

Submitted:-

The meeting of the State Transport Authority was held on 24.12.2021 at 10.30 am in the Chamber of Secretary (Transport)/ Chairman (STA), A & N Administration.

The following were present:

1. Shri. G. Sudhakar, Secretary (Transport): Chairman
2. Dr. Aom Dhole, Director of Transport : Member
3. Shri Ankit Chauhan, IPS, SP (Traffic) : Member
4. Shri. Abhishek Gupta, Dy. SP (Traffic) : Representative of DIGP (L&O)
5. Shri. Hari Kallikkat, ADM (SA) : Representative of DC, SA
6. Shri. M. Rajan, OS (IP&T) : Representative of Director (Tourism) Special Invitee

At the outset, the Chairman, STA welcomed all those present in the meeting.

The following agenda points came up for discussion in the STA:

1. Review of the system of issuing NOC before permits:

The system for issuance of NOC has been in practice since 2007 when it was functioning under the DC office, South Andaman. The system continued even after the activities of STA was transferred to Transport Department in the year 2008. Initially, NOC was made essential by STA for Contract Carriage Permits, Auto Rickshaw Permits and Stage Carriage Permits. For Goods Carriage Permits, the vehicle owners used to purchase the vehicle first, register it and then applied for permits which were considered by STA. Thereafter, from the year 2019 onwards, issuance of NOC for registering all vehicles including goods vehicles as commercial vehicles prior to issuance of permit was mandated. Since then, the practice of issuing NOC prior to issuing permits is being continued.

It is also to mention that Hon'ble Court has set aside the order making NOC mandatory for registration of commercial vehicles in the year 2020. Since then, Commercial vehicles whenever presented for registration are registered by the Motor Vehicle Department without NOC. However, these commercial vehicles cannot ply till a permit is granted to these vehicles by STA.

Issuance of NOC as a prerequisite for route permit is not only a cumbersome procedure but also makes the applicants wait for long uncertain period sometimes for the permit causing hardship to the applicants. At the same time, some applicants insist for NOC for availing financial assistance/loan from banks. It is also observed that, some vehicle owners, operate the vehicles for commercial use after registering without waiting for the permit and sometimes without

applying for permit but this can be checked through proper enforcement.

Decision taken:-

STA was informed that a committee has been constituted by the Secretary (Transport) vide Order No. 578 dated 15.12.2021 to formulate a full proof mechanism for issuance of permits/NOCs etc. in accordance with the latest procedures/guidelines and the provisions of MV Act and Rules.

It has been decided to review the system on receipt of the report from the committee in order to simplify the procedure of issuance of permits as per the provisions of MV Act/ Rules and to make it less cumbersome for the citizen . As of now the applications for issuance of NOC prior to grant of permit may be recieved from the applicants.

Colour Coding of Contract Carriage Vehicles of A & N Islands

As of now, STA is in receipt of 201 applications for issuance of Contract Carriage in respect of the following jurisdiction:

Sl. No	REGION/ ROUTE	No. of Applications
1	North, Middle & South Andaman	146 (93 willing and complete in all respect)
2	South Andaman	09(07 willing and complete in all respect)
3	North & Middle Andaman	05(04 willing and complete in all respect)
4	L Andaman	01
5	Swaraj Dweep	12
6	Shaheed Dweep	28
7	Nicobar	-
8	Campbell Bay	-
TOTAL		201

A proposal for the colour coding for contract carriage vehicles has been initiated by the Administration recently. It mentions about the implementation strategy by way of issuance of a notification for amending the A & N Motor Vehicle Rules, 2006. The draft notification provides for the following methodology for its implementation:-

1. That all new permits shall be issued only to the vehicles complying with the approved colour pattern by the State Transport Authority.
2. Existing vehicles shall have to comply with the approved colour pattern within 03 months from the date of publication of the final Notification in the official gazette.

Decision taken:-

STA was informed that the proposal for amendment in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Motor Vehicle Rules, 2006 for

incorporating the colour coding of contract carriage vehicles has been initiated and once it gets the approval of Hon'ble LG, draft notification would be published. STA recommends the colour coding of contract carriages as this would not only bring in uniformity, discipline etc but also at the same time visitors would also find the cab service user friendly. Accordingly, the issuance of contract carriage permits would be linked with the provisions of that Notification for fresh as well as existing contract carriage vehicles.

