

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM  
PRESENT  
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN  
&  
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE EASWARAN S.**

Friday, the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026 / 18th Vaisakha, 1948  
**WP(C) NO. 7858 OF 2025(S)**

**PETITIONER:**

BAIJU PAUL MATHEWS, AGED 52 YEARS, PUTHUSSERIL,  
KOTTAKUNNU, SULTHAN BATHERY, WAYANAD, PIN - 673 592

**RESPONDENTS:**

1. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, FOREST AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001
2. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001
3. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, KANNUR, COLLECTORATE, KANNUR, PIN - 670 001
4. THE WILDLIFE WARDEN, THE WILDLIFE WARDEN, IRITTY, KANNUR, PIN - 670 703  
**ADDITIONAL R5 TO R7 IMPLEADED**
5. ANERT, PMG – LAW COLLEGE ROAD, VIKAS BHAVAN P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 033, REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.
6. ARALAM GRAMA PANCHAYAT, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, MALABAR HILL HIGHWAY, NEAR ARALAM WILD LIFE SANCTUARY, PAYAM, EDOOR, KERALA - 670 704.
7. ARALAM FARMING CORPORATION (KERALA) LIMITED, REPRESENTED BY ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR, ARALAM FARM, KANNUR DISTRICT, KERALA – 670 673.  
\*ADDL. R5 TO R7 ARE SUO MOTU IMPLEADED AS PER ORDER DATED 27/06/2025 IN WP(C) 7858/2025.  
**ADDITIONAL R8 IMPLEADED**
8. THE TRIBAL REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT MISSION, REPRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR, SC/ST DEPARTMENT, AYYANKALI BHAVAN, KOWDIAR P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 003.  
ADDL.R8 IS SUO MOTU IMPLEADED AS PER ORDER DATED 06/08/2025 IN WP(C) 7858/2025.  
**ADDITIONAL R9 IMPLEADED**
9. THE CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN, FOREST HEADQUARTERS, VAZHUTHACAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 014.  
ADDL. R9 IS SUO MOTU IMPLEADED AS PER ORDER DATED 17/12/2025 IN WP(C) 7858/2025.

Writ petition (civil) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to issue following Interim reliefs:

**1. Short-Term Defensive Mechanisms**

- Directing the Respondent R3 and R4 to immediately restore and maintain the electric fencing in all critical blocks, with 24x7 watchers or rapid-response squads deployed until a permanent boundary wall and translocation can be effected.
- Ensure that shrubs are trimmed periodically, and small trees cut to ensure visibility and reduce places where elephants can hide.
- Mandating timely repairs and maintenance of any half-built or damaged portions of the boundary wall, in line with the Minister's assurance.

**2. Temporary Relocation if Needed**

- In the event that short-term defense measures cannot be fully secured forthwith, temporarily relocate the most vulnerable families to government quarters (e.g., PWD guest houses) with a daily sustenance allowance, until the farmland is rendered safe.  
Direct respondent 2 for the same.

**3. Immediate Elephant-Drive Operations**

- Compel the Respondent R4 to chase away or drive out elephants from the settlement area as an interim measure, pending a comprehensive translocation plan.

This petition again coming on for admission upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C), this Court's order dated 13/03/2026 and the court passed the following:

P.T.0

FRIDAY, THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2026

WP(C) No. 7858 of 2025

BAIJU PAUL MATHEWS

VS

STATE OF KERALA REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, FOREST AND WILDLIFE

DEPARTMENT & OTHERS

**ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:**

BAIJU PAUL MATHEWS (IN PERSON)

**ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:**

STATE OF KERALA REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, FOREST AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT (IN PERSON), SHRI.NIRMAL.S, SC, ARALAM GRAMA PANCHAYAT, SRI.V.HARISH, SHRI.T.R.HARIKUMAR, SRI.ARJUN RAGHAVAN



FRIDAY, THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2026

WP(PIL) No. 44 of 2025

BAIJU PAUL MATHEWS,

VS

STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, FOREST AND WILDLIFE

DEPARTMENT, & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

BAIJU PAUL MATHEWS, (IN PERSON)

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:



**DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN & EASWARAN S., JJ.**

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**W.P.(C) 7858 of 2025 & W.P.(PIL) No. 44 of 2025**

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**Dated this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026**

**ORDER**

**DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN, J.**

Sri. Baiju Paul Mathews P. M., the petitioner in W.P.(C) No. 7858 of 2025, brings to our notice that he has filed I.A. No. 3 of 2026 raising concerns about an elephant which is named “KM1”. He told us that the elephant has been found at the vicinity of the “Aralam Farm” and the Tribal areas next to it; and is known to have attacked people in the past.

2. Sri. Harish Vasudevan, the learned Counsel for the 7<sup>th</sup> respondent-Farm, acceded to the aforesaid submissions of Sri. Baiju Paul Mathews P. M.

3. In such circumstances, we direct the competent authority of the Government to ensure that the elephant in question is properly monitored; and that apposite response is offered to this Court in I.A. No. 3 of 2026, by the next posting date.

4. We make it clear that every effort should be taken to ensure that no further mishaps are caused on account of movement of the elephant; and the competent Authorities be on watch and surveillance to ensure this.

Though unnecessary, we deem it appropriate to remind the Authorities that every life is precious and that citizens be protected through strict control and surveillance, as necessary.

List on 20.05.2026.



**Sd/-  
DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN  
JUDGE**

**Sd/-  
EASWARAN S.  
JUDGE**

Svn