

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 21st day of August 2026 / 30th Sravana, 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.]

P.T.O.

This Suo Motu writ petition again coming on for orders upon perusing the petition, this Court's order dated 18/08/2026 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 and of M/S. KEVIN JAMES, SHABNAM SAIDALAVI, ATHUL M.V., DEAGO JOHN K & ASWIN V. NAIR, Advocates for Addl.R8, the court passed the following:

P.T.0



FRIDAY, THE 21ST DAY OF AUGUST 2026

WP(C) No. 25158 of 2024

SUO MOTU

VS

UNION OF INDIA REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY (ROAD,
TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS) & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

NIL

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

SHRI.R.V.SREEJITH, SCGC, GOVERNMENT PLEADER, SRI.K.RAKESH,
SHRI.DEEPU THANKAN, SC, KSRTC, SHRI.KEVIN JAMES,
SMT.SREELAKSHMI SABU, SMT.UMMUL FIDA, SMT.LAKSHMI SREEDHAR,
SMT.LEKSHMI P. NAIR, SMT.VINEETHA BOSE, SMT.CINDIA S.,
SMT.GAYATHRI G., SMT.SHABNAM SAIDALAVI, SHRI.ATHUL M.V.,
SRI.DEAGO JOHN K, SHRI.ASWIN V. NAIR, SMT.MANJUSHA K



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

FRIDAY, THE 21ST DAY OF AUGUST 2026

WP(C) No. 25129 of 2024

SUO MOTU

VS

UNION OF INDIA & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

NIL

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

SHRI.DAYASINDHU SHREEHARI N.S., SENIOR PANEL COUNSEL, Central Government Counsel, SHRI.C.DINESH, CGC



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

ANIL K. NARENDRAN & MURALEE KRISHNA S., JJ.**W.P.(C)No.25158 of 2024 and W.P.(C)No.25129 of 2024****Dated this the 21st day of August, 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 and 18.08.2026. The orders dated 21.11.2025, 14.07.2026 and 18.08.2026 shall form part of this order.

2. In **Avishek Goenka (1) v. Union of India [(2012) 5 SCC 321]**, a Two-Judge Bench of the Apex Court, in the context of Rule 100 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, which deals with safety glass, after taking note of the provisions contained in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, relating to lighting and light-signalling devices and retro-reflectors, found that the said Rules deal with every minute detail of construction and maintenance of a vehicle. In other words, the standards, sizes and specifications which the

manufacturer of a vehicle is required to adhere to while manufacturing the vehicle are exhaustively dealt with under the Rules. What is permitted has been specifically provided for, and what has not been specifically stated would obviously be deemed to have been excluded from these Rules. It would neither be permissible nor possible for the Court to read into these statutory provisions what is not specifically provided for.

3. In **Suo Motu v. Union of India [2026 (1) KHC SN 2]**, after referring to the safety standards in AIS-008 - Installation Requirements of Lighting and Light-Signalling Devices for Motor Vehicle having more than Three Wheels including Quadricycles, Trailer and Semi-Trailer excluding Agricultural Tractors, with the amendments made thereto, i.e., AIS-008 (Rev.2), this Court held that, in view of the law laid down by the Apex Court in **Avishek Goenka (1) [(2012) 5 SCC 321]**, every motor vehicle, including transport vehicles, shall be fitted with the lighting, light-signalling devices and retro-reflectors which are specifically provided for in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules and the relevant safety standards in AIS-008, AIS-052, etc. What has not been specifically stated in the said Rules and the safety standards would obviously be deemed to have been excluded from those Rules/safety standards. Therefore, no motor vehicle, including a transport

vehicle, can be fitted with lighting, light-signalling devices and retro-reflectors, which are not specifically provided for in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules and the relevant safety standards. The use of such a motor vehicle in a public place without complying with the provisions under said Rules and the relevant safety standards is likely to endanger the safety of other road users. [See: Paras.32 to 39 of the order dated 21.11.2025] By invoking the provisions under Rule 334 of the Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, the State Government cannot exempt a motor vehicle or class of motor vehicles from the installation requirements of lighting, light-signalling devices and retro-reflectors in a motor vehicle, specifically provided in Chapter V of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, or the relevant safety standards in AIS-008, AIS-052 - Code of Practice for Bus Body Design and Approval, etc. [See: Paras.40 to 45 of the order dated 21.11.2025]