1. Grant of NOC/Permit:

STA is in receipt of following applications for grant of NOC for goods carriage permit & auto rickshaw permits as detailed below:-

S No.	Jurisdiction applied for	Goods Permit	Auto rickshaw permit
1	North, Middle & South Andaman	129(Parking Verified for 80 applications)	Permit for NMS is not issued for Autorickshaw
2	South Andaman	19(Parking Verified for 16 applications)	39 (Parking Verified for 25 applications)
3	North & Middle Andaman	03(Parking Verified for 01 application)	06(Parking Verified for 03 Applications)
4	Little Andaman	01(Parking not Verified)	02(Parking Verified for 01Application)
5	Swaraj Dweep	-	-
6	Shaheed Dweep	-	-
7	Nicobar	03(Parking Verified)	-
8	Campbell Bay	01(Parking not Verified)	-
TOTAL		156	47

Decision taken:-

STA decided that NOC may be issued to Goods Carriage permit and Autorickshaw permits to the above applicants subject to fulfilling all the conditions and guidelines fixed by the STA.

Chairman, STA further directed to convene the meeting of STA with all details once every month. In case the meeting could not be convened in a month for any administrative reasons, then STA authorizes Director (Transport) to grant NOC/ permit to all the eligible applicants so as to ensure that applicants are not put to any hardship owing to delay in the convening of meeting. It was further directed that STA should be apprised about all the cases of permits granted during this period in the next meeting.

2. STAGE CARRIAGE BUSES

a. Issue of NOC for new routes:

STA has received applications for new permits to operate air conditioned buses as Local Stage carriages. The details are mentioned below:

S. No.	Name of the applicant	Route applied for	Existing Stage Carriage permits	Remarks
1.	M/s A & N Logistics Pvt. Ltd. 3 rd Floor DMK Building, Phoenix Bay, Port Blair	04 BS VI AC Bus of 50 passengers capacity . 1. Sippighat to Chatham Jetty 2. Mohapura Bus stand to Chidiyatapu	NIL	As of now 02 Nos. of Stage Carriage non AC private buses are plying in the route mentioned at Sl.No.2
2.	Shri Sundhar Ku.T, R/o Jodakilan, Teylerabad	06 BS VI AC Bus of 50 passengers capacity 1. Mohanpura Bus Stand to Brookshabad 2. Brookshabad to G B Pant Hospita 3. Mohanpura Bus Stand to Tirur	NIL	The route mentioned at Sl. No. 1, total 05 private buses (Non AC) are plying. Total 03 buses (Non AC) are plying in the second route and no private bus is plying in the route mentioned at Sl. No. 3
3.	M S Laxman, R/o Netaji Nagar, Sippighat	04 BSVI AC Bus of 50 passengers capacity 1. Sippighat to G B Pant Hospital 2. Sippighat to Mohanpura Bus Stand	NIL	01 bus (non AC) is plying in the route mentioned at Sl.No. 1. 04 Non AC buses are plying in the route mentioned at Sl.No. 2
4.	Tirupathi R/o Netaji Nagar Sippighat	04 BSVI AC Bus of 50 passengers capacity 1. Mohanpura Bus Stand to Ferrargunj 2. Ferrargunj to G B Pant Hospital	NIL	01 Non AC private bus is plying the route mentioned at Sl.No. 1 And no private bus is plying in the route mentioned at Sl.No.2
5.	Shri Selva Kumar T R/o Sippighat Port Blair	04 BSVI AC Bus of 50 passengers capacity 1. Mohanpura Bus Stand to Wandoor 2. G B Pant Hospital to Wandoor		05 private buses are plying in the route mentioned at Sl.No.1 out of which 02 Nos. of buses are plying from Mohanpura via G B Pant Hospital to Wandoor.

Decision taken:-

STA observed that stage carriage plays an important role in shaping the mobility pattern of every State/ UT/ City and there is a need to upgrade the quality of public transport. However in order to ensure that public transport is operated in an organised manner, it has been decided to carry out route rationalization before issuance of NOC for new routes. A committee has been constituted by the Secretary (Transport) vide Order No. 578 dated 15.12.2021 for this purpose.

