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PUC is a paper clipping published in "The Hindu" of July 20, 2014 under the caption - NGO petitions against Jarawa tourism in the Andamans. It has brought out certain issues like travelling of hordes of tourists through ATR, statement by BJP MP from A & N Islands Constituency about widening of ATR for tourism, slow pace of development of alternate sea route etc. The issues are discussed point-wise, as under:-

**(1) Closure of Andaman Trunk Road ordered by the Supreme Court**

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The one man Commission viz. Professor Sekhar Singh Commission appointed by the Hon'ble Apex Court made various recommendations including closure of ATR passing through the Jarawa reserve on the ground that it badly affected the protection of the Jarawas. The Hon'ble Apex Court passed Orders on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2002 accepting those recommendations, but prima facie no specific order was passed in respect of closure of ATR. Nonetheless the A & N Administration filed an affidavit in the Hon'ble Apex Court seeking review of its direction on ATR in April, 2003 in view of the fact that the ATR is a lifeline and means for transporting materials required for livelihood of large settlers population living on other side of Jarawa reserve, i.e. Middle and North Andaman. Since then the matter is under subjudice. There is no question of closure of ATR until the Hon'ble Apex Court delivers its verdict, so the statement of Survival International through the news item published in "The Hindu" is factually incorrect.

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In the meanwhile, the Jarawa Policy 2004 framed and notified by the Central Govt in the wake of direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta in a PIL raising the issue of protection of the Jarawa tribe is being implemented. The Jarawa Policy, among other things, provides regulation of traffic on ATR cutting across the Jarawa reserve only in restricted hours in convoy to avoid any sort of interaction of travelers with the Jarawas and side-by-side strengthening facilities of sea travel to encourage travel by sea. Accordingly convoy system for movement of traffic on ATR between Jirkatang and Middle Strait has been operated between 0600 hrs to 500 hrs daily since May, 2009 under proper Police escort in order to prevent interaction of non-tribals with the Jarawas. The Hon'ble Apex Court in its judgement/Order dated 5.3.2014 in SLP No. 12125/2010 has also upheld the convoy system and directed to strictly implement it.