

FRIDAY, THE 31ST DAY OF JULY 2026

RP No. 1394 of 2025

RAHUL K.T

VS

ST. STEPHEN'S MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH & OTHERS

ADVS FOR REVIEW PETITIONER/S:

SMT.AMRUTHA SURESH

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

GOVERNMENT PLEADER, SHRI.K.ANAND, ADDITIONAL STANDING COUNSEL, KOCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, SRI.R.KRISHNA RAJ, SHRI.A.L.NAVANEETH KRISHNAN, SC, KOLLAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, SMT.M.MEENA JOHN, SC, KANNUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, SHRI.SUMAN CHAKRAVARTHY, SC, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM CORPORATION, SHRI.DEEPU LAL MOHAN, SC, STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, KERALA, ASOK M.CHERIAN, ADDL. ADVOCATE GENERAL, SHRI.T.S.SHYAM PRASANTH, SENIOR G.P., SHRI.JACOB MATHEW, SHRI.BASIL CHANDY VAVACHAN, ADDITIONAL STANDING COUNSEL, THRISSUR CORPORATION, SHRI.R.V.SREEJITH, SC, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM CORPORATION

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN, J.

RP No.1394 of 2025 in WP(C)No.22750 of 2018

Dated this the 31st day of July, 2026

O R D E R

The learned *Amicus Curiae* - Sri.Harish Vasudevan, has filed a report dated 29.07.2026, containing rather shocking contents. The photographs attached to it show the enormity of the violations by several sections of the society, including the political class, religious institutions, merchant associations, and almost all others.

2. The learned *Amicus Curiae* also mentions that, in Kollam District, there were several flags and boards put up by an entity called the 'Kerala Forest Protective Staff Association'; and that all this is being done with perceived impunity.

3. This Court is aware that the Government of Tamil Nadu has already issued a protocol/circular/instructions, either banning, or

regulating, the menace that this Court is now trying to address. One wonders why this should not be considered by the Government of Kerala, particularly when such directions have been accepted in their full spirit.

4. This Court is considering R.P.No.1394/2025, for modification of the judgment, to make it *au courant* with the times; but, the consequence will be that this Court will be constrained to take action against Secretaries or institutions, when many of them seem to be acting under fear or coercion.

5. I am, therefore, of the firm view that the Government must now respond at the highest level to the report of the learned *Amicus Curiae*; and also inform this Court of the steps taken to ensure that the directions contained in the judgment are effectively enforced and complied with.

6. As far as the Secretaries of the Local

Self Government Institutions are concerned, this Court proposes to initiate action against them individually, as directed in the judgment because; otherwise, it would amount to a mockery of law, if the Authorities vested with the jurisdiction continue to slumber over their obligations and duties.

7. Going by the report of the learned *Amicus Curiae*, there appear to be widespread violations in Thiruvananthapuram. The importance of this city, as the capital of our State, cannot be lost sight of; and this is the reason why this Court deems it necessary to obtain specific instructions from the highest levels of the Government.

8. Needless to say, this Court will not refrain from issuing strict further orders in RP No.1394/2025, if the violations continue in the manner, as are now projected and presented.

9. I, therefore, adjourn this matter to be called on 14.08.2026; within which time, the Chief

Secretary to the Government will respond to this order through an appropriate affidavit.

10. In the meanwhile, within the next posting date, I direct the Secretaries of all Local Self-Government Institutions, as a last chance, to purge their apparent contempt and ensure that the territories under their jurisdiction are cleaned out, without allowing any further installations in the future, be that by any class of persons. These directions are peremptory in nature, and any further violations will not inure to them any further opportunity; but will expose them to action, including under the Contempt of Courts Act.

11. That said, one wonders, in the midst of all this, what the Joint Directors of Urban Affairs are doing, in spite of the directions in the judgment. Is it that they are not seeing all these violations, or are turning a blind eye to them? I, therefore, notify them that, if such

violations continue, their personal presence before this Court will be insisted upon. This is a caution, without any further opportunity.

List on 14.08.2026.

Sd/-

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN

JUDGE

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