4. In **Suo Motu v. Union of India [2026 (1) KHC SN 2]**, at paragraph 55 of the order dated 21.11.2025, this Court has referred to 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]**, wherein the Apex Court noticed widespread use of dazzling white LED headlights, unauthorised

red-blue strobe lights, and hooters that mimic emergency sirens. High-intensity headlights, including those fitted in two-wheelers, cause temporary visual disorientation and glare for oncoming drivers, as well as pedestrians. Pedestrians face a momentary loss of spatial awareness, increasing the risk of being hit or tripping into roadside drains, pits, or other hazards. Drivers experience reduced reaction time, difficulty judging distances, and impaired lane discipline, particularly on narrow streets and highways, which heightens the likelihood of collisions. Therefore, the Apex Court ordered that a complete ban on unauthorised red-blue strobe flashing lights and illegal hooters shall be enforced through seizure, market crackdowns, and penalties.

5. Paragraph 67 of the order dated 21.11.2025 - **Suo Motu v. Union of India [2026 (1) KHC SN 2]** – reads thus;

“67. Having considered the submissions made by the learned Special Government Pleader and also the learned Senior Panel Counsel, Government of India, we deem it appropriate to direct the Enforcement Wing of the Motor Vehicles Department and the Police to ensure strict compliance of the directions contained in the order of this Court dated 04.10.2024 in this writ petition - **Suo Motu v. Union of India [2024 SCC OnLine Ker. 6894]** – in letter and spirit, to ensure the safety of road users, including pedestrians. As noticed by the Apex Court in **S. Rajaseekaran v. Union of India [2025 SCC OnLine SC**

2191], widespread use of dazzling white LED headlights, unauthorised red-blue strobe lights, including those fitted in two-wheelers, cause temporary visual disorientation and glare for oncoming drivers, as well as pedestrians. Pedestrians face a momentary loss of spatial awareness, increasing the risk of being hit or tripping into roadside drains, pits, or other hazards. In view of the prohibition contained in sub-rule (1) of Rule 92 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, no person shall use or cause or allow to be used in any public place a contract carriage or stage carriage flouting the safety standards contained in AIS-008, AIS-052. The fitness certificate of such a transport vehicle is liable to be cancelled, as per the procedure contemplated under sub-section (4) of Section 56 of the Motor Vehicles Act, since it no longer complies with all the requirements of the Motor Vehicles Act and the Rules made thereunder. In case of violation of the standards prescribed in relation to road safety, control of noise and air pollution, any person who drives or causes or allows to be driven, such a vehicle on a public place, shall also be proceeded against as per the provisions under sub-section (2) of Section 190 of the Act. In addition to the penal consequences provided in the Motor Vehicles Act, 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 lights, neon lights, laser lights, flashlights, strobe lights, flashing neon/LED name boards, etc. fitted on the 'exterior body', 'driver cabin' and 'passenger compartment', in view of 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.”