STA was informed that as on this date, a total of 140 stage carriage bus permits are issued by STA and out of this 27 permits have expired prior to imposition of lockdown in 2020 and they have neither applied for renewal of permit nor fitness. Hence it was decided to issue notice to the permit owners whose permit validity has expired as to why it should not be cancelled. Further the instant applicants may be advised to apply in lieu of the cancelled route permits in the first instance.

b. Change of route applied by existing stage carriage permit holders:

S. No.	Name of the applicant & Bus Details	Existing Route	Change sought for
1.	AN01/A-7639 Shri S Elamaran, S/o R Selva Nayagam, R/o Garacharma	Chatham to New Pahargaon via Old Dhanvantri, Middle Point, Bus stand, Marina park and Nayagaon.	1. Mohanpura Bus Stand to Tushnabad and vice versa. 2. Mohapura Bus stand to Ferrargunj & Vice versa.

Specifically no private bus is plying upto said route as requested by the applicant at Sl.No.1 and most of the buses covers this route as a medium to reach other destination route.

As for the route requested by the applicant at Sl. No. 2, only 01 private bus is plying in the said route.

S. No.	Name of the applicant & Bus Details	Existing Route	Change sought for
1.	AN01/A-6073 Shri Antony, S/o R Selva Nayagam, R/o Garacharma	Chatham to Shadipur via Aberdeen Bazaar	Chatham – Garacharama – Sippighat – Teylarabad – Bimblitan – Garacharama – Chatham.

No private operates on the requested route as on date but STS bus do operate on this route.

Decision taken:-

STA observed that while considering any request for change of route, the present situation, nature of the existing route, requirement of the commuters travelling on that route, viability for the permit owner etc. needs to be taken into account. Hence it was decided not to consider the existing request of the applicants for change of route till a complete analysis is carried out.

3. Consideration of PBMC Parking for Smti. Simran Bibi:-

A request from Smti Simran Bibi, R/o Nayagaon was received to issue her PCC (Auto) permit by considering the paid parking issued by contractor managing the PBMC parking area.

As per the guidelines of STA Auto rickshaw permits are issued only to an unemployed person possessing a three wheeler driving license below 60 years of age and possessing Islander card/ local certificate. In the case of Smti. Simran Bibi, she was not having Islander card but possessing three wheeler driving license.

As of now only three to four ladies are driving autorickshaws in Port Blair. Accordingly as a special case, the Chairperson, STA approved the issuance of NOC to purchase and register autorickshaw to Smti. Simran Bibi. She then registered the autorickshaw and applied for regular permit along with registration certificate. One of the conditions for issuance of permit/ NOC is the production of parking area details. At the time of grant of NOC, she produced the documents of PBMC parking area given by the contractor who was authorised to collect parking fees by PBMC which was valid for one year. Later STA decided not to entertain the permission letter given by the contractor for parking area as it was being misused. Accordingly, Smti. Simran Bibi was advised to produce another parking area for the autorickshaw so that permit can be issue but she could not produce the parking area. Now she is requesting to issue permit for the same autorickshaw.

The STA in its meeting held on 15.09.2021 had examined the case and decided that furnishing of parking area details is one of the mandatory conditions for obtaining Autorickshaw permit and she may be directed accordingly.

But Smti. Simran Bibi has once again placed a request to consider the paid parking of PBMC as she is not able to ply the Autorickshaw which she has already purchased after obtaining NOC from STA.

Decision taken:-

STA observed that NOC for auto rickshaw has already been granted to the applicant for purchase of auto rickshaw by STA and she has procured and registered the auto rickshaw. Moreover the applicant being a lady is desirous of plying the auto rickshaw on her own. Hence STA decided to consider the request of Smti. Simran Bibi for issuance of auto rickshaw permit with the condition that she would not park the vehicle on the roadside. She may use the paid parking for parking her autorickshaw.

