Serial No. 4

HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH
AT SRINAGAR

WP(C)PIL 1/2026

MONISA MANZOOR MIR

…..Petitioner(s)

Through: Petitioner in person.

Vs

UNION TERRITORY OF J AND K TH. CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVT. AND OTHERS …..Respondent(s)

Through: Mr. Bikramdeep Singh, Dy. AG
Mr. Waseem Gull, GA.

Coram: HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAHUL BHARTI, JUDGE

ORDER
17.11.2026

1. This Court, in terms of an order dated 16.02.2026, came to take cognizance of this public interest litigation (PIL) upon being approached by the petitioner, who is an Advocate, coming forward bearing a concern about safety and security of women, young or old, commuting in public transport/service vehicles without having assurance of availability of seats in the buses and matadors etc.

2. The petitioner refers the fact that Circular No. TC/J&K/MV/2025/6914-42 dated 07.01.2025 issued by the Transport Commissioner, J&K on the subject of reservation of seats for women and physically challenged persons is enjoying existence more on paper rather than presence on the roads.

3. In her writ petition, the petitioner has impleaded five respondents all relatable to the subject matter of the writ petition.

4. On behalf of the respondent No. 3 – Sr. Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic, Srinagar, reply dated 06.08.2026 came to be submitted wherein this Court is finding a clear helplessness registered by said respondent No. 3 – Sr. Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic, Srinagar who comes forward sounding that he is only an authority who can enforce the directives provided they are borne from some executive decision/statutory notifications or departmental directives from the competent authority/ies meaning thereby even the respondent No. 3 – Sr. Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic, Srinagar is clueless as to the empowering legal provisions vide which the safety and security of commutation of women in public and private transport can be ensured and enforced.

5. On behalf of the Secretary to Government, Transport Department, a status-report, in furtherance of the directions issued by this Court in terms of an order dated 16.02.2026, has been filed in which the only averment worth cognizance is with respect to free ridership for all women commuters in Govt. owned Public Transport including SRTC & Smart city e-buses is finding mention by reference to Govt. Order No. 28-JK(TR) of 2025 dated 01.04.2025 by reference to which Circular No. 3/TC/2025 dated 07.01.2025 & circular No. 20/TC/2026 dated 09.02.2026 are said to have been issued by the Transport Commissioner bearing directions for all Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) & Assistant Regional Transport Officers (ARTOs) to ensure strict implementation of seat reservation for women and persons with disabilities in all public service vehicles, i.e., buses, mini-buses, sumos, e-rickshaws and other contract/ stage carriage vehicles.

6. Weekly compliance and enforcement report to be submitted to the Transport Commissioner is one of the directives meant for the Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) & Assistant Regional Transport Officers (ARTOs).

7. From the end of Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, the requisite input has also been put on record.

8. This Court came forward with three directions set out in order dated 10.08.2026, directing reporting of compliance which is still awaited from the end of Transport Commissioner, J&K Legal Services Authority and Department of Transport and the Traffic Police.

9. Mr. Bikramdeep Singh, learned Dy. AG and Mr. Waseem Gull, learned GA appearing for the respondents seek time to report the compliance instructions. Extension of time is allowed for doing the needful.

10. This Court reserves the discretion to come up with more directions to make the purpose of this writ petition more effective and result oriented purposeful and to be in actual service of women commuters so as to lend them due sense of safety and security in connection with their travel, be it for work places or for domestic purposes.

11. List on **23.12.2026**.

(RAHUL BHARTI)
JUDGE

(DR. PUSHPENDRA SINGH BHATI)
CHIEF JUSTICE

SRINAGAR:
17.11.2026
Aadil