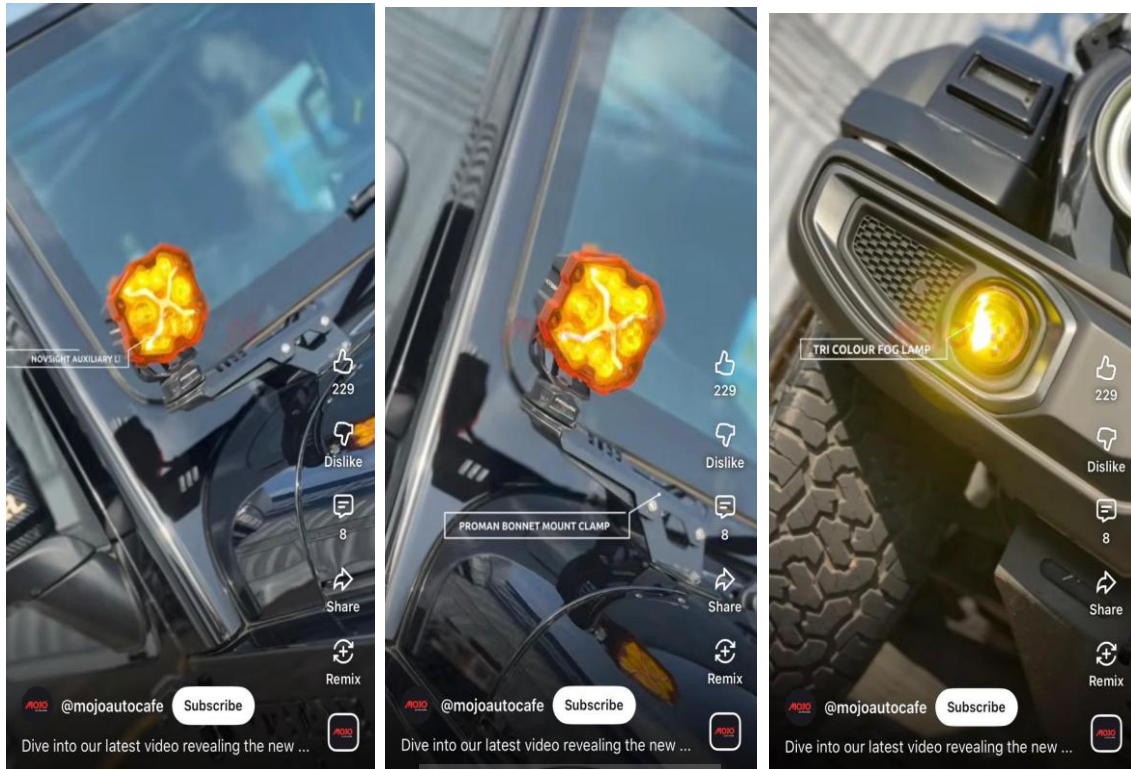
6. Paragraphs 8 to 10 of the order dated 14.07.2026 read thus;

“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;

