

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN, J.

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WP (C) Nos. 22750/2018, 42574/2018,  
27642/2021 & 42160/2022

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Dated this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024

O R D E R

The learned Amicus Curiae - Sri. Harish Vasudevan, has filed a report dated 03.12.2024. He bewails that the violations are still continuing unabated.

2. This Court is also aware, but there is hardly anything that can be done if the Official Machinery continues to be either deliberately or otherwise indifferent or inactive.

3. Sri. Shyam Prashanth - learned Government Pleader, submitted that the State is committed to rid our State of all unauthorized boards, flags, festoons etc. He reiterated that the steps and measures have been taken; but added that, finally, it is the Local Self Government Institutions (LSGIs) which are to do it.

4. I am, therefore, sure that this Court will

have to now interact with the Secretary, Department of Local Self Government Institutions of the Government of Kerala because, on an earlier occasion, the Officer had given very valuable suggestions, but many of which appear to be disregarded by the competent Authorities.

5. Be that as it may, as this Court has already declared is one of the earliest orders in these Writ Petitions, it is the Secretaries of the LSGIs who are finally responsible - not only for the removal of the boards but also for the collection of the fines, registration of the FIRs, and such others. The Committees at the various levels were constituted by this Court only because many of them said that they were scared of implementing orders on account of political and other pressure. This is not to mean that they are free of their obligations.

6. Since, even today, the impression given is that the Secretaries of the LSGIs are scared to act on being taken to task by vested interests, it

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is necessary that this Court also drive in the fear of law into them and make them realise that this is more powerful.

Therefore, I issue the following directions today:

(a) I record the submissions of Sri.Shyam Prashanth, that the Secretary, Department of LSGIs, Government of Kerala, will join this Court online at 4 p.m. on 11.12.2024 for interaction.

(b) I direct the Secretaries of every LSGI to ensure that every unauthorized board, flag, festoon etc. is removed within a period of ten days from today.

(c) I reiterate that every unauthorized board, flag, festoon - which is still remaining on the public streets - will be the personal responsibility of the Secretaries; and this Court will be compelled to collect fines from them personally. They are, of course, at liberty to set up squads for the removal of them, as to have the designated persons in the local areas, including

the Field Staff, to ensure that all violations are removed.

(d) I record that the learned Government Pleader has offered to inform every Secretary of the LSGIs the above directions through a circular to be issued by the competent Authority of the Government within a period of three days from today. This shall be ensured and the same produced before this Court by the next posting date. I also direct that all such circulars be brought to the notice of the Secretary, LSGIs by e-mails and such other expedient methods.

(e) If, during the discharge of any action as per these directions, any Secretary or staff of the LSGIs are to be threatened by any person or entity, it shall be the responsibility of the Police to ensure that they are given protection and such persons are taken to task under the warrant of law to the fullest extent.

(f) I direct the learned State Police Chief to ensure necessary instructions in this regard

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are given to every Police Station within a period  
of three days through appropriate  
circulars/instructions.

Sd/-

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN

JUDGE

H/o  
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