllabus on the history and culture of the PVTGs at appropriate level of school education to create awareness among the young generation. Taking note of the recent initiatives of AAJVS in sensitizing the settler population living close to the Tribal Reserve Area, the Chairman directed that this initiative should be continued. The Chairman observed that the population of Jarawa in the age bracket of 0-10 years needed careful health monitoring to ensure demographic progression. The Chairman requested the Expert members that based on the outcomes of the recent ethnographic studies, the welfare delivery mechanism should be fine-tuned.

Agenda No. 6 **Framing of policy for Shompen**

Shri Manish Chandi, Member & Dr Bishweshwar Das, Tribal Welfare Officer briefed the house on the status of the ongoing survey/ data collection in the Great Nicobar Island in respect of Shompen. Shri Manish Chandi agreed to submit by the end of May, 2014, the first draft of Shompen Policy for discussion among the members of Expert Group/ Research Advisory Board, ANTRI. The Chairman directed that the draft policy should be ready by July, 2014 for approval and onward submission to the Central Government.

After elaborate discussions, the house decided that the AAJVS should construct a Shompen Complex at 24km in North-South Road and to refurbish the Shompen Hut at 16km in East-West Road, in Great Nicobar Island, immediately to continue the welfare delivery activities. The bridges at 16km and 19km in East-West Road are also to be rebuilt. The East-West

Road upto 27km needs to be repaired urgently. The Chairman directed that the required funds be sanctioned and placed at the disposal of APWD for early execution.

Agenda No. 7 **Project circumnavigation of North Sentinel Island and well-being of the Sentinelese**

The house was appraised about the observations made during the circumnavigation of North sentinel Island carried out on 19.4.2014. Prof Visvajith Pandya & Shri Manish Chandi expressed that appropriate protocol should be laid down for the members of the team, which would circumnavigate the island in future in implementing the "Hands off and Eyes On" Policy. The Chairman directed that in order to ensure the protection and the well-being of the tribe, the circumnavigation should be carried out atleast once in three months, strictly following the protocol prepared by the Expert members/ Research Advisory Board (RAB), ANTRI and approved by the Administration.

Agenda No. 8 **Collaborative research study with ANTRI**

Dr Madhumita Mazumdar, the Special Invitee, submitted, as a Member of Curatorial Team for the ANTRI Museum, that a suitable land should be identified at the earliest by the Administration so as to prepare and finalize the concept plan and design for the Museum. The Chairman directed the Dy Commissioner, South Andaman District to immediately identify an appropriate govt land for the setting up of the ANTRI and the museum. The Chairman insisted that ANTRI should prepare a time frame for establishing the required infrastructure for the institute as well as the tribal museum at the identified location and as per the plan already conceptualized.

Prof Visvajith Pandya viewed that ANTRI should develop an interactive webpage, wherein, the articles on various research works carried out by ANTRI in-collaboration with AAJVS could be put in public domain. The Chairman requested Prof Visvajith Pandya to bring out a status report on the recent research led welfare policy initiatives of the Administration, AAJVS & ANTRI for dissemination among the national and international audiences.

The Chairman directed the Tribal Welfare Department to organize a Conference on 02.10.2014 at Port Blair to place in public domain the policy initiatives and welfare activities of the Administration and to solicit meaningful inputs from various stakeholders. The Chairman requested the RAB, ANTRI to work out the theme and various topics to be covered in the proposed conference.

Agenda No. 9 Any other items with the permission of the Chair

The Chairman directed that vision documents for the welfare of each of the PVTGs setting milestones for the ensuing decade should be prepared by the expert members of AAJVS and RAB of ANTRI for consideration and approval by the Administration.

The Head of Branch, AnSI, Port Blair agreed to take follow up action on the points discussed during the Chairman's visit to the AnSI, Museum at Port Blair.

Adhyaksha, Zilla Parishad, South Andaman District requested for payment of relief to the settlers whose belongings were reportedly taken away by Jarawa. The Chairman directed the Police Department to conduct field inquiry and send the report to the District Administration for consideration.

In appreciation of the good work done by Shri Karthikeyan, Sub Inspector of Police, who was functioning as Incharge, Jarawa Police Protection (JPP) at Jirkatang and had been transferred recently to PS Humfrygunj on promotion, the Chairman accepted the recommendation and instructed the Police Department to look into the request that Shri Karthikeyan be brought back to Jirkatang area considering the field requirement.

List of participants is appended.

01.5.14

(G. Theva Neethi Dhas)
Secretary (Tribal Welfare)

List of participants attended 44th General Body Meeting of AAJVS held on 28.4.2014 at Raj Niwas

1)	Lt General (Retd) A.K Singh, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N islands	Chairman
2)	Shri Mohanjeet singh Chief Secretary (i/c), A&N Administration	Member
3)	Ms Mariyam Bibi, Adhyaksha, Zilla Parishad South Andaman District	Member
4)	Shri DM Sukhla Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (i/c)	Member
5)	Shri Sanjay Singh Director General of Police (i/c)	Member
6)	Shri G. Theva Neethi Dhas Secretary (Tribal Welfare)	Member
7)	Shri D.N Singh Secretary-cum-Director of Education	Member
8)	Shri P. Jawahar Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman District	Member
9)	Shri Sanjay Kumar Deputy Commissioner, N&M Andaman District	Member
10)	Shri P.K Singh Chief Engineer, APWD	Member
11)	Dr S.K Paul Director of Health Services	Member
12)	Shri Som Naidu, Director of Tribal Welfare	Member
13)	Dr P Vijayachari Director, Regional Medical Research Centre	Member
14)	Dr M. Sasi Kumar Dy Director, AnSI, Port Blair	Member
15)	Dr C Murugan (Scientist-C) Officer In-charge, Botanical Survey of India	Member
16)	Dr C. Regunathan Officer In-charge, Zoological Survey of India	Member
17)	Shri Harendra Kumar Gaur Executive Secretary, AAJVS	Member
18)	Prof Visvajit Pandya, Expert Member	Expert Member
19)	Shri Manish Chandi Expert Member	Expert Member
20)	Prof T Subramanyam Naidu Pondicherry University	Special Invitee
21)	Dr Madhumita Mazumdar Associate Professor, Dhirubhai Ambani Institute, Gujarat	Special Invitee
22)	Shri Arun Gupta, Officer In-charge, ANTRI	Special Invitee
23)	Shri Pronob Sircar, Tribal Welfare Officer, AAJVS	Special Invitee
24)	Shri Bisweshwar Das, Tribal Welfare Officer, AAJVS	Special Invitee