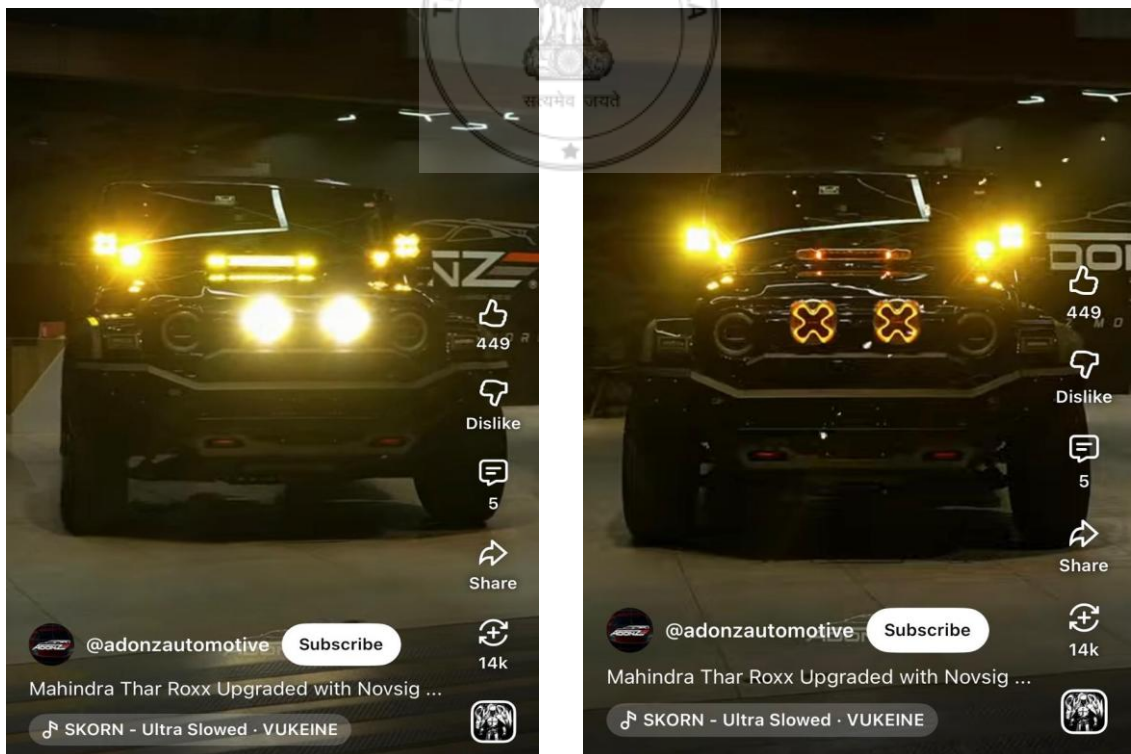


(Red-blue strobe lights fitted on the top, which produce quick, repeated, and extremely brilliant bursts of light in red and blue colours)

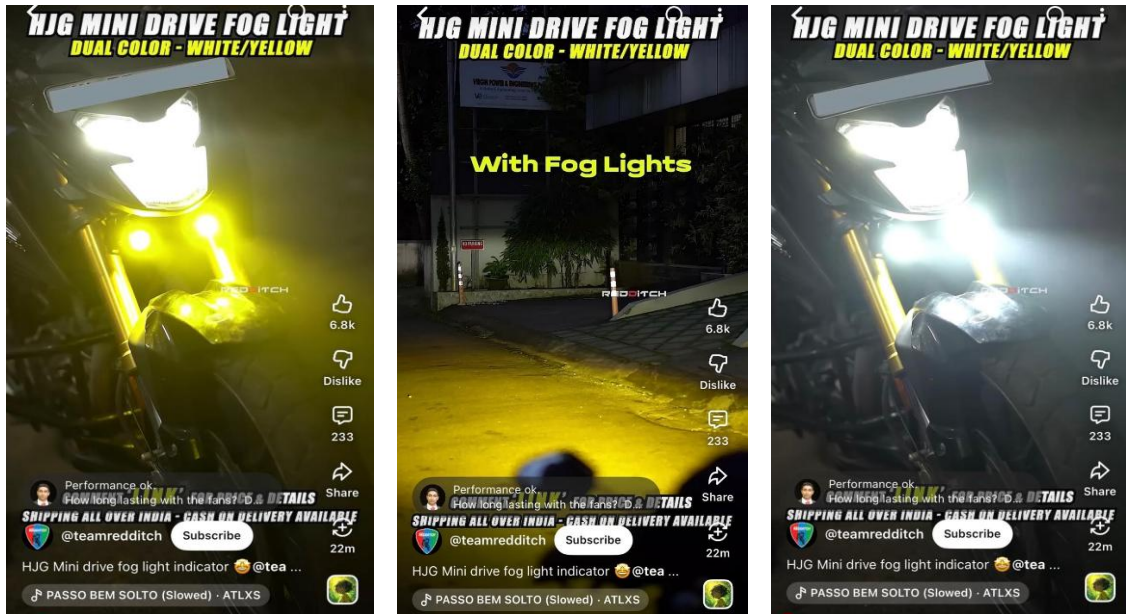
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(Auxiliary lights fitted on bonnet mount clamps above the level of headlights and tri-colour fog lamps fitted on the front bumper, capable of dazzling the drivers of oncoming vehicles, pedestrians, etc.)



(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.)



