



IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL K.NARENDRA
&
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE MURALEE KRISHNA S.

Friday, the 9th day of October 2026 / 17th Aswina, 1948
WP(C) NO. 25158 OF 2024(S)

SUO MOTU

RESPONDENTS:

1. UNION OF INDIA, REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY (ROAD, TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS) MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT BHAWAN, GOKUL NAGAR, SANSAD MARG AREA, NEW DELHI
PIN - 110001
2. THE STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA PIN - 695001
3. THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA 695001., PIN - 695001
4. THE TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER OF KERALA, TRANSPORT COMMISSIONERATE, 2ND FLOOR, TRANS TOWER, CV RAMAN PILLAI ROAD, VAZHUTHACAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA, PIN - 695014
5. THE STATE POLICE CHIEF OF KERALA, STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS, VAZHUTHACAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA, PIN - 695010
6. NOUSHAD I, AGED 42 YEARS, S/O.SULAIMAN, IRUMBADASSERI HOUSE, VADASSERY, PANNIPPARA P.O., EDAVANNA, MALAPPURAM DISTRICT , PIN- 676 541 [IS IMPEADED AS ADDL. R6 AS PER ORDER DATED 13/09/2024 IN IA.1/2024 IN WP(C) 25158/2024]
7. THE KERALA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, REPRESENTED BY ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR, TRANSPORT BHAVAN, FORT P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 023. [ADDL. R7 IS SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS PER ORDER DATED 22/01/2025 IN WP(C) 25158/2024.]
8. AJIN TOM ALEX, AGED 30 YEARS, S/O ALEX THOMAS,15/304, PADINJATTINKARA ANUGRAHA, NELLIKUNNAM P.O, KOLLAM DISTRICT - 691 520. [ADDL. R8 IS IMPEADED AS PER ORDER DATED 05/02/2025 IN IA 1/2025 IN WP(C) 25158/2024.]
9. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL (HEAD OF GROUP), NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTRE (NIC), A- BLOCK, CGO COMPLEX, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110 003. [ADDL. R9 IS SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS PER ORDER DATED 09/10/2026 IN WP(C) 25158/2024]

P.T.O.



This Suo Motu writ petition again coming on for orders upon perusing the petition, this Court's order dated 05/10/2026 and upon hearing the arguments of SRI. R.V.SREEJITH, SENIOR PANEL COUNSEL for R1, SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PLEADER for R2 to R5, SRI. K.RAKESH, Advocate for Addl.R6, M/S. DEEPU THANKAN, UMMUL FIDA, LAKSHMI SREEDHAR, LEKSHMI P. NAIR, VINEETHA BOSE, CINDIA S. & GAYATHRI G., Advocates for Addl.R7, M/S. KEVIN JAMES, SHABNAM SAIDALAVI, ATHUL M.V., DEAGO JOHN K & ASWIN V. NAIR, Advocates for Addl.R8 and of SENIOR PANEL COUNSEL for Addl.R9, the court passed the following:

P.T.O



**"C.R"****ANIL K. NARENDRAN & MURALEE KRISHNA S., JJ.****W.P.(C)Nos.25158 & 25129 of 2024****Dated this the 9th day of October, 2026****ORDER****Anil K. Narendran, J.****W.P.(C)No.25158 of 2024**

On 21.11.2025, when this writ petition came up for consideration, this Court passed a detailed order - **Suo Motu v. Union of India [2025 KHC OnLine 1277 : 2026 (1) KHC SN 2]**. The said order was followed by detailed orders dated 14.07.2026, 18.08.2026 and 21.08.2026. The orders dated 21.11.2025, 14.07.2026, 18.08.2026 and 21.08.2026 shall form part of this order.

