

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. SOUMEN SEN
&
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SYAM KUMAR V.M.**

**Thursday, the 12th day of February 2026 / 23rd Magha, 1947
WP(PIL) NO. 35 OF 2026(S)**

PETITIONERS:

1. DR.CHANDRASEKHARAN P.V, AGED 72 YEARS, S/O.C.K.KUNHIKRISHNAN NAMBIAR, RESIDING AT SREYA HOUSE, KARUMALA P.O., KANNUR, RETIRED PRINCIPAL CALICUT ADARSHA SANSKRIT VIDYAPEETHA, BALUSSERY, PIN - 673 612.
2. ROBERT SHIBU FERNANDEZ, AGED 49 YEARS, S/O.BABU FERNANDEZ, H.NO.119/B, BURRENCHERY, KANNUR, PIN - 670 013.
3. SUZANNE MERICA NORONHA, AGED 9 YEARS, (MINOR), D/O.NOEL BIJU NORONHA, REPRESENTED BY HER FATHER AND GUARDIAN, NOEL BIJU NORONHA, S/O.NORONHA FRANCIS VALENTINE, BETHEL, MARAKKARKANDY, MOTHER TERESA NAGAR, THAYYIL P.O., KANNUR, PIN - 670 003.
4. JOSHUA M.RAPHEAL, AGED 8 YEARS (MINOR), S/O.SHARIKA T.J., REPRESENTED BY HIS MOTHER AND GUARDIAN, SHARIKA T.J., W/O.RAPHEAL SHAJI, MARAVETTIKAL HOUSE, BARNASSERY, KANNUR, PIN - 670 013.
5. IVANNA MARY PANJIKARAN, AGED 13 YEARS (MINOR), D/O.IME JAMES, REPRESENTED BY HER MOTHER AND GUARDIAN, IME JAMES, W/O.JAISON THOMAS, PANJIKARAN HOUSE, PALLIKUNNU P.O., KANNUR, PIN - 670 004.
6. SHRIYA ANEESH, AGED 10 YEARS (MINOR), D/O.ANEESH KUMAR P.V., REPRESENTED BY HER FATHER AND GUARDIAN, ANEESH KUMAR P.V., S/O. PALLERI BALAN, AMRITHA SADHAN, DHARMADAM P.O., AREEKADAVU, THALASSERY, KANNUR, PIN - 670 106.

RESPONDENTS:

1. UNION OF INDIA, REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, CENTRAL DELHI P.O., NEW DELHI, PIN - 110 001.
2. MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, INDIRA PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, JORBAGH ROAD, ALIGANJ, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110 003.
3. NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY, REPRESENTED BY ITS CHAIRMAN, 5TH FLOOR, TICEL BIO PARK, CSIR ROAD, TARAMANI, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU, PIN - 600 113.
4. CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, STATUE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
5. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
6. THE DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE, 4TH FLOOR KSRTC BUS TERMINAL, THAMPANOR, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA, PIN - 695 001.
7. THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HEAD OF FOREST FORCE (PCCF & HOFF) KERALA FOREST DEPARTMENT, FOREST HEADQUARTERS IN

- VAZHUTHACAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA, PIN - 695 014.
8. KERALA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD, REPRESENTED BY ITS CHAIRPERSON, BELHAVEN E ST, BELHAVEN GARDENS, NANTHANCODU, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA, PIN - 695 003.
 9. THE KERALA STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (KSDMA), OBSERVATORY HILLS, VIKAS BHAVAN P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA, PIN - 695 033.
 10. KOCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, PB NO-1016, COCHIN, ERNAKULAM, KERALA, PIN - 682 011.
 11. LAWYERS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS FORUM (LEAF), REPRESENTED BY ITS PRESIDENT/SECRETARY, KERALA HIGH COURT ADVOCATES ASSOCIATION, HIGH COURT OF KERALA BUILDING ERNAKULAM, KOCHI, PIN - 682 031.

Writ petition (Public Interest Litigation) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(PIL) the High Court be pleased that a moratorium may be placed on all large scale constructions and quarrying in areas previously identified as ESZ-1 by the Gadgil Committee until the final disposal of this Writ Petition.

This petition coming on for admission upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(PIL) and upon hearing the arguments of M/S. P.SATHISAN, SHIBU B.S, RAZAK M., BIJU P.PAUL, ALVIN JEWEL S.S., VIDHYA T.U., ABHIRAMI.S & SREEKARTHIK S. MENON, Advocates for the petitioner, SRI.K.S.BHARATHAN, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COUNSEL for R1 to R3, SRI.T.NAVEEN, STANDING COUNSEL for R8, SRI.NAGARAJ NARAYANAN, SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PLEADER and of ADV.SRI.SUNIL V.MUHAMMED, the court passed the following:

P.T.O.

W.P(PIL)No.35 of 2026

1

Soumen Sen, C.J. & Syam Kumar V.M., J.

=====

W.P(PIL)No.35 of 2026

=====

Dated this the 12th day of February, 2026

Appearance:

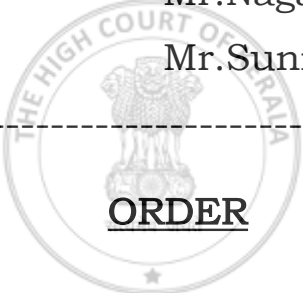
For the Petitioners : Mr.P.Sathisan

For the Respondents : Mr.K.S.Bharathan, CGC

Mr.T.Naveen, SC

Mr.Nagaraj Narayanan, Spl.GP

Mr.Sunil V.Muhammed


ORDER**Soumen Sen, C.J.**

After hearing the learned counsel for the parties, we call for an affidavit with regard to prayer Nos.(i), (vii) & (ix). Further, we direct the Union of India and the State of Kerala to disclose the steps taken by them pursuant to the recommendations of the Gadgil Committee Report and/or the Kasturirangan Committee Report. The other prayers, having already been settled by several decisions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, are not being considered.

W.P(PIL)No.35 of 2026

2

3. Post on 12.03.2026.

**Sd/-
Soumen Sen
Chief Justice**

**Sd/-
Syam Kumar V.M.
Judge**

vgd

