



HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

WRIT - C No. - 39454 of 2026

In Re Nine Dead As Bus Erupts In Flames On
Yamuna E-Way

.....Petitioner(s)

Versus

State Of U.P. And 2 Others

.....Respondent(s)

Counsel for Petitioner(s)

: In Person

Counsel for Respondent(s)

:

Court No. - 36

HON'BLE SAURABH SHYAM SHAMSHERY, J.

1. In pursuance of an order of date passed by this Court the present matter is registered as “**Writ -C No. 39454 of 2026, In Re Nine Dead As Bus Erupts in Flames On Yamuna E-Way versus State of U.P. and 2 others**” and is taken up before this Court at 02.30 PM. For reference earlier order is reproduced hereinafter:

“1. The Court takes suo moto cognizance of a news published in almost all newspapers and also widely circulated in news channels, i.e., “*Nine dead as bus erupts in flames on Yamuna e-way*”, as published in Hindustan Times, Friday, September 25, 2026 and similarly in other newspapers, such as, in The Times of India, “*Nine passengers killed as bus catches fire on Yamuna Eway in Gr Noida*”; in The Hindu, “*Nine killed after tourist bus catches fire in Greater Noida*”; in Hindustan, “एक्सप्रेसवे पर बस आग का गोला बनी, नौ मरे”; in Amar Ujala, “नोएडा में बस में आग, ९ जिन्दा जले”, “जलने की बदबू की शिकायत की जानलेवा अनदेखी”, “मरना है तो मरो बस नहीं रोकेंगे चालक हसते हुए बीड़ी पीता रहा”; in Dainik Jagran, “यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे पर स्लीपर बस में लगी आग, नौ यात्रियों की मौत”.

2. The Court also takes note of a report submitted by Hon’ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways, shared in Rajya Sabha last year that about 45 fire incidents occurred in three years killing 64 passengers and injuries to 145 passengers in India from January, 2023 to 10th December, 2025.

3. Earlier in State of Uttar Pradesh similar accidents occurred in July, 2023 at Raibareli-Prayagraj-Lucknow Highway, resulting three deaths; in November, 2024 at Kannauj-Lucknow-Agra Expressway, resulting 4 deaths; and, in December, 2025 at Yamuna Expressway (Mathura-Greater Noida Region), resulting 13 deaths.

4. It appears that AC Sleeper Buses are operating without proper check and without proper safeguards, such as, fire extinguisher etc. It also appears that Drivers and Conductors of buses are not trained to act responsibly in any such mishappenings.

5. The Registry is directed to register a suo moto case under the heading, **“In Re: Nine dead as bus erupts in flames on Yamuna e-way”** and place before this Court at 02.30 PM after giving proper number.

6. Sri Sanjeev Singh, learned Additional Advocate General and Sri Tarun Agarwal, learned Senior Advocate, assisted by Sri Prakhar Sharan Srivastava, are requested to assist the Court.

7. Sri Sumit Mishra and Ms. Divya Shukla, Research Associates attached to this Court, are also directed to collect data of such incidents occurred in State of Uttar Pradesh or in any other State.

8. Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow; Director General of Police, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow; and, Additional Chief Secretary (Transport), Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, shall appear before this Court through Video Conferencing today at 02.30 PM to assist the Court.

9. Sri Prabhakar Tripathi, learned Standing Counsel present in Court, shall communicate this order to all concerned.

10. Put up this matter at 02.30 PM today.

11. Cuttings of aforesaid news in relevant newspapers are made part of this order.”

2. The Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow; Director General of Police, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow; and,

Additional Chief Secretary (Transport), Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow appears through Video Conferencing.

3. They briefed the Court about accident occurred and action taken by initiating criminal proceedings. On a specific query of this Court about checking of such buses within the State of Uttar Pradesh, the Court was informed about steps taken by Transport Department, however, the Court finds that still there are scope of improvement and to intensify regular checking of such buses.

4. Sri Shaswat Gupta, Amicus Curiae and Sri Sumit Mishra and Ms. Divya Shukla, Research Associates attached to this Court, have done some research work and specifically about Automotive Industry Standard (AIS), which requires to be followed in buses. AIS-052 is for “General Bus Body Design”, AIS-119 is for “Sleeper Coach Specifications” and AIS-135 is for “Fire Detection and Suppression”.

5. The aforesaid norms require key technical mandates. The sleeper coach prohibits driver partition; restricts vehicle height to 3.8 meter; mandates 4 emergency exits (less than 12 meter length) or 5 (greater than 12 meter length) as well as strict gangway dimensions.

6. Fire detection and suppression mandates automated aerosol/ foam systems in the engine bay and low-pressure water mist systems in the passenger cabin. It also requires installation of Driver Drowsiness Alert Systems (ADAS).

7. The Court is not informed, whether the bus which was involved in accident in question has followed aforesaid mandates or not and if it has not followed aforesaid mandates, the authorities are directed to initiate

proper action not only against Driver and Conductor but the Licensee also. Even a decision can be taken to ban buses of such licensee.

8. The Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh has assured that he will look into the matter personally and a joint action shall be taken and inspection will be carried out specifically in night since normally these buses ply during in night. They will also verify, whether the buses are stopped at specified / designated places or not.

9. Sri Shaswat Gupta, Amicus Curiae submits that he will come up with more suggestions alongwith material on next date of hearing.

10. Sri Sanjeev Singh, learned Additional Advocate General assisted by Sri Prabhakar Tripathi, learned Standing Counsel, submits that he will also come up with suggestions on next date of hearing.

11. On the request of Officials and learned counsel for parties, put up this matter on 13th October, 2026 at 12.00 PM.

12. On next date of hearing, the Officials who are appearing through Video Conferencing today, shall also appear through Video Conferencing.

13. Meanwhile, the concerned Department shall file a consolidated or separate affidavits which atleast concentrate on following issues:

(i) Number of permits issued to Sleeper Buses in last three years from State of U.P.

(ii) Whether before issuing such permits standards required to maintain by such Sleeper Buses was checked or not. It shall also accompany with documents. The design of such buses was

changed to make more space, compromising the security as well as whether it is being used for commercial purpose, i.e., for carrying parcels etc.

(iii) The affidavit shall also specify checking points at the boundary of State or steps taken for such surprise checking.

(iv) The affidavit shall also mention that as and when any inspection was conducted of a bus within the State of U.P., whether statements of passengers were recorded or not; whether it was checked that fire extinguisher exists or not; whether the passengers were told about emergency gate or not; and, whether driver and conductor has knowledge about precautions to be taken in case of some mishappening etc.

(v) The affidavit shall also provide details of criminal action taken in last three years and its outcome in such accidents.

14. The affidavit shall not be limited to above referred points only, rather it should also contain proposed action or any other collective measures require so that such accident be stopped.

15. Put up this matter on **13th October, 2026 at 12.00 PM** for further hearing.

(Saurabh Shyam Shamshery,J.)

September 25, 2026

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