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Visit of ATR on 26/01/2013

After receiving the internal note issued by Directorate of Tribal Welfare vide letter No. 1-752/2009-TW/101 dtd. 24/01/2013, steps were taken to enforce the Hon'ble Supreme Court order.

To prevent the use of ATR by tourists as per Court Order, SP(D)S/A was directed to instruct SHOs of PS Pahargaon, Humfrigungj and Bambooflat to deployed police picket for checking of vehicles and passengers on the important points on the ATR leading to Out Post Jirkatang. Accordingly, police pickets were deployed at Joda Kalan near Sippighat under PS Pahargaon with the strength of 1-SI, 2- PC, and 5 -IRBN Constables for checking of vehicles. Another strong picket was deployed at Dhanikhari Junction under PS Humfrigungj with the strength of 1-SI, 1-HC, 4-PC and 6- IRBN Constables. Both the pickets started functioning since 0300 hrs on 26/01/2013. The undersigned alongwith Shri M. S. Randhawa, SP(D)S/A personally briefed and checked the staff on both the pickets at around 0530 hrs. They were instructed to check all the vehicles plying on ATR to ensure that vehicles carrying tourist are not allowed to use ATR passing through Jarawa Reserve Area. They were also instructed to check STS buses and other private vehicles and to ensure that no tourist is allowed to use ATR passing through Jarawa Reserve Area. However, it was emphasised that people residing in the settlement villages of North & Middle Andaman and other bonafide road users are allowed to use the ATR after ascertaining their identities.

Similarly checking team consisting of 1-ASI, 1-HC and 3-PC under the supervision of Shri N.K. Meena, SDPO Bambooflat was deployed at OP Jirkatang. In the first convoy at 0600 hrs on 26/01/2013, two private contract carriage vehicles were returned from this Out Post for not having proper permit. A GD entry No. 19 dated 26/01/2013 has been made in this regard at OP Jirkatang.

At police picket Joda Kalan, four vehicles carrying tourists were stopped and not allowed to use ATR passing Jarawa Reserve Area in view of Court Order.

At police picket Dhanikhari Junction, during checking of one of the STS bus, two tourists who wanted to visit Baratang were told about the Court Order and were not allowed to use ATR. The pickets continued checking till 1430 hrs on 26/01/2013.