



2026:KER:63223

WP(C) NO. 28032 OF 2026

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V

&

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE K. V. JAYAKUMAR

MONDAY, THE 17TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026 / 26TH SRAVANA, 1948

WP(C) NO. 28032 OF 2026

PETITIONERS:

- 1 THARUN MOORTHY, AGED 37 YEARS,
S/O. D. MADHUSOODHANAN,
ANJIKAVIL HOUSE, NORTH EAST WARD,
VAIKOM, KOTTAYAM-, PIN - 686141
- 2 ASHIQ U E
AGED 40 YEARS
S/O. USMAN M.E PROPRIETOR OF ASHIQ USMAN PRODUCTIONS
AND RESIDING AT 44/3952, C-18 FLAT NO. 8A,
STADIUM LINK ROAD, ABAD INSPIRATIONS, KALOOR,
ERNAKULAM-, PIN - 682017

BY ADVS.
SMT.R.RANJANIE
SMT.VAISHNAVI SHAJI
SHRI.NEVIL ZACHARIA MATHEW

RESPONDENTS:

- 1 THE STATE OF KERALA,
REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, FOREST
DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001
- 2 THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST,



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KERALA FOREST DEPARTMENT, FOREST HEADQUARTERS IN
VAZHUTHACAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA, PIN - 695014

- 3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PERIYAR TIGER RESERVE
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PERIYAR TIGER RESERVE,
THEKKADY, IDUKKI DISTRICT, PIN - 685536
- 4 THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,
RANNI, DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICE, RANNI FOREST DIVISION,
RANNI P.O., PATHANAMTHITTA, PIN - 689672
- 5 TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY , DEVASWOM HEAD QUARTERS,
NANDANCODE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003
- 6 DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, DEVASWOM BOARD OFFICE,
NANTHANCODE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 69500
- 7 EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SABARIMALA SREE DHARMA SASTHA TEMPLE, SANNIDHANAM,
PATHANAMTHITTA DISTRICT, PIN - 689662

THIS WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON
17.08.2026, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:



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JUDGMENT**Raja Vijayaraghavan V, J.**

The 1st petitioner states that he is a Malayalam Film Director. He states that he proposes to carry out the shooting of a new film titled "Athimanotharam" at Pamba and Sannidhanam. According to the petitioners, permission has been granted by the 6th respondent by imposing conditions. One of the conditions stipulated is that the petitioners will have to obtain prior permission from the respondents 2 to 4. In the said circumstances Ext. P2 request was submitted before the Divisional Forest Officer, Ranni and Ext. P3 was submitted before the Deputy Director, Periyar West Division, Peerumedu. The prayer in this writ petition is for issuance of directions to the concerned respondents to consider Exts. P2 and P3 and take a decision in an expeditious manner.

2. By Order dated 13.08.2026, this Court had directed the concerned respondents to consider the representations and take a decision.

3. Today, when the matter was taken up, the learned Special Government Pleader (Forest) submitted that the Deputy Director, Periyar Tiger Reserve (Periyar Wildlife Division), had considered the request made by the petitioners in compliance with the directions issued by this Court in the order dated 13.08.2026 and has rejected the request. We find from the order that the Deputy Director has taken a



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stand that in terms of the directions issued by a Division Bench of this Court in its Judgment dated 28.07.2025 in Writ Appeal No. 2179 of 2023 and as in view of the order vide G.O.(Rt) No. 363/2025/F&WLD dated 26.08.2025 issued by the Government, no permission can be granted for shooting commercial films and television serials within Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks or Tiger Reserves. The areas mentioned in the representation form part and parcel of the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary and the Periyar Tiger Reserve, and have been leased or diverted in favour of the Travancore Devaswom Board for facilitating the Sabarimala pilgrimage. The legal status of the leased/diverted forest land remains unchanged.

4. Insofar as the representation submitted before the Divisional Forest Officer is concerned, it appears that a report was called for from the Range Forest Officer, Goodrical. The Range Forest Officer, reported that the locations mentioned in the application, namely, "Tea Shop opposite to the Pamba petrol bunk" and "Pamba KSRTC bus stand and surroundings", fall under the jurisdiction of the Ranni Forest Division. After considering the report of the Range Forest Officer, the DFO has taken a decision that film shooting can be permitted in the locations above from 18.08.2026 to 28.08.2026 subject to payment of prescribed fees and execution of the requisite agreement with the Forest and Wildlife Department.

5. In view of the orders passed by the concerned respondents, we are of the view that nothing further survives in this Writ Petition.



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6. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioners submitted that the right of the petitioners to challenge the order passed by the Deputy Director be reserved.

Reserving such rights, the writ petition is disposed of.

Sd/-

RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V

JUDGE

Sd/-

K. V. JAYAKUMAR

JUDGE

msp



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APPENDIX OF WP(C) NO. 28032 OF 2026

PETITIONER EXHIBITS

Exhibit P1	THE TRUE COPY OF THE COMMUNICATION DATED 10.8.2026, BEARING NO R.O.C 7229/17/SABARIMALA, ISSUED BY THE 6TH RESPONDENT TO THE 7TH RESPONDENT
Exhibit P2	THE TRUE COPY OF THE REQUEST LETTER DATED 11.8.2026, SUBMITTED BY THE PRODUCTION EXECUTIVE OF THE FILM, BEFORE THE 4TH RESPONDENT
Exhibit P3	THE TRUE COPY OF THE E- MAIL DATED 11.8.2026, SEND TO THE 3RD RESPONDENT