



THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA

Ernakulam -682031
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Date: 16-09-2026

PIO 536/2026

From

THE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

To

Shri Boban Mattumantha
C.N.Puram P.O.,
Palakkad - 678 005.

Sir,

Sub:- Query under Right to Information Act, 2005 -reg.

Ref:- Your application dated 17.08.2026, received on **17.08.2026**.

Please refer to the application cited. In this regard, it is informed as follows:

1. It is informed that in response to the complaint forwarded by Shri Boban Mattumantha to the email address hckerala@nic.in on 14.03.2025 regarding the use of the honorific expressions "Hon'ble Court" / "Hon'ble Judge" in official documents, a reply letter dated 03.09.2026 has been furnished to the applicant via email .

Notes and orders in this regard cannot be disclosed, as they are replete with personal information and details held by this Public Authority in a fiduciary capacity. Consequently, this information is barred from disclosure under Section 8(1)(e) and Section 8(1)(j) of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

2. Rule Committee of the High Court of Kerala, constituted under 123 CPC had examined File No. DI-1/152499/2022 relating to the practice of "Tom-Tom" proclamation and, vide minutes dated 10/07/2024, the Committee has resolved to delete the existing sub-rule (2) of Order XXI Rule 54, which deals with proclamation.

Office Notes in this regard, placing the matter before the Rules Committee, comprising of three pages, can be obtained on payment of ₹9/- (Rupees Nine only)*.

**(The fee for copy of documents is calculated as per section 7(5) of the Right to information Act, 2005 read with Rule 16(b) of the Kerala High Court (Right to Information) Rules, 2006. The fee is being levied @ Rs.3/-per page. The fee can be paid in any mode as laid down in Rule 4(3) of the Kerala Right to Information (Regulation of Fee and cost) Rules, 2006).*

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by
Kausalya Ramachandran
Date: 16-09-2026
11:05:48

Public Relations Officer
& Public Information Officer

Appeal, if any, can be preferred in Form 'D' before the Appellate Authority within 30 days of receipt of this communication, as laid down in Rule 15 of the Kerala High Court (Right to Information) Rules,2006. Address: The Registrar General, (Appellate Authority

THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

DI-1/152499/2022

Sub: Petition against the practice of "Tom-Tom proclamation (*Kinnam Mutti vilambaram*)" and associated Tom-Tom charges -reg.

Kindly see a petition from Sri. Boban Mattumantha in the subject matter, placed at pages 1-2 c.f. The English translation of the petition is placed at pages 7-8 c.f. The petitioner submits that several decades have passed since the stoppage of the practice of proclamation by beating of drums for carrying out attachment proceedings and that at present the same is being done by "Tom-Tom" (*Kinnam mutti vilambaram*). Petitioner has enclosed a copy of the RTI reply received from Palakkad District Court for substantiating the same (at pages 5-6 c.f.). The English translation of the RTI reply is placed at pages 9-10 c.f.

Petitioner requests to check the archaic practice of "Tom-Tom proclamation (*Kinnam mutti vilambaram*)" resorted to by the Courts during the attachment proceedings. Petitioner questions the need for publicly proclaiming by means of such practices like "Tom-Tom proclamation". Petitioner invites attention to a recent incident in Kollam in which a girl student committed suicide, disheartened by the installation of an attachment board by Kerala Bank in front of her house.

Petitioner submits that in the present times, there are several means to convey information regarding proclamation by way of Notices, Posters, Print and Visual Media, Social Media etc. Petitioner finally requests this Court to reconsider the relevance of the practice of proclamation using "Tom-Tom" and the imposition of associated "Tom-Tom Charges".

In this regard, it is submitted that the Courts in the State are entitled to levy "Tom-Tom Charge" of ₹100 to be payable to the tom-tom beaters for proclamation of attachment, sale or delivery of possession of property as prescribed in note (vii) under item No. IX in the table of process fees contained in the Rules issued by the

True Copy Issued Under RTI Act


Kausalya Ramschandran
PEN: 310603
Public Information Officer
High Court of Kerala

p.T.O →

High Court under the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation Act, 1959 (copy of High Court notification no. D1-27171/1999 dated 05/04/2016 at pages 11-12 c.f).

It is further submitted that Rule 54 of Order XXI of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 deals with attachment of immovable property. Therein, sub-rule (2) of rule 54 of Order XXI reads as follows (copy at pages 13-14 c.f):

"(2) The order shall be proclaimed at some place on or adjacent to such property by beat of drum or other customary mode, and a copy of the order shall be affixed on a conspicuous part of the property and then upon a conspicuous part of the court-house, and also, where the property is land paying revenue to the Government in the office of the Collector of the district in which the land is situated and, where the property is land situate in a village, also in the office of the Gram Panchayat, if any, having jurisdiction over that village."

A plain reading of the above rule indicates that, in attachment of immovable property, proclamation is a mandatory requirement and that it has to be carried out either by the mode of beat of drum or other customary mode. As per the RTI reply of the District Court, Palakkad, proclamation by beating of drums in attachment of immovable property is not prevalent at present. But they are resorting to 'kinnam mutti vilambaram', which can be considered as customary mode as required in the statute. It is submitted that, upon telephonic enquiry, some other District courts, namely Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode also informed that proclamation by beating of drums is not prevalent in those places as well.

