

**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.**

**Monday, the 30th day of March 2026 / 9th Chaithra, 1948
WP(C) NO. 42844 OF 2025(R)**

**SUO MOTU WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) INITIATED BY THE HIGH COURT
REGARDING LACK OF PROPER INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE MEDIATION
CENTRES ACROSS THE STATE.**

RESPONDENTS:

1. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
2. THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
3. UNION OF INDIA, REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE, 4TH FLOOR, A-WING, SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI - 110 001.
4. THE LAW SECRETARY, LAW DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
5. THE REGISTRAR (DISTRICT JUDICIARY), HIGH COURT OF KERALA, MARINE DRIVE, ERNAKULAM - 682 031.
6. THE MEMBER SECRETARY, KERALA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, NIYAMA SAHAYA BHAVAN, OPPOSITE ADVOCATE GENERAL OFFICE, KOCHI, PIN - 682 031.
7. THE DIRECTOR, KERALA STATE MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION CENTRE, RAM MOHAN PALACE, HIGH COURT OF KERALA, KOCHI, PIN - 682 031.

Suo motu writ petition (civil) praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to issue necessary directions to the Government and other authorities concerned to provide the infrastructural requirements of each mediation sub centre as listed in Ext P3 as well as to ensure adequate support staff and regular office stationary.

This petition coming again on for orders upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C), this Court's order dated 23/03/2026 and the court passed the following:

P.T.O.

MONDAY, THE 30TH DAY OF MARCH 2026

WP(C) No. 42844 of 2025

SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED BY THE HIGH COURT

VS

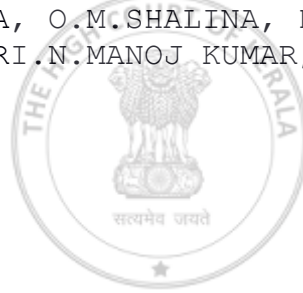
STATE OF KERALA REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED BY THE HIGH COURT (IN PERSON)

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

GOVERNMENT PLEADER, SMT.SHIBI.K.P., SHRI.LEO LUKOSE, SMT.NAYANPALLY RAMOLA, O.M.SHALINA, DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA, SHRI.N.MANOJ KUMAR, STATE ATTORNEY



MONDAY, THE 30TH DAY OF MARCH 2026

WP(C) No. 48551 of 2025

ADV.BABU KUMAR

VS

THE MEDIATION & CONCILIATION PROJECT COMMITTEE OF SUPREME

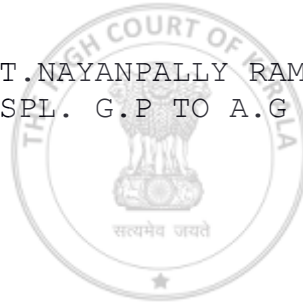
COURT OF INDIA & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

SRI.P.R.SHAJI, SRI.B.S.SURESH (CHIRAKKARA), SHRI.A.R.GEORGE,
SRI.MATHEW KURIAKOSE, SRI.SAJU.S.POONTHODATH, SMT.M.A.ZOHRA,
SMT.P.A.REZIYA, SMT.M.CHANDRALEKHA, SHRI.P.T.GIRIJAN, LATHA K
(K/1615/95,L-91)

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

GOVERNMENT PLEADER, SMT.NAYANPALLY RAMOLA, SHRI.LEO LUKOSE,
SHRI.C.E.UNNIKRISHNAN SPL. G.P TO A.G



WP(C)No.42844 of 2025 and
connected case

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SOUMEN SEN, C. J. & SYAM KUMAR V. M., J.

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W.P.(C)Nos.42844 and 48551 of 2025

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Dated this the 30th day of March, 2026

Appearance:

For the Petitioner : Mr.P.R.Shaji
in W.P(C)No.48551 of 2025

For the Respondents : Mr.Vinitha B., Sr.G.P
Ms.Vidya
Ms.Shibi K.P
Mr.Leo Lukose
Mr.Adarsh Kumar (Amicus
Curiea)
Ms.Nayanpally Ramola
C.R.Jyothilal [Additional Chief
Secretary (Finance)] appeared
through online

ORDER

Soumen Sen, C.J.

