

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA**  
**Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No.20071 of 2025**

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Rani @ Rani Tiwari Daughter of Rajendra Tiwari, Resident of Veer Kunwar Singh Road, Near Shiv Mandir, C/o Nigam Pandey, Mohalla- Indrapuri, Keshari Nagar, P.S- Shastri Nagar, District- Patna, Bihar.

... .. Petitioner

Versus

1. The State of Bihar through the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar, Patna.
2. The Bihar Legal Service Authority, through the Member Secretary, Budh Marg, Opposite Museum, Patna-800001.
3. The Principal Secretary, Department of Law, Govt. of Bihar, Patna.
4. The Secretary, Department of Transport, Govt. of Bihar, Patna.
5. The Additional Secretary, Department of Transport, Govt. of Bihar, Patna.
6. The Transport Commissioner, Govt. of Bihar, Patna.

... .. Respondents

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**Appearance :**

For the Petitioner	:	Mr. Vikash Kumar Pankaj, Advocate
For the State	:	Mr. P.K. Verma, AAG-3
		Mr. Sanjay Kumar Ghosarvey, AC to AAG3
For BALSAs	:	Mr. Dharmendra Kr. Singh, Member Secretary

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**CORAM: HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE**

**and**

**HONOURABLE JUSTICE SMT. SONI SHRIVASTAVA**

**ORAL JUDGMENT**

**(Per: HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE)**

**Date : 23-06-2026**

Heard learned counsel for the parties.

2. Mr. P.K. Verma, learned AAG-3 for the State-Respondent submits that on 04.05.2026, the following order was passed:-

*“3. When the matter was taken up on 27.04.2026, we passed the following order, the relevant part of which are as follows:-*

*“5. At this stage, the learned Advocate General stated that a Cabinet approval is*



*necessary for issuing such notification and fixing the amount payable under settlement or compounding for different sections which deals with different offences. He has assured this Court that he shall do the needful in the meantime and apprise this Court on the next date.*

*6. In view of such submission made by the learned Advocate General, list this matter on 04.05.2026 and this Court expects that by the next date, the proposed notification which has been highlighted in our previous order dated 20.04.2026 shall be published and brought on record by way of an affidavit by the Secretary of the Department of Transport, Government of Bihar, Patna.”*

3. Subsequently, the Under Secretary, Transport Department, Government of Bihar filed a supplementary counter affidavit on behalf of respondent nos.4 to 6, which reads as under :

*“4. In terms of such order, supplementary counter affidavit has been filed on behalf of respondent nos. 4 to 6 by one ‘Raghubir Mandal’, Under Secretary, Transport Department, Government of Bihar in which it is stated as follows:-*

*“5. That it is stated and submitted that in compliance of the Order passed by the Hon'ble High Court the proposed Notification i.e. 'One Time Traffic Challan Settlement Scheme, 2026' for disposal of eligible traffic challan matters in the National Lok Adalat, 2026 has been notified after following the due process and getting approval of Cabinet vide Notification No.3261 dated 30.04.2026. It is also informed that e-gazette has also been published and a copy of the same is brought before this Hon'ble High*



Court.

6. That it is humbly informed the Hon'ble High Court that to facilitate the disposal of the eligible Traffic Challan matters, particularly through the upcoming next National Lok Adalat several States have passed Notification including the State of Odisha. The State of Bihar has fixed the compoundable/settlement amount as 'One Time Traffic Challan Settlement Scheme, 2026' to facilitate for disposal of Traffic Challan including e-challan, pending in huge number mainly considering the compoundable/settlement amount, fixed by the Govt. of Odisha.

7. That it is humbly submitted that the copy of the Notification has been sent to the Additional Director General of Police (Traffic), Bihar, Learned Member Secretary, Bihar Legal Services Authority, all District Magistrates as well as the concerned Officers of the Department vide Letter no.3280 dated 30.04.2026, requesting therein to take appropriate action and steps by issuing directions for disposal of the pending Traffic Challan. Apart from this all the District Transport Officers (DTOS) have already been directed to support the concerned Officers and District Legal Services Authorities so that Traffic Challan including e-challan matters may be taken up and disposed of in the next National Lok Adalat and huge pendency of e-challan can be reduced accordingly.

