

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>STATE TRANSPORT AUTHORITY</u> <u>KERALAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM</u> Minutes of the Meeting held on 07/11/2025</p>
---	---

Date of meeting :	07.11.2025
Time :	11 : 00 AM
Venue :	Transport Commissionerate, 7th floor, Trans Towers, Vazhuthacaud, Thycaud P O, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 014.

No.	Name of the member	Designation	Duty
1.	Shri. Nagaraju Chakilam IPS	Transport Commissioner	Chairman, STA
2.	Shri. Kaliraj Maheshkumar IPS	IG Traffic and Road Safety Management	Member STA
3.	Shri. B. Nibudas	Government Nominee	Non-Official member STA

The meeting of State Transport Authority (STA) was conducted at the 7th floor of Transport Commissionerate, Trans Tower, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram on 07.11.2025 under the chairmanship of Transport Commissioner wherein the members, IG Traffic and Road Safety Management and non official member mentioned above had participated. Also Joint Transport Commissioner and Secretary STA, Senior Deputy Transport Commissioner (Taxation), Senior Law Officer, Assistant Transport Commissioner, Assistant Secretary, STA, Senior Superintendent (D Section), clerical staffs, applicants, counsels and invited representatives of KSRTC and Bus Operators Association etc

attended the meeting.

Transport Commissioner welcomed all members, officials and applicants to the meeting. Subsequently, discussions on the agenda items began.

ITEM No. 1

Joint application dated 19.08.2025 placed before the State Transport Authority meeting held on 07.11.2025 for the transfer of Primary Permit No. KL/9999/98/1985 of the stage carriage vehicle No. KL 09 AD 1777, operating on the inter-State route Palakkad – Pollachi (via Chittur and Meenakshipuram) on a single-point tax basis. The permit is valid up to 31.12.2026.

The Transferor of the permit is Smt. Latha Annadurai, residing at 10/21, DMT House, Kaikatty, Meenakshipuram, Palakkad – 678533, and the Transferee is Shri. Mani S, S/o Subbu, 10/721, DMT House, Kaikatty, Meenakshipuram, Palakkad – 678523.

Adv. Sajeev Kumar K, Advocate, High Court of Kerala, Ernakulam, appeared before the authority on behalf of the applicants with due authorization. He submitted a prayer for transfer of the said Primary Permit. **Since all requisite formalities have been duly complied with and no objections have been raised, the prayer for transfer was considered by the authority.**

ITEM No. 2

Application dated 18.08.2025 placed before the State Transport Authority meeting held on 07.11.2025 for transfer of Primary Permit [Death] No. 96/STA/1985 of Stage Carriage vehicle No. KL 70 E 9798, operating on the inter-state route Palakkad – Pollachi (via Para, Kozhinjampara, and Gopalapuram) on a single-point tax basis. The existing permit is valid up to 31.12.2026.

The applicant is shri. Vighnesh Babu, S/o (Late) Manickam K, 1/293, Main

Road Eruthiyampathy, Kozhinjampara, Palakkad – 678558 and the permit holder is late Manickam K, 07/469, Main Road Eruthiyampathy, Kozhinjampara, Palakkad – 678558.

Adv. Sajeev Kumar K, Advocate, High Court of Kerala, Ernakulam, appeared before the authority on behalf of the applicant with due authorization. He submitted a prayer for transfer of the said Primary Permit. **Since all requisite formalities have been duly complied with and no objections have been raised, the prayer for transfer was considered by the authority.**

ITEM No. 3

Application dated 18.08.2025 placed before the State Transport Authority meeting held on 07.11.2025 for transfer of Primary Permit [Death] No. 97/STA/1985 of stage carriage vehicle No. KL 70 E 9789. operating on the inter-state route Palakkad – Pollachi (via Chittur, Nalleppilly, Kozhinjampara, and Gopalapuram) on a single-point tax basis. The permit is valid up to 31.12.2026.