2. In the order dated 21.08.2026, this Court noticed the use of high-intensity lights on motor vehicles, like 'light force blitz 240 mm' halogen driving lights, which are extremely long-range lights with high output, capable of causing temporary visual disorientation to the drivers of oncoming vehicles, pedestrians, etc., thereby posing a potential threat to the safety of other road users. Therefore, it was ordered that use of such high-intensity lights cannot be permitted on motor vehicles, in view of the order



dated 07.10.2025 of the Apex Court in W.P.(C)No.295 of 2012 -

S. Rajaseekaran v. Union of India [2025 SCC OnLine SC

2191]. It was also ordered that, in view of the specific directions

issued by this Court in paragraph 67 of the order of this Court

dated 21.11.2025 - **Suo Motu v. Union of India [2026 (1) KHC**

SN 2], in addition to the penal consequences provided in the

Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the owner of such a vehicle has to be

imposed with a fine of Rs.5,000/- per such alteration; i.e.,

Rs.5,000/- for each unauthorised multi-coloured LED light, neon

lights, laser lights, flashlights, strobe lights, flashing neon/LED

name boards, etc., fitted on the 'exterior body', 'driver cabin' and

'passenger compartment', as per the provisions contained in sub-

section (4) of Section 182A of the Motor Vehicles Act, read with

S.R.O.No.788/2019 published in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary

No.2577 dated 26.10.2019. In the order dated 21.08.2026, this

Court extracted paragraphs 8 to 10 of the order dated 14.07.2026,

which read thus;

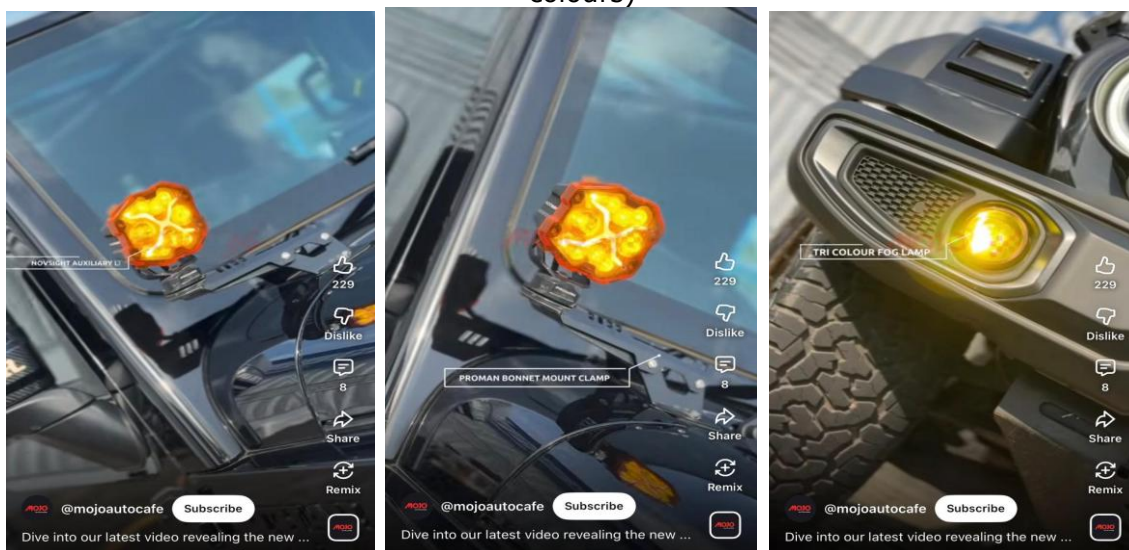
"8. Today, when this writ petition is taken up for consideration at 2.00 p.m., we have viewed in open court videos uploaded by vloggers on YouTube regarding the use of motor vehicles in public places, openly flouting the safety standards in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, AIS-008, etc., which are fitted with lights and light-signalling devices capable of dazzling the drivers of oncoming vehicles,



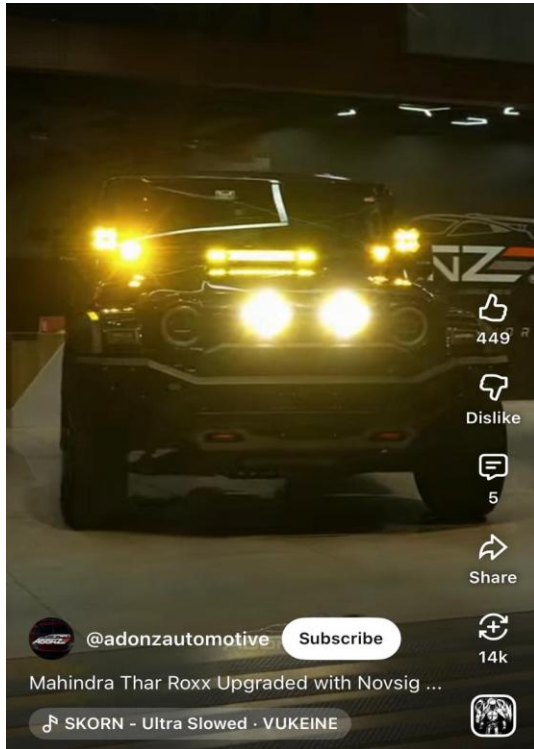
pedestrians, etc., thereby posing a potential threat to the safety of other road users. Such lights and light-signalling devices include red-blue strobe lights, tri-colour fog lamps, etc., capable of causing temporary visual disorientation to the drivers of oncoming vehicles, pedestrians, etc. Promotional videos are uploaded on YouTube, either by those who are closely associated with automobile accessory shops or 'YouTube influencers', who are content creators with a dedicated subscriber base. A few screenshots taken from the videos uploaded by vloggers on YouTube are extracted hereunder;



