

(on 14.3.2013)

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Hon'ble Lt. Governor convened a meeting today at Raj Niwas to discuss the fall out of the judgment dated 5/3/2013 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP (C) 12125/2010. The following Officers attended the meeting namely:

1. Chief Secretary
2. DGP In-charge
3. Commissioner-cum-Secretary (IPT & Transport)
4. Secretary (Tribal Welfare/Law)
5. Inspector General of Police (L & O)
6. Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman District
7. Superintendent of Police, South Andaman District

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At the outset, the undersigned was asked to briefly explain the import of Hon'ble Supreme Court's latest judgment and accordingly I briefed Hon'ble Lt. Governor on the advice rendered by Assistant Solicitor General, Shri Paras Kuhad who appeared in the Court on behalf of the Administration. (Col.(Retd) R. Balasubramanian, our Standing Counsel assured to send the written advice shortly). Since the Hon'ble Supreme Court has finally disposed of the matter, the interim orders stood vacated. However, considering the position that Hon'ble Supreme Court has reposed faith on the Administration and directed strict implementation of the PAT (Amendment) Regulation, 2012 and also the order issued there under (i.e new Buffer Zone notification dated 17/01/2013), the Administration must ensure that the traffic in the ATR should be continued to be regulated carefully for all the persons travelling namely Government Officials, Settlers, Providers of goods and services and other visitors. This will be in tune with the stated Jarawa Policy with reference to ATR.

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The following points emerged in the meeting namely :

1. Hon'ble Lt. Governor directed that the Department of Information & Publicity must issue a Press Release educating the general public about the scope of the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the need to continue to regulate ATR carefully.
2. The Tour Operators, the owners, the taxi drivers, the passengers and others should be sensitized about their responsibility in ensuring that no violation of regulations/instructions takes place in ATR, including their liability in this regard. **(Action : Transport and Police Department)**
3. The Middle Strait Jetty area and the road berms should be got cleaned up by Forest Department/Panchayat/PMB in their respective areas to avoid any unwholesome sight. Deputy Commissioner (N & MA) may coordinate to ensure cleanliness in the area.
4. A separate format may be prescribed for the "other visitors", with suitable undertaking/declaration.