



2026:KER:9516

W.P(C)No.36780 of 2017

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. SOUMEN SEN

&

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SYAM KUMAR V.M.

WEDNESDAY, THE 4TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026 / 15TH MAGHA, 1947

WP(C) NO. 36780 OF 2017

THE COURT ON ITS OWN MOTION:

SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED AS PER THE DIRECTION OF THE HONOURABLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA VIDE IT'S JUDGMENT DATED 15/9/2017 IN WPC 406/2013 TITLED AS "RE-INHUMAN CONDITIONS IN 1382 PRISONS".

RESPONDENTS:

- 1 STATE OF KERALA, REP. BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM -695001.
- 2 THE STATE OF KERALA REPRESENTED BY ITS ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695001.
- 3 THE STATE OF KERALA REP. BY ITS SPECIAL SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM -695001.
- 4 THE DGP AND STATE POLICE CHIEF STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS, VELLAYAMBALAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695001
- 5 DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES PRISONS HEADQUARTERS, POOJAPPURA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695012.



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6 THE DIRECTOR
SOCIAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, VIKAS BHAVAN,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695033.

*ADDL.R7 SANDHYA. J
D/O SIVAKAMI AMMA, AGED 46 YEARS, P-14, PALAYAM
POLICE QUARTERS, VIKAS BHAVAN PO,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. *[ADDL.R7 IS IMPEADED AS PER
ORDER DATED 20/03/2018 IN I.A 3974/2018 IN WPC
36780/2017]

*ADDL.R8 THE KERALA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
NIYAMA SAHAYA BHAVAN, HIGH COURT ROAD COMPOUND,
KOCHI - 682 031.

*ADDL.R9 THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
GPO COMPLEX, MANAV ADHIKAR BHAVAN, C-BLOCK, INA, NEW
DELHI - 110 023. *[ADDL.R8 & R9 ARE IMPEADED AS PER
ORDER DATED 27/11/2024 IN WP(C) 36780/2017]

*ADDL.R10 THE NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTRE
REPRESENTED BY ITS DIRECTOR GENERAL, A-BLOCK, CGO
COMPLEX, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003 *[ADDL. R10 IS
IMPEADED AS PER ORDER DATED 28/10/2025 IN
WP(C) 36780/2017]

BY ADVS.

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PROSECUTION

SMT.A.PARVATHI MENON - FOR R7

SRI.B.ASHOK SHENOY

SHRI.T.RAMPRASAD UNNI

SHRI.P.NARAYANAN, SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PLEADER

GOVERNMENT PLEADER

SRI.P.S.GIREESH

SHRI.ARJUN R NAIK

SHRI.UMASANKER U.U.

SHRI.ADITYA A. SHENOY

SRI.K.RAMAKUMAR (SR.)

SRI.S.M.PRASANTH ; SHRI.SHEHIN S.

SRI.E.NARAYANAN

SMT.K.K.PREETHA

SHRI.S.BIJU, SENIOR PANEL COUNSEL

SHRI.SANTHOSH MATHEW, AMICUS CURIAE

THIS WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON
04.02.2026, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:



Soumen Sen, C.J. & Syam Kumar V.M., J.

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W.P(C)No.36780 of 2017

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Dated this the 04th day of February, 2026

JUDGMENT

Soumen Sen, C.J.

The matter was adjourned earlier in order to enable the State Police Chief, Social Justice Department, Land Revenue Commissioner and Director General of Prisons to give their observations and remarks on the draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) prepared for the collection, verification and updation of nominees/legal heirs of prisoners.

2. After much deliberation, the SOP for the collection, verification and updation of nominees/legal heirs of prisoners has been finalized and the copy of the said SOP has been filed as a memo on 21.01.2026.

3. Mr.P.Narayanan, learned Special Government Pleader, Ms.A.Parvathi Menon, learned counsel appearing for Respondent No.7, Mr.S.Biju, learned Senior Panel Counsel and Ms.Aparna.S,



learned counsel representing Mr.Santhosh Mathew, learned Amicus Curiae have submitted that the said SOP is comprehensive and has taken into consideration all matters that ought to have been included and required for the proper implementation of the various schemes under KeLSA.

4. In view of the aforesaid, the SOP is accepted. The Secretary, KeLSA and all stakeholders are directed to follow the said SOP for the implementation of the various schemes and for the purposes for which the SOP has been framed.

The Petition is accordingly, disposed of.

**Sd/-
Soumen Sen
Chief Justice**

**Sd/-
Syam Kumar V.M.
Judge**

vgd

APPENDIX OF WP(C) NO. 36780 OF 2017RESPONDENTS' EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT R7 (A)	TRUE COPY OF THE REPORT ON THE STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
EXHIBIT R1 (A)	TRUE COPY OF THE DETAILS OF THE 21 UNNATURAL DEATHS OCCURRED DURING THE PERIOD FROM 2012 TO 2016
EXHIBIT R1 (B)	TRUE COPY OF THE DETAILS OF 28 DEATHS OF PRISONERS OCCURRED DURING THE PERIOD FROM 2012 TO 2016
EXHIBIT R2 (A)	TRUE COPY OF THE COMMUNICATION LETTER DATED 31.05.2025 FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL, PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM TO THE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, NIC, E-PRISONS AND ICJS, NEW DELHI
EXHIBIT R2 (B)	TRUE COPY OF COMMUNICATION ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES TO DISTRICT COLLECTOR, KANNUR DATED 02-05-2025 ALONG WITH ITS ENGLISH TRANSLATION
EXHIBIT R2 (C)	TRUE COPY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17-07-2025
EXHIBIT R2 (D)	TRUE COPY OF THE LETTER NO: KPCS/2285/2025-HC (GEN) DATED 28-07-2025
EXHIBIT R2 (E)	TRUE COPY OF THE LETTER NUMBER U6-236785-2024-PHQ DATED 23-05-2025