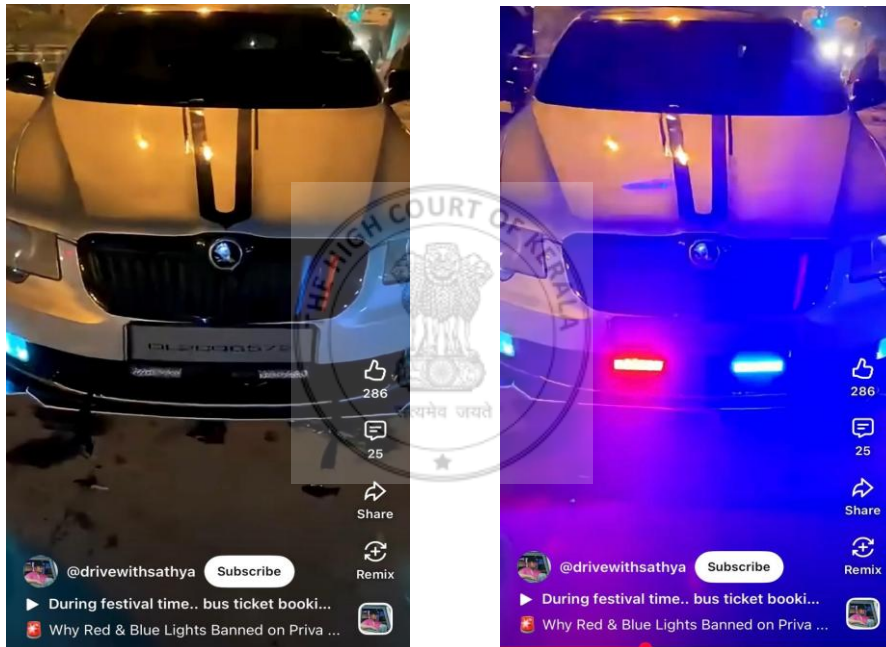
(Multi-colour fog lamps fitted on motorcycle, capable of dazzling the drivers of oncoming vehicles, pedestrians, etc. - AIS - 009/2001)

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)

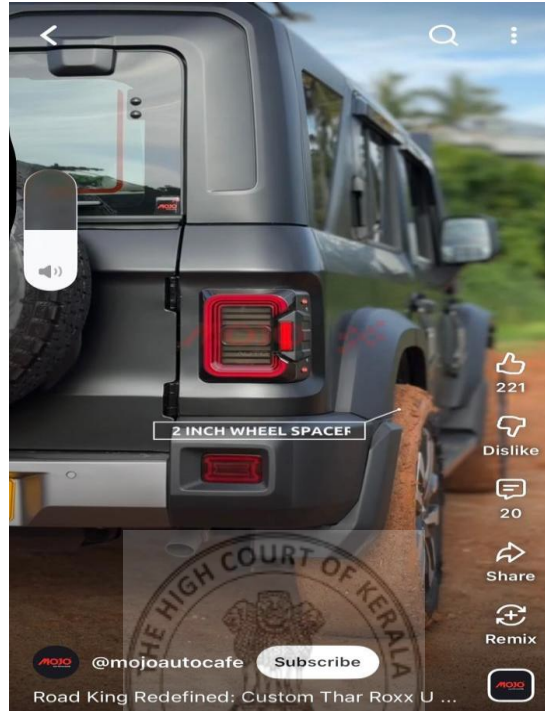
7. Paragraphs 12 and 13 of the order dated 14.07.2026

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

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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

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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)

8. By the order dated 14.07.2026, the Transport Commissioner, Kerala, was directed to get a report of the concerned Enforcement Officer, regarding the vehicle referred to at paragraph 13 of the said 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.

9. On 26.07.2026, when this writ petition came up for consideration, the learned Special Government Pleader has made available for the perusal of this Court a report dated 18.07.2026 obtained by the Transport Commissioner, Kerala, from the Regional Transport Officer (Enforcement), Ernakulam. On behalf of the learned Senior Panel Counsel for Government of India, it was submitted that the order of this Court dated 14.07.2026, along with video clippings, has already been forwarded to the concerned officer in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, and instructions are awaited. On 28.07.2026, the learned Special Government Pleader has made available for the perusal of this Court report dated 18.07.2026 of the Regional Transport Officer, Malappuram, in respect of vehicle bearing Reg.No.KL-40/L-7740 and a copy of e-Challan in respect of vehicle bearing Reg.No.KL-34/K-2577. On 04.08.2026, the learned Special Government Pleader has made available for the perusal of this Court a report dated 03.08.2026 of the Transport Commissioner, Kerala, wherein it is stated as follows;

“With reference to the video produced before the Hon’ble High Court, it is submitted that the registration numbers of

the vehicles involved could not be clearly identified from the footage. Consequently, additional time is required to ascertain the registration particulars of the vehicles and to initiate appropriate legal action against the offenders.

