

1. Pursuant to the meeting held on 26.08.2011 under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, the convoy system regulated as per Circular dated 07.05.2009 was revisited and the following decisions were taken which were subsequently notified vide Circular dated 13.09.2011:

- a) The permits to enter from Jirkatang to Middle Strati and vice-versa at ATR shall be restricted in 4 convoys instead of present 8 convoys to and fro between Jirkatang and Middle Strait.
- b) The Police Department shall provide escort on each convoy at the front, back and middle.
- c) Commuters travelling the ATR shall be allowed to return back to Port Blair or to other side on the same day.
- d) Permit fees presently being charged by the Police Department for providing escort on shall be dispensed with.
- e) Strict action against any vehicle violating the rules of the convoys movement will be taken, which for serious cases may be dealt by impounding of the vehicle under appropriate law/ regulation.

In the meantime, the Asst. Secretary (GA), A&N Administration had issued an Order No.207 dated 18.01.2012 stating that all Govt. vehicles proceedings to North & Middle Andaman to Port Blair and vice versa will follow regular convoy. Under no circumstances will the Govt. vehicles be allowed to proceed outside of convoy timing. The said Administration's Order dated 18.01.2012 was partially modified vide Order No.432 dated 4.10.2012 in which the DC(North & Middle Andaman District) was permitted to use his official vehicle outside convoy timings while crossing the tribal reserve area on emergency like law & order situation and natural calamities etc. However, later on 14.03.2013, again an advisory on usage of convoy by the DC(North & Middle Andaman District) was issued in which it was categorically stated that *"there should not be any dilution of convoy system on ATR. As far as Dy. Commissioner, North & Middle Andaman is concerned he was allowed access of ATR beyond convoy times only for emergency situation like law & order, natural calamities. Therefore, the Dy. Commissioner, North & Middle Andaman District will also observe convoy timing on ATR and with exception during emergency situation only which should be logged each time at entry point."*

Apart from the above, no further amendments/ revisions has been done in the order of convoy system.

However, the Police Department vide letter No. dated had requested the Administration to issue clarification/ direction in regard to the regulating the convoy between Jirkatang to Middle Strait.

- a) In case of transportation of dead bodies, there is no special concession for transportation like medical emergency.
- b) Further, there is also no standing instruction issued in the convoy system order, which provides exemption to Ambulance carrying serious referral patients to GB Pant Hospitals from North & Middle Andaman District. The Police Department is following the same based on the comprehensive note circulated by this Directorate vide letter No.1-836/2012-TW/1017 dated 5.11.2013.
- c) Further, there is also no instruction available in the convoy system order issued by the Administration on time to time basis, which provides any action, in the event of breakdown of

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