The applicant is shri. Vighnesh Babu, S/o (Late) Manickam K, 1/293, Main Road Eruthiyampathy, Kozhinjampara, Palakkad – 678558 and the permit holder is late Manickam K, 07/469, Main Road Eruthiyampathy, Kozhinjampara, Palakkad – 678558.

Adv. Sajeev Kumar K, Advocate, High Court of Kerala, Ernakulam, appeared before the authority on behalf of the applicant with due authorization. He submitted a prayer for transfer of the said Primary Permit. **Since all requisite formalities have been duly complied with and no objections have been raised, the prayer for transfer was considered by the authority.**

ITEM No. 4

An application dated 18.08.2025 placed before the State Transport Authority meeting held on 07.11.2025 for transfer of Primary Permit [Death] No.

90/STA/1985 of stage carriage vehicle No. KL 70 E 9888 is operating on the inter-state route R.V. Puthur – Pollachi (via Kozhinjampara and Gopalapuram) on a single-point tax basis. The permit is valid up to 10.12.2026.

The applicant is shri. Vighnesh Babu, S/o (Late) Manickam K, 1/293, Main Road Eruthiyampathy, Kozhinjampara, Palakkad – 678558 and the permit holder is late Manickam K, 07/469, Main Road Eruthiyampathy, Kozhinjampara, Palakkad – 678558.

Adv. Sajeev Kumar K, Advocate, High Court of Kerala, Ernakulam, appeared before the authority on behalf of the applicant with due authorization. He submitted a prayer for transfer of the said Primary Permit. **Since all requisite formalities have been duly complied with and no objections have been raised, the prayer for transfer was considered by the authority.**

ITEM No. 5

Application dated 27.02.2025 for renewal of Rent a Motor Cycle License No. 6/MCY/STA/2019 of M/s. Indus Motor Company Pvt. Ltd. was placed before the meeting of the State Transport Authority held on 07.11.2025. The license had expired on 22.12.2024

The applicant, Shri. Dhanush R Mohan, Manager, M/s. Indus Motor Company Pvt. Ltd., Opp. South Gate of Cochin Shipyard, M.G. Road, Cochin – 682015, appeared before the Authority. He clarified that, the original license was issued in the name of the Director of the company. Indus Motor Company Pvt. Ltd. operates various motor vehicle related businesses across Kerala. The Director, being the owner of the company, does not directly operate the Rent a Motor Cab business. This business is supervised by the Manager, who is responsible for the overall operation of the vehicle rental division. It was explained that the original license had inadvertently been issued in the Director's name. Therefore, the

company has decided to have the license transferred to the name of the Manager. It was further stated that "Indus Go Rent a Car" is the brand name under which the company operates. The applicant also confirmed that there is no need to change the company's name, which remains the same as mentioned in the existing license, whereas the company's address is to be changed.

The Authority observed that the Deputy Transport Commissioner, Central Zone II, Ernakulam, had recommended the application after conducting due enquiry. Accordingly, **the Authority considered the application.**

ITEM No. 6

Application dated 08.09.2025 for the renewal of Rent a Motor Cycle License No. 13/MCY/STA/2020 of M/s. Shalom feather touch was placed before the meeting of the State Transport Authority held on 07.11.2025. The license had expired on 27.10.2025.

Applicant, Shri. Saravanan P, S/o Pandian OLH colony, Kannan Devan Hills, Munnar, Devikulam 685612 appeared before the Authority, on 07.11.2025 and his prayer was renewal for his existing rent a motor cycle license under rent a motor cycle scheme 1997.

The Authority observed that the Deputy Transport Commissioner, Central Zone II, Ernakulam, was authorized to verify the genuineness of the application; however, the report has not yet been produced. Hence, the Authority decided to consider the application subject to the submission of the genuineness report from the Deputy Transport Commissioner. The Secretary, State Transport Authority, is authorized to issue direction to get the said report after due enquiry **within 15 days.**

ITEM No. 7

Application dated 10.03.2025 for fresh Rent a Motor Cycle license to M/s.

