

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. NITIN JAMDAR
&
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE BASANT BALAJI**

**Wednesday, the 23rd day of July 2025 / 1st Sravana, 1947
WP(PIL) NO. 87 OF 2025(S)**

**SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED BY THE HIGH COURT
IN WATERLOGGING OF SNDP HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL,
KUTTAMANGALAM, ALAPPUZHA.**

RESPONDENTS:

1. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY ITS CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 001.
2. THE DIRECTOR OF GENERAL EDUCATION, DIRECTORATE OF GENERAL EDUCATION, JAGATHI, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 014.
3. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, COLLECTORATE, CIVIL STATION WARD, ALAPPUZHA - 688 001.
4. PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURE OFFICER, PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURE OFFICE, CIVIL STATION, ALAPPUZHA - 688 001.
5. THE SECRETARY, KAINAKARY GRAMA PANCHAYAT, THOTTUVATHALA, KAINAKARY SOUTH, ALAPPUZHA - 688 501.
6. THE MANAGER, SNDP HSS, KUTTAMANGALAM, KAINAKARY NORTH, ALAPPUZHA - 688 501.
7. THE SECRETARY, PARUTHIVALAVU PADASHEKHARA SAMITI, KUTTAMANGALAM.P.O, KAINAKARY, ALAPPUZHA - 688 501.

ADDITIONAL R8 IMPLEADED

8. THE KERALA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, REPRESENTED BY ITS MEMBER SECRETARY, ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682 031.
ADDL.R8 IS IMPLEADED AS PER ORDER DATED 23/07/2025 IN WP(PIL) 87/2025.

This Suo motu writ petition coming on for admission upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(PIL) and upon hearing the arguments of GOVERNMENT PLEADER and of SRI.JITHIN SAJI ISAAC, AMICUS CURIAE, the court passed the following:

P.T.O.

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Nitin Jamdar, C.J.

&

Basant Balaji, J.

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Dated this the 23rd day of July 2025ORDER

A letter from around 200 students of SNDP Higher Secondary School, Kuttamangalam, along with teachers through the Principal, was addressed to the Chief Justice, High Court of Kerala. In view of the concerns raised therein, this letter is treated as a *suo motu* writ petition.

2. The letter states that the School, established in 1938, is situated in Ward No.3 of Kainakari Grama Panchayat, within the Kuttanad Legislative Constituency of Alappuzha District, an area lying below sea level. The School is located on the outer bund of Paruthivalavu paddy fields, which falls within the jurisdiction of the Kainakari Krishi Bhavan. The region follows a traditional agricultural system involving the construction of earthen bunds to prevent water ingress, followed by motorised pumping of water for cultivation. The collapse of these bunds during monsoons or flash floods, locally termed "*Madaveezhcha*", leads to inundation of the paddy fields and surrounding areas.

3. It is stated that on 29 May 2025, a *Madaveezhcha* occurred in the Paruthivalavu paddy fields, causing widespread flooding. As a result, 20 classrooms of the school remained submerged up to the windowsills for

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over six weeks, and the homes of many students were also submerged, displacing their families. It is stated that the classes are being conducted with the permission of the authorities concerned, utilising the rooms which are not submerged, including library and computer lab, and that first-year students attend classes in the forenoon and second-year students in the afternoon. Hence, there is a serious concern regarding the ability of these students to appear for the public examinations. It is stated that despite various representations to the concerned authorities, there was no action by the Paadasekhara Samithi to repair the bund or commence the pumping operations. It is also stated that pumping using motors has not started and the school premises remain flooded. Concerns have also been raised about health hazards due to stagnant water. Therefore, the students and teachers have sought directions to the Paadasekhara Samithi and the Tahsildar, Agriculture Officer, Principal Agriculture Officer, and the District Collector, to expedite the bund repair and dewatering, prevent recurrence of such incidents in future, and ensure restoration of safe and full-fledged academic activity at the school.

4. We direct that the District Collector, Alappuzha will call for a joint meeting of the concerned officers from the Education Department and the Agricultural Department, Secretary of the Paadasekhara Samithi, and a representative of the school, to ascertain the factual position and issue necessary directions as the District Collector deems fit and warranted to remedy the situation pointed out by the students. All the authorities will co-operate with the District Collector in this regard.

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5. Post on 31 July 2025 for submitting an action taken report. Thereafter, the Court may consider taking up the larger issue regarding other schools in the area, if any, and for long term solutions.

6. Adv. Mr. Jithin Saji Isaac is appointed as an *Amicus Curiae* to assist the Court.

7. The Kerala State Legal Services Authority is joined as a party Respondent and will, through the District Legal Services Authority, also conduct a factual enquiry and apprise the learned *Amicus Curiae*, who can thereafter file a properly formatted petition with necessary prayers.



Sd/-

**Nitin Jamdar,
Chief Justice**

Sd/-

**Basant Balaji,
Judge**

vpv

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P.A. TO JUDGE