

24.02.2026
Sl. No. 34
g.b.
Court No.10
266313

W.P.A. 29239 of 2025

Smt. Rina Ganguly
-Vs-
The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Mr. Sattwik Bhattacharyya
Mr. Aashutosh Bhattacharyya
.....For the Petitioner
Ms. Sucharita Roy
Mr. Somnath Mukhopadhyay
....For the State
Mr. Arun Kr. Upadhyaya
Mr. Rajesh Kumar Shah
....For the Respondent No.2

Affidavit of service filed by the petitioner is kept on records.

Learned counsel appearing for the State files a report dated 31.01.2026 on behalf of the District Transport Officer, Gaya and the same is kept on records.

A copy of the same has already been served upon the petitioner.

The petitioner has approached this Court seeking immediate intervention regarding the illegal existence of two separate vehicle plying under the same registration number.

Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submits that the petitioner in the instant case is a registered owner of a bus in Birbhum, West Bengal

but unable to operate the said vehicle due to a fraudulent duplicate registration in Paribahan Portal. A truck plying in Gaya, Bihar has been illegally registered under the identical registration number.

From the records it appears that the duplicacy or mistake occurred in issuing the impugned registration number, has been committed by the R. T. O., Burdwan at the time of initial allotment or issuance of the registration number.

It is further indicated in the report that since the jurisdiction of the issuing authority falls within RTO, Burdwan, he is the competent authority to rectify the mistake which has occurred due to the prevalent practice of retaining original registration number upon transfer of vehicle.

Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner draws the attention of this court to annexure 'P-4' at page 52 wherein the RTO, Purba Burdwan has already expressed his views stating inter alia that

"Upon careful examination of our records, it is regretted to inform you that the information sought is not available in our current database. The vehicle in question appears to be of an age for which records were maintained in non-digitized formats and may predate the period for which physical archives are preserved or readily accessible.

While all reasonable efforts have been made to trace the information from available archives, the absence of a traceable record may be attributed to the age of the vehicle and the lack of digitization.

This is for information and taking necessary action from your end."

Upon perusing the records a gross irregularity is evident. Two distinct vehicles appeared to be registered under the identical registration numbers WGH 4126 being a serious breach of the Motor Vehicles Act and potential systematic fraud. A proper investigation is required for taking cognizance against those miscreants who have committed the mischief in allotting identical registration numbers to different vehicles.

I direct Criminal Investigation Department, CID, West Bengal with the assistance of DGP Bihar, if necessary to conduct a thorough investigation to unearth the truth of the fraudulent activities committed by the miscreants.

The investigation must determine:

- (a) The authenticity of the documents submitted for the registration of both the vehicles namely (bus and the truck).
- (b) The involvement of the registration transport authority officials
- (c) whether there is any isolated incidents or is a part of a larger racket.

Apart from that the law enforcing agencies shall also investigate whether the duplication has been a result of fraud or a technical latch in Vahan Database. The entire exercise is to be completed by the investigating authorities within a period of three months and shall file their respective investigation reports on the date of returnable date.

If the duplication is found to be result of forgery the law enforcing agencies shall register an F.I.R. under relevant Section of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for forgery and cheating and shall be restrained from plying till the investigation attains the finality.

The matter to appear in the monthly list of May, 2026.

(Smita Das De, J.)