

PRESS RELEASE

The Special Leave Petition bearing No. 12125 of 2010, relating to the matter of Buffer Zone came up for hearing before the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 21st January, 2013. The revised Buffer Zone Notification issued by the A&N Administration dated 17.01.2013, excluding the settlement villages from 5 km. radius of Buffer Zone was taken on record by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. After hearing the submissions made on behalf of the A&N Administration by Shri Paras Kuhad, Addl. Solicitor General of India and other Senior Lawyers, the Hon'ble Court was pleased to direct that the Andaman Trunk Road could be used by the people residing in the settlement villages, Govt. Officials and other bonafide road users including those who transport goods and services to the settlement villages in the North and Middle Andaman District. However, Hon'ble Court directed that till the next date of hearing, no tourists should use the Andaman Trunk Road. The Hon'ble Court was pleased to post the matter for further hearing on 26th February, 2013. The formal order of Hon'ble Court is awaited.

The above direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court should be implemented both in letter and in spirit. Guidelines are being issued to the Govt. Departments concerned separately. All the tourists are advised to abide by the court directions. The Tour Operators and others are also advised not to take any tourist through Andaman Trunk Road, failing which legal action will be taken as per Law.

23