IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE P.V.KUNHIKRISHNAN

Friday, the 13th day of November 2026 / 22nd Karthika, 1948
WP(C) NO. 39091 OF 2026 (J)

PETITIONERS:

1. **V.V.MATHEW, AGED 61 YEARS, S/O.VARKEY, VADAKKEKARA HOUSE, MANARCADU VILLAGE, MAALAM KARA, MAALAM P.O., KOTTAYAM TALUK, PIN - 686 019.**
2. **SANTHOSH GEORGE, AGED 49 YEARS, S/O.LATE FR. GEORGE MOOLAYIL, MOOLAYIL HOUSE, MANARCADU VILLAGE, KUZHIPURAYIDAM KARA, MANARCADU P.O., KOTTAYAM TALUK, PIN - 686 019.**

RESPONDENTS:

1. **UNION OF INDIA, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU BHAVAN, JENPATH, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110 001.**
2. **THE STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY ITS CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.**
3. **THE STATE POLICE CHIEF, POLICE HEADQUARTERS, VAZHUTHACAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 014.**
4. **THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, MANARCAUD POLICE STATION, MANARCAUD P.O., KOTTAYAM, PIN - 686 019.**
5. **THE JACOBAYA SURIYANI CHRISTIANI SABHA, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, PATRIARCH CENTER, PUTHEN CRUZ, ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682 308.**
6. **MORAN MOR IGNATIUS APHREM III, PATRIARCH OF ANTIOCH, PATRIARCH CENTER, PUTHEN CRUZ, ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682 308.**
7. **THOMAS MAR THEMOTHIOS METROPOLITAN, ST.JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL, SASTHRI ROAD, KOTTAYAM, PIN - 686 001.**

Writ petition (civil) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to direct the respondents 1 to 4 to ensure that Moran Mor Ignatius Aphrem III, Patriarch of Antioch, the 6th respondent does not indulge in religious activities including the performance of Holy Qurbana in the St. Mary's Church (Cathedral), Manarcaud or in any of the churches of Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, during his visit to the State of Keralam as a State Guest from 11.11.2026 to 16.11.2026 in gross violation of Exhibits P1 and P2 decrees as well as the authoritative judgment of the Honourable Supreme Court in K.S. Varghese and Others v. St. Peter's and St Paul's Syrian Orthodox Church and Others reported in 2017 (15) SCC 333 and in violation of VISA conditions, pending disposal of the Writ Petition (Civil).

This petition again coming on for orders upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C) and this Court's order dated 12.11.2026 and upon hearing the arguments of M/S.D.KISHORE & MEERA GOPINATH, Advocates for the petitioners, DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA for R1 and of ADDITIONAL ADVOCATE GENERAL ALONG WITH GOVERNMENT PLEADER for R2 to R4, the court passed the following:

THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA
सत्यमेव जयते

FRIDAY, THE 13TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

WP(C) No. 39091 of 2026

V.V. MATHEW & ANOTHER

VS

UNION OF INDIA & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:
SRI.D.KISHORE, SMT.MEERA GOPINATH

P.V.KUNHIKRISHNAN, J

W.P.(C) No.39091 of 2026

Dated this the 13th day of November, 2026

ORDER

When this Writ Petition came up for consideration before this Court on 12.11.2026, this Court passed the following order:

> "Admit.
>
> DSGI takes notice for the 1st respondent.
>
> The Government Pleader takes notice for respondents 2 to 4.
>
> Issue urgent notice by special messenger to respondents 5 to 7.
>
> Petitioners should take out notice today itself and a special messenger should be deputed today itself to ensure the notice is served today itself.
>
> Post on 13/11/26."

2. The Special Messenger tried to serve notice on respondents 5 to 7. The Messenger submitted a report before this Court stating that he was not able to serve the notice and was even threatened by someone that a case would be filed against him before the High Court. I am of

the *prima facie* opinion that the jurisdictional Station House Officer should register a case against the authority concerned and do the needful in accordance with law. The Registry shall forward the complaint submitted by the Special Messenger to the jurisdictional police station.

3. The main contention of the petitioner is that in connection with the visit of the 6th respondent, there may not be any violation of Exts.P1 and P2 judgments as well as the judgment of the Apex Court in **K.S. Varghese and Others v. St. Peter's and St. Paul's Syrian Orthodox Church and Others** [2017 (15) SCC 333]. The further relief sought for is that the 6th respondent shall not violate the visa conditions and the provisions of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025. I think there is force in the argument of the petitioners. Therefore, the 3rd respondent shall ensure that the directions in Exts.P1 and P2 judgments and the directions in **K.S. Varghese**'s case (supra) are not violated during the visit of the 6th respondent. I also make it clear that the 3rd respondent shall ensure that the visa conditions issued to the 6th respondent are not violated.

The Additional Advocate General submitted that, subsequent to the directions in Exts.P1 and P2 judgments, and the judgment in **K.S. Varghese**'s case (supra), some clarifications are made by this Court in Contempt Appeal No.8 of 2024 and connected cases. The 3rd respondent will consider that also.

Post on 23.11.2026.

H/O

Sd/-
P.V.KUNHIKRISHNAN
JUDGE

DM

APPENDIX OF WP(C) 39091/2026

Exhibit P1	**TRUE COPY OF THE JUDGMENT DATED 17.11.2021 IN O.S. 851/2017 OF PRINCIPAL MUNSIFF'S COURT, KOTTAYAM**
Exhibit P2	**TRUE COPY OF THE JUDGMENT DATED 24.2.2026 IN RSA NO. 547/2025 OF THIS HONOURABLE COURT**

THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA
सत्यमेव जयते