

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE V.G.ARUN

Thursday, the 11th day of December 2025 / 20th Agrahayana, 1947
WP(C) NO. 32982 OF 2025 (W)

PETITIONERS:

1. PAMBA BOAT RACE CLUB NEERATTUPURAM, THIRUVALLA, REG NO.274/2007, REPRESENTED BY ITS WORKING PRESIDENT, VICTOR T. THOMAS, AGED 61 YEARS, S/O. LATE THOMAS MATHEW, MULAMOOTTIL THUNDIATH HOUSE, KOZHENCHERRY. P.O., PATHANAMTHITTA DISTRICT, PIN - 689 641
2. PUNNOOSE JOSEPH, AGED 53 YEARS S/O. IYPE JOSE, SECRETARY, PAMBA BOAT RACE CLUB, NEERATTUPURAM, THIRUVALLA, RESIDING AT VENGAL, PUTHENVEETIL HOUSE, AMICHAKARY. P.O., THIRUVALLA, PATHANAMTHITTA DISTRICT, PIN - 689 112

RESPONDENTS:

1. STATE OF KERALA REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT WATER RESOURCES, (IR) DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001
2. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER KOLLAM IRRIGATION DIVISION, IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT, KOLLAM, PIN - 691 001
3. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR 2ND FLOOR, COLECTORATE PATHANAMTHITTA DISTRICT, PIN - 689645
4. SUB COLLECTOR CITY GOVERNMENT OFFICE, THIRUVALLA, PATHANAMTHITTA, PIN - 689 101
5. PAMBA BOAT RACE CLUB REG NO.98/90 NEERETTUPURAM, NEDUMPRAM P.O, THIRUVALLA, PATHANAMTHITTA (REGISTRATION NO. P98/90) REPRESENTED BY ITS WORKING PRESIDENT BABU VALIYAVEEDAN, AGED 58, VALIYAVEETIL HOUSE, NEERETTUPURAM P.O, TALAVADY VILLAGE, KUTTANADU TALUK, PIN - 688 561
6. NEERATTUPURAM JALOLSAVA SAMITHI REPRESENTED BY ITS CONVENER PRAKASH PANAVELIL, AGED 52, PANAVELIL HOUSE, TALAVADY P.O, TALAVADY VILLAGE, KUTTANADU TALUK, ALAPUZHA, PIN - 688561
7. PRAKASH PANAVELI AGED 52 YEARS PANAVELIL HOUSE, PANAVAD P.O., TALAVADY VILLAGE, KUTTANADU TALUK, ALAPPUZHA DISTRICT, PIN - 688 561
8. BABU VALIYAVEEDAN VALIYAVEETIL HOUSE, NEERATTUPURAM P.O., TALAVADY VILLAGE, KUTTANADU TALUK, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 688 561
9. REJI ABRAHAM TAIKKADAVIL HOUSE KADAPRA P.O., THIRUVALLA TALUK, PATHANAMTHITTA, PIN - 689 101

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 stay the operation of Exhibit P16 impugned order and provisionally permit the Petitioner to conduct their boat race on the scheduled date i.e. 04/09/2025 or any other date as directed by this Hon'ble Court, pending disposal of this Writ Petition.

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 06/12/2025 and upon hearing the arguments of M/S LIJU.V.STEPHEN, INDU SUSAN JACOB & TAJ K. TOM, Advocates for the petitioners, and of the GOVERNMENT PLEADR for R1 to R4, M/S.JOSEPH GEORGE, P.A.REJIMON & VIVEKJOS PUTHUKULANGARA, Advocates for R5 & R8, the court passed the following:

P.T.O.



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V.G.ARUN (J)**WP(C) Nos. 32982 of 2025****Dated this the 11th day of December, 2025****ORDER**

It has come out from the arguments and the documents produced that, even though by Exhibit R5(u) judgment, the Division Bench restored the parties to the schedule as fixed by the District Collector, the 1st petitioner Club was unable to conduct the boat race as per schedule, i.e., on 19.09.2025 for reasons beyond its control. On the other hand, the 5th respondent conducted the boat race on 12.09.2025 as per the schedule. Although petitioners requested for permission to conduct the boat race on 14.12.2025, the prayer was declined by the District Collector.

2. Learned Counsel for the petitioners submits that a request has now been made to the District Collector seeking

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permission to conduct boat race on 28.12.2025, but no orders are being passed.

3. Learned Counsel for the 5th respondent submits that the direction of the Division Bench was to conduct the boat race as per schedule and hence the petitioners were bound to conduct the boat race on 19.09.2025. Having failed to do so, the petitioners cannot seek to conduct the race on a day of its choice.

4. Learned Government Pleader submits on instructions that considering deployment of police personnel for Sabarimala duty, this Court may not direct the District Collector to grant permission for conducting the boat race on 28.12.2025. It is also submitted that police personnel will have to be deployed for maintaining law and order during the New Year celebrations.

5. The Division Bench of this Court has recognized the petitioners' right to conduct the boat race by Exhibit R5(u)

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judgment. The petitioners were disabled from conducting the boat race on 19.09.2025 since the CBL tournament was held at Kainakary on the same day. The reason for not conducting the boat race on 19.09.2025 being acceptable, it is only appropriate to permit the boat race to be conducted on another day. As far as the submission that policemen from the jurisdictional Station are deployed for Sabarimala duty is concerned, it is pertinent to note that the Mandala Vilakku is on 26.12.2025 and the Makara Vilakku season starts only from 01.01.2026. Therefore, sufficient number of policemen will be available in the interregnum and the petitioners' proposal is to conduct the boat race on 28.12.2025. No doubt, police personnel will have to be deployed for other duties considering that the New Year celebrations will be ongoing. Be that as it may, the instructions made available to the learned Government Pleader reveals that a large contingent of police is not required to be deployed during the

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boat race and no law and order issues were reported during the conduct of boat race by the 5th respondent on 12.09.2025. Hence the following directions are issued;

(i) The District Collector shall grant permission for the petitioners to conduct the boat race at the specified location on 28.12.2025.

(ii) The District Police Chief shall direct deployment of police personnel to maintain law and order during the conduct of the race.

(iii) The expenses for such deployment shall be met by the petitioners in accordance with the circulars issued by the State Police Chief.

Post on 16.01.2026.

Sd/-

**V.G.ARUN
JUDGE**

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APPENDIX OF WP(C) 32982/2025

Exhibit R-5 (u)

**TRUE PHOTOCOPY OF JUDGMENT DATED 09-09-2025 IN W.A NO:
2157/2025 OF THIS HON'BLE COURT.**

