

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

**Friday, the 31st day of July 2026 / 9th Sravana, 1948
RP NO. 1394 OF 2025**

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 - 683 106.**

RESPONDENTS/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 - 690 503.
2. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
3. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, STATE OF KERALA, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001
4. DISTRICT COLLECTOR, COLLECTORATE, CIVIL STATION, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 688 001.
5. CHIEF ENGINEER (R AND B), PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MUSEUM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 033
6. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ROADS PWD ROADS DIVISION, COLLECTORATE BUILDING, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 688 001.
7. ASST. ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, KATTANAM, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 688 001.
8. BHARANICKAVU GRAMA PANCHAYAT, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, BHARANICKAVU, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 690 520.
9. SECRETARY, BHARANICKAVU GRAMA PANCHAYAT, BHARANICKAVU, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 690 520.
10. SUB INSPECTOR, KURATHIKAD POLICE STATION, MAVELIKKARA, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 690 101.
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 - 682 017.
12. THE CORPORATION OF KOCHI, REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY, P.B.NO.1016,KOCHI, PIN - 682 011.
13. THE CORPORATION OF THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, VIKAS BHAVAN (P.O), THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 033.
14. THE CORPORATION OF KOLLAM, REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, KOLLAM, PIN - 691 001.
15. THE CORPORATION OF KANNUR, REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, P.B.NO.39, KANNUR, PIN - 670 001.
16. THE CORPORATION OF THRISSUR, REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, THRISSUR, PIN - 680 011.
17. THE CORPORATION OF KOZHIKODE, REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, KOZHIKODE, PIN -

673 001.

18. THE CHIEF SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF KERALA THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
19. THE STATE POLICE, CHIEF STATE OF KERALA, PIN - 695 010.
20. THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, NIRAVACHAN SADAN, ASOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110 001.
21. THE KERALA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, CORPORATION OFFICE COMPLEX, LMS JUNCTION, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 033.
22. NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY OF INDIA G 5 & 6, DABRI-GURGAON RD, SECTOR 10 DWARKA, DELHI, PIN - 110 075.
23. STATE ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY REPRESENTED BY ITS CEO, TRANSPORTCOMMISSIONERATE, FOURTH FLOOR, TRANS BUILDING, VAZHUTHAKKAD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 014.
24. DIRECTOR OF PANCHAYATH, PANCHAYATH DIRECTORATE, SWARAJ BHAVAN, GRAND FLOOR, NANTHANCODE, KOWDIAR P.O, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 003.
25. DIRECTOR OF URBAN AFFAIRS 1ST FLOOR, SWARAJ BHAVAN, NANTHANCODE P.O, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 003.

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 10-04-2026 in RP and upon hearing the arguments of M/S AMRUTHA SURESH, Advocate for Review Petitioner/3rd Party, SRI.JACOB MATHEW ,Advocate for the R1 in RP/petitioner in WP(C), GOVERNMENT PLEADER for R2 to R7 in RP/R1 to R6 in WP(C), GOVERNMENT PLEADER for R10 , R18 & R19 in RP/R9,R17& R18 in WP(C), SRI.K.ANAND, ADDITIONAL STANDING COUNSEL for R12 in RP/Addl.R11 in WP(C), SRI.R.V.SREEJITH, STANDING COUNSEL for R13 in RP/Addl.R12 in WP(C), SRI.A.L.NAVANEETH KRISHNAN (STANDING COUNSEL) for R14 in RP/ Addl.R13 in W.P.(C), SMT.M.MEENA JOHN STANDING COUNSEL for R15 in RP/ADDL.R14,SRI.BASIL CHANDY VAVACHAN, ADDITIONAL STANDING COUNSEL for R16 in RP/Addl.R15 in WP(C),STANDING COUNSEL for R21 and of SRI.HARISH VASUDEVAN, AMICUS CURIAE, & SRI.JACOB for assisting AMICUS CURIAE (By order), the court passed the following:,

FRIDAY, THE 31ST DAY OF JULY 2026

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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.DEEPULAL 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

akv