In the meantime, intensive enforcement drives have been conducted across the State during the last three weeks. As a result, action has been taken against vehicles found committing offences such as the use of spotlights, unauthorised coloured/music lights, modified headlamps, unauthorised auxiliary lighting exceeding the permissible limits, and the fitting of unauthorised retrofitted vehicle parts. The offences have been duly compounded and legal action has been initiated in accordance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act and the Rules made thereunder. The details are given below.

Total Vehicles Checked	Total Offence	Nature of Violation	Fine Imposed
8167	2092	Spotlight Violation, Music color light modification, Unauthorised alteration, Unauthorised colored lights, Spot Lights, use more than required lights	14159120

It is respectfully submitted that efforts are continuing to identify the vehicles depicted in the video placed before the Hon'ble High Court. Necessary legal action will be initiated immediately upon identification of the vehicles, and the compliance report will be submitted before the Hon'ble Court."

10. In paragraph 7 of the order dated 18.08.2026 this Court has referred to a news report appeared in print and visual media regarding suspension of two enforcement officers of the

Motor Vehicles Department for imposing fine on 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 is 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, and also the video uploaded by a vlogger – Thampis Vlogs – on ‘YouTube’ regarding a vehicle made for off-road purpose using the parts of different vehicles, as stated in that video. Paragraphs 7 and 8 of the said order dated 18.08.2026 read thus;

7. A news report appeared in print and visual media regarding suspension of two Enforcement Officers in the Motor Vehicles Department for imposing fine on 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 is 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

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news item contains the photograph of a Mahindra Jeep bearing Reg.No.KL-03/AG-5155, against which an e-Challan was generated on 11.03.2024, and also the photographs of the said vehicle at the time when it was imposed with fine recently. Two screenshots taken from that news item appeared in 'Asianet News' are extracted hereunder;



8. Two screenshots taken from the video uploaded by a vlogger – Thampis Vlogs – on 'YouTube' regarding a vehicle made for off-road purpose using the parts of different vehicles, as stated in that video, are extracted hereunder;

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11. In the order dated 18.08.2026, this Court noticed that the aforesaid video was posted by that vlogger, during the current

flood situation in the State of Kerala, with the sole intention to get permission from the State Government for the use of such vehicles, which do not meet the requirements of Rule 96 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, in public place. As noticed in the order dated 21.11.2025 - **Suo Motu v. Union of India [2026 (1) KHC SN 2]**, as per sub-rule (1) of Rule 92 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, no person shall use or cause or allow to be used in any public place any motor vehicle which does not comply with the provisions of Chapter V. In the video posted on the YouTube, the vlogger has made a statement requesting the youth to share that video to the maximum extent possible, in order to pressurize the State Government to grant permission for the use of such unauthorised vehicles, which do not comply with the provisions of Chapter V of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, which deals with construction, equipment and maintenance of motor vehicles, in the State of Kerala.

