VERDICTUM.IN

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE A. BADHARUDEEN

Friday, the 13th day of November 2026 / 22nd Karthika, 1948
WP(CRL.) NO. 1746 OF 2026(S)

PETITIONER:

VINOD VIKRAMAN PILLAI, AGED 46 YEARS, SON OF VIKRAMAN PILLAI, NANDANAM, VIKAS NAGAR 153, TKMC-PO, KOLLAM, PIN - 691 005

RESPONDENTS:

1. **STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA, PIN - 695 001**
2. **DIRECTOR, VIGILANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU (VACB), VIGILANCE HEADQUARTERS, PMG, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA, PIN - 695 033**
3. **THE EXCISE COMMISSIONER, EXCISE HEAD QUARTERS, BAKERY JUNCTION, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA, PIN - 695001**
4. **THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, HOTEL DAYA BAR, VYTTILA, ERNAKULAM, KOCHI, KERALA, PIN - 682 019**
5. **THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, HOTEL MONSOON EMPRESS BAR, PALARIVATTOM, ERNAKULAM, KOCHI, KERALA, PIN - 682 025**
6. **THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT, NEDUMBASSERY, KOCHI AIRPORT P.O., ERNAKULAM, KERALA, PIN - 683 572**

Writ petition (criminal) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(Crl.) the High Court be pleased to direct the 2nd respondent to consider the Exhibit P1 application at the earliest.

This petition coming on for admission upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(Crl.) and upon hearing the arguments of SRI. U.JAYAKRISHNAN, Advocate for the petitioner and of PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, the court passed the following:

P.T.O.

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FRIDAY, THE 13TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

WP(CRL.) No. 1746 of 2026

VINOD VIKRAMAN PILLAI

VS

STATE OF KERALA & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:
SRI.U.JAYAKRISHNAN

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A.BADHARUDEEN, J.

W.P(Crl.)No.1746 of 2026

Dated this the 13th day of November, 2026

ORDER

Heard both sides in detail. Writ Petition (Crl.) is admitted.

2. The grievance advanced by the learned counsel for the petitioner in particular, as stated in 'Ground A' in the Writ Petition is confined to non-compliance of Sections 15A and 15B of the Kerala Abkari Act, 1 of 1077. According to the petitioner, the above provisions impose a mandatory statutory prohibition against the sale, service and consumption of liquor by persons below 23 years of age, and a corresponding enforceable duty upon the respondents to secure such prohibition; the admitted pervasive service of liquor to underage persons in licensed premises constitutes a dereliction of that statutory duty. Addressing the recent incidents showing that persons below 18 years of age caused fatal accidents, and motor vehicle mishap after consuming alcohol, taking advantage of the easy supply and availability of liquor to them without any restriction, ignoring the statutory restrictions, this Writ Petition

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would require detailed hearing. That apart, it is high time for the legislatures to consider appropriate amendments in the statutes which deal with the 'juveniles and child in conflict' with law to reduce age to 16 years, taking note of the present trend showing sufficient maturity by children when they reach the age of 16. This aspect also to be appropriately addressed.

In view of the above, the 3rd respondent is specifically directed to file a statement disclosing the directions issued to implement the statutory mandates of Sections 15A and 15B of the Kerala Abkari Act and also with possible suggestions otherwise how the same can be implemented, with a view to save the public from danger.

Post on 24.11.2026.

Sd/-

A. BADHARUDEEN
JUDGE

Bb

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APPENDIX OF WP(CRL.) 1746/2026

Exhibit P1	**A COPY OF THE REPRESENTATION TO THE 2ND AND 3RD RESPONDENT DATED 15.10.2026**

THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA
सत्यमेव जयते