

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE DR. JUSTICE A.K.JAYASANKARAN NAMBIAR
&
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE JOBIN SEBASTIAN**

**Monday, the 2nd day of March 2026 / 11th Phalgun, 1947
WP(C) NO. 7858 OF 2025(S)**

PETITIONER:

**BAIJU PAUL MATHEWS, AGED 52 YEARS, PUTHUSSERIL,
KOTTAKUNNU, SULTHAN BATHERY, WAYANAD, PIN - 673 592**

RESPONDENTS:

1. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, FOREST AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001
2. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001
3. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, KANNUR, COLLECTORATE, KANNUR, PIN - 670 001
4. THE WILDLIFE WARDEN, THE WILDLIFE WARDEN, IRITTY, KANNUR, PIN - 670 703

ADDITIONAL R5 TO R7 IMPEADED

5. ANERT, PMG – LAW COLLEGE ROAD, VIKAS BHAVAN P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 033, REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.
6. ARALAM GRAMA PANCHAYAT, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, MALABAR HILL HIGHWAY, NEAR ARALAM WILD LIFE SANCTUARY, PAYAM, EDOOR, KERALA - 670 704.
7. ARALAM FARMING CORPORATION (KERALA) LIMITED, REPRESENTED BY ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR, ARALAM FARM, KANNUR DISTRICT, KERALA – 670 673.
*ADDL. R5 TO R7 ARE SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS PER ORDER DATED 27/06/2025 IN WP(C) 7858/2025.

ADDITIONAL R8 IMPEADED

8. THE TRIBAL REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT MISSION, REPRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR, SC/ST DEPARTMENT, AYYANKALI BHAVAN, KOWDIAR P.O, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 003.
ADDL.R8 IS SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS PER ORDER DATED 06/08/2025 IN WP(C) 7858/2025.

ADDITIONAL R9 IMPEADED

9. THE CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN, FOREST HEADQUARTERS, VAZHUTHACAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 014.
ADDL. R9 IS SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS PER ORDER DATED 17/12/2025 IN WP(C) 7858/2025.

Writ petition (civil) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to issue following Interim reliefs:

1. Short-Term Defensive Mechanisms

- Directing the Respondent R3 and R4 to immediately restore and maintain the electric fencing in all critical blocks, with 24x7 watchers or rapid-response squads deployed until a permanent boundary wall and translocation can be effected.
- Ensure that shrubs are trimmed periodically, and small trees cut to ensure visibility and reduce places where elephants can hide.
- Mandating timely repairs and maintenance of any half-built or damaged portions of the boundary wall, in line with the Minister's assurance.

2. Temporary Relocation if Needed

- In the event that short-term defense measures cannot be fully secured forthwith, temporarily relocate the most vulnerable families to government quarters (e.g., PWD guest houses) with a daily sustenance allowance, until the farmland is rendered safe.
Direct respondent 2 for the same.

3. Immediate Elephant-Drive Operations

- Compel the Respondent R4 to chase away or drive out elephants from the settlement area as an interim measure, pending a comprehensive translocation plan.

This petition again coming on for admission upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C), this Court's order dated 27/02/2026 and upon hearing the arguments of SRI. BAIJU PAUL MATHEWS as Party-In-Person for the petitioner, SRI.K.GOPALAKRISHNA KURUP, ADVOCATE GENERAL for R1 to R4, M/S. T.R.HARIKUMAR & ARJUN RAGHAVAN, Advocates for R5, SRI. NIRMAL.S, STANDING COUNSEL for R6 and of SRI. V.HARISH, Advocate for R7, the court passed the following:

P.T.0

DR.A.K.JAYASANKARAN NAMBIAR, J.
&
JOBIN SEBASTIAN, J.

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Dated this the 2nd day of March, 2026

ORDER

Dr. A.K.Jayasankaran Nambiar, J.

Pursuant to our interaction with the Chief Secretary, the Secretary, SC/ST Department, the Chief Wildlife Warden, and other officers of the Government over video conference, as also our interaction with the learned Advocate General, Sri. K. Gopalakrishna Kurup in Court, we deem it appropriate to direct the Chief Secretary to coordinate with all the other departments in the State and submit before us a roadmap containing the steps that would be taken by the State Government for putting in place a Robust defence mechanism for dealing with human-wild animal conflict situations such as elephant wall, hanging solar fences etc., both around the TRDM area in Aralam as also in the various conflict areas in Wayanad District. The Chief Secretary must bear in mind the urgency of the situation and state clearly the steps that will be taken as also the time limit within which they will be put in place. The report shall reach us by 12.03.2026 so that we can consider the same on the next posting date viz. 13.03.2026.

2. We are told that with regard to the supply of drinking water to the residents in the TRDM area in Aralam, a Government order

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dated 10.02.2026 has already been issued, whereby the residents in the area will be supplied drinking water in tanker lorries on regular basis till such time as the infrastructure for supply of water under the Jalanidhi Scheme is made functional. In the report to be filed by the Chief Secretary by the next date of posting, the progress with regard to the implementation of the order dated 10.02.2026 shall also be adverted to.

Post on 13.03.2026.



Sd/-
DR.A.K.JAYASANKARAN NAMBIAR
JUDGE

Sd/-
JOBIN SEBASTIAN
JUDGE

ANS