

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

Thursday, the 11th day of December 2025 / 20th Agrahayana, 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,
THAIKATTUKARA 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 non-compliance 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 19.11.2025 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.SHYAMPRASANTH (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) & SHRI.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, M/s.BINDUMOL JOSEPH, B.S.Sand of SRI.HARISH VASUDEVAN, AMICUS CURIAE, the court passed the following:

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN, J.

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Dated this the 11th day of December, 2025

ORDER

Read order dated 19.11.2025.

2. The learned Government Pleader – Sri.Syam Prasanth, submitted that the directions in the afore order have been fully complied with; though seeking time to verify whether all the boards have been removed within the time frame fixed.

3. Sri.Deepu Lal Mohan – appearing for the State Election Commission, submitted that he filed a report on the action taken by his client, as also the follow up, to ensure that all election materials had been properly dealt with, removed and disposed of. He also sought a few days time for this.

4. Sri.R.Krishna Raj — appearing for a Welfare Association of Panchayat Secretaries (though the application for their impleadment has not yet been allowed) — made certain submissions, which I think are relevant and hence recorded herein. He pointed out that, even though the members of his client are fully willing to act as per the orders of this Court, they face severe predicaments, including assaults and such other, from vested interests. He further submitted that, some of the illegal boards and banners are fixed on public utility posts like those

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owned by the electricity board, telephone department etc., and that unless their cooperation is also available, the Secretaries will not be in a position to act fully. He added an apprehension that, in such scenario, the members of his client may be held responsible personally, and would have to face consequences, for which they are not responsible.

5. I certainly grant time to the learned Government Pleader and Sri.Deepu Lal Mohan to file their reports. This shall be done by the next posting date.

6. Coming to the apprehensions voiced by Sri.R.Krishna Raj, this Court orders that any requisition from any Secretary of a Local Self Government Institution to any of the Public Authority, including the ones arrayed in this case or otherwise, shall be dealt with peremptorily and quickly, with all necessary assistance offered. The earlier directions of this Court, as available in the judgment itself, that the Police will ensure assistance to the Secretaries of the Local Self Government Institutions, will continue to operate fully. I caution all Authorities under the afore directions that, any violation or reluctance will be met with action to the fullest warrant of law.

7. At this time, Sri.Syam Prasanth intervened to inform this Court that there was an online meeting called by the

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learned Additional Advocate General – Sri.Asok Cherian, which was attended by the learned Amicus Curiae, as also the Secretaries, along with the Principal Director of all Local Self Government Institutions and other officials concerned. He added that this has been done to ensure that the directions of this Court are fully complied with. I certainly place on record the commendation of this Court for this effort; and without doubt – as is virtually admitted by all sides – the situation on the ground level has improved drastically.

8. However, as has been emphasised in the earlier orders, the war is not yet won, though a few battles may have been.

9. Before I close, I must inform all officials, including the Secretaries of the Local Self Government Institutions, that no unauthorised boards, flags, festoons or such others are exempt from the directions of this Court and that includes all types - be that of any institution, organisation or entities. I make this clarification because the learned Amicus Curiae – Sri.Hareesh Vasudevan, informs me that certain cultural and religious organisations and some in the movie industry are still placing boards as if these directions won't apply to them. This is far from true; and I notify the Authorities to understand this clearly.

For further consideration, list on 14.01.2026

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Sd/- DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN,
JUDGE

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