

growing and the destination to which the tourists are headed is also within the impugned Buffer Zone. The rationale given by the Petitioner for leaving open the Limestone Caves and Mud Volcano in the Buffer Zone to tourist traffic is to promote 'nature based tourism' and that there was no permanent facility there and only daytime access at these sites is immaterial, because the alleged principle is one of contact with the Jarawa or of no contact with the Jarawa, irrespective of the timing of contact or the location/structure under which it may happen. Further, as the Petitioner is apparently of the view that regulated activities are permissible in the Andaman Trunk Road that traverses through the Reserve and in other locations within the impugned Buffer Zone, then the impugned notification and related closure orders to the Respondent appear excessive as the need of the day would then be regulation of all such activities (including resorts) and not closure.

12. Thus the main area where daily interface occurs between Jarawa and non-tribal persons is on the Andaman Trunk Road itself and the petitioner has not even adverted to the same and/or taken steps to stop this interface keeping in mind the object of notification. It is also admitted by the Petitioners that the Jarawa tribals do sometimes cross over into Baratang, and many shops, eateries, tourist facilities such as tour boats etc operate at the point of landing for a Jarawa onto Baratang (Nilambur Jetty) and no action is being sought to be taken by the Petitioner towards closure of any of these businesses despite the