Moto Riders Munnar Pvt Ltd, was placed before the meeting of the State Transport Authority held on 07.11.2025.

Applicants, Shri. Mahin Azees, S/o Azees, Parekattil House, Mannankandam P.O, Idukky and Shri. Anvar Fuzaily, S/o Noushad M K, Moolathottiyil House, 200 Acre, Mannankandam, Adimaly, Idukky were appeared before the Authority, on 07.11.2025. and their prayer was issue of fresh rent a motor cycle license to them under rent a motor cycle scheme 1997.

The Authority observed that the Deputy Transport Commissioner, Central Zone II, Ernakulam, was authorized to verify the genuineness of the application; however, the report has not yet been produced. Hence, the Authority decided to consider the application subject to the submission of the genuineness report from the Deputy Transport Commissioner. The Secretary, State Transport Authority, is authorized to issue direction to get the said report after due enquiry **within 15 days**.

ITEM No. 8

Application dated 18.07.2025 for fresh Rent a Motor Cycle license to M/S. GET BIKE, Varkala was placed before the meeting of the State Transport Authority held on 07.11.2025.

The applicant, Shri Josh S, Jyothi Gardens, Varkala P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695141, did not appear before the Authority on 07.11.2025. The Authority enquired whether the applicant had been properly informed of the date of the meeting. It was confirmed that the applicant had been duly informed through letter No. D1/310/2025-TC(5) dated 30.10.2025, which was also communicated via email. Further, attempts were made to contact the applicant over the phone, but there was no response. The Authority observed that the Deputy Transport Commissioner, South Zone, Thiruvananthapuram, had been

authorized to verify the genuineness of the application; however, the report has not yet been submitted. Therefore, the Secretary STA is authorized to issue direction to furnish the genuineness of the applicant **within 15 days**. The issue of the license will be considered after the receipt of the genuineness report and the application **adjourned** to the next meeting of the State Transport Authority (STA).

ITEM No. 9

Application dated 19.08.2025 for fresh Rent a Motor Cycle license to M/s. Routes Kerala Bike Rentals was placed before the meeting of the State Transport Authority held on 07.11.2025.

Applicant, Shri. Anil kumar G, S/o. Gopala Pillai, 379/6, Near Kuttikadu Temple, Kurakkanni Varkala P O, Thiruvananthapuram – 695141 was appeared before the Authority, on 07.11.2025. and his prayer was issue of fresh rent a motor cycle license under rent a motor cycle scheme 1997.

The Authority observed that the Deputy Transport Commissioner, South Zone, Thiruvananthapuram, was authorized to verify the genuineness of the application; however, the report has not yet been produced. Hence, the Authority decided to consider the application subject to the submission of the genuineness report from the Deputy Transport Commissioner. The Secretary, State Transport Authority, is authorized to issue direction to get the said report after due enquiry **within 15 days**.

ITEM No. 10

Application dated 11.08.2025 for fresh Rent a Motor Cycle license to M/S. Wayanad Empire Bike Rentals was placed before the meeting of the State Transport Authority held on 07.11.2025.

The applicant is Shri. Junaid Kalathil, S/o. Subair, Kalathil house, Rattakolly, Kalpetta, Wayanad – 673121. Whereas Shri. Thajudheen V V, holding Aadhar

number 7337 1833 5175 was appeared before the authority on behalf of the applicant with due authorization. He has submitted that the applicant have been admitted to IQRA Hospital due to an illness called GBS (Guillain – Barre Syndrome). The representative requested for issue of fresh rent a motor cycle license under rent a motor cycle scheme 1997.