The Additional Chief Secretary (Finance), Government of Kerala is present in the virtual mode.

2. The learned Counsel appearing on behalf of the State

Respondents has placed before us a copy of the G.O(Rt) No.3454/2026/Fin dated 27.03.2026 relating to authorisation of the additional expenditure to be spent towards the amount for victim compensation. It appears from the abstract of the document produced before us that a Government Order has been issued authorising additional expenditure to the tune of ₹11,08,87,000/- (Rupees Eleven Crores Eight lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand only) under the heads of account mentioned in the said abstract memo, to be spent towards the payment of victim compensation.

3. The said abstract was followed by a communication dated 28.03.2026 from the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department to The District Judge & Member Secretary, KeLSA, in which it is stated that informal communication has been received from the KeLSA, that the authorised amount of ₹11,08,87,000/- is not required by them in the current financial year as the bills are not yet ready. The Member Secretary, KeLSA is present before us and it appears that there may have been some miscommunication in the above aspect as it may not be possible to disburse the entire amount in this financial year, as the fund was sanctioned only on 27.03.2026.

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4. The Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department has agreed that the unspent portion of the fund earmarked for the current financial year, 2025-26 can be transferred into the Special Treasury Savings Bank Account No.3 (Spl. TSB-3) with the Sub Treasury, Ernakulam, so that such balance can be utilized for the next financial year, 2026-2027 for the purpose of which the fund was granted, in addition to any fund that may become due and payable in the subsequent financial year, subject to the prior intimation to the Finance Department in this regard by the Member Secretary, KeLSA. Insofar as the infrastructure issues are concerned, the learned Advocate representing the High Court Administration has submitted that time may be extended to file a comprehensive affidavit disclosing the details of the infrastructural projects pending with the Government.

5. The learned Counsel appearing for the KeLSA submits that a proposal to the tune of ₹1,24,50,000/ (Rupees One Crore Twenty Four Lakhs and Fifty Thousand only) has been forwarded to the Government. However, it is submitted that the matter is presently pending with the Law Department. Accordingly, we direct the Law Secretary to forward the said

proposal to the Finance Department along with the infrastructural requirements of the High Court. The Registrar General is directed to immediately forward the pending infrastructure issues to the Finance Department for consideration and appropriate decision.

6. The matter shall be listed on 25.05.2026.

7. We request the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department to look into the matter. A report in the form of an affidavit shall be filed by the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department on the adjourned date with regard to the steps taken by the Government regarding the pending issues. The further appearance of the Additional Chief Secretary is presently dispensed with. The abstract regarding the financial submission dated 27.03.2026 produced before us, is taken on record.

8. The Mediation Committee shall consider the prayer for enhancement of the fees of the Mediator and the Registry attached to the Mediation Centre shall file a report on the adjourned date. The Member Secretary, KeLSA is directed to ensure expeditious disbursement of the victim compensation

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connected case

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amount and the payment of the Mediators fees and shall file a report with regard to the utilisation of fund on the next posting date.

9. The said report shall also indicate if any further amount is required for the next financial year, 2026-2027. The Member Secretary, KeLSA is also directed to ensure monthly statements, to be sent to the Nodal Officer (Home Department) with copies to the Law Department and Finance department regarding the utilisation of the amounts. Any further amount required towards the victim compensation, the fee of the Mediators shall also be pointed out in the said report. If contributions from the Government is due/outstanding on any other count the same shall also be pointed out. The Registrar General shall forward the said requirement to the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department for consideration on urgent basis.

Sd/-

**SOUMEN SEN
CHIEF JUSTICE**

Sd/-

**SYAM KUMAR V. M.
JUDGE**

smm