

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. NITIN JAMDAR
&
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SYAM KUMAR V.M.

Monday, the 17th day of November 2025 / 26th Karthika, 1947
WP(C) NO. 42844 OF 2025(R)

SUO MOTU WRIT PETITION(CIVIL) INITIATED BY THE HIGH COURT
REGARDING LACK OF PROPER INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE MEDIATION
CENTRES ACROSS THE STATE.

RESPONDENTS:

1. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
2. THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
3. UNION OF INDIA, REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE, 4TH FLOOR, A-WING, SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI - 110 001.
4. THE LAW SECRETARY, LAW DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
5. THE REGISTRAR (DISTRICT JUDICIARY), HIGH COURT OF KERALA, MARINE DRIVE, ERNAKULAM - 682 031.
6. THE MEMBER SECRETARY, KERALA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, NIYAMA SAHAYA BHAVAN, OPPOSITE ADVOCATE GENERAL OFFICE, KOCHI, PIN - 682 031.
7. THE DIRECTOR, KERALA STATE MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION CENTRE, RAM MOHAN PALACE, HIGH COURT OF KERALA, KOCHI, PIN - 682 031.

Suo motu writ petition (civil) praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to issue necessary directions to the Government and other authorities concerned to provide the infrastructural requirements of each mediation sub centre as listed in Ext P3 as well as to ensure adequate support staff and regular office stationary.

This petition coming on for admission upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C) and upon hearing the arguments of SMT.O.M. SHALINA, DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA for R3, SRI.N.MANOJ KUMAR, STATE ATTORNEY and of SRI.ADARSH KUMAR, AMICUS CURIAE, the court passed the following:

P.T.O.

Nitin Jamdar, C.J. & Syam Kumar V.M., J.

W.P.(C)No. 42844 of 2025

Dated this the 17th day of November, 2025

ORDER

This suo motu petition deals with the issues relating to the inadequacy of infrastructural facilities at various Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Centres across the State. The main infrastructural issues faced by the mediation centres are lack of proper place/venue for conducting mediation, inability to ensure privacy, inadequate physical and digital infrastructure, lack of staff, and even basic facilities, etc. The failure to ensure proper confidentiality impedes the mediation process.

2. Mr. N. Manoj Kumar, learned State Attorney seeks time to take instructions.

3. The High Court Administration and the Kerala State Legal Services Authority need to be represented. Mr. Adarsh Kumar, learned counsel is appointed as *Amicus Curiae* to assist the Court. Registry shall furnish the necessary papers to the learned *Amicus Curiae* before the next date of hearing.

4. Leave is granted to delete Ext.P1. Amendment to be carried out accordingly.

5. Post on 1 December 2025.

Sd/-

Nitin Jamdar
Chief Justice

Sd/-

Syam Kumar V.M.
Judge

Exhibit P3

APPENDIX OF WP(C) 42844/2025
INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS OF MEDIATION CENTRES IN THE STATE

