

heritage of A & N Islands is also need of the hour. With large number of convoys (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 conveys has been reduced to four.

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Practically reduction in number of conveys has not resulted in any major inconvenience to the commuter excepting that now the conveys 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 *now better* 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 conveys 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. *for vehicles going to Middle and North Andamans.*

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-doubtedly the most prestigious human heritage of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. *as per the Policy guidelines.*

Yours faithfully,

(SOM NAIDU)
Director (TW)