

Ms. Neha Bansal

Secretary Art and Culture

Secretariat,

Andaman and Nicobar

October 26, 2018

Subject: Naming Islands of the Andaman Archipelago

Dear Madam,

With reference to your news item published in The Daily Telegraph dated October 25, 2018 inviting suggestions to name the un-named islands of the Andaman Archipelago I would like to submit the following. As I have worked long with the tribes of the Andaman Islands (see my website www.andamanese.net) have published widely nationally and internationally on the languages of the Andamanese tribes as well as my experience of working on the indigenous languages of the North America and also because I have widely travelled in Australia and America---motivates me to give following suggestions.

1. To save and uphold the Indian heritage of this region which dates back to 75,000 years when the first humans migrated from Africa, we must keep indigenous names already used in the languages of the Andaman Islands. A list of these name are enclosed herewith. After a long and intensive research on the oldest language of the world, i.e. Great Andamanese we arrived at this list and is also available on my website mentioned above.
2. To give honour to the last speaker of the Great Andamanese language family, i.e. Bo language the lady called *Boa* (literal meaning 'land' or 'earth') who died in 2010, we may name one of the islands as **BOA**. As you perhaps are aware that she became overnight celebrity and was covered by not less than 40 international news media on her death. BBC and CNN both gave lot of importance to her. Pl log on to <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8498534.stm>
3. Another knowledgeable person of the Great Andamanese community who died in 2009 was Nao Jr, the person who helped me giving script to the language among other valuable inputs may be remembered by giving the name **NAO** to one of the Islands.
4. Names from Jarawa and Onge may also be earmarked for naming the Islands.
5. I have observed that government bodies of Australia, USA and Canada—all have kept the indigenous names of their aboriginal tribes for cities, hills, rivers, waterfalls, creeks etc. You may verify this but just opening the map of the region of North America.

Having said this, my humble request is to choose names from the old, indigenous languages of this Archipelago. Please feel free to contact me on my mobile number or email id given below for any discussion or suggestions.

Thanking you,

Sincerely yours,