The Authority observed that the Deputy Transport Commissioner, North Zone, Kozhikkode, was authorized to verify the genuineness of the application; however, the report has not yet been produced. Hence, the Authority decided to consider the application subject to the submission of the genuineness report from the Deputy Transport Commissioner. The Secretary, State Transport Authority, is authorized to issue direction to get the said report after due enquiry **within 15 days**.

ITEM No. 11

Application dated 07.08.2025 for fresh Rent a Motor Cycle license to M/S. Lesaaz Cars & Bikes Service Pvt Ltd was placed before the meeting of the State Transport Authority held on 07.11.2025.

Applicant, Shri. Shafeek Abdul Letheef, S/o. Abdul letheef, Moitheen Vilakom, Manthara, Edava P O, Thiruvananthapuram – 695311. Whereas Shri. Abdul Rahuman T holding Aadhar number 9534 6953 7146 was appeared before the authority on behalf of the applicant with due authorization. He has submitted that the applicant being outside the country. Hence the representative requested for issue of fresh rent a motor cycle license under rent a motor cycle scheme 1997.

The Authority observed that the Deputy Transport Commissioner, South Zone, Thiruvananthapuram, was authorized to verify the genuineness of the application; however, the report has not yet been produced. Hence, the Authority decided to consider the application subject to the submission of the genuineness

report from the Deputy Transport Commissioner. The Secretary, State Transport Authority, is authorized to issue direction to get the said report after due enquiry **within 15 days.**

ITEM No. 12

Application dated 19.09.2025 for fresh Rent a Motor Cycle license to M/S. Cryscol Solutions was placed before the meeting of the State Transport Authority held on 07.11.2025.

Applicant Shri. Prabhu Kumaravelu, S/o Kumaravelu, residing at No. 59, New Chittrambalam Layout, Pappanaickenpalayam, Coimbatore South, Tamil Nadu – 641037 was appeared before the Authority, on 07.11.2025 and requested to issue of fresh rent a motor cycle license to him under rent a motor cycle scheme 1997.

The Authority observed that the Deputy Transport Commissioner, Central Zone I, Thrissur, was authorized to verify the genuineness of the application; however, the report has not yet been produced. Hence, the Authority decided to consider the application subject to the submission of the genuineness report from the Deputy Transport Commissioner. The Secretary, State Transport Authority, is authorized to issue direction to get the said report after due enquiry **within 15 days.**

ITEM No. 13

Application dated 09.10.2025 for fresh Rent a Motor Cycle license to M/S Sree Sumam Vehicle Rental was placed before the meeting of the State Transport Authority held on 07.11.2025.

The applicant Shri. Ajayakumar S, S/o. Sreedharan, Sree Abhishekam, Kurakkanni, Varkala P O – 695141 was appeared before the Authority, on 07.11.2025 and requested to issue of fresh rent a motor cycle license to him under

rent a motor cycle scheme 1997.

The Authority observed that the Deputy Transport Commissioner, South Zone, Thiruvananthapuram, was authorized to verify the genuineness of the application; however, the report has not yet been produced. Hence, the Authority decided to consider the application subject to the submission of the genuineness report from the Deputy Transport Commissioner. The Secretary, State Transport Authority, is authorized to issue direction to get the said report after due enquiry **within 15 days.**

Additional Item - 1

Application dated 04.10.2024 for fresh Rent a Motor Cycle license to M/s. Rental Logicskerala.com was placed before the meeting of the State Transport Authority held on 07.11.2025.

The applicant is Shri. T S Jayachandran (Partner Rental Logicskerala.com) S/o of Saratchandran, Jaya Nivas, Vytila, S.o Vytila, Ernakulam - 682019. Shri. Binoj Thottathil Baby is the Managing Partner of the firm. Shri. Thandasseril Sarathchandran, Shri. Fahad Valayil Nasar, Unnikrishnan Sreejith are other partners. Wherein the partner Shri. Sreejith P U S/o. Unnikrishnan , Puzhavor Theertham, Nanthiattukunnam North Paravoor, Ernakulam was appeared before the Authority, on 07.11.2025 on behalf of applicants and requested to issue of fresh rent a motor cycle license to them under Rent a Motor Cycle Scheme 1997.

