



W.P(PIL)No.171 of 2026

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2026:KER:62332

**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.**

**THURSDAY, THE 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2026 / 22ND SRAVANA, 1948**

**WP(PIL) NO. 171 OF 2026**

**PETITIONER/S:**

**ADARSH S R  
AGED 29 YEARS  
S/O SURENDRAN A, JYOTHIRGAMYA,  
KOTTUKALKONAM, BALARAMAPURAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,,  
PIN - 695501**

**BY ADVS.  
SHRI.R.SANTHOSH MAHADEVAN  
SRI.C.R.VIJAYAKUMARAN PILLAI  
SMT.S.SANTHY (S-3446)  
SHRI.YAYATHI VIJAYAN  
SHRI.MUKESH KUMAR GANDHI  
SHRI.ADWAITH SUSEEL  
SHRI.R.RAHUL KRISHNAN  
SHRI.GOPAKUMAR D.**

**RESPONDENT/S:**

- 1 STATE OF KERALA  
REPRESENTED BY CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT  
SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001**
- 2 THE WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
REPRESENTED BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT  
SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001**

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**OTHER PRESENT:**

**SREELATHA PARAMESHWARAN-SPL.GP**

**THIS WRIT PETITION (PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION) HAVING  
COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON 13.08.2026, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY  
DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:**



## **J U D G M E N T**

(Dated this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 2026)

**Syam Kumar V.M..J.**

This Public Interest Litigation has been filed by the petitioner who claims to be a social activist and a lawyer, alleging that the 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent, Department of Women and Child Development, has announced an event christened 'Freedom at Midnight', which is scheduled to be held from 10.00 p.m on August 14<sup>th</sup> to 1.00 a.m on August 15<sup>th</sup> for a period of three hours, in the M.G.Road at a distance of 3.5 km from PMG Junction to Overbridge Junction, Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram.

2. The apprehension of the petitioner is that during the said event, there would be a prohibition of men from entering the relevant precincts, and if so, the same would constitute a violation of Article 14 and the rights guaranteed under Article 19(1)(d).

3. A perusal of the writ petition reveals the said averment has been made on the basis of unverified press report



produced as Exts.P1 and P2, without any corroboration from the State Department. We note that the petitioner has not approached the concerned authorities and notwithstanding the same has chosen to seek issuance of a writ of mandamus. It is trite and settled that no writ of mandamus would lie unless the aggrieved person first approaches the public authority concerned with his grievance and the right to move this Court by invoking PIL would accrue only if there is a non consideration or rejection of such representation.

4. We have Sri.R.Santhosh Mahadevan, the learned counsel for the petitioner and Smt.Sreelatha Parameswaran, the learned Special Government Pleader.

5. The learned Special Government Pleader on instructions has submitted that there is a restriction for the entry of men to the conclave alone, which is a program intended for women and children, organised by the Department and the transportation and use of the relevant road by men is not intended to be impeded in any manner.

6. We note that averments have been made in this writ



petition without any basis and devoid of any valid reliable materials. A Public Interest Litigation is not to be filed in such slipshod manner. Such petitions are not maintainable. Recording the above submission of the learned Senior Government Pleader, this W.P(PIL) is closed.

Sd/-

**SOUMEN SEN  
CHIEF JUSTICE**

Sd/-

**SYAM KUMAR V. M.  
JUDGE**

smm



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**APPENDIX OF WP(PIL) NO. 171 OF 2026**

**PETITIONER EXHIBITS**

|                   |                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Exhibit P1</b> | <b>THE TRUE COPY OF THE NEWS REPORT DATED<br/>04.08.2026 PUBLISHED IN THE NEW INDIAN<br/>EXPRESS ONLINE NEWS PORTAL</b> |
| <b>Exhibit P2</b> | <b>THE TRUE COPY OF THE NEWS REPORT DATED<br/>04.08.2026 PUBLISHED IN KAUMUDI ONLINE</b>                                |