

# Bus Accident: At Least 25 Passengers Charred to Death, in Maharashtra, India



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### **Rizwan Mirza, CE**

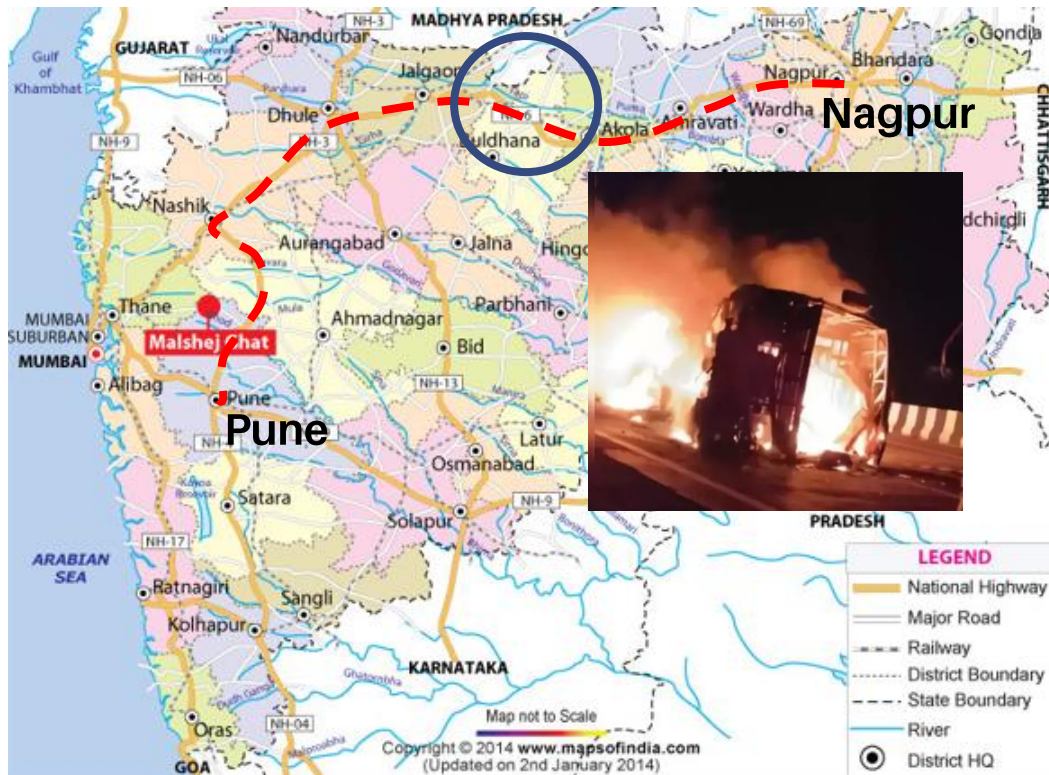
Editor-in-chief

On Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2023, at least twenty-five bus passengers were charred to death after a bus caught fire on the Samruddhi Expressway in Maharashtra's Buldhana district, Maharashtra, India. The dead were burnt, beyond recognition and resort was said to have been made to DNA testing for identification.

The private travels bus, carrying 33 persons, was on way from Nagpur to Pune when it rammed into a divider at around 1.30 am (20:00 GMT) near Sindkhedraja in Buldhana district. There were eight survivors.

The cause of accident has not been established, so far.

Deadly road accidents are common in India, often due to reckless driving, poorly maintained roads and ageing vehicles. More than 110,000 people are killed every year in road accidents across India, according to police.



Travel safety remains a major concern, in developed countries, around the world. It is, however unfortunate that the safety score of less developed countries low, in this regard.

PSCE expresses solidarity with the victims of the bus accident and wishes a fast and complete recovery to the survivors.

It is a time for soul searching for those responsible for roadside safety in Pakistan. This not only includes government authorities and vehicle manufacturers but also the road users. A scientific approach is required towards the issue and it is about time that we learn from the developed nations and allow professionals to lead the change. This is not policework, the author believes.

## Row Between PEC and PPRA



A row is reported to have been started between the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) and Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) over the authority to issue standard bidding documents for procurement of construction.