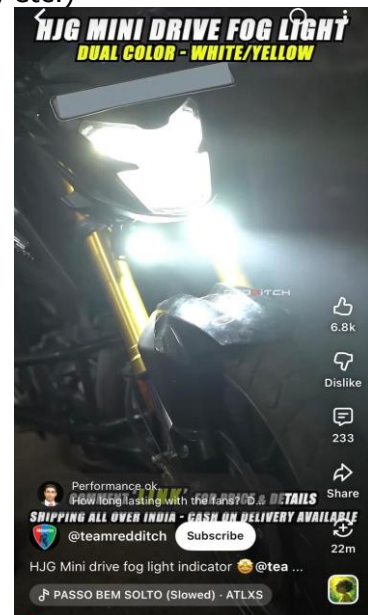
(Red-blue strobe lights fitted on the top, which produce quick, repeated, and extremely brilliant bursts of light in red and blue colours)



(Auxiliary lights fitted on bonnet mount clamps above the level of headlights and tri-colour fog lamps fitted on the front bumper, capable of dazzling the drivers of oncoming vehicles, pedestrians, etc.)



(Auxiliary lights above the level of headlights and fog lamps fitted on the top of the front bumper, capable of dazzling the drivers of oncoming vehicles, pedestrians, etc.)

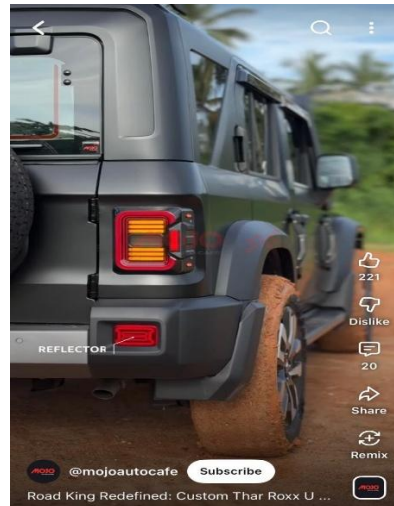


(Multi-colour fog lamps fitted on motorcycle, capable of dazzling the drivers of oncoming vehicles, pedestrians, etc. - AIS - 009/2001)

9. In addition to the fitting of unauthorised lights and light-signalling devices, capable of dazzling the drivers of oncoming vehicles, pedestrians, etc., retro-reflectors fitted on the rear bumper of the vehicle are replaced, posing a potential threat to the safety of other road users, with after-market multi-

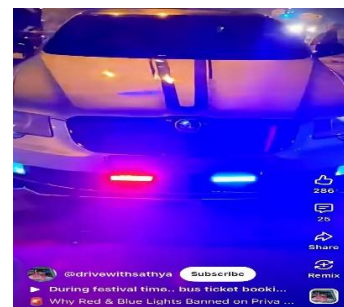


function lights which typically operate on dual or triple functions - acting as dim taillights during driving, brightening as brake lights, and some even featuring sequential matrix indicator. A screenshot taken from the video uploaded by a vlogger on YouTube is extracted hereunder;



(Retro-reflector on the rear bumper is replaced with after-market multi-function lights)

10. Openly flouting the safety standards in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, AIS-008, etc., red-blue strobe lights, which produce quick, repeated, and extremely brilliant bursts of light in red and blue colours, are fitted on vehicles, inside the front grill or near the registration mark exhibited in the front bumper, which are capable of dazzling the drivers of oncoming vehicles, pedestrians, etc. Two screenshots taken from the video uploaded on YouTube, by a vlogger of the neighbouring state, are extracted hereunder;