The Authority observed that the Deputy Transport Commissioner, Central Zone II, Ernakulam, has furnished the genuineness report dated 04.11.20125 which confirms that the applicant fulfills the requirements stipulated under Rent a Motor Cycle Scheme 1997. Hence, **the Authority decided to consider the application.**

Additional Item - 2

Application dated 09.10.2024 for fresh Rent a Motor Cycle license to M/s. Radhas Rental Vehicles was placed before the meeting of the State Transport Authority held on 07.11.2025.

The applicant, Shri. Anu Krishnan S R, S/o. Radhakrishnan, S R Bhavan, Paivelikonam, Vattiyara P O, Navayikulam, Thiruvananthapuram - 695603, appeared before the Authority on 07.11.2025. The applicant requested the issuance of a fresh Rent a Motor Cycle License under the Rent a Motor Cycle Scheme, 1997, and submitted the required rental agreement in support of the application.

The Authority observed that the Deputy Transport Commissioner, South Zone, Thiruvananthapuram, was authorized to verify the genuineness of the application; however, the report has not yet been produced. Hence, the Authority decided to consider the application subject to the submission of the genuineness report from the Deputy Transport Commissioner. The Secretary, State Transport Authority, is authorized to issue direction to get the said report after due enquiry **within 15 days.**

Additional Item - 3

Application dated 22.10.2024 for fresh Rent a Motor Cycle license to M/s. TOO BIKES, Kannur was placed before the meeting of the State Transport Authority held on 07.11.2025.

The applicant, Shri. Sajith E D, S/o. E Sadanandan, Puthanpurayil, Elayavoor, Chovva, Kannur - 670006, appeared before the Authority on 07.11.2025. The applicant requested the issuance of a fresh Rent a Motor Cycle License under the Rent a Motor Cycle Scheme, 1997.

The Authority observed that the Deputy Transport Commissioner, North Zone, Kozhikkode, was authorized to verify the genuineness of the application;

however, the report has not yet been produced. Hence, the Authority decided to consider the application subject to the submission of the genuineness report from the Deputy Transport Commissioner. The Secretary, State Transport Authority, is authorized to issue direction to get the said report after due enquiry **within 15 days**.

Departmental Agenda Item No. 1

The State Transport Authority (STA) re-considered an agenda item concerning the revision of its decision proceedings dated 08.08.2025 (File No. D1/277/2025-TC). The revision mandates the application of AIS standards (Code of Practice for Bus Body Design and Approval) and BS norms on exhaust emissions for the grant of fresh stage carriage permits. As per the original decision dated 08.08.2025 (Departmental Agenda Item-II (Additional)), the STA had previously implemented the following provisions with effect from 01.09.2025:

1. Implementation of AIS-052 Code of Practice for bus body design shall be made mandatory for granting fresh stage carriage permits on new routes.
2. Implementation of BS VI exhaust emission standards shall be mandatory for the issuance of fresh stage carriage permits.
3. Fresh bus permits require new buses.

These decisions were made by the State Transport Authority (STA) to prevent permit trafficking and to ensure public safety, pollution control, and environmental protection. Similar decisions had been taken by certain Regional Transport Authorities (RTAs) prior to 31.08.2025. All such RTA decisions across Kerala were unified with effect from 01.09.2025, through the implementation of the STA decision dated 08.08.2025. Subsequently, several writ petitions have been filed against the implementation of this mandate, and clarifications have been sought from various office heads. Since certain terms and expressions created ambiguity in the STA decision dated 08.08.2025, it is deemed necessary to make

such terms and expressions explicit by incorporating appropriate explanatory notes below the said decision.