4. Grant permission for purchase of 2 wheeler under Rent a Motorcycle Scheme:

STA has been receiving many applications for grant of License under Rent a Motor Cycle Scheme for renting out two wheelers mainly for the visiting tourists. This scheme is very popular among the tourists in the places like Swaraj Dweep, Shaheed Dweep and Port Blair etc. STA has not issued fresh licenses recently as electric vehicles are being promoted for reducing automotive pollution.

a. Replacement of existing vehicles:

STA is in receipt of application from M/s Karishma Tours and Travels for replacement of 12 two wheelers as the Firm has stated that the vehicles have become old and not suitable for renting out. The Firm further stated that as of now electric two wheelers are not available in Port Blair and they require two wheelers for replacing the old two wheelers covered under the License immediately. The license granted to M/s karishma Tours & Travels covers 35 two wheelers and it is operated in Port Blair. Details are as under

S. N.	Regn.No.	Permit issued Date	S. N.	Regn.No.	Permit issued Date
1.	AN01/F 2944	12.08.2015	7.	AN01/M 4969	14.11.2017
2.	AN01/H 8047	12.08.2015	8.	AN01/M 4967	14.11.2017
3.	AN01/L 9215	04.07.2018	9.	AN01/M 5013	14.11.2017
4.	AN01/M 3145	21.08.2017	10.	AN01/M 4988	14.11.2017
5.	AN01/M 3152	21.08.2017	11.	AN01/N 1907	04.07.2018
6.	AN01/M 3164	21.08.2017	12.	AN01/N 1897	04.07.2018

Decision taken:-

STA decided to obtain clarification from the applicant regarding plan of action and usage of these 12 vehicles after replacement in the permit.

- b. Vide letter dated 07.12.2021 received from Karishma Tours & Travels, the license holder of 35 two wheelers under Rent a Motorcycle scheme to ply in all routes of South Andaman, **requested to replace the 19 two wheelers and allow him to use the permit of the said vehicles for his new two wheelers** which he intends to purchase. Existing two wheelers details are given below:

S. No.	Regn. No.	Permit expiry Date	S. No.	Regn.No.	Permit expiry Date
1	AN01/F-2944	11/08/2020	11	AN01/H-7615	19/09/2023
2	AN01/H-5169	19/09/2023	12	AN01/H-1978	17/12/2018
3	AN01/H-2051	19/09/2018	13	AN01/J-2660	10/06/2019
4	AN01/H-1813	19/09/2018	14	AN01/J-3010	10/06/2019
5	AN01/H-7633	19/09/2023	15	AN01/J-3034	10/06/2019
6	AN01/H-1922	17/12/2018	16	AN01/J-3035	10/06/2019
7	AN01/H-5093	17/12/2018	17	AN01/J-3037	10/06/2019
8	AN01/H-1812	19/09/2018	18	AN01/J-3046	10/06/2019
9	AN01/H-2029	17/12/2018	19	AN01/L-9215	03/07/2023
10	AN01/H-8047	11/08/2020			

In this regard, he has mentioned that the vehicles are very old and he intends to condemn the said vehicles to transfer the route permit of the said vehicle in his new two wheelers.

Decision taken:-

STA decided to obtain clarification from the applicant on the plan of action and usage of these 19 two wheelers after replacement in the permit which the applicant intends to replace.

7. New application for electric vehicles for operating under Rent a Motor Cycle Scheme:

7.1 STA has received the following applications for issuance of license under Rent a Motor Cycle Scheme in which the applicants has come forward to operate electric two wheelers. It is stated that on receipt of a letter for intent/ NOC from STA they would arrange financial assistance and procure/ register electric two wheelers from mainland as it is not available in Port Blair now. After registration, they would apply for permits and then they would apply for license under the Scheme:

- a. **A mainland based firm M/s Ontrack Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru** for granting electric two wheeler license for Port Blair, Swaraj Dweep and Shaheed Dweep under Rent a Motorcycle scheme.
- b. **Shri. Sarfaraz Ahmed, R/o Garacharama:** The applicant wants to operate five electric two wheelers under the under Rent a Motor Cycle Scheme.

- c. M/s Andaman Motors Pvt Ltd:** The Firm wants to operate five electric two wheelers under the under Rent a Motor Cycle Scheme mainly for facilitating transport facility to its guests as the Firm is involved in the tourism business.