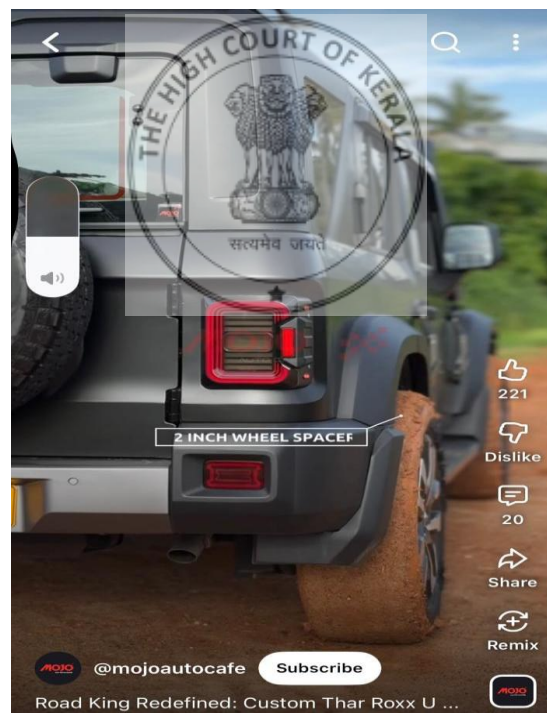


(red-blue strobe lights, which produce quick, repeated, and extremely brilliant bursts of light fitted near the registration mark exhibited in the front bumper)



3. In the order dated 21.08.2026, this Court extracted paragraphs 12 to 13 of the order dated 14.07.2026, which read thus;

"12. The use of 'wheel spacers' as well as 'wide tyres' results in the wheels of the vehicle projecting laterally beyond the protection afforded by the body of the vehicle, or its wings or protecting cover, which catch mud or water thrown up by the rotation of wheels, posing a potential threat to the safety of the riders of bicycles and two-wheelers as well as pedestrians. A screenshot taken from the video uploaded by a vlogger on YouTube is extracted hereunder;



(Use of 2-inch wheel spacer results in the wheels of the vehicle projecting laterally beyond the protection afforded by the body of the vehicle and its protecting cover)

13. After-market exhaust systems with 'flame-kit' are being fitted in motor cars, openly flouting the standards prescribed in relation to road safety, control of noise and air pollution, by replacing the exhaust system with a catalytic



converter and silencer (muffler) provided by the manufacturer. In the after-market exhaust systems with 'flame-kit' fitted on diesel cars, the petrol used to generate flame is stored in a tank fitted on the luggage compartment, posing a potential threat to its passengers and other road users. The loud noise and flame emitted by such an exhaust system pose safety hazards not only to the passengers of that vehicle, but also to other road users. A few screenshots taken from the video by a vlogger, which is a promotional video uploaded on YouTube, are extracted hereunder;



(After-market exhaust systems with 'flame-kit' fitted on a diesel car - storage tank for the petrol used to generate flame)



(Flame emitting from after-market exhaust systems with 'flame-kit' fitted on a diesel car)



4. By the order dated 14.07.2026, the Transport Commissioner was directed to get a report of the concerned Enforcement Officer regarding the vehicle referred to at paragraph 13 of that order, which is fitted with an after-market exhaust system with 'flame-kit', with specific reference to the statutory violations, the violation of safety standards, etc., after collecting the details of the said vehicle, its owner and driver, with the help of the video posted on YouTube.

5. In the order dated 21.08.2026, this Court noted that no action is being taken by the Enforcement Wing of the Motor Vehicles Department or Police against vehicles used in public places with the wheels projecting laterally beyond the protection afforded by the body of the vehicle or its wings or protecting cover, which catch mud or water thrown up by the rotation of the wheels, posing a potential threat to the safety of riders of bicycles and two-wheelers as well as pedestrians.

