

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN, J.

RP No.165/2026 in WP(C)No.2391/2018

&

WP(C)No.23911/2018

Dated this the 6th day of August, 2026

O R D E R

This matter was ordered to be listed today to take stock of the situation in the city of Kochi, consequent to the onset of rains.

2. Monsoons in Kerala sweep curtains of rain across the State and transforms its landscape dramatically. Though often romanticized, they also bring with them flash floods, landslides, and widespread waterlogging, as we are now witnessing in several parts of the State.

3. This is not the focus of this Court now.

4. It is the information given by the learned *Amici Curiae*, that a young man by name R.Rajesh sacrificed his life, while saving another. It is reported that R.Rajesh handed over his jacket to another person during the rescue near Meenthully Island in Kannur last Sunday, ensuring his safety;

but he himself was swept away by the strong current.

5. When disaster strikes, men and women become capable of acts of pure heroism.

6. Sri.R.Rajesh is a true hero, who exemplifies that the greatest love of all is the love that sacrifices all – that which is done out of love for another.

7. The learned *Amici Curiae* have also brought to my notice news reports of the afore incident; and the consequent plunge of his family into deep sorrow and pathos.

8. The sacrifice of Sri.R.Rajesh is supreme and unparalleled. Words fail when we think about his family. The Government certainly must respond appositely, reflecting the extreme grief of the civil society.

9. This Court salutes the bravery of the pure soul and stands in prayer with his family.

10. Coming back to the situation in Kochi, the learned *Amici Curiae* – Sri.Sunil Kumar and

Sri.Govind Padmanabhan, informed this Court that, in spite of the near-heavy rains the city has witnessed in the last few days, incidents of flooding has been scarce. They, however, added a caveat that, with respect to very low-lying areas within the city limits, there may have been some water logging; but that the same receded after the rain stopped.

11. This information is certainly gratifying; but we are nowhere near calling it a victory.

12. Small battles may have been won, but the war is still ahead of us!

13. Sri.K.Anand - learned Standing Counsel for the Kochi Corporation, affirmed that intensive cleaning work had been carried out prior to and during the monsoon; and assured that this could be continued.

14. This Court had appointed a High Power Committee, under the stewardship of the District Collector; and has been interacting with and obtaining information from the District Collector on

a regular basis.

15. There has also been continuous parley between this Court and the learned *Amici Curiae* - even when small issues are brought up.

16. There are, however, still complaints that certain drains and canals of the city have not been fully cleaned; and, in fact, Dr.Pradeep mentioned that, even the Thevara-Perandoor canal is seen with large amounts of floating hyacinth.

17. To summate, we cannot lower our guard or relax caution. The District Collector's Committee certainly needs to be on its guard throughout and ensure that cleaning and other remedial measures are undertaken, through the Corporation and other stakeholders, without interruption.

18. This is more in the context of the inundation this State is witnessing in many parts; and this ought to be an eye-opener. We cannot lose sight of the fact that, if sufficient care is not maintained, the same fate may befall the city, which

cannot be countenanced.

19. I, however, deem it necessary, to reserve a word for the cleaning staff of the Corporation and the other stakeholders of the District Collector's Committee, including the Corporation, for the effort they have taken as of now. The learned *Amici Curiae* have also acted much beyond their brief and professional commitments, to be on the streets almost regularly.

20. That said, every stakeholder must remind themselves that we work for the people and that the city requires to be cared for, especially because it remains perilously close to sea level, or perhaps even lower.

21. Sri.Manu Thomas - learned Government Pleader, at this time, submitted that a report will be filed by the Minor Irrigation Department with respect to the cleaning of the canals and its ongoing restoration.

22. I, therefore, list this matter on

13.08.2026, with a direction to the District Collector's Committee to file their report, indicating all the actions being taken and the proposals required to be considered.

23. All the above being said, there is still a complaint persisting that, unless the railway culverts are properly redone, it may not be possible to keep them clean at all times through jetting and other processes.

24. Sri.T.C.Krishna - learned Senior Panel Counsel for the Indian Railways, submitted that this aspect has not been lost sight of by his clients; and that they will respond appositely. This is recorded.

List, therefore, on 13.08.2026.

Sd/-

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN

JUDGE