PPRA issued the procurement documents and circulated them amongst various organisations, for comments. PEC contested the authority of PPRA to issue these documents and claimed that the latter had the sole authority in this regard, under law. The Law Division has advised PPRA that it has the legal authority to issue the documents in question.

PEC has approached Islamabad High Court, invoking the court's original jurisdiction under Article 199 of the Constitution. The court has been approached through writ petition number WP 1607 of 2023.

The petitioner has argued that Section 2 (XXV) and Section 8 (p) of the PEC Act, 1976 (Act V of 1976), authorises PEC to issue bidding documents for engineering works while the PPRA statute does not confer any such authority on mandate to the Respondent Number 1.

The sections of the PEC ACI, 1976, relied upon by PEC, are as follows:

**8. Functions of the Council. The following shall be the functions of the Council, namely:**

.....

(p) establishing standards for engineering contracts, cost and services;

2. Definitions. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or the context:

.....

(xxv) “professional engineering work” means the giving of professional advice and opinions, the making of measurements and layouts, the preparation of reports, computations, designs, drawings, plans and specifications and the construction, inspection and supervision of engineering works, in respect of :

- (a) railways, aerodromes, bridges, tunnels and metalled roads;
- (b) dams, canals, harbours, light houses;
- (c) works of an electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, communication, aeronautical power engineering, geological or mining character;
- (d) waterworks, sewers, filtration, purification and incinerator works;
- (e) residential and non-residential buildings, including foundations framework and electrical and mechanical systems thereof;
- (f) structures accessory to engineering works and intended to house them;
- (g) imparting or promotion of engineering education, training and planning, designing, development construction, commissioning, operation, maintenance and management of engineering works in respect of computer engineering, environmental engineering, chemical engineering, structural engineering, industrial engineering, production engineering, marine engineering and naval architecture, petroleum and gas engineering, metallurgical engineering, agricultural engineering, telecommunication engineering, avionics and space engineering, transportation engineering, air-conditioning ventilation, cold storage works, system engineering, electronics, radio and television engineering, civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and biomedical engineering etc;
- (h) organizing, managing and conducting the teaching and training in engineering universities, colleges, institutions, Government colleges of technology, polytechnic institutions and technical training institutions;
- (i) preparing standard bidding or contract documents, construction cost data, conciliation and arbitration procedures; guidelines for bid evaluation, prequalification and price adjustments for construction and consultancy contracts; and
- (j) any other work which the Council may, by notification in the official Gazette, declare to be an engineering work for the purposes of this Act;

It has been reported that, in its interlocutory order, IHC has directed that the documents be prepared by Respondent Number 1 (PPRCA) in consultation with the Petitioner (PEC).



# Upcoming Event



## Pakistan Society of Civil Engineers

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▶ Continuous Professional Development Initiative ◀

### PSCE LECTURE No. 56

Technical Lecture Counted Towards CPD Points Under  
Professional Development of Engineers Bye-Laws, 2008 of the PEC

#### Future-proofing the Built Environment – Role of Structural Engineers



### Engr. Dr Naveed Anwar, P. E.

B. Sc. Civil Engineering, UET, Lahore, Pakistan, Master of Engineering, AIT, Bangkok, Thailand  
Doctor of Engineering, AIT, Bangkok, Thailand  
Senior Advisor to the President, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand  
CEO, CSI, Bangkok Thailand

**Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2023**

14.00 to 16:00, Pakistan Standard Time (PKT)  
9:00 to 11:00, Universal Time Coordinated (UCT)

On-line lecture to be joined through ZOOM.

Details would be sent, by email, to the registered applicants, a day before the lecture.  
For obtaining CPD points, live appearance of every participant is mandatory during the lecture.

#### Registration Fee:

PSCE associates: Free  
Other engineers and allied professionals: PKR 500

#### Bank Details:

Account title: Pakistan Society of Civil Engineers  
Account Number: 2008209912  
Bank: Silk Bank Limited  
Branch: Egerton Road Branch, Lahore 54000, Pakistan  
Branch Code: 0003  
IBAN: PK39 SAUD 0000 0320 0820 9912  
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## PSCE Newsletter



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