

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN**

**Thursday, the 5th day of March 2026 / 14th Phalguna, 1947
RP NO. 1394 OF 2025(P)**

**WP(C) 22750/2018 OF HIGH COURT OF KERALA, ERNAKULAM
REVIEW PETITIONER/3RD PARTY:**

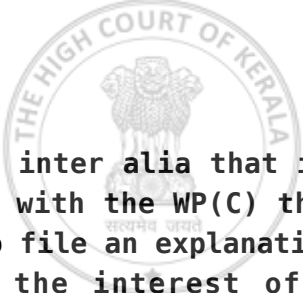
**RAHUL K.T AGED 38 YEARS S/O. K. K. THANKAPPAN, KUDILINGAL HOUSE,
THAIKKATTUKARA P.O, ALUVA, ERNAKULAM, PIN - 683106**

RESPONDENT/PETITIONER & RESPONDENTS:

1. ST. STEPHEN'S MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH KATTANAM VILLAGE, BHARANICKAVU, ALAPPUZHA, REPRESENTED BY ITS TRUSTEE SILVY GEORGE, AGED 48 YEARS, S/O GEORGE, MANKAVIL, KATTANAM VILLAGE, BHARANICKAVU, ALAPPUZH, PIN - 690503
2. STATE OF KERALA REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001
3. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, STATE OF KERALA, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001
4. DISTRICT COLLECTOR COLLECTORATE, CIVIL STATION, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 688001
5. CHIEF ENGINEER (R AND B) PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MUSEUM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695033
6. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ROADS PWD ROADS DIVISION, COLLECTORATE BUILDING, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 688001
7. ASST. ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, KATTANAM, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 688001
8. BHARANICKAVU GRAMA PANCHAYAT REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, BHARANICKAVU, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 690520
9. SECRETARY BHARANICKAVU GRAMA PANCHAYAT, BHARANICKAVU, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 690520
10. SUB INSPECTOR KURATHIKAD POLICE STATION, MAVELIKKARA, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 690101
11. KERALA ADVERTISING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION REGN NO.EKM/TC/536/2012, STATE OFFICE IVTH FLOOR, MATHEWSONS TRADE CENTRE (NEAR TVS), KALOOR, KOCHI, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY G.RAMESH BABU, S/O. P.D.KESAVA PILLAI, AGED 60., PIN - 682017
12. THE CORPORATION OF KOCHI REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY, P.B.NO.1016, KOCHI, PIN - 682011
13. THE CORPORATION OF THIRUVANANTHAPURAM REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, VIKAS BHAVAN (P.O), THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695033
14. THE CORPORATION OF KOLLAM REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, KOLLAM, PIN - 691001
15. THE CORPORATION OF KANNUR REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, P.B.NO.39, KANNUR, PIN - 670001
16. THE CORPORATION OF THRISSUR REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, THRISSUR, PIN - 680011
17. THE CORPORATION OF KOZHIKODE REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, KOZHIKODE,

PIN - 673001

- 18. THE CHIEF SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF KERALA THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001**
- 19. THE STATE POLICE CHIEF STATE OF KERALA, PIN - 695010**
- 20. THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, NIRAVACHAN SADAN, ASOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI , PIN - 110001**
- 21. THE KERALA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, CORPORATION OFFICE COMPLEX, LMS JUNCTION, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695033**
- 22. NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY OF INDIA G 5 & 6, DABRI-GURGAON RD, SECTOR 10 DWARKA, DELHI, PIN - 110075**
- 23. STATE ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY REPRESENTED BY ITS CEO, TRANSPORTCOMMISSIONERATE, FOURTH FLOOR, TRANS BUILDING, VAZHUTHAKKAD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695014**
- 24. DIRECTOR OF PANCHAYATH PANCHAYATH DIRECTORATE, SWARAJ BHAVAN, GRAND FLOOR, NANTHANCODE, KOWDIAR P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003**
- 25. DIRECTOR OF URBAN AFFAIRS 1ST FLOOR, SWARAJ BHAVAN, NANTHANCODE P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003**



Review Petition praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to direct the State of Kerala to file an explanation for the noncompliance of the impugned judgment, in the interest of justice equity and good conscience.