Decision taken:-

STA observed that for preserving the environment from further automotive pollution, vehicles with zero tailpipe emission needs to be promoted. Hence it has been decided to approve the request of the firms at 7.1 (a), (b) & (c) for issuance of license under Rent a Motor Cycle Scheme to operate electric two wheelers. Letter of intent may be issued to these applicants so that they can procure the electric two wheelers, register it and obtain permits and then they would be issued License under Rent a Motor Cycle Scheme.

7.2 New license for operating Two wheelers (Petrol)

STA is in receipt of 77 applications for granting permission for new 2 wheeler (petrol) vehicles under Rent a Motorcycle Scheme as detailed below:-

Sl No	REGION/ ROUTE	No. of applications received till Oct.2021	No. of existing permits
1	North, Middle & South Andaman	-	02
2	Port Blair (South Andaman)	30	07
3	North & Middle Andaman	01	02
4	L Andaman	03	02
5	Swaraj Dweep	37	36
6	Shaheed Dweep	05	10
7	Nicobar	-	-
8	Campbell Bay	01	-
TOTAL		77	59

Decision taken:-

STA has decided not to consider the request of the applicants for new petrol two wheelers and to explore zero emission vehicles under rent a motor cycle scheme.

8 Fare for Go-Go Bus Service:-

The fare for Go-Go Bus was initially proposed to be fixed as Rs.150/- per day per passenger. It is being implemented on trial but it is observed that the occupancy is not very encouraging. Most of the tourists are preferring single trips/ single journey rather than to go for the whole day journey on the circuit. Therefore, it has been proposed to introduce a new fare @ Rs. 30/- per trip per passenger for any destination for a single journey.

Moreover, it has also been decided to extend the service upto Chidiyatapu in the evening for facilitating the tourists to witness sunset. It is proposed to introduce a single fair trip (one way) fair of Rs.60/- upto Chidiyatapu.

Decision taken:-

STA has approved the proposed fare per trip per passenger in the Go Go bus @ Rs. 30/- per trip and Rs. 60/- for Chidiyatapu. .

9 Limiting of Auto rickshaw plying in South Andaman:-

The STA is in receipt of 47 applications for grant of auto rickshaw permit. STA has been issuing auto rickshaw permits as a means to overcome unemployment to unemployed people for their better livelihood who fulfils the eligibility criteria required for issuing the permit. To restrict and avoid misuse of permits, STA has devised guidelines for issuance of permits to Auto rickshaws like only one permit is issued to one person aged less than 60 years possessing a valid Three wheeler license and on production of sufficient parking area details.

Now it has been noticed that number of auto rickshaws are increasing in the city and creating frequent traffic congestion. Section 74(3) (a) provides that the State Government shall if so directed by the Central government direct a State transport authority to limit the number of Contract Carriages generally or of any specified type on city routes in towns with a population of not less than five lakhs.

However considering the smaller size of the Port Blair city and the fragile environment, STA may take a decision on restricting the number of auto rickshaw in Port Blair. As of now a total of 3832 auto rickshaw permits were issued in South Andaman by STA and out of this around 1400 permits have either been expired or the vehicles have been condemned.

Decision taken:-

STA observed that number of auto rickshaws has increased particularly in the city and there is a need to keep a check on these vehicles which is causing traffic congestion. It was decided to constitute an inter-departmental committee consisting of officials from Transport & Police Department by the Director of Transport. The committee shall analyse the present situation of Autorickshaws vis-a-vis traffic congestion, its utility impact on the overall traffic situation etc and furnish a report on the upper limit of autorickshaws if any to be implemented in South Andaman.

10. Issuance of Temporary Permits:

Section 87 of the Acts provides that STA may without following procedure laid down in Section 80, grant permits, to the effective for the limited period which shall not in any case exceed four months, to authorise the use of a Transport vehicle temporarily. It also provides that STA may, in the case of goods carriages, under the circumstances of an exceptional nature, and for

reasons to be recorded in writing, grant a permit for a period of exceeding four months but not exceeding one year.

Many requests from goods carriage permit applicants are received for grant of Temporary permit pending decision of STA on their regular permit applications.

Decision taken:-

STA authorizes Director (Transport) to take appropriate decision for grant of temporary permits to all the eligible applicants as per the provisions of MV Act and appraise the STA in the next meetings.