6. In paragraph 10 of the order dated 21.08.2026, this Court extracted two screenshots taken from that news item that appeared in 'Asianet News' of a vehicle which was fitted with unauthorised lights capable of dazzling the drivers of oncoming vehicles, pedestrians, etc., posing serious threat to the safety of



other road users, which was also fitted with wide tyres resulting in the wheels of the vehicle projecting laterally beyond the protection afforded by the body of the vehicle, or its wings or protecting cover, which catch mud or water thrown up by the rotation of wheels, posing a potential threat to the safety of the riders of the bicycles and two-wheelers as well as pedestrians. The said screenshots are extracted hereunder;





7. In paragraph 10 of the order dated 21.08.2026, this Court extracted two screenshots taken from the video uploaded by a vlogger – Thampis Vlogs – on ‘YouTube’ regarding a vehicle made for off-road purposes using the parts of different vehicles, as stated in that video. The said screenshots are extracted hereunder;



8. In paragraph 5 of the order dated 07.09.2026, this Court noted that, by the order dated 30.07.2024 in this writ petition, this Court directed the Transport Commissioner to take necessary steps to ensure, through the concerned officers in the Motor Vehicles Department, that the transport vehicles produced for inspection for issuing fitness certificates are not fitted with any unauthorised fittings and have not undergone any unauthorised



alteration. It was further ordered that the colour photographs of the bus body, passenger compartment and driver compartment of contract carriages and stage carriages, goods vehicles, etc., shall form part of the files relating to the grant of fitness certificate. By the order dated 07.09.2026, the learned Special Government Pleader was directed to get instructions from the Transport Commissioner as to whether colour photographs showing unauthorised alterations on motor vehicles form part of the inspection reports prepared by the Enforcement Wing of the Motor Vehicles Department, including the inspection reports prepared in connection with accidents involving such vehicles.

9. On 22.09.2026, when this writ petition came up for consideration, the learned Special Government Pleader made available for the perusal of this Court the written instruction dated 17.09.2026 of the Transport Commissioner, vide letter No.E2/96/2024/TC, wherein it is stated that comprehensive instructions have been issued to all Deputy Transport Commissioners, Regional Transport Officers, Regional Transport Officers (Enforcement) and Joint Regional Transport Officers, mandating that colour photographs showing unauthorised alterations form an integral part of accident inspection reports. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the written instruction dated 17.09.2026 of the Transport



Commissioner read thus;

- "2. Inspection of Vehicles involved in accident and e-DAR Portal (iRAD/eDAR System)
- System Framework: Inspection of vehicles involved in accidents is carried out using the iRAD (Integrated Road Accident Database), which is subsequently renamed as e-DAR (Electronic Detailed Accident Report) software, developed and maintained by NIC and administered by MoRTH.
 - Statewide Implementation (SOP): The 4th respondent, through Order No.MIT2/6/2021 dated 08.12.2022, has implemented and made the use of the iRAD/e-DAR system mandatory across all offices of the Motor Vehicles Department in Keralam for inspection reports of the vehicles involved in accidents. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) stipulates that (i) Upon receiving an Accident Inspection Request (AIR) from the Police Station, the vehicle inspection must be completed and the report shall be submitted within 48 hours under the direct supervision of the Joint RTO (ii) if invalid applications or applications outside the jurisdiction is received on e-DAR such applications shall be rejected immediately via the e-DAR software stating reasons in the remarks column (iii) All Joint Regional Transport Officers shall assign officers for vehicle inspection to the police stations under their jurisdiction (iv) In case of absence of an officer on duty, alternative officers or Enforcement officers (with the approval of Enforcement RTO) must be assigned to ensure timely completion and uploading of reports on e-DAR
 - **Uploading Photographs & Technical Issues:**
 - The e-DAR portal (www.irad.parivahan.gov.in) provides specific fields to record vehicle modification details and upload photographs and videos of vehicles involved in accidents and the Portal is accessible to MVD, Police, and PWD.
 - It has been observed that some inspecting officers were bypassing process of uploading photographs on eDAR, this respondent has issued strict directions to all officers to upload colour photographs showing unauthorised



alterations during inspection of vehicles involved in accidents

- Technical Glitch: While photographs uploaded on e-DAR can be viewed and downloaded online from the portal database, they currently do not display on the printed hard copy of the report. This technical display issue is being formally communicated to NIC for rectification.

