



2026:KER:63936

WP(PIL) NO. 170 OF 2026

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. SOUMEN SEN

&

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SYAM KUMAR V.M.

TUESDAY, THE 18TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026 / 27TH SRAVANA, 1948

WP(PIL) NO. 170 OF 2026

PETITIONER/S:

- 1 AKHILA P.R.
 AGED 44 YEARS
 W/O. SHAJAN P., PARAKKUNNATHU VEEDU, KAVALAPPARA P.O.,
 PALAKKAD, PIN - 679523
- 2 AKHILA A.
 AGED 35 YEARS
 W/O. JIJU J.R., J.R. VILLA, NJARAVILA, ALAMCODE P.O.,
 ATTINGAL, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695102

BY ADVS.
SRI.P.MOHANDAS (ERNAKULAM)
SRI.K.SUDHINKUMAR
SRI.SABU PULLAN
SHRI.R.BHASKARA KRISHNAN
SHRI.SHYAMJITH K. BAYJU
DR.K.P.SATHEESAN (SR.)

RESPONDENT/S:

- 1 STATE OF KERALA
 REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY,
 TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,
 THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001
- 2 THE TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER
 OFFICE OF THE TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER,
 TRANS TOWERS, VAZHUTHACAUD, THYCAUD P.O.,
 THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695014



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3 THE CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR
KERALA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION,
FORT P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695023

OTHER PRESENT:

O.A. NURIYA-SR.GP
B.S SWATHI KUMAR-SC

THIS WRIT PETITION (PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION) HAVING COME
UP FOR ADMISSION ON 18.08.2026, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED
THE FOLLOWING:

**JUDGMENT**

Dated this the 18th day of August, 2026

Soumen Sen, C.J.

We have heard Mr. K.P. Satheesan, learned Senior Advocate instructed by Mr. Sabu Pullan, learned counsel for the petitioners, Mr. B.S. Swathi Kumar, learned Standing Counsel for the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation and Ms. O.A. Nuriya, learned Senior Government Pleader.

2. This is a speculative litigation intended to derail the Priyadarshini Bus Scheme introduced by the Government of Kerala to provide free travel facilities to women. It is alleged that, owing to overcrowding, the vehicles operated under the scheme have met with accidents.

3. This is not corroborated by any document. The accident may not necessarily have occurred due to overcrowding. In the absence of any corroborative material to substantiate the allegation that the bus accident occurred on account of overcrowding, we do not find any reason to entertain this Public



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Interest Litigation (PIL).

This writ petition is accordingly dismissed. However, the Government must ensure that the safety of passengers travelling in the buses is adequately safeguarded.

**Sd/-
Soumen Sen
Chief Justice**

**Sd/-
Syam Kumar V.M.
Judge**

vpv



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APPENDIX OF WP(PIL) NO. 170 OF 2026

PETITIONER EXHIBITS

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| Exhibit -P1 | TRUE COPY OF THE NEWS SHOWING THE ACCIDENTS PUBLISHED THROUGH ONMANORAMA ONLINE DATED 11-07-2026 |
| Exhibit -P2 | TRUE COPY OF THE NEWS ITEM PUBLISHED KERALA KOUMUDI ONLINE DATED 18-07-2026 |
| Exhibit -P3 | TRUE COPY OF THE NEWS ITEM PUBLISHED IN ASIANET NEWS THROUGH ONLINE DATED 22-07-2026 |
| Exhibit -P4 | TRUE COPY OF THE NEWS ITEM PUBLISHED IN THE NEW INDIA EXPRESS ONLINE ON 3-8-2026 |
| Exhibit -P5 | TRUE COPY OF THE REPRESENTATION SUBMITTED BY THE 1ST PETITIONER TO THE HON'BLE TRANSPORT MINISTER AND A COPY TO THE RESPONDENTS DATED 5-08-2026 (ALONG WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATION) |
| Exhibit -P6 | TRUE COPY OF THE REPLY GIVEN BY THE STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER, KSRTC AS PIO NO. 0635/2026 DATED 3-7-2026 (ALONG WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATION) |