Explanatory notes:- For the purpose of STA decision dated 08.08.2025, departmental Agenda Item-II (Additional)

The term "new buses" in item 3 of the decision shall mean 'Stage carriages complying with the requirements of AIS standards and BS norms in force from time to time.'

The term "new stage carriage routes" referred to in the body of the decision and the term "new routes" in item No. 1 shall mean 'routes on which permits are granted afresh'.

The expressions "issuing fresh permits" in the body of the decision and "issuance of permits" in item no. 2 shall be read as 'granting fresh permits' and 'grant of permits' respectively.

Discussions

Representatives of Private Bus Operators participated in the discussion against the agenda item, wherein Quilon District Private Bus Operators Association, All Kerala Bus Operators Organization, Trichur District Private Bus Operators Association, The Kerala State Private Bus Operators Federation, All Kerala Private Bus Members, and an operator of private bus Mr. Anoop Chandran B S were submitted written representations before the authority.

1. A representative pointed out that different kinds of bus body codes exist at present, such as AIS:052, AIS:152, and AIS:153, Similarly simply showing BS norm, arguing that the absence of clarity on the specific bus body code and BS standards must be explained. However, another participant commented that the agenda of the decision itself clarifies that the latest relevant code is AIS:052 and BS VI standards; thus there is no ambiguity.

2. A representative argued that the Central Motor Vehicles Acts and Rules do not mandate (a) requirement of a new vehicle for issuing a fresh stage carriage permit. (b) meeting was invalid because Section 118 of the Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules requires prior notification and hence the decision could not be sustained. *In response, the Authority merely specified that the appointment of the Chairman and official members of the committee was well-notified at the time of the constitution of the STA, and that the non-official member is notified from time to time.*
3. A participant pointed out that implementing the new standards only for Private Buses would not be effective for public safety, and therefore requested that the mandate should be applicable to all stage carriages across Kerala. In response, the Authority clarified that the review was proposed solely to resolve some ambiguities of the decision dated 08.08.2025, and not to reconsider a decision that was already properly passed.
4. Another suggestion was that the aforementioned mandate should solely apply to the issuance of fresh permits, and that existing permits should be exempted from these newly introduced schemes. Subsequently, the chairman commented that this point was already discussed when the decision was originally taken.
5. A participant informed the Authority that, some Regional Transport Officers (Secretary, RTA) are conducting timing conferences without the production of vehicles and are issuing permits to old vehicles. Therefore, the participant requested that a direction be issued to all RTAs to ensure timing conferences are conducted only after the vehicle is produced and verified against the newly implemented standards.
6. Another participant responded that, Since most Regional Transport Authorities (RTAs) conduct their meetings annually, a vehicle purchased before the permit is issued can lead to a heavy tax burden on vehicle owners for up to a year without any operational benefits. Therefore, requiring the

production of the vehicle along with the application is unacceptable. *The Chairman responded that directions be issued to all RTAs to conduct their meetings every month.*

7. The representatives of the Bus Operators concurred that Departmental Agenda Item 2 of the STA decision dated 08.08.2025 was incomplete. Whereas, they agreed for the amendment proposed against the ambiguous provisions of the decision dated 08.08.2025 must be explicitly clarified.

Departmental Agenda Item No. 2

The State Transport Authority (STA) considered the authentication of MVD LEADS App to Student Ticket Concession. The Motor Vehicles Department has recently introduced a Mobile Application for all, especially for students of high school age and above. The Mobile App named MVD LEADS App aims to create awareness about Road Safety theory, enable practice tests and timed mock tests for Learners License applicants, obtain Road Safety Certificate, Apply for IDTR courses on driving correction, etc. In addition to this, the MVD LEADS App also facilitates Student Ticket Concession usage by Students, Recognized Educational Institutions and Bus operators. It acts as an authentication tool for student's ticket concession facility provided by the State Government in Stage Carriages. It solves several existing practical problems faced by all the stakeholders. This will also serve the larger purpose of instilling Road Safety Education among the target group of High school students and young adults. Hence it is better to implement MVD LEADS App of Kerala Motor Vehicles Department for Student Ticket Concession authentication.

