

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.

Thursday, the 19th day of March 2026 / 28th Phalguna, 1947
WP(PIL) NO. 37 OF 2026(S)

PETITIONER:

SHAJI J. KODANKANDATH, AGED 54 YEARS, S/O. JOSE KODANKANDATH,
SNEHA ROSE VILLA, KODANKANDATH HOUSE, CHEMBUKAVU P.O, THRISSUR,
PIN - 680 020.

RESPONDENTS:

1. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY ITS CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVT. SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
2. DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
3. PLANNING AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
4. DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF SURVEY AND LAND RECORDS, DIRECTORATE OF SURVEY & LAND RECORDS, VAZHUTHACAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 014.
5. DIRECTOR, VIGILANCE AND ANTI -CORRUPTION BUREAU, DIRECTORATE VIGILANCE AND ANTI -CORRUPTION BUREAU, VIKAS BHAVAN PO, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA, PIN - 695 033.
6. SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, SPECIAL INVESTIGATION UNIT II (SIU-II), VIGILANCE AND ANTI -CORRUPTION BUREAU, DIRECTORATE VIGILANCE AND ANTI -CORRUPTION BUREAU, VIKAS BHAVAN PO, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 033.
7. INSPECTOR OF POLICE, SPECIAL INVESTIGATION UNIT II (SIU-II), VIGILANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU, DIRECTORATE VIGILANCE AND ANTI -CORRUPTION BUREAU, VIKAS BHAVAN PO, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 033.

Writ petition (public interest litigation) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(PIL) the High Court be pleased to direct the 5th respondent to report the action taken by the said authority as on today on Ext P10 investigation report, pending final disposal of the above writ petition.

P.T.O.

This petition again coming on for admission upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(PIL), this Court's order dated 19/02/2026 and upon hearing the arguments of M/S. K.B.GANGESH, SMITHA CHATHANARAMBATH, HARISANKAR.K.V. & ATHIRA A.MENON, Advocates for the petitioner and of SRI. S.RENJITH, SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PLEADER for R1 to R7, the court passed the following:

P.T.O.



SOUMEN SEN, C.J.
and
SYAM KUMAR V.M., J.

W.P.(PIL) No.37 of 2026

Dated: 19th March 2026

Appearance:

For the Petitioner : Mr. K.B. Ganesh

For the Respondents : Mr S. Renjith,
Special Government Pleader

Soumen Sen, C.J.

Mr. K. Rajan, M.L.A., has addressed a letter to the Registrar General of this Court on 13.03.2026, raising a grievance regarding certain comments and statements made by the writ petitioner at a press conference.

2. The said letter of complaint refers to a statement allegedly made by the petitioner and reported in Deepika Daily under the following heading: "ഡിജിറ്റൽ സർവ്വേ ഉപകരണങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങിയതിൽ അന്വേഷിക്കണമെന്ന്"



..2..

ഹൈക്കോട്രി", which in English would mean "*High Court directed to conduct enquiry regarding the purchase of digital survey equipment*". We take serious note of the said fact, as we have not passed any such orders.

3. We issue notice to the Editor of Deepika Daily and call for an affidavit regarding the publication of the said news item. Similarly, we direct the petitioner to file an affidavit explaining whether any such statement was made by him at the press conference.

4. The other materials produced along with the reports are not found to be relevant for the present purpose, as we do not find any misquotation of the order passed by us, and they only indicate that a complaint has been made which is pending with the Vigilance Department.

5. Considering the gravity of the matter, let it be listed on 26.03.2026. The Registry shall immediately issue notice to the Editor of Deepika Daily, with intimation that the Editor shall appear along with an affidavit on the scheduled date. The petitioner shall also file an affidavit in the meantime,

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upon prior service to the learned counsel for the respondents.

6. The letter dated 13.03.2026 addressed to the Registrar General is kept in the records.

Sd/-
SOUMEN SEN,
CHIEF JUSTICE

Sd/-
SYAM KUMAR V.M.,
JUDGE



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