

MONDAY, THE 28TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026

WP(C) No. 33115 of 2026

KERALA STATE CHALACHITRA ACADEMY

VS

UNION OF INDIA & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

SRI.JOSE JONES JOSEPH, SC, KERALA STATE CHALACHITRA ACADEMY,
SRI.A.SUDHI VASUDEVAN (SR.), SMT.SANIYA C.V.

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

SHRI.DAYASINDHU SHREEHARI N.S., SENIOR PANEL COUNSEL

BECHU KURIAN THOMAS, J.

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W.P.(C) No. 33115 of 2026
.....

Dated this the 28th day of September, 2026

ORDER

Learned ASGI, upon instructions, submitted that, out of 347 documentaries submitted for screening, petitioner itself had withdrawn one and thus 346 remained for consideration. Out of the above referred documentaries, 315 were permitted to be screened with a further 24 already having obtained CBFC certification. Thus, a total of 339 documentaries have already been permitted to be screened at Film Festival being conducted by the petitioner. As regards the remaining seven, it was submitted that, six of them have been referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs for its inputs on the content of the documentaries, while one has been referred to the Ministry of External Affairs for a similar purpose.

2. Having heard Sri.Sudhi Vasudevan, the learned Senior Counsel, instructed by Adv.Saniya C.V. the learned counsel for the petitioner, and Sri.P.Sreekumar, the learned ASGI instructed by Adv.Daya Sindhu Shreehari, for the respondents; I am of the view that, *prima facie*, there is no arbitrariness or unreasonableness in withholding 7 out of the 346 documentaries submitted to the Ministry for screening. Hence, I decline to grant any interim order in this case.

Post on 13.11.2026. Respondents shall file a statement in the meantime.

sd/-
BECHU KURIAN THOMAS
JUDGE

AMV/28/09/2026