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as SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989. This has created a deterrent effect and intrusion into the Jarawa areas have reduced considerably in recent times. At the same time some Jarawas in small groups regularly come out of the Reserve and interact with the nearby settlements such as Tirur in South Andaman. Such contact is on the increase, with Jarawas occasionally adopting custom of local villages wearing clothes/imbibing tobacco products etc.

In order to further protect the Jarawas from the harmful effects of exposure and contact with the outside world, an area up to 5 Kms around the Jarawa Tribal Reserve on the land ward side has been declared as a Buffer Zone by the A&N Administration in October 2007, prohibiting any commercial and tourism activities in this zone, effectively increasing the area of Jarawa reserve substantially. Many local villages, and even the M.P has objected to this as hurting the economic interests of the settlers. This order has been challenged on technical ground and is presently sub-judice in the Apex Court. To strengthen the PAT Regulation, it is proposed to give additional power to the Administrator to declare any area which is adjacent to the Reserve as Buffer Zone to regulate unwanted developmental activities and to provide penalty for violation of "Buffer Zone" similar to that provided for "Reserve Area" under Section 8 of the PAT Regulation. The proposal for amendment of PAT Regulation has been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs for approval in July 2010.

The Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) is the life line between Port Blair in South Andaman and Baratang, Middle & North Andaman islands, wherein approximately 30 % population of the islands resides. Essential commodities, building materials etc are transported to these islands through ATR besides the regular passenger traffic. The ATR is also essential from the point of view of security of this Union Territory, as well as providing access for immediate response in all weather conditions, in case of a natural disaster or calamity. The islands, which are affected by strong winds and cyclonic storms during the main South-West monsoon as well as during retreating North-East monsoon, the