

FRIDAY, THE 21ST DAY OF AUGUST 2026

IA 25/2026 IN WP(C) No. 16603 of 2026

THE HIGH COURT LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE & ANOTHER

VS

THE STATE OF KERALA & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

X, SUO MOTU (Party-in-person)

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

GOVERNMENT PLEADER, SHRI.ASP.KURUP, SRI.SUNIL SHANKAR, SC,
INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK, SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PLEADER,
SHRI.LITTO VARGHESE PALATHINKAL, SMT.THANUJA ROSHAN,
DR.S.GOPAKUMARAN NAIR (SR.), SRI.ABRAHAM GEORGE JACOB,
SMT.ATHIRA A.MENON, SRI.ISAAC THOMAS, KUM.S.KRISHNA,
SRI.N.ASHOK KUMAR, SRI.LIJI.J.VADAKEDOM, SRI.K.ANAND,
SRI.SONU AUGUSTINE, SHRI.N.MANOJ KUMAR, STATE ATTORNEY,
SHRI.K.R.RANJITH, GOVERNMENT PLEADER WITH STATE ATTORNEY,
O.M.SHALINA, DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA,
SHRI.C.MURALIKRISHNAN (PAYYANUR), SHRI.AKSHAY R,
SMT.N.N.GIRIJA, SHRI.SHARAD JOSEPH KODANTHARA,
SHRI.ALEXANDER JOSEPH MARKOS, SRI.P.G.CHANDAPILLAI ABRAHAM,
SMT.MARIAMMA GEORGE MARANGOLY, SHRI.S.PRASANTH, SRI.SOORAJ
T.ELENJICKAL, SRI.K.ARJUN VENUGOPAL, SHRI.ASWIN KUMAR M J,
SHRI.ARUN ROY, SHRI.SUVIN R.MENON, SENIOR PANEL COUNSEL,
SRI.SADCHITH.P.KURUP, SHRI.SUNIL SHANKER, SMT.ASHLIN SAJU

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN & BASANT BALAJI, JJ

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IA No.25/2026 in WP(C) No.16603 of 2026

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Dated this the 21st day of August, 2026

ORDER

Smt.Sathyasree Priya – learned Amicus Curiae, has brought to our notice an issue of great relevance and portent in the modern times.

2. The “Mental Health Centres”, being so called, attract a lot of stigma; and we could see this even when we visited them in the course of the last two weeks or so.

3. Smt.Sathyasree Priya has suggested that the Centres be renamed as “Institutes of Behavioural Management”, or such other.

4. We are not suggesting a particular name, though we have recorded the input of the learned Amicus Curiae; but are of the firm view that the Government must look into this issue, particularly when other hospitals are not called Centres of Physical Health; and therefore, one justifiably cannot comprehend why these Centres should have the tag of being “Mental Health” Centres.

5. Of course, when we say this, we are fully aware that the protocols are under the Mental Health Care Act, but for that reason alone, one wonders whether the Centres should still to

continue to have the stigma of catering to a particular kind of disorder or illness.

6. Since this is a matter of policy, it is for the Government to initiate the first move and inform us.

7. We, therefore, adjourn this IA to be called on 15.09.2026; within which time, we direct the competent Authority of the Government to look into the suggestions of the learned Amicus Curiae and inform us.

We make it clear that this issue cannot be treated as an adversarial one, nor do we propose to do so; because, it is in the interest of the vulnerable sections of the patients that they be kept away from stigma and that the Centres are considered to be favourable to community welfare and development, rather than for a particular kind of illness.

H/o.

Sd/- DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN,
JUDGE

Sd/- BASANT BALAJI,
JUDGE

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