

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH AT CHENNAI**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 146 OF 2025 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Shaji A.K.

...Applicant(s)

With

State of Kerala and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED BY THE TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER, KERALA/
4TH RESPONDENT**

<u>SI.NO</u>	<u>DOCUMENTS</u>	<u>PG NO.</u>
1.	Report of the transport commissioner, Kerala	1-4

Dated at Chennai on this 05th day of January, 2026.



M/s. E.K. Kumaresan
Standing Counsel for Government of Kerala

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C3/111/2025-TC

REPORT FILED BY THE TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER /4th RESPONDENT IN
OA No.146/2025

1. Conversion of petrol/diesel vehicles to CNG- To reduce air pollution, the Motor Vehicles Department has been taking maximum steps to promote the use of eco-friendly vehicles on the roads. In order to simplify the procedures for converting existing petrol/diesel vehicles into CNG vehicles, the Transport Commissioner had issued Circular 04/2022 in the year 2022. Following this, a large number of auto rickshaws in Thiruvananthapuram city have already been converted to CNG.

Moreover, new autorickshaws are now being registered predominantly with CNG/electric options instead of petrol/diesel. At present, over 10% of the total vehicles registered in the State are 'electric vehicles'. This has, to a considerable extent, contributed towards reducing air pollution.

2. Scrapping of vehicles: The vehicles owned by Central Government and State Government and vehicles owned by autonomous bodies, PSUs, LSGIs etc which have crossed 15 years are being scrapped and necessary action in this regard is being initiated by the Government. Motor Vehicles Department strictly ensures that such vehicles are not being used on road after attaining 15 years. As the registration certificate of such vehicles are cancelled in the centralized VAHAN website, such vehicles cannot be put on road. In the year 2024, a total of 791 Government vehicles has been scrapped through the MSTC platform.
3. Incentivising scrapping of old vehicles- Moreover, when the public, scrap their old vehicles, the Government has provided a concession of 10 to 15% on the tax payable for the new vehicles they purchase. The Government has also, on several occasions, implemented One-Time Settlement (OTS) schemes for clearing the arrears of tax on such vehicles. By permitting payment of only a small percentage of the total tax due, the Motor Vehicles Department has taken measures to maximize the scrapping of these vehicles and to relieve the liabilities associated with them.



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4. Setting up of Vehicle Scrapping Centers- Also, since there are currently no scrapping centers in the State for dismantling vehicles owned by the public, steps are being taken to scrap the vehicles through the Central Government's platform, MSTC. In addition, measures are underway to establish scrapping centers at three locations within the State. Tenders were invited for setting up RVSFs in the North and South Zones, and the work has been awarded to M/s Steel Industrials Ltd., Kerala, who emerged as the highest bidder in both zones. Registration Certificates have been issued accordingly. The deadline for operationalizing all these RVSFs is set for 31.12.2025. The establishment of RVSF in the Central Zone has been entrusted to KSRTC.

The Government is also making fitness testing of all vehicles mandatory through Automated Testing Stations (ATS), with stricter checks including pollution control. These testing stations will help ensure that fitness certificates are not issued to polluting vehicles. If such vehicles fail to obtain a fitness certificate within six months, and if pollution-related or other defects are not rectified to secure a certificate, the Department will take steps to move these vehicles to scrapping centers for dismantling. Tender proceedings for this process are in the final stage. At present, there are nine Automated Testing Stations operational in the State. The Department has invited tenders for the up gradation of these existing stations. In addition, separate tenders were invited for the establishment of 19 new ATSS, and Letters of Intent have been issued to the highest bidders.

With the establishment of such Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSF) and Automated Testing Stations (ATS) in the State, old and polluting vehicles will gradually be removed from the roads.

5. Subsidy for e-autorickshaw-To encourage the registration of newly purchased electric autorickshaws, the Government is providing a subsidy of ₹30,000 each for 1,000 autorickshaws every year. Similarly, steps are being taken to establish electric charging stations across the State. This will help in increasing the registration of electric vehicles.
6. Stricter Pollution checks-Taking into account the financial difficulties faced by private bus owners as well as KSRTC, the Government extended the permissible service life of buses from 20 years to 22 years, instead of insisting on their immediate withdrawal and replacement with new vehicles. The decision was also made considering the need to provide affordable travel facilities to the public and



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to mitigate the financial strain on KSRTC. The sudden withdrawal of a large number of buses including those operated by KSRTC would disrupt the public transport system, cause significant inconvenience to commuters, and impose a heavy financial burden on bus owners and KSRTC alike. Considering these factors and the potential hardship to the general public, the Government has taken this measure in the broader public interest.

Moreover, fitness certificates are issued for such vehicles only after ensuring that they do not cause pollution. Therefore, extending the service life of buses from 15 years to 22 years will not significantly affect environmental pollution. This extension was granted by the Government after weighing KSRTC's financial constraints, the Government's own fiscal limitations, and the inconvenience that would otherwise be caused to the public.

7. In the State, no services are provided to any vehicle without a valid Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUC). At the emission testing centers established across the State, certificates are issued only after conducting the required tests and ensuring that the vehicle does not cause pollution. For this purpose, the Motor Vehicles Department has integrated the system with the Parivahan portal and has tightened enforcement measures.
8. It is brought to notice that, based on a comparative analysis of pollution testing data across various States in the country; Kerala has conducted the highest number of tests. In the year 2024 alone, a total of 1,18,23,513 pollution tests were carried out in the State—significantly exceeding the national average and the number of tests conducted in other States (Details enclosed). In the State, over the last three years (from 01.01.2022 to 30.08.2025), a fine amount of ₹ 6,80,68,250/- (Rupees Six crores eighty lakhs sixty eight thousand two hundred and fifty only) has been collected from 89,091 vehicles that were found plying without a valid PUC (Pollution Under Control Certificate) and violating pollution norms. As a result of the pollution control measures, the air quality index (AQI) in major cities of Kerala Trivandrum, Ernakulam, and Kozhikode has consistently shown to be significantly better compared to other grade B cities in India.
9. Action against unauthorized parking-In the State, action is being taken by both the Police and the Motor Vehicles Department against vehicles that are parked illegally in 'No Parking' areas/locations. In this manner, the Department has been



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making sincere efforts to reduce environmental pollution. To encourage the registration of electric vehicles in the State, a concession of 50-80% has been granted on the one-time tax payable for 15 years, compared to the tax levied on other vehicles of the same category. Similarly, electric autorickshaws have been granted a complete tax exemption for the first 5 years.



Transport Commissioner

NAGARAJU CHAKILAM, I.P.S
TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER
KERALA

