



2026:KER:77409

WP(PIL) NO. 15 OF 2026

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. SOUMEN SEN

&

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SYAM KUMAR V.M.

WEDNESDAY, THE 7TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2026 / 15TH ASWINA, 1948

WP(PIL) NO. 15 OF 2026

PETITIONER/S:

C R NEELAKANDAN
AGED 68 YEARS
S/O CP RAMAN NAMBOODIRI, KKRA 48, THANNAL,
THRIKKAKKARA, ERNAKULAM DISTRICT, PIN - 682021

BY ADV SHRI.JAYASANKAR R.

RESPONDENT/S:

- 1 UNION OF INDIA
THROUGH ITS SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HAVING ITS ADDRESS AT BLOCK "B",
RAJIV GANDHI BHAWAN, SAFDARJUNG AIRPORT AREA,
NEW DELHI, PIN - 110003
- 2 AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
THROUGH ITS CHAIRMAN, HAVING ITS OFFICE ADDRESS AT
RAJIV GANDHI BHAWAN, OPPOSITE SAFDARJUNG AIRPORT,
NEW DELHI, PIN - 110003
- 3 MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, THROUGH ITS SECRETARY,
HAVING ITS ADDRESS AT ELECTRONICS NIKETAN, 6,
CGO COMPLEX, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110001
- 4 REGIONAL HEADQUARTER (SOUTHERN REGION)
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA THROUGH ITS REGIONAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (SR), HAVING ITS ADDRESS AT ATS
COMPLEX, CHENNAI AIRPORT, CHENNAI, PIN - 600027



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- 5 DIGI YATRA FOUNDATION
A NON-PROFIT COMPANY INCORPORATED UNDER
THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013, HAVING ITS REGISTERED
OFFICE AT ROOM NO.204, G5 BUILDING TERMINAL,
DOMESTIC AIRPORT, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110037

- 6 AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
THROUGH ITS AIRPORT DIRECTOR CALICUT INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT, KARIPUR, KERALA, PIN - 673647

BY ADVS.
O.M.SHALINA, DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA
SRI.THOMAS P.KURUVILLA
SMT.MONALI DUTTA
SRI.B.ANANTHU
SHRI.K.VENKATESAN
SRI. ARJUN VENUGOPAL, CGC

THIS WRIT PETITION (PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION) HAVING COME
UP FOR ADMISSION ON 07.10.2026, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED
THE FOLLOWING:

**JUDGMENT**

Dated this the 7th day of October, 2026

Soumen Sen, C.J.

We have heard Mr. Jayasankar R., learned counsel for the petitioner, Mr. Arjun Venugopal, learned Central Government Counsel for the Union of India, Mr. Thomas P. Kuruvilla, learned counsel for the 5th respondent and Mr. K. Venkatesan, learned counsel for respondents 2, 4 and 6.

2. The issue raised by the writ petitioner cannot be ignored, as we find that the privacy of citizens is being compromised.

3. The learned counsel for the 5th respondent has fairly submitted that, as of now, the Aadhaar Card and Driving Licence can be considered as proof of identity.

4. In future, we expect that the authorities may also consider accepting the Voter ID as proof of identity for the aforesaid purpose.

5. Mr. Arjun Venugopal, learned Central Government



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Counsel, on instructions, submitted that the Board has been constituted under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (for short, 'the Act of 2023'), but has yet to be made functional. Considering the purpose for which the Act of 2023 has been enacted, we expect that the Board will be made functional within a period of eight weeks from date.

The writ petition stands disposed of.

Sd/-
Soumen Sen
Chief Justice

Sd/-
Syam Kumar V.M.
Judge

vpv



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APPENDIX OF WP(PIL) NO. 15 OF 2026**PETITIONER EXHIBITS**

- Exhibit P1** A TRUE COPY OF THE NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (NIET) FOR AWARD OF LICENSE FOR MONEY EXCHANGE COUNTER FACILITY ARRIVAL AREA IN TRICHY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WITH E-BID NO: 2026_AAI_261229_1AT FLOATED BY THE AAI JANUARY 2026
- Exhibit P2** A TRUE COPY OF THE NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (NIT) FOR AWARD OF SHORT TERM LICENSE ON STOP GAP ARRANGEMENT FOR BISCUIT/PASTRY OR BAKE HOUSE(HANGOUT) IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY HOLD AREA, WITH E-BID NO.: 2026_AAI_262030_1 FIRST FLOOR AT MADURAI AIRPORT, FLOATED BY THE AAI JANUARY 2026
- Exhibit P3** A TRUE COPY OF THE NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (NIT) FOR LICENSE TO OPERATE WELLNESS CENTRE/ SPA AND MASSAGE CHAIR FACILITY IN MEZZANINE FLOOR OF NEW INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL AT CHENNAI AIRPORT, WITH E-BID NO.: 2025_AAI_ 257998_1, FLOATED BY THE AAI DECEMBER 2025
- Exhibit P4** A TRUE COPY OF THE NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (NIT) FOR LICENSE TO OPERATE WELLNESS CENTRE/ SPA AND MASSAGE CHAIR FACILITY IN MEZZANINE FLOOR OF NEW INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL AT PUNE AIRPORT, WITH E-BID NO.: 2025_AAI_259142_1, FLOATED BY THE AAI DECEMBER 2025
- Exhibit P5** A TRUE COPY OF THE NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (NIT) FOR LICENSE FOR MEET AND GREET SERVICES AT CHENNAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WITH E-BID NO.: 2025_AAI_249339_1, FLOATED BY THE AAI JANUARY 2026
- Exhibit P6** A TRUE COPY OF THE COMMERCIAL MANUAL 2025 ISSUED BY THE AAI
- Exhibit P7** A TRUE COPY OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) TO DEVELOP, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN DUTY FREE OUTLETS AT CALICUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, FLOATED BY THE AAI DATED 23.12.2025
- Exhibit P8** A TRUE COPY OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) TO DEVELOP, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN DUTY FREE OUTLETS AT PUNE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FLOATED BY THE AAI DATED 19.12.2025

RESPONDENT EXHIBITS

- Exhibit R3(a)** True copy of the Gazette Notification G.S.R. 844(E) dated 13.11.2025



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Exhibit R3(b)	True copy of the Gazette Notification G.S.R. 845(E) dated 13.11.2025
Exhibit R3(c)	True copy of the Gazette Notification G.S.R. 843(E) dated 13.11.2025
Exhibit R3(d)	True copy of the Gazette Notification G.S.R. 846(E) dated 13.11.2025