3. Fitness Certificate Inspections and VAHAN Portal Status

Fitness inspections for issue of Certificate of Fitness are conducted through two methods:

1. Automated Testing Stations (ATS):

- At present, 3 ATS facilities are operational (at Poyappilly Kollam, Nooranad Alappuzha, and Kunnathur Kollam) and 25 ATS units are under construction.
- For inspections conducted at ATS, provision to upload photographs of the vehicles is available under Form 69 (Vehicle Test Report) as prescribed by the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, and these photos can be retrieved at any stage from the VAHAN portal.

2. RT Offices and Sub-RT Offices:

- Where ATS facilities are not available, inspections are conducted manually by MVD officers.
- Currently, the VAHAN portal does not have a provision to upload photographs of vehicles inspected at RT Offices and Sub-RT Offices.
- Action Taken as Parivahan/VAHAN is maintained by NIC and administered by MoRTH, a formal request is being submitted to NIC to incorporate a photo-upload facility in the VAHAN portal for RT and Sub-RT Offices to satisfy Court directions."

The learned Special Government Pleader sought time to place on record a statement of the Transport Commissioner, based on the written instructions received, enclosing therewith a copy of letter dated 17.09.2026 addressed to the Deputy Director General (Head of Group), National Informatics Centre (NIC), New Delhi and



another letter dated 17.09.2026 addressed to all Deputy Transport Commissioners and other officers in the Motor Vehicles Department.

10. The 4th respondent Transport Commissioner has filed a statement dated 28.09.2026, producing therewith Annexure R4(a) letter dated 17.09.2026 addressed to all Deputy Transport Commissioners and other officers in the Motor Vehicles Department and Annexure R4(b) letter dated 17.09.2026 addressed to the Deputy Director General (Head of Group), National Informatics Centre (NIC), New Delhi. In paragraph 6 of the statement dated 28.09.2026 filed by the 4th respondent Transport Commissioner, it is stated that, though the e-DAR portal (www.irad.parivahan.gov.in) provides specific fields to record vehicle modification details and upload photographs and videos of vehicles involved in accidents, and the Portal is accessible to the Motor Vehicles Department, Police, and Public Works Department, some inspecting officers were bypassing the process of uploading photographs on e-DAR. Therefore, the Transport Commissioner has issued strict directions to all officers, vide Annexure R4(a) letter dated 17.09.2026 addressed to all Deputy Transport Commissioners and other officers, to upload colour photographs showing unauthorised alterations during inspection of vehicles



involved in accidents. The 'technical glitch' pointed out by the Transport Commissioner is that, while photographs uploaded on e-DAR can be viewed and downloaded online from the portal database, they do not currently appear on the printed hard copy of the report. This technical glitch was formally communicated to the National Informatics Centre (NIC) for rectification, vide Annexure R4(b) letter dated 17.09.2026. A formal request is being made to NIC to incorporate a photo-upload facility in the VAHAN portal for Regional Transport and Sub-Regional Transport Offices to satisfy the court directions.

11. The learned Senior Panel Counsel for the Government of India would submit that, in order to get instructions on Annexure R4(b) letter dated 17.09.2026, the Deputy Director General (Head of Group), National Informatics Centre (NIC), New Delhi, may be impleaded as an additional respondent in this writ petition.

12. Having considered the submissions made by the learned Senior Panel Counsel for the Government of India and also the learned Special Government Pleader, the Deputy Director General (Head of Group), National Informatics Centre (NIC), A-Block, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003, is *suo motu* impleaded as additional 9th respondent in this writ petition.



13. Registry to carry out necessary corrections in the cause title.

14. The learned Senior Panel Counsel for the Government of India enters appearance for the additional 9th respondent, who seeks time to get instructions from the said respondent on the technical glitch pointed out in Annexure R4(b) letter dated 17.09.2026 of the Transport Commissioner, Keralam.

15. AIS-120 - Automotive Vehicles - External Projections - Performance Requirements for M1 Vehicles - applies to external projections of category M1 vehicles as per AIS-053:2005 (i.e., a vehicle used for carriage of passengers, comprising not more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat), as amended from time to time. As per Para.1.1., it does not apply to exterior rear-view mirrors or to the ball of towing devices.

