IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN

Friday, the 25th day of September 2026 / 3rd Aswina, 1948

RP NO. 1394 OF 2025

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, THAIKKATTUKARA P.O, ALUVA, ERNAKULAM, PIN - 683 106.

RESPONDENTS/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 - 690 503.**
2. **STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.**
3. **PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, STATE OF KERALA, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001**
4. **DISTRICT COLLECTOR, COLLECTORATE, CIVIL STATION, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 688 001.**
5. **CHIEF ENGINEER (R AND B), PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MUSEUM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 033**
6. **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ROADS PWD ROADS DIVISION, COLLECTORATE BUILDING, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 688 001.**
7. **ASST. ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, KATTANAM, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 688 001.**
8. **BHARANICKAVU GRAMA PANCHAYAT, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, BHARANICKAVU, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 690 520.**
9. **SECRETARY, BHARANICKAVU GRAMA PANCHAYAT, BHARANICKAVU, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 690 520.**
10. **SUB INSPECTOR, KURATHIKAD POLICE STATION, MAVELIKKARA, ALAPPUZHA, PIN - 690 101.**
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 - 682 017.**
12. **THE CORPORATION OF KOCHI, REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY, P.B.NO.1016,KOCHI, PIN - 682 011.**
13. **THE CORPORATION OF THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, VIKAS BHAVAN (P.O), THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 033.**
14. **THE CORPORATION OF KOLLAM, REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, KOLLAM, PIN - 691 001.**
15. **THE CORPORATION OF KANNUR, REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, P.B.NO.39, KANNUR, PIN - 670 001.**
16. **THE CORPORATION OF THRISSUR, REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, THRISSUR, PIN - 680 011.**
17. **THE CORPORATION OF KOZHIKODE, REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, KOZHIKODE, PIN -**

673 001.

18. THE CHIEF SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF KERALA THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
19. THE STATE POLICE CHIEF, STATE OF KERALA, PIN - 695 010.
20. THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, NIRAVACHAN SADAN, ASOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110 001.
21. THE KERALA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, CORPORATION OFFICE COMPLEX, LMS JUNCTION, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 033.
22. NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY OF INDIA, G 5 & 6, DABRI-GURGAON RD, SECTOR 10 DWARKA, DELHI, PIN - 110 075.
23. STATE ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY, REPRESENTED BY ITS CEO, TRANSPORTCOMMISSIONERATE, FOURTH FLOOR, TRANS BUILDING, VAZHUTHAKKAD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 014.
24. DIRECTOR OF PANCHAYATH, PANCHAYATH DIRECTORATE, SWARAJ BHAVAN, GRAND FLOOR, NANTHANCODE, KOWDIAR P.O, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 003.
25. DIRECTOR OF URBAN AFFAIRS, 1ST FLOOR, SWARAJ BHAVAN, NANTHANCODE P.O, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 003.

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 again 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 10-09-2026 in RP and upon hearing the arguments of SMT.AMRUTHA SURESH, Advocate for Review Petitioner/3rd Party, SRI.JACOB MATHEW, Advocate for the R1 in RP/petitioner in WP(C), SRI.SACHIN JACOB AMBAT, GOVERNMENT PLEADER, for R2 to R7, R10, R18 & R19 in RP/R1 to R6, R17 & R18 in WP(C), SRI.K ANAND, ADDITIONAL STANDING COUNSEL for R12 in RP/Addl.R11 in WP(C), SRI.R.V.SREEJITH, STANDING COUNSEL for R13 in RP/Addl.R12 in WP(C), SRI.A.L NAVANEETH KRISHNAN STANDING COUNSEL for R14 in RP/ Addl.R13 in W.P.(C), SMT.M.MEENA JOHN STANDING COUNSEL for R15 in RP/ADDL.R14 in WP(C), SRI.BASIL CHANDY VAVACHAN, ADDITIONAL STANDING COUNSEL for R16 in RP/Addl.R15 in WP(C), STANDING COUNSEL for R21 and of SRI.HARISH VASUDEVAN, AMICUS CURIAE, the court passed the following:

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN, J.

R.P.No.1394/2025 in WP(C)No.22750/2018

Dated this the 25th day of September, 2026

O R D E R

The learned Amicus Curiae – Sri.Harish Vasudevan, invited my attention to the affidavit filed by the Chief Secretary and pointed out that, even though recovery may have started, the registration of FIRs is still being disregarded.

Sri.R.V.Sreejith – learned Standing Counsel for the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, submitted that an additional statement has been filed by his client, wherein, in paragraph 10, the problems plaguing the system have been highlighted.

The learned Government Pleader – Sri.Sachin Jacob Ambat, submitted that action all over the State has been initiated and are continuing, to remove every illegal board/flag/festoon; and that over Rs.1 Crore has been charged, in less than a month's time, out of which nearly Rs.10 Lakhs has been recovered, while steps for recovering the balance is going on.

The Joint Directors of Local Self Government Institutions are stated to be appearing online, and the learned Government Pleader submitted that they have understood the gravity of the situation. He requested that they be given some time to convene the meetings of District Level Committees and to ensure that actions are taken to it final culmination.

I have not interacted with any of the Joint Directors on account of the afore submission, but once they complete their meetings of the DLCs, they must report to the learned Government Pleader, which will then be collated and placed before this Court.

I, therefore, adjourn this matter to be called on 16.10.2026, with the following orders:

a) The Chief Secretary and the District Police Chief will advert to the statement of Sri.R.V.Sreejith – learned Standing Counsel for the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, dated 25.09.2026, particularly paragraph 10 thereof, and inform this Court what steps will be taken to allay the apprehensions.

b) The competent Authority of the Government will inform this Court, through an affidavit, as to the further steps taken for recovery of fines and for registration of FIRs, with respect to the boards and other illegal installations that are reported to have been removed.

c) The Joint Directors of the Local Self Government Institutions will convene the DLC meetings not later than two weeks from today; and will report to this Court the outcome of the same through the learned Government Pleader, by the next posting date.

At this time, the learned Amicus Curiae brought to my notice that the boards which were removed by the various Local Self Government Institutions did not contain the names or addresses of the Printing Presses. He asserted that this is in blatant violation of the judgment of this Court.

The learned Government Pleader submitted that the Government will look into this issue seriously and will take necessary steps, including by issuance of orders and circulars.

I certainly welcome this offer, but it must be borne in mind that control can be obtained only if necessary conditions are incorporated for the purpose of renewal of licences for the Printing Presses, if they are to violate the judgment of this Court.

The learned Government Pleader submitted that this would be kept in mind and that necessary action would be pursued.

The afore being said, this Court certainly appreciates the efforts now being taken to remove the boards, but this shall not be taken as being conclusive; and should there be any violations, the stakeholders are hereby notified that this Court will not shy away from issuing stern orders, as required.

For this purpose, list on **16.10.2026.**

Sd/-

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN

JUDGE

rr/akv