

Andaman Trunk Road passing through the Jarawa Reserve is not totally closed giving due justification thereof. However [protection of the interest of the Jarawa Tribe is also, no doubt, need of the hour. [With large number of conveyes (8 Nos.) earlier allowed, it was difficult to regulate traffic in the stretch of ATR between Jirkatang and Middle Strait thereby leaving ample scope to the tourists to indulge in undesirable interaction with Jarawas. As such the number of conveyes has been reduced to four.]

Practically reduction in number of conveyes has not resulted in any major inconvenience to the commuter excepting that now the conveyes have larger number of vehicles thereby slightly increasing the time taken for the journey between Jirkatang and Middle Strait. On the other hand the traffic is so well regulated that the scope of undesirable interaction with Jarawas by the travelers/tourists is minimized almost to a zero degree. Moreover, besides reducing the number of conveyes the administration has taken a major decision benefitting every traveler to Baratang and beyond that now there is no "fee" being levied on the vehicles and the vehicles are also allowed to return to Port Blair on the same day. With this the burden on the vehicle ferries crossing the vehicles between Middle Strait and Nilambur is also absolutely eased out and now there is no stagnation/enforced waiting at Middle Strait.

In the light of the facts and position as explained above there is no scope of increasing the convoys anymore and therefore, cooperation of one and all would be highly solicited in the interest of protection and welfare of Jarawa Tribe, which is un-doubtly the most prestigious human heritage of Andaman and Nicobar Islands .

Yours faithfully,

(Ajai Sexana)
Principal Secretary (TW)