

# The Sentinelese



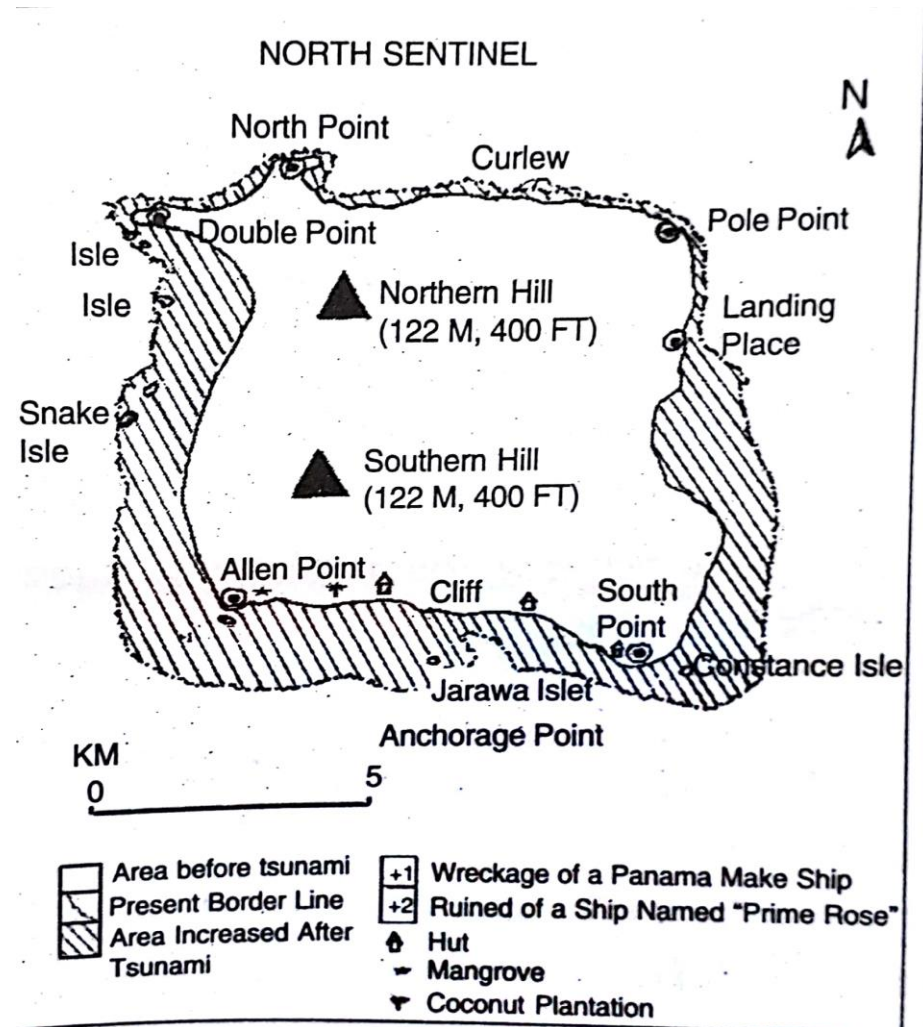
## The North Sentinel Island

- Located at south-west coast of South Andaman
- 60 km away from Port Blair
- 36 km from Wandoor
- Area- about 60 sq.km



# Impact of Tsunami

- The tectonic plate under the island lifted by 1-2 meteres.
- Coral reef under the water were exposed and became permanently dry land.
- Shallow lagoons vanished





British  
Administrators Who  
Visited the North  
Sentinel Island

- Homfray (1867)
- Portman (1880-1896)
- Captain Hobday (1886)
- Gilbert Rogers (1903)
- Bonington (1926)



## Contact Mission

- Contact Expedition between 1967-1994.
- Expedition in 2004-2005 and 2014



# Population

Year	Population
1911	117
1921	117
1931	50
1961	50
1971	82
1981	100
2001	39
2011	15



# Population

- The estimated population is 100 to 150
- 2014 visit- 16 people (male-7, female-6, Children- 3).
- 1 to 12.5 sq. km land area per individual
- North Sentinel Island- about 60 sq,km
- PAT Regulation, 1956
- Exclusion Zone of 3 km round the Island

# Perception of Self and Others

- The Great Andamanese, the Onge and the Jarawas.
- Goodwill Mission People
- The Poachers and the Fishermen
- The Great Andamanese - “Jurrahwallahs”
- Onge - “Chankvitay”/ “Chio-ta-kwo-kwe”
- Pathan-Jarawa
- The Great Andamanese Group and
- The Onge-Sentinelese-Jarawa Group



# Material Culture

## House and House Types

- Huts
- Communal Huts
- Temporary Encampments-  
Buttressed roots of trees



# Baskets, Bow and Arrows, Spear, Canoe, etc.



# Source of Iron

## Wrecks

- 1867- The Brig Nineveh
- 1970 - Craft- SMF 532
- 1977- MV Rusley
- 1981- MV Prime Rose



# Food

- Coconut and plantains?
- Wild boar.
- Roots and tubers and leaves.
- Honey, turtle, turtle eggs and different varieties of fish.



# Society and Culture

- Marriage, Kinship,  
and Family
- Territorial Divisions



# Impact of Policies

The Sentinelese are devoid of many critical problems faced by contemporary foragers living elsewhere like;

- Conflict with their neighbours,
- Shrinking land base,
- Insistence to subordinate themselves to state politics,
- Pressure to assimilate with the neighbouring dominant cultures, etc. thanks to the positioning of the community in an isolated island.

# Vulnerability

The Poachers & The Fishermen

Natural Calamities- Tsunami,  
Forest Fire, etc.



# Towards a Policy for Future?

- “Hunting the Jarawa”- Punitive Expeditions (1858- 1942)
- Goodwill Mission (1967- 1994)
- Policy of “Hands off”
- “Eyes On”
- What Should be the Policy to be adopted in Future???

