

**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 26th day of March 2026 / 5th Chaithra, 1948
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.

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 19/03/2026, the court passed the following:

P.T.O.



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

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THURSDAY, THE 26TH DAY OF MARCH 2026

WP (PIL) No. 37 of 2026

SHAJI J. KODANKANDATH

VS

STATE OF KERALA & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

SHRI.K.B.GANGESH, SMT.SMITHA CHATHANARAMBATH,
SHRI.HARISANKAR.K.V., SMT.ATHIRA A.MENON

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

GOVERNMENT PLEADER



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to file an affidavit in connection with the press release which misquoted our interim order as this Court had not directed any enquiry regarding the purchase of digital survey equipment. However, it is significant to note that, in paragraph 3 of the affidavit, despite the contents of the press release indicating that the Court had directed an enquiry, it is stated that the petitioner has not made any statement to the effect that this Court so directed to conduct enquiry regarding purchase of digital survey equipment at any point of time.

3. At this stage, the petitioner has not disowned the circulation of the press release to the reporters. Therefore, the petitioner cannot disown the contents of the press release, which clearly conveys that this Court had directed an enquiry regarding the purchase of digital survey equipment.

4. In view of the undertaking given by the petitioner that an apology shall be published in Deepika Daily, admitting the mistake, within a period of one week from today, we keep this writ petition alive and propose to consider the matter on merits, subject to such publication being made to the satisfaction of this Court.

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5. In the facts and circumstances, we accept the apology tendered by the Editor. However, the Editor is directed to publish the correct version of the news item along with a written apology from the petitioner, addressed to the Editor, on the front page of the newspaper within one week from today.

6. The matter is listed on 06.04.2026 for orders.

7. The petitioner as well as the Editor of Deepika Daily shall file affidavits of compliance on or before 06.04.2026.

8. The personal appearance of the Editor is presently dispensed with.

**Sd/-
SOU MEN SEN
CHIEF JUSTICE**

**Sd/-
SYAM KUMAR V. M.
JUDGE**

Eb