12. A few screenshots taken from the video posted on the social media of a Force Gurkha Jeep with snorkel (raised air intake system up to the roof level) used by Kerala Police, on action during flood situation in Kerala, without any unauthorised alterations, fittings, etc., are extracted hereunder;

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13. As noticed in the order dated 21.11.2025 - **Suo Motu v. Union of India [2026 (1) KHC SN 2]**, as per para 5.1 of AIS-008 (Rev.2) - Installation Requirements of Lighting and Light-Signalling Devices for Motor Vehicle having more than Three Wheels including Quadricycles, Trailer and Semi-Trailer excluding Agricultural Tractors, only those lighting and light signalling devices referred to in para 6.0 of the standard (AIS-008) shall be permitted to be installed on motor vehicles. As per clause 5.9.1,

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direction indicator lamps, vehicle hazard warning signal, amber side marker lamps complying with para 6.18.7 and the emergency stop signal shall be flashing lamps. Para 5.15 deals with colours of light emitted by lamps. Para 5.15 reads thus;

“5.15. The colours of the light emitted by the lamps are the following:

main-beam headlamp	White
dipped-beam headlamp	White
front fog lamp	White or selective yellow
reversing lamp	White
direction-indicator lamp	Amber
hazard warning signal	Amber
stop lamp	Red
emergency stop signal	Amber or Red
rear-end collision alert signal	Amber
rear registration plate lamp	White
front position lamp	White
rear position lamp	Red
rear fog lamp	Red
parking lamp	White in front, Red at the rear, Amber if reciprocally incorporated in the side direction-indicator lamps or in the side-marker lamps.
side-marker lamp	Amber; however, the rearmost side-marker lamp can be red if it is grouped or combined or reciprocally incorporated with the rear position lamp, the rear end-outline marker lamp, the rear fog lamp, the stop lamp or is grouped or has part of the light emitting surface in common with the rear retro-reflector.
end-outline marker lamp:	White in front, red at the rear
daytime running lamp	White
rear retro-reflector, non-triangular:	Red
Rear retro-reflector, triangular:	White or colourless
side retro-reflector, non-triangular	Amber; however, the rearmost side retro-reflector can be red if it is grouped or has part of the light-emitting surface in common with the rear position lamp, the rear end-outline marker lamp, the rear fog lamp, the stop-lamp or the red rearmost side-marker lamp or the rear retro reflector, non-triangular
cornering lamp	White

Conspicuity marking	White to the front Yellow to the side Red to the rear
Adaptive front- lighting systems (AFS)	White
Exterior courtesy lamp	White
Maneuvering lamp	White

Para 5.16 of AIS-008 (Rev.2) deals with number of lamps. As per para 5.16.1, the number of lamps mounted on the vehicle shall be equal to the number indicated in the individual specifications of this standard.

14. In **Suo Motu v. Union of India [2026 (1) KHC SN 2]**, after referring to the safety standards in AIS-008 - Installation Requirements of Lighting and Light-Signalling Devices for Motor Vehicle having more than Three Wheels including Quadricycles, Trailer and Semi-Trailer excluding Agricultural Tractors, with the amendments made thereto, i.e., AIS-008 (Rev.2), this Court held that, in view of the law laid down by the Apex Court in **Avishek Goenka (1) [(2012) 5 SCC 321]**, every motor vehicle, including transport vehicles, shall be fitted with the lighting, light-signalling devices and retro-reflectors which are specifically provided for in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules and the relevant safety standards in AIS-008, AIS-052, etc. What has not been specifically stated in the said Rules and the safety standards would obviously be deemed to have been excluded from those Rules/safety standards. Therefore, no motor vehicle, including a transport

vehicle, can be fitted with lighting, light-signalling devices and retro-reflectors, which are not specifically provided for in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules and the relevant safety standards. The use of such a motor vehicle in a public place without complying with the provisions under said Rules and the relevant safety standards is likely to endanger the safety of other road users. [See: Paras.32 to 39 of the order dated 21.11.2025] By invoking the provisions under Rule 334 of the Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, the State Government cannot exempt a motor vehicle or class of motor vehicles from the installation requirements of lighting, light-signalling devices and retro-reflectors in a motor vehicle, specifically provided in Chapter V of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, or the relevant safety standards in AIS-008, AIS-052 - Code of Practice for Bus Body Design and Approval, etc. [See: Paras.40 to 45 of the order dated 21.11.2025].

