

behalf of the Petitioner. The Hon'ble Court directed that all commercial and tourist establishments in the buffer zone be closed down, and a statement be made by counsel for the Petitioner on the next date of hearing, certifying that this had been done.

9. The Petitioner herein seeks leave and liberty to place on record certain facts pertaining to the lay of the land in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the areas occupied by the Jarawa Tribe, and the pockets of settlements that exist in the South Andaman, Baratang and Middle Andaman Islands – and the manner in which these settlers came to reside in these areas. The present affidavit also seeks to describe the kinds of establishments and activities that exist in the buffer zone as presently notified, and further puts forward the interpretation accorded to the words “commercial” and “tourist” as contained in the notification dated 30.10.2007.
10. The Andaman & Nicobar Islands is an archipelago (group of islands) of 572 islands, of which around 37 are inhabited islands. The main inhabited islands in Andaman Group are South Andaman (which includes Port Blair municipality), Middle Andaman, North Andaman, Baratang, Neil Island, Havelock Island and Little Andaman. Amongst these islands, North Andaman, Middle Andaman, Baratang and South Andaman are separated by very narrow creeks. The Andaman Trunk Road (which was constructed in the 1970s) starts at the southern point of South Andaman and goes through each of these islands up till a northern point in North