

4

PRESS RELEASE

It may be recalled that the Office bearers of A&N Tourist Vehicle Drivers Association met the Hon'ble Lt. Governor on 31.01.2013 and placed their grievances consequent to the banning of use of Andaman Trunk Road for tourists by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. On the advise of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, a meeting was held today (01/02/2013) under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary with the Senior Officers of the Administration. (i) It has been decided to keep all the tourist destinations in and around Port Blair, opened, on all days including Mondays, namely, museums of Navy and Anthropological Survey of India, Aquarium of Fisheries Department, Science Centre, Cellular Jail, Sagarika, Interpretation Centre at Wandoor and facility at Jollybuoy. (ii) The Forest Department will consider opening of new tourist destinations like Mohwa Dera and Cinque Island so as to provide livelihood option to the boat operators of Baratang Island. (iii) The frequency of boat services to destinations like Rangat, Neil Island, Long Island and Havelock Island from Port Blair will be increased shortly. (iv) The Tourism department will optimise the seating capacity of the Light & Sound shows at Cellular Jail which is a popular tourist destination. (v) The Lead Bank Manger, State Bank of India, Port Blair was asked to consider appropriate financial relief to the Taxi owners, Boat owners and petty shop keepers, who availed loan. The Administration is taking all steps to address the ^{Concerns} livelihood of the islanders.

Draft Approved by CS

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01/2/13

Du (P.T.)

Release the Press
Release as per letter

1/2/2013
Di 2013 (P.T.)