This Review Petition coming on for orders upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C) and this Court's judgment dated 13.03.2025 and order dated 19.02.2026 and upon hearing the arguments of M/S AMRUTHA SURESH, Advocate for Review Petitioner/3rd Party, M/S. GEORGE VARGHESE (PERUMPALLIKUTTIYIL), A.R. DILEEP, P.J. JOE PAUL & MANU SEBASTIAN, Advocates for the R1 in RP/petitioner in WP(C), SRI.K.V.SOHAN, STATE ATTORNEY, SRI ASHOK M.CHERIAN, ADDITIONAL ADVOCATE GENERAL & T.S.SHYAM PRASANTH (GOVERNMENT PLEADER) for R2 to R7 in RP/R1 to R6 in WP(C), SRI.VINCENT JOSEPH, Advocate for R9 in RP/R8 in WP(C), SRI.K.V.SOHAN (STATE ATTORNEY) & GOVERNMENT PLEADER for R10 & R18 in RP/R9 & R17 in WP(C), SRI.LAL K.JOSEPH, STANDING COUNSEL for R11 in RP/R10 in WP(C), M/S.BABU KARUKAPADATH & C.N PRABHAKARAN, STANDING COUNSEL for R12

in RP/Addl.R11 in WP(C), SRI.N.NANDAKUMARA MENON (SENIOR ADVOCATE) along with SRI.SUMAN CHAKRAVARTHY, STANDING COUNSEL for R13 in RP/Addl.R12 in WP(C), SRI.M.K.CHANDRA MOHAN DAS (STANDING COUNSEL) & SRI.S.SREEKUMAR (KOLLAM) for R14 in RP/ Addl.R13 in W.P.(C), SRI.K.K.CHANDRAN PILLAI (SENIOR ADVOCATE) along with M/S.S.AMBILY, NAMITHA NAMBIAR, SAJI THOMAS, VANIAH MARIA DOMINIC, M. MEENA JOHN & ISSAC M PERUMPILLIL, Advocates for R15 in RP/ADDL.R14 in W.P.(C), SRI.SANTHOSH P.PODUVAL, STANDING COUNSEL for R16 in RP/Addl.R15 in WP(C) , M/S.BINDUMOL JOSEPH, B.S.S, SRI.DEEPU LAL MOHAN, STANDING COUNSEL for R21 in RP/ Addl.R20 in WP(C), and of SRI.HARISH VASUDEVAN, AMICUS CURIAE, & SRI.JACOB for assisting AMICUS CURIAE (By order), the court passed the following:



DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN, J.

R.P.No.1394 of 2025
in
W.P.(C) No.22750 of 2018

Dated this the 5th day of March, 2026

ORDER

As per the order dated 06.02.2026, the Joint Directors of LSGDs were directed to initiate a drive to clean up the territories under their command and to ensure that, no further illegal installations are allowed. They were also directed to file reports thereafter.

2. The learned Government Pleader - Sri.T.S.Shyam Prasanth, has today filed a memo dated 05.03.2026, enclosing the report of the Principal Director, Local Self Government Department, who is stated to have compiled all the reports of the Joint Directors of LSGDs.

3. This can only mean that the Joint Directors, in obedience to the directions aforementioned, has cleaned up all the areas under their command and that there are no more illegal installations - at least as on the date when the report has been settled.

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4. I, therefore, put it to Sri.T.S.Shyam Prasanth - learned Senior Government Pleader, if the Principal Secretary has vouched in the report, that there are no other illegal and unauthorized boards, flags, festoons etc on the public spaces of our State. He requested time, saying that such a specific record has not been made.

5. That said, the learned Amicus Curiae - Sri. Harish Vasudevan, still complains that old boards are allowed to remain, and new ones have re-appeared.

6. In any vibrant democracy, courts can only issue directions; and its enforcement has to be ensured by the Officers-in-power. If the latter refuses, it means there is a breakdown of governance. Courts or its Amici Curiae cannot be expected to be aware of every board and flag in Kerala; but it is for the Authorities to be so and to take the directed actions.

7. One wonders if it is too much for the citizens of the State to seek modern public spaces and for their cities, towns

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and villages; and for them to be free from the scourge of garbage and visual pollution.

8. This court had notified the Joint Directors of LSGDs, though by the order dated 06/02/2026, that if the areas under them are not cleaned as ordered therein, they will have to be present before this Court online at the first instance and thereafter, physically.

9. The report of the Principal Secretary is rather vague and only provides information on the action taken and the number of boards and other installations removed. It does not say, as said above, that the public spaces in Kerala have been fully cleaned or that necessary vigil is maintained to ensure that it is not again flooded with unauthorized installations.

10. It will truly be a sad day, if civil servants act in wilful disregard to the directions of Courts, since this will lead to a democratic breakdown and chaos.

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11. Undoubtedly, therefore, the presence of the Joint Directors now becomes inevitable, except if they are to inform this Court, within the day I fix, that, all the unauthorized flags and boards and other installations stand removed. I fix this date to be the 17th of March 2026; and order that this matter be listed on the 18th day of March, 2026 at 3.30 p.m.

12. I order that every Joint Director of LSGD, who is unable to implement this direction fully – and not merely substantially – shall appear before this Court online at the afore designated day and time.

sd/-

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN, JUDGE

AS
H/o.