

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM  
PRESENT  
THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. NITIN JAMDAR  
&  
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE C. JAYACHANDRAN

Thursday, the 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025 / 8th Karthika, 1947  
WP(C) NO. 23505 OF 2023(S)

**PETITIONER:**

SUMI JOSEPH, D/O JOSEPH PAIFY, SCHOOLKUDIYIL (H),  
OONUKAL P.O KOTHAMANGALAM, KUTTAMANGALAM,  
ERNAKULAM - 682 306.

**RESPONDENTS:**

1. THE CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA, SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 001.
2. THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, HOME DEPARTMENT, GROUND FLOOR MAIN BLOCK SECRETARIAT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM- 695 001.
3. THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, I ST FLOOR, ANNEX II, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM- 695 001.
4. LAW SECRETARY, LAW DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM- 695 001.
5. THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, GENERAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, JAGATHY, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM- 695 014.
6. THE EXCISE COMMISSIONER, EXCISE COMMISSIONERATE, VIKAS BHAVAN P.O NANDAVANAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM- 695 033.

Writ petition (civil) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to pass an interim direction directing the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent to take effective and prompt measures to curb the spread of drug menace among students as well as youth in the State of Kerala taking note of the various reports submitted by the authorities as well as taking note of Exhibit.P1 to P6 representations made by the petitioner before the respective respondents 1 to 6, pending disposal of the above writ petition.

P.T.O.

**This petition again coming on for orders upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C), this Court's order dated 25/09/2025 and upon hearing the arguments of M/S. G.HARIHARAN, PRAVEEN.H., K.S.SMITHA, V.R.SANJEEV KUMAR & BIJOY SAM GEORGE, Advocates for the petitioner and of SRI.N.MANOJ KUMAR, STATE ATTORNEY & SRI.P.G.PRAMOD, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER for the respondents, the court passed the following:**

**P.T.O.**



NITIN JAMDAR, C. J. & C. JAYACHANDRAN, J.

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Dated this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025

**ORDER**

Heard Mr. G. Hariharan, learned counsel for the Petitioner and Mr. P. G. Pramod, learned Senior Government Pleader.

2. As noted in the order dated 25 September 2025, a meeting was convened by the Additional Chief Secretary on 18 September 2025 to consider whether several informal groups such as School Protection Groups, Jagratha Samitis, and Anti-Narcotic Clubs functioning in educational institutions can be given a formal structure or integrated into a single protection group within educational institutions with a focus on anti-drug awareness.

3. An affidavit has been filed by the Under Secretary, Home Department, placing the following facts on record:—

*“5. It is humbly submitted that the Additional Chief Secretary Home Department convened the review meeting on 24.10.2025. In the Meeting, Secretary, General Education Department, informed that a discussion has been held with the Police and Excise Departments, during which a consensus was reached. Based on this, a draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been prepared by that department, which is being circulated to concerned stake holders for their comments and on receipt of their feedback, the SOP will be finalized, and further action to issue the SOP as a Government Order will be taken without delay.*

6. *It is submitted that the objective now is to integrate all related initiatives of Excise, Police, and Education Departments into a single order under the Education Department, as the matter is primarily concerned with schools. The roles, representations, interventions, and expected outcomes of each department need to be clearly defined in the order. The goal is to create a single instrument under the Education Department, delineating the responsibilities of all departments involved. Since different departments are involved, successful ongoing initiatives should be retained and integrated under the broader framework of the School Protection Groups and a coordinated and unified mechanism need to be ensured.*

7. *It is submitted that many decisions about related committees in the past might have been taken at the level of Council of Ministers considering the interdepartmental nature of the issue. Hence, once all departmental comments are received, the file requires to be circulated through the Chief Secretary to all the Ministers concerned, so as to place the matter before the Council of Ministers. Hence, in the meeting held by Additional Chief Secretary Home Department, the Secretary, General Education Department, was directed to circulate the draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to the Home Department, Higher Education Department, Police Department, and Excise Department for collecting suggestions and remarks at the earliest and that after, incorporating the views and observations of all concerned departments, it shall be routed by the Secretary, General Education Department, through the Chief Secretary, to the Hon'ble Minister for Education, the Hon'ble Minister for Excise, and the Hon'ble Chief Minister for placing the matter before the Council of Ministers. It was also decided that a joint meeting of all concerned Ministers, Secretaries, and Heads of Departments shall be convened by the Education Department to discuss and finalize the matter at the earliest.*

*8. It is submitted that since the matter involves review, integration, and consolidation of all existing interventions without creating departmental conflicts to focus on coordination, monitoring, and supervision, the matter is entrusted with the General Education Department and require some more time for issuing orders from that Department.”*

Therefore, it has already been decided that it would be desirable to have an integrated group in place of various informal groups. The objective is to aid the Departments of the State, such as the Excise Department and the Police Department, and at the same time, creating an internal mechanism within schools. The desirability of establishing such a mechanism has been recognized by the State, as is evident from the additional affidavit filed.

4. The affidavit states that for the creation of mechanism in schools, the files will be placed after taking the view of all concerned Government Departments, concerned Ministers, the Council of Ministers, and the Chief Minister. It is not clear for this initiative, such a high level decision making is required. The Additional Chief Secretary will examine whether such a course of action is necessary or warranted, since it may delay the establishment of an internal mechanism. It is informed that a draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been prepared and is being circulated among stakeholders; however, the said draft has not been placed before us.

5. This issue cannot be delayed further. Therefore, we direct that the Standard Operating Procedure be finalized after obtaining inputs from

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all Departments concerned, and that an administrative decision establishing the internal mechanism be issued within a period of four weeks from today, unless it is demonstrated by the Additional Chief Secretary by filing an affidavit that it is mandatory to place the matter before the Council of Ministers. Even if the Standard Operating Procedure is finalized, it can always be changed and modified subsequently.

6. Post on 4 December 2025.



Sd/-  
**NITIN JAMDAR**  
**CHIEF JUSTICE**

Sd/-  
**C. JAYACHANDRAN**  
**JUDGE**

Eb