Discussions

Representatives of Private Bus Operators and KSRTC participated in the discussion against the agenda item, wherein Quilon District Private Bus Operators Association, All Kerala Bus Operators Organization, Trichur District Private Bus Operators Association, The Kerala State Private Bus Operators Federation were

submitted written representations before the authority.

1. The Private Bus Operators accepted the newly introduced mobile application, MVD LEADS App, for the authentication of Student Ticket Concession. They noted that implementing the application would provide proper guidance for ensuring the safe education of students. However, they requested that a meeting with authorized Bus Operators Associations be conducted before the App is implemented. *The chairman responded that the App is already implemented and hence directions be issued to all DTCS to conduct onboarding campaigns.*
2. The Bus Operators raised concerns regarding the timing and distance of concession issuance, the credibility of the institutions/universities to which the concession is issued, and issues related to break journeys. *The Authority responded that technology is more accurate than manual methods for verifying these concerns. Specifically, the MVD LEADS App can address these issues by providing **drop-down** selections of Educational Institutions. Ticket concession authentication will restrict unauthorized movements over and above the travel limits imposed.*
3. The representative of KSRTC expressed that there is no provision for student ticket concessions and that the matter falls under policy, over which the Authority has no jurisdiction. The Chairman responded that the Authority is not intervening in Government policy; rather, the mechanism for authentication of student ticket concessions is being updated using technology, which is well within the Authority's purview.
4. Finally, the Chairman requested that the MVD LEADS App be installed and used by all Stage Carriage operators. Furthermore, the Chairman requested that the installation of the MVD LEADS App be propagated to all bus staffs, students, and other passengers traveling in the concerned vehicles. Suggestions if any, for modification based on their usage can be taken after 6 months.

Departmental Agenda Item No. 3

The State Transport Authority (STA) considered the matter regarding compliance with AIS standards and BS norms in respect of used buses re-registered from other States (RMA vehicles) for the purpose of grant of fresh and replacement stage carriage permits. The Authority desires that used buses migrated from other States shall not be permitted to operate in the State as stage carriages for the grant of fresh or replacement permits unless they comply with the applicable AIS standards and BS (Bharat Stage) emission norms in force from time to time.

Discussion

Representatives of Private Bus Operators participated in the discussion against the agenda item, wherein Quilon District Private Bus Operators Association, All Kerala Bus Operators Organization, Trichur District Private Bus Operators Association, The Kerala State Private Bus Operators Federation, Kerala Bus Transport Association, The Public Bus Operators Unity, Kerala Bus Transport Association, and operator of private bus such as Mr. Anoop Chandran B S, Mr. Agni Jewel and Joshi K M submitted written representations before the authority against the agenda.

1. Most of the bus operators agreed to the above mandate for the grant of fresh stage carriage permits only. However, they objected to the applicability of the mandate for replacement of permits, as replacement is considered as continuation of an existing permit. They further stated that, since vehicles migrated from other States are tested and granted registration numbers at the time of re-registration, denial of a permit thereafter is not acceptable. It was also pointed out that the above standards are not applicable for the grant of contract carriages or other vehicles permits for migration from other States, and therefore, making the new mandate applicable only to

stage carriages is discriminatory. *The Chairman responded that, a Division Bench of Hon'ble High Court in WA No. 454/2023 has upheld the implementation of AIS:052 Standards in view of the safety and comforts of the traveling public.*