11. Issuance of permit for already registered commercial vehicles brought from mainland.

STA is in receipt of applications from the owners of the vehicles who have brought their vehicles from mainland which are already registered. They request either for Temporary permit or for regular permit against their vehicles. Few vehicles are covered with National permits but these are not allowed in the UT of A & N Islands as this UT is not part of the National permit system through which the permit fee is distributed among all States.

Section 47 of the Acts provides that when a Motor Vehicle registered in one States has been kept in another States for a period exceeding twelve months, the owner of the vehicle shall applied to Registering Authority of the new jurisdiction for the assignment of a new registration mark. It implies that vehicle can be taken another States and can also be registered but commercial vehicles cannot be plied without obtaining permit from the concerned states.

S. No.	Name of Firm	No. of Vehicles
1	M/s ITD Cementation India Ltd.	06 Trucks
2	Shri. E S Rajesh R/o 01 A Gandhi Nagar, Campbell Bay	06 Trucks
3	Shri. S Jayakumar S/o Late G Selvaraj, Rangat.	01 Truck
4	Shri. Pechheti Naidu S/o P Demudu R/o 253, Ward No. 4, Calicut, Near Pump House, South Andaman	01 Truck
5	Shri. K Lakshminarasamma. W/o Shri. N. Gopal Krishna R/o Lambalane, Near Rama Temple, Port Blair-744103	01 Truck
6	Shri. N Gopal Krishna. S/o Late Natarajan R/o Lambalane, Near Rama Temple, Port Blair-744103	01 Truck
7	M/s Vij Engineers & Consultants Pvt. Ltd., 78 KM Milestone, GT Road, Karhans, panipat, Haryana, Pin- 132103	01 Truck

8	Shri. Goutam Patra, S/o. Manik PAtra, R/o. Junglighat, Port Blair	07 Trucks
9	G. M. & CO., R/o. Near Laxmi Motor, Maharaja Nagar, Garacharma, Port Blair.	02 Trucks

Request from the following firms have been received for permits / Temporary permit to ply their vehicles which have been brought from mainland. In a recent judgement dated 17/12/2021, the Hon'ble High Court has directed Transport Department to issue Temporary Permits to the Trucks (Tankers) brought by M/s Lal Baba Enterprises which are BS III compliant vehicles.

Decision taken:-

As regards to issue of permits to the old commercial vehicles brought from mainland, STA observed that the tendency of the people is to bring old vehicles from mainland for participation in the tender or any project works which results in causing heavy automotive pollution and thereby damaging the environment of the UT. Hence, it has been decided that a letter be sent immediately requesting all the stakeholder departments to make provisions in their tenders for usage of vehicles only complying with BS-VI emission norms if these vehicles are required to be brought from mainland.

As regards the issuance of permits to the vehicles registered in mainland and already brought into the Island, STA decided that prior to consider the issuance of permit, the firms may be asked to submit the Emission norms standard of their respective vehicles.

12. Change of permit from one Island to another Island:

STA is in receipt of requests from applicants for change of jurisdiction of permit from one District/ Island to another district / Island. The practice adopted by STA while issuing permits is to grant permit with the jurisdiction of North, Middle & South Andaman or North & Middle Andaman or South Andaman or Little Andaman or Swaraj Dweep or Shaheed Dweep or Car Nicobar, Kamorta, Campbell Bay. The instant requests are either to change the jurisdiction from Campbell Bay to Shaheed Dweep, Car Nicobar to South Andaman, South Andaman to Car Nicobar or inclusion of North & Middle Andaman in the South Andaman permit.

Decision taken:-

STA authorizes Director (Transport) to take appropriate decision in respect of change of jurisdiction in the permits from one Island/ district to another as per the provisions of MV Act/ Rules and appraise the STA in the next meetings.

Secretary (STA)

(Dr. Aom Dhole)
Director of Transport
(Member)

(Shri Ankit Chauhan)
IPS, SP (Traffic)
(Member)

(Shri. Hari Kallikkat)
IPS, ADM (SA)
(Special Invitee)

(Shri. Abhishek Gupta)
Dy. SP (Traffic)
(Member)

(Shri. M. Rajan)
OS (IP&T)
(Special Invitee)

(Shri G. Sudhakar)
Secretary (Trpt.)/ Chairman (STA)