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Government of Kerala
2026

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കേരള ഗസറ്റ്
KERALA GAZETTE
അസാധാരണം
EXTRAORDINARY

ആധികാരികമായി പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുന്നത്
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ചൊവ്വ
Thiruvananthapuram,
Tuesday

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GOVERNMENT OF KERALAM

Transport (B) Department

NOTIFICATION

G.O.(P)No.26/2026/TRANS *Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 28th September, 2026*

S. R. O. No. 803/2026

WHEREAS, Rule 264 of Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 provides that the paintwork or varnish of every transport vehicle shall be maintained in a clean and sound condition and in accordance with the specifications, if any, laid down by the State or Regional Transport Authority

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AND WHEREAS, the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala, in its judgment dated 01.10.2019 in W.P.(C) No.24417/2019, held that the exhibition of gigantic figures of film stars, writings, etc., on the body of buses and safety glass shall not be permitted in the interest of road safety; and in the context of the said judgment and in exercise of the powers conferred under Rule 264 of the Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, the State Transport Authority, by its decision dated 11.08.2021, prescribed and implemented a uniform colour scheme for contract carriages, other than LMVs, operating throughout the State;

AND WHEREAS, the All India Tourist Vehicles (Permit) Rules, 2023, issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, do not prescribe any specific colour for the body of tourist vehicles;

AND WHEREAS, representations have been received by Government that scheme of uniform colour code shall be withdrawn as the prescription of the uniform colour scheme for contract carriages has adversely affected the tourism transport sector in the State and that the Kerala-specific colour restriction has reduced the opportunities for hiring Kerala registered tourist buses, particularly when All India Tourist Permit vehicles from other States are operating in Kerala without similar restrictions.

NOW, **THEREFORE,** in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 67 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (Central Act 59 of 1988), the Government of Kerala hereby issue the following directions to the State Transport Authority:-

DIRECTIONS

The State Transport Authority shall review and reconsider its decision dated 11.08.2021 prescribing and implementing a uniform colour scheme for different classes of contract carriages under the Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, having regard to the regulatory framework under the All India Tourist Vehicles (Permit) Rules, 2023 issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, and shall, upon such review, issue appropriate consequential orders under Rule 264 of the Kerala Motor

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Vehicles Rules, 1989, in accordance with law, and ensuring compliance with the restrictions and directions contained in the judgment dated 01.10.2019 in W.P.(C) 24417/2019 and other binding judgments and directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala.

By Order of the Governor,

ANUPAMA T V I A S

SECRETARY

Explanatory Note

(This does not form part of the notification, but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

The Hon'ble High Court of Kerala, in its judgment dated 01.10.2019 in W.P.(C) No.24417/2019, held that the exhibition of gigantic figures of film stars, writings, etc., on the body of buses and safety glass shall not be permitted, having regard to road safety. In the context of the said judgment, the State Transport Authority, in exercise of the powers conferred under Rule 264 of the Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, prescribed a uniform colour scheme for contract carriages, other than LMVs.

A State-specific mandatory colour requirement, in the absence of similar restrictions in other States, may place Kerala-registered tourist vehicles at a competitive disadvantage and may influence the choice of State for registration, with consequent implications for the motor vehicle tax, permit fees and other registration-related revenue of the State. Rule 264 of the Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 provides that the paintwork or varnish of every transport vehicle shall be maintained in a clean and sound condition and in accordance with the specifications, if any, laid down by the State or Regional Transport Authority.

Government have, therefore, decided to issue a direction to the State Transport Authority to review and reconsider the existing uniform colour scheme prescribed for contract carriages under Rule 264 of the Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and to take appropriate consequential action in accordance with law, having regard to the regulatory framework under the All India Tourist Vehicles (Permit) Rules, 2023 and ensuring compliance with the restrictions and directions contained in the judgment dated 01.10.2019 in W.P.© No.24417/2019 and other binding judgments and directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala.

The notification is intended to achieve the above object.

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