

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.

Now, the Police Department is facing difficulties in implementing the Convoy system due to the following reasons:-

- 1) In case of transportation of dead bodies, there is no special concession for transportation like medical emergency
- 2) 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 (Page 107-109/c).
- 3) 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 any vehicle while crossing Jarawa Reserve Area in the convoy system.

Further, the issue related to non-compliance of convoy system from Prolojjig in Middle Andaman was also discussed in the 45th General Body Meeting of AAJVS held on 22.6.2015 (Page 205-209/c) under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Lt Governor, A&N Administration, in which, as per Agenda No. 4 (A) (vii) the H'LG has asked the DGP that the night bus and others in convoys system be permitted to ply in the stretch with proper Police escort and Police Department should have a proper protocol in place so that the rules were not violated.

The Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) is having a length of 333 Km and a part of it, is passing through Jarawa Reserve in two small segments together having an extent of 56 Km. The ATR is being used by settlers numbering about 1.5 Lac, settled in North and Middle Andaman Islands. The segment of ATR passing through a portion of Jarawa Reserve is also used by Eco Tourists, to visit Mud Volcano and Lime Stone Cave situated at Baratang Island. The tourist population which uses this segment of ATR roughly amounts to 10% of the total ATR users. The ATR is the only land route available to transport materials required for the livelihood of settlers living in North and Middle Andaman Islands. Most of the settlement villages are not directly connected to coast line and therefore the ATR has become the only lifeline available for the settlers.

On the directions of the Hon'ble Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court in a PIL (WP No. 048 of 1999), the Central Government notified Jarawa Policy, 2004 vide Andaman and Nicobar Gazette Notification No. 210 dated 21.12.2004 and the same is being implemented strictly to ensure protection and welfare of Jarawas. The policy mandates the A&N Administration to protect and secure Jarawas, who are the only human heritage available in the world. The notified Jarawa Policy envisaged on ATR regulation as indicated below: -

- (a) Traffic on Andaman Trunk Road will be regulated strictly limiting the traffic to the essential purposes of public transport, supplies and emergency evacuation of patients and to ensure that it is an innocent and harmless passage and not a source of trouble to Jarawas.
- (b) Vehicles on Andaman Trunk Road will be allowed to move only in restricted hours and in convoy under notified speed limit to avert

170

171

172

173

174