It seems that the request of the petitioner to abolish the practice of proclamation in its entirety during proceedings for attachment of immovable property would require amendments to Rule 54 of Order 21 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

Here it may kindly be noted that the Tom Tom charges were enhanced from ₹15/- to ₹100/- in the year 2016, vide High Court notification No. D1-27171/ 1991, dated 5-4-2016 (copy at page 11-12 c.f) on the recommendations of the Rule Committee.

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Kausalya Ramachandran
PEN: 310603
Public Information Officer
High Court of Kerala

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High Court of Kerala

DJ-1/152499/2022

A

In the circumstance, it may kindly be considered whether the matter be referred to the Rule Committee constituted under Section 123 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 for its opinion and recommendations.

Submitted for orders.

SL
23/2/23
A.V.

b
23/2
SD

23/2/23
JR

28/2/23
OSD

"A" may kindly be considered for orders.

yes

28/2/23

Chief Justice

D. No. : 15293/22

Regd. with A/D

നമ്പർ . പി.ഐ.ഒ.20/2022

ജില്ലാ കോടതി , പാലക്കാട്
തീയതി : 13.12.2022

പ്രേഷിതൻ

പബ്ലിക് ഇൻഫർമേഷൻ ഓഫീസർ ,
ജില്ലാ കോടതി , പാലക്കാട് .

സ്വീകർത്താവ്

ബോബൻ മാട്ടുമന്ത,
സി. എൻ. പുരം (പി. ഒ.),
പാലക്കാട്-678 005.

സാർ,

വിഷയം : വിവരാകാശനിയമം 2005 പ്രകാരമുള്ള താങ്കളുടെ അപേക്ഷയ്ക്ക് മറുപടി നൽകുന്നത് - സംബന്ധിച്ച്.

സൂചന : 23.11.2022 തീയതി ഈ ഓഫീസിൽ ലഭിച്ച താങ്കളുടെ അപേക്ഷ .

.....

മേൽ സൂചന പ്രകാരമുള്ള താങ്കളുടെ അപേക്ഷയ്ക്ക് താഴെ ചേർക്കുന്ന മറുപടി നൽകുന്നു.

1 : 2022 ജനുവരി മുതൽ 2022 ഒക്ടോബർ വരെ ഈടാക്കിയ Tom Tom ചാർജ്ജ് സംബന്ധിച്ച വിവരങ്ങളുടെ പകർപ്പ്

മറുപടി : 2022 ജനുവരി മുതൽ 2022 ഒക്ടോബർ വരെ പാലക്കാട് ജില്ലാ കോടതി , അഡീഷണൽ ജില്ലാ കോടതികൾ, സബ് കോടതികൾ, മുൻസിഫ് കോടതി എന്നിവയുടെ ഉത്തരവുകൾ പ്രകാരം 56,600/- Tom Tom ചാർജ്ജിനത്തിൽ ഈടാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

മേൽപ്പറഞ്ഞ വിവരങ്ങളുടെ പകർപ്പ് വിവരാവകാശ (കീഴ് കോടതികളും ട്രൈബ്യൂണലുകളും) ചട്ടങ്ങൾ 2006, 12 വകുപ്പ് പ്രകാരം നൽകാൻ നിർവാഹമില്ല എന്നുള്ള വിവരം അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

2 : ജപ്പി നടപടികളുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് നിലവിൽ ചെണ്ടകൊട്ടി വീളംബരം നടത്താറുണ്ടോ ?

മറുപടി : ഇല്ല. കിണ്ണം മുട്ടാറുണ്ട്.

3 ജപ്പി നടപടികളുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് അവസാനമായി ചെണ്ടകൊട്ടി വിളംബരം നടത്തിയ വർഷം

മറുപടി : ചെണ്ട കൊട്ടി വിളംബരം നടത്തിയതുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട യാതൊരു രേഖകളും ലഭ്യമല്ല. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോഴും (2022) കിണ്ണം മുട്ടി ജപ്പി / ഡെലിവറി നടപടികൾ നടത്തിയതായി കാണുന്നുണ്ട്.

താങ്കൾക്ക് മേൽപ്പറഞ്ഞ മറുപടിയിൽ എന്തെങ്കിലും ആക്ഷേപമുള്ള പക്ഷം ഈ മറുപടി ലഭിച്ച് 30 ദിവസത്തിനകം താഴെ കാണിച്ച വിലാസത്തിൽ ഒന്നാം അപ്പീൽ നൽകാവുന്നതാണ്.

അപ്പീൽ അധികാരി
ശിരസ്തദാർ,
ജില്ലാ കോടതി, പാലക്കാട്.



വിശ്വസ്തയോടെ,

സുരേഷ്. സി,

പബ്ലിക് ഇൻഫർമേഷൻ ഓഫീസർ
(ജൂനിയർ സൂപ്രണ്ട്)
ജില്ലാ കോടതി, പാലക്കാട്.