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## **1. North Sentinel Island: The recent killing of an American shows India's internal security is porous**

- Why this case highlights India's poor internal security laws?
- Why is Andaman and Nicobhar chain being termed as critical asset for India's national security?
- What is known about the Sentinelese?
- How have they avoided contact for so long? Why did Indian government keep them isolated?
- Are Sentinelese legally protected by Indian government?
- Will anyone be charged over the American's death?

### **GS paper 3 ( Internal Security )**

**In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.**

**The above article has been retrieved from:**

Brahma Chellaney . ( 2018, November , 27). The John Chau episode shows India's internal security is porous. Hindustan Times. Retrieved from <https://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/the-john-chau-episode-shows-india-s-internal-security-is-porous/story-LoMAwPpCi7kprfbYa2ILPM.html>

**What is the context about?**

- ❑ An American self-styled adventurer and Christian missionary, John Allen Chau, has been killed and buried by a tribe of hunter-gatherers on a remote island in the Indian Ocean where he had gone to proselytise.
- ❑ The unlawful, and fatal, expedition of a young American evangelist adventurer to a remote island has highlighted India's lax internal security controls and the threat to endangered indigenous communities from interlopers.

### Why this case highlights India's poor internal security laws?

- ❑ Chau, instead of applying for a missionary visa, abused India's e-visa on arrival system for tourists by hiding his real purpose.
- ❑ He neither registered with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office nor sought the mandatory permission under the separate aborigine and forest protection laws before undertaking a mission he plotted through previous A&N visits.
- ❑ The ease with which he broke Indian laws and evaded onshore and offshore checks is a sad commentary on India's internal security.

### Why is Andaman and Nicobar chain being termed as critical asset for India's national security?

- ❑ Located just northwest of the Malacca Strait, the archipelago offers India control of a chokepoint that is China's greatest maritime vulnerability.

- ❑ A&N is also home to some of the world's most endangered tribes.
- ❑ After the ravages of British colonial rule, when the archipelago's aboriginal communities were systematically decimated, only some tribes still survive. But their member numbers are dwindling.
- ❑ For example, the Jarawas, one of the first tribes to fall prey to British excesses, are vanishing, in an example of how contact with outsiders can doom an indigenous community. Thus the Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) chain is a critical asset for India's national security.

### **What is known about the Sentinelese?**

- ❑ They are defined as an "uncontacted people" — a group which lives without significant contact with the greater world.
- ❑ Their home on North Sentinel Island, in the Indian Ocean, is just under 60 square kilometres and is 1,200km from the Indian mainland.
- ❑ The island has belonged to India since 1947, but is recognised as a sovereign state.
- ❑ Rough estimates have put the Sentinelese population at between 50 and 150, and they have their own language which is not spoken by any outsiders, and is unrelated to those on surrounding islands.

- ❑ They live a hunter-gatherer lifestyle and have attacked people who have visited the island in the past.

### **How have they avoided contact for so long? Why did Indian government keep them isolated?**

- ❑ The Indian Government is protective of the Sentinelese and has respected their wishes to be left alone.
- ❑ It is illegal to get within 3 nautical miles of the island and in 2017, the Indian Government introduced laws which forbid taking photographs or making videos of the Andaman tribes.
- ❑ Part of the reason for keeping them isolated is a lack of genetic immunity to common diseases like influenza and measles.

### **Did Indian government ever interfere the affairs of Sentinelese?**

- ❑ Since 1996, the Indian government has adopted a policy of non-interference vis-à-vis the Sentinelese. However, earlier attempts to reach out to them had met with limited success.
- ❑ According to news agency IANS, in January 1991, the tribe established its first friendly contact with the outside world for 23 minutes.
- ❑ A 13-member team lead by anthropologist S.A. Awradhi interacted with the tribes through gestures. "The contact was made after years of safe distance observations and

sending gifts," said an official on the condition of anonymity.

### **Are Sentinelese legally protected by Indian government?**

- ❑ The Sentinelese are recognised as a Scheduled Tribe by the government, and in matters of governance, function autonomously. However, according to some reports, the North Sentinel Island was among 29 Andaman & Nicobar Islands recently excluded from the ambit of the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime until December 31, 2022.
- ❑ The lifting of the regime would enable foreigners (barring nationals of select countries) to approach the island, subject to certain conditions, without permission from authorities.
- ❑ If this is true, the government will need to determine whether the lifting of RAP had a role to play in Chau's decision to venture to the North Sentinel Island.

### **Will anyone be charged over the American's death?**

Indian police have charged the seven fishermen who took Mr Chau to North Sentinel Island, but are not able to charge any of the tribespeople given the island's sovereignty.