8. That it is stated and submitted that with a purpose of mass awareness and publicity of the new notified 'One Time Traffic Challan Settlement Scheme, 2026' is being circulated at wide scale through Letter no.3282 dated 30.04.2026 by publishing in the daily newspapers. In this regard vide Letter No.3281



*dated 30.04.2026 a letter has been sent to the Director, I & PRD, requesting therein to publish this 'One Time Traffic Challan Settlement Scheme, 2026' in daily Newspapers for the next three days.*

*9. That in the facts and circumstances above-mentioned evidently the Respondents have taken several positive steps including the publication of the Notification namely 'One Time Traffic Challan Settlement Scheme, 2026' after due Cabinet approval for disposal of eligible Traffic Challan matters with wide circulation of the same in compliance of the Orders passed by the Hon'ble Court and for the benefit of public as well."*

4. The appreciation by the Court of the above steps taken by the concerned department have been reflected in the order of the Court as follows:-

*"15. The Court deems it appropriate to place on record its appreciation for the prompt and proactive efforts of the State Government in issuing the requisite Gazette Notification concerning the reduction of traffic challan fees. Such timely intervention reflects a constructive and cooperative approach towards the administration of justice. It is reasonably expected that this measure will significantly facilitate the amicable settlement of pending matters, particularly in Lok Adalats, and thereby contribute to a meaningful reduction in the overall pendency of cases."*

5. Thus, vide the Notification the amount of fines prescribed for compoundable traffic challans have been reduced by about 50% and are detailed accordingly in the



said notification. Consequently, on 09.05.2026, when the National Lok Adalat took place approximately 36,722 (Thirty Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Two) cases were disposed of.

6. On enquiry by this Court, it is submitted by the Member Secretary (Respondent No.2) that Permanent Lok Adalats have been set up in the District Legal Services Authorities across the State (hereinafter referred to as 'DLSA') and are functioning, however, the Legal Services Act specifies that Permanent Lok Adalats are established under Sub-Section (1) of Section 22-B of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, and are for exercising jurisdiction in respect of public utility services. The term public utility services has been defined in the Act *inter alia* as transport service for carriage of passengers or goods by air, road or water. In view of the interpretation given therein, it would perhaps not be possible to take up traffic challan cases in the Permanent Lok Adalat. It is also submitted by Member Secretary that the notification referred to by the learned AAG extends only to the financial year 2026-27 and the Government may consider for extending it every year on the same ground, if so required to ease the burden of traffic challan cases.

7. Learned counsel for the petitioner, on the other hand, contends that although apprehension has been expressed by the Member Secretary of BALSAs regarding



taking up traffic challan cases in the Permanent Lok Adalats the only embargo that the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 at Section 22-C provides is that, the matter before the Lok Adalats should not be non-compoundable offences and the fines to be imposed should not exceed Rs.10 lakhs.

8. We have given careful consideration to the submissions advanced before us. The motto of the Legal Services Authority is "Access to justice for all". On the anvil of the motto in our considered view, every effort is to be made to provide easy access to justice in terms of Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and also to expedite justice by employing the services of alternate dispute resolution fora where required, unless any provision specifically debars such service.

9. In light of the foregoing circumstances, we find that there is no specific embargo on Permanent Lok Adalats to take up compoundable traffic challan cases, in addition to the Public Utility Services as defined in Section 22-A of the Legal Services Act. As pointed out by the learned counsel for the petitioner the only embargo under Section 22-C of the Legal Services Act is that, offences referred to the Lok Adalat are to be compoundable offences and the Permanent Lok Adalat shall not have jurisdiction in any matter where the value of the property in dispute exceeds Rs.10 lakhs.

10. Consequently, in view of the large pendency of



cases pertaining to traffic challans, we hereby order that Permanent Lok Adalats across the State take up and consider traffic challan cases in addition to other matters taken up by the said Lok Adalats.

11. Mr. Kumar Saurabh, intervenor, appearing in person, shall, if so advised, file a separate Public Interest Litigation as his issue is not directly linked to the issues in this case as he questions the reasons for such large traffic challan pendency.

12. With the aforesaid observations and directions, the instant writ application stands disposed of.

**(Meenakshi Madan Rai, CJ)**

**( Soni Shrivastava, J)**

Harsh/-

<b>AFR/NAFR</b>	
<b>CAV DATE</b>	NA
<b>Uploading Date</b>	25.06.2026
<b>Transmission Date</b>	NA