15. By the order dated 18.08.2026, having considered the facts and circumstances stated hereinbefore, this Court directed the learned Special Government Pleader to get specific instructions from the Transport Commissioner, Kerala, regarding the suspension of two Enforcement Officers in the Motor Vehicles Department for imposing fine on a Mahindra Jeep seen in the

screenshots extracted hereinbefore at paragraph 10 (para. 7 of the order dated 18.08.2026), 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 learned Special Government Pleader was also directed to get instructions as to whether the action taken against the owner/driver of that vehicle was in compliance with the specific direction contained in paragraph 67 of the order of this Court dated 21.11.2025 - **Suo Motu v. Union of India [2026 (1) KHC SN 2]**, whereby it was reiterated that 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 lights, neon lights, laser lights, flashlights, strobe lights, flashing neon/LED name boards, etc. fitted on the 'exterior body', 'driver cabin' and 'passenger compartment', in view of 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.

16. By the order dated 18.08.2026, the learned Special Government Pleader was also directed to get instructions from the Transport Commissioner, Kerala, on the vehicle seen in the screenshots extracted hereinbefore at paragraph 10 (para. 8 of the order dated 18.08.2026), made for off-road purpose using the parts of different vehicles, as stated in that video, and whether any permission was granted for the use of that vehicle on public place, after the posting of videos on YouTube by vloggers promoting such unauthorised alterations. Registry was directed to give a copy of the video clippings in a compact disc/pen drive to the learned Special Government Pleader and also the learned Senior Panel Counsel, Government of India, who were directed to forward the same to the Transport Commissioner, Kerala and the concerned officer in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, respectively, dealing with road safety, and to keep a copy of the video clippings in a compact disc, in the Judge's papers.

17. Today, when this matter is taken up for consideration, the learned Special Government Pleader has made available for the perusal of this Court a report dated 20.08.2026 of the

Transport Commissioner, Kerala, wherein it is stated that Mahindra Thar Jeep bearing Reg.No.KL-03/AG-5155 was imposed with a fine of Rs.5,000/-, as a consolidated amount for six additional lights. A fine of Rs.2,000/- was imposed in respect of Pollution Under Control (PUC) related violation.

18. Two screenshots taken from the news item that appeared in 'Media One' relating to the use of unauthorised lights in Mahindra Thar Jeep bearing Reg.No.KL-03/AG-5155 are extracted hereunder;



The said vehicle was fitted with light force blitz 240 mm Halogen driving lights, which are extreme low-range lights with high output, which are capable of causing temporary visual disorientation to the drivers of oncoming vehicles, pedestrians, etc. The use of such high intensity lights on motor vehicles poses a potential threat to the safety of other road users.

19. 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]**. 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 lights, 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.

20. From the report dated 20.08.2026 of the Transport Commissioner, Kerala, we notice that, even after the repeated orders of this Court, the Enforcement Wing of the Motor Vehicles Department is imposing a fine of Rs.5,000/- only for a motor vehicle, which was fitted with six unauthorised additional lights.

21. We notice that no action is taken by the Enforcement wing of the Motor Vehicles Department or Police against vehicles used in public place 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. This is evident from the fact that Mahindra Thar Jeep bearing Reg.No.KL-03/AG-5155, against which an e-Challan was generated on 11.03.2024, which is still pending, is again used in public place with unauthorised lights and other fittings, posing serious threat to the safety of other road users.

22. The learned Special Government Pleader would submit that a proper report of the Transport Commissioner, Kerala, in terms of the order of this Court dated 18.08.2026, shall be placed on record, for which some more time is required.

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23. List this matter for further consideration, on 07.09.2026.

24. The Enforcement Wing of the Motor Vehicles Department and also the Police shall take necessary steps to ensure strict compliance of the directions contained in paragraph 67 of the order of this Court dated 21.11.2025 – **Suo Motu v. Union of India [2026 (1) KHC SN 2]**, which we have extracted hereinbefore at paragraph 5.

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List on 07.09.2026.



Sd/-

ANIL K. NARENDRAN, JUDGE

Sd/-

MURALEE KRISHNA S., JUDGE

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