16. As per Para.1.2 of AIS-120, the purpose of this standard is to reduce the risk or seriousness of bodily injury to a person hit by the bodywork or brushing against it in the event of a collision. This is valid both when the vehicle is stationary and in motion. As per Para.2.2, 'external surface' means the outside of the vehicle and including the bonnet, the lid of the luggage compartment, the doors, the wings, the roof, the lighting and light-signalling devices and the visible strengthening components.



17. Para.5 of AIS-120 deals with general specifications. As per Para.5.2, the external surface of vehicles shall not exhibit, directed outwards, any pointed or sharp parts or any projections of such shape, dimensions, direction or hardness as to be likely to increase the risk or seriousness of bodily injury to a person hit by the external surface or brushing against it in the event of a collision. As per Para.5.3, the external surface of vehicles shall not exhibit, directed outwards, any parts likely to catch on pedestrians, cyclists or motorcyclists. Para.6 of AIS-120 deals with particular specifications. Para.6.5. deals with bumpers; and Para.6.7. deals with wheels, wheel nuts, hub caps and wheel discs.

18. AIS-147 deals with external projection requirements of two-wheeled motor vehicles, and external projection requirements of trucks and commercial vehicles are provided in AIS-093 -Code of Practice for Construction and Approval of Truck Cabs, Truck Bodies and Trailers, to reduce the risk or seriousness of bodily injury to a person hit by the bodywork or brushing against it in the event of a collision.

19. AIS-120 - Automotive Vehicles - External Projections - Performance Requirements for M1 Vehicles – deals with every minute detail of external projections of category M1 Vehicles used for carriage of passengers (comprising not more than 8 seats in



addition to the driver's seat). AIS-120 demonstrates the extent of minuteness in the safety standards to ensure not only the appropriate manner of construction and maintenance of vehicles, but also the safety of other road users, to reduce the risk or seriousness of bodily injury to a person hit by the bodywork or brushing against it in the event of a collision.

20. As stated in paragraph 6 of the statement dated 28.09.2026 filed by the 4th respondent Transport Commissioner, though the e-DAR portal (www.irad.parivahan.gov.in) provides specific fields to record vehicle modification details and upload photographs and videos of vehicles involved in accidents, and the Portal is accessible to the Motor Vehicles Department, Police, and Public Works Department, some inspecting officers were bypassing the process of uploading photographs on e-DAR. Therefore, the Transport Commissioner has issued strict directions to all officers, vide Annexure R4(a) letter dated 17.09.2026, to upload colour photographs showing unauthorised alterations during inspection of vehicles involved in accidents.

21. Having considered the aforesaid statement dated 28.09.2026 filed by the 4th respondent Transport Commissioner, we deem it appropriate to direct the 4th respondent, through the concerned Deputy Transport Commissioners, to ensure that



vehicle modification details with photographs and videos of vehicles involved in accidents are uploaded through e-DAR portal (www.irad.parivahan.gov.in), by the concerned inspecting officers, including any violation of the safety standards, which increased the risk or seriousness of bodily injury to a person hit by the bodywork or brushing against it in the event of a collision, attracting punishment under Sub-section (4) of Section 182A of the Motor Vehicles Act.

22. The breaking system provided by the manufacturer in a motor vehicle, as per the requirements of sub-rule (2) of Rule 96 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, shall be of strength capable of stopping the vehicle within the distance specified in sub-rule (8). The breaking system shall be capable to bring the vehicle to hold within the distance specified in the Table below sub-rule (8) of Rule 96. Therefore, in the case of vehicles involved in accidents, the vehicle modification details uploaded on e-DAR portal shall include any unauthorised alterations made to increase the engine horse power and performance as well as modifications in the breaking system provided by the manufacturer.

23. The 5th respondent State Police Chief, Keralam, shall also take necessary steps to ensure strict compliance of the directions contained in the orders of this Court, by the Police, in



letter and spirit, to ensure the safety of road users, including pedestrians.

W.P.(C)Nos.25158 and 25129 of 2024

List on 28.10.2026 at 2.00 p.m.

Sd/-

ANIL K. NARENDRA, JUDGE

Sd/-

MURALEE KRISHNA S., JUDGE

MSA





APPENDIX OF WP(C) 25158/2024

2026:IO:KER:14

Annexure R4(a)

True copy of letter dated 17-09-2026 issued by this respondent.

Annexure R4(b)

True copy of the letter dated 17-09-2026 to the Deputy Director General of National Informatics Centre.