2. Another participant expressed a concern that private bus operations in the State of Kerala have drastically declined, as per the available statistics, due to the imposition of various criteria from time to time. It was stated that the private bus industry in the State is being adversely affected, and therefore, the process of implementing the new mandate may be reconsidered or revoked.
3. The private bus operators are facing a severe crisis following the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent floods. Upon expiry of the vehicle's life, an investment of around fifty lakh rupees is required to purchase a new bus. Therefore, many operators are procuring used vehicles from other States and replacing their old buses in order to continue stage carriage operations. The imposition of the new mandate will adversely affect such bus operators.
4. If the new mandate is implemented, the existing operators will be compelled to surrender their permits, as vehicles from other States would not be permitted. This will adversely affect the public transport system and the travel facilities available to common passengers in the State, as well as affected in the livelihood of the staffs who have been working in the bus sector for several years.
5. In the State of Kerala, about 20% of the stage carriages have been migrated from other States. The migration has not created any specific or separate issues in the transportation or pollution when compared to remaining vehicles.
6. When buses are re-registered from other States, road tax is levied on a square foot basis. The imposition of the new mandate will also adversely affect the additional tax revenue accruing to the Government exchequer.

7. A representative contended that a notification, as required under Section 118 of the Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules, has not been published regarding the appointment of the Chairman and members. He further stated that his organization had raised this issue in the meeting held on 08.08.2025, but it was not considered. In response, the Authority clarified that the appointment of the Chairman and official members of the Committee was duly notified at the time of the constitution of the STA, and that the non-official members are notified from time to time.
8. A representative contended that there is no authority to pass a decision on agenda item number 3 in the absence of proper delegation of powers. Further, he stated that the agenda pertains only to private buses and is not applicable to KSRTC. Therefore, the considered agenda is discriminatory and an attempt to create a monopoly. The representatives of KSRTC informed that the policy of the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation is not to operate services using migrated or re-registered vehicles from other States. The Corporation is purchasing new stage carriages for its operations; therefore, the agenda item is not applicable to KSRTC. They also pointed out that KSRTC is not attempting to build a monopoly. Its duty is to provide service to the people without focusing on profit, which can only be done by a public sector undertaking.
9. A representative contended that the Departmental Item 3 is against the Rule 45 of Central Motor Vehicles Act. Hence the same may be revoked. Whereas, the Rule 45 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, pertains to the process of appeal for anyone aggrieved by an order of the registering authority and hence the rule 45 of CMVR has no relevance in this context.
10. The overall impression of the vehicle operators is that the mandate should apply only to the grant of fresh stage carriage permits. They expressed willingness to impose an age restriction about 5 to 7 years to the migrated vehicles.

11. The Chairman responded that, the authority is trying to include new standards for issuance of permits in view of public safety and environmental protection; the same mandate is already applicable to fresh permits of Kerala State Registered Vehicles. The State Transport Authority is bound to achieve the aims and objects of the Motor Vehicles Act viz, public safety, convenience and health. Granting permits only to BS VI compliant vehicles ensures that State Transport Authorities remain in full compliance with the Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR) and orders issued by MoRTH. As per sub section (3) of section 68 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the State Transport Authority have the power (i) to co-ordinate and regulate the activities and policies of the Regional Transport Authorities, if any, of the State, (ii) to perform the duties of a Regional Transport Authority where there is no such authority and if it thinks fit or if so required by a Regional Transport Authority to perform those duties in respect of any route common to two or more regions, (iii) to settle all disputes and decide all matters on which differences of opinions arise between Regional Transport Authorities Further the State Transport authority and Regional Transport Authorities are competent to fix or specify the description of vehicles to which it shall grant and issue stage carriage permits in the interest of public as per the provisions of Section 72(2) of the MV Act. Equally competent to impose conditions under clauses (X) and (XI) of Sub Section (2) of Section 72. A Division Bench of Hon'ble High Court in WA No. 454/2023 has upheld the implementation of AIS:052 Standards in view of the safety and comforts of the traveling public.

Meeting ends at 01: 00 PM

Thiruvananthapuram

29-11-2025

NAGARAJU CHAKILAM IPS

TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER