

IN THE COURT OF ADDL. SESSIONS JUDGE -II (SPECIAL),KOTTAYAM

Present: Sri. Subash.S, Addl. Sessions Judge-II (Spl.)Kottayam

Friday the 10th day April 2026
20th day of Chaithra 1948

SESSIONS CASE No.168/2014

(Crime No.5/96 Vanitha Police Station Ernakulam and Cr.No.
192 CR 96 CBCID Ernakulam.)

Complainant:

Kerala State Represented by
the Public Prosecutor,
Crime No.5/96 Vanitha Police Station Ernakulam
and Cr.No. 192 CR 96 CBCID Ernakulam.

By Spl. Public Prosecutor Adv. Rajagopal Padipurackal

Accused

1. Suresh, Jubariya Manzil, Kattambilly,
Ittivilakkattal, Kollam.
2. Manoharan (Manoj), Pullichankodu Veedu,
Perumkattavilakara, Thiruvananthapuram.

1 st Accused represented by Adv. K. Vinod.
2nd Accused no vakalath seen filed.

Charge	:	Under S.U/ss. 342, 344, 372, 373, 354 r/w S.109 and S.34 of IPC and U/ss. 3(1) and 5(1)(d) (ii) of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act
Plea	:	Not Guilty.

Finding	:	Guilty.
Sentence/Order	i.	The 1 st accused is sentenced to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a period of one year U/s. 342 of IPC.
	ii.	The 1 st accused is sentenced to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a period of three years, and to pay a fine of ₹2,000/- U/s. 344 of IPC. In default of payment of fine, he shall undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a further period of one month.
	iii.	The 1 st accused is sentenced to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a period of ten years and to pay a fine of ₹5,000/- U/s. 372 of IPC. In default of payment of the fine, he shall undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a further period of two months.
	iv.	The 1 st accused is sentenced to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a period of ten years and to pay a fine of ₹5,000/- U/s. 373 of IPC. In default of payment of the fine, he shall undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a further period of two months.
	v.	The 1 st accused is sentenced to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a period of 3

years and to pay a fine of ₹1,000/- under S.3(1) of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. In default of payment of fine, he shall undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a further period of one month.

- vi. The 1st accused is sentenced to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a period of 10 years and to pay a fine of ₹1,000/- under S.5(1) (d) (ii) of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. In default of payment of the fine, he shall undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a further period of one month.
- vii The fine amount, if paid or realized, will be paid to the victim, as compensation U/s 357(1) Cr.P.C
- viii 1st accused is entitled to set off for a period of detention undergone by him during the investigation and trial, that is, from 02.12.2014 to 27.02.2016 and from 29.08.2019 to 10.04.2026.
- ix The substantive sentence of imprisonment shall run concurrently.
- x The substantive sentence of imprisonment imposed in the

present case shall run concurrently with the substantive sentence of imprisonment imposed in S.C No.312/2019.

Date of Hearing : 10.04.2026

Date of Judgment : 10.04.2026

JUDGMENT

The accused stands charge sheeted by the Circle Inspector of Police, Cochin Harbour, attached to C.B.C.I.D, for offences punishable U/ss.344, 372, 373, 354, 342, 376(1) r/w S.109 and S.34 of IPC and U/ss3(1) and 5(1)(d)(ii) of The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act,1956.

2. The case of the prosecution in brief is as follows: The first accused, with the intention of gaining profit by conducting prostitution, entrusted the victim girl, aged 17 years, to the 2nd and 3rd accused. The victim was thereafter wrongfully confined for two weeks at the house bearing number 50/ 2336 A situated at Samrudhi Nagar, Edapally North Village, Ernakulam, where the 2nd and 3rd accused were residing and conducting prostitution. Thereafter, the second and third accused conspired together to sell the victim girl to fourth accused for the purpose of prostitution, Accordingly, on the night of 07.11.1995, the 2nd accused took the victim to Room No. 104 of Queens Hotel

situated on the western side of Shenoy's Theatre, Ernakulam where, the 2nd accused, without the consent of the victim girl, forcefully caught hold of her body parts and thereby outraged her modesty and sold the victim girl to 4th accused for ₹2,500/-. The 4th accused, who had come there and was staying in Room No. 102 of the said hotel in connection with acting in the film Puthukottayile Puthumanavalan, then took the victim girl to Room No.102 and committed rape on her during the night on 07.11.1995. Thereby, the accused have committed the above offences. With respect to the above occurrence, CW1, the victim girl, gave FIS to CW41, who was the Woman Sub-Inspector of Police, Vanitha Police Station, Ernakulam. Based on the said statement, CW41 registered an F.I.R against the accused at Vanitha Police Station, Ernakulam, as Crime No. 5/1996. On completion of the investigation, CW42, the Circle Inspector of Police, Cochin Harbour attached to C.B.C.I.D, submitted final report before the Judicial First-Class Magistrate Court - I, Ernakulam.

3. As the offence alleged against the accused was exclusively triable by the Court of Sessions, the learned Magistrate committed the case to the Court of Sessions, Ernakulam, after complying with the provisions of S.207 Cr.P.C.

Since A1 was absconding, firstly, the case against A2 to A4 was committed to the Sessions Court, Ernakulam. Later, the said case was transferred to the Sessions court, Kottayam, from where it was made over to this court. A3 and A4 were acquitted as per the judgment in SC. No. 266/2000 dated 28.05.2007, and the case against A2 was split up. Later, the case against A2 was refiled as S.C No.168/2015. A1 surrendered before the Judicial First-Class Magistrate Court-I, Ernakulam, on 02.12.2014, and the case against him was committed to the Sessions Court, Ernakulam, on 23.02.2015. Thereafter, the case was transferred to the Sessions Court, Kottayam. The said case was taken on file as S.C.168/2015 and made over to this court. The said case was clubbed with this case. On 14.09.2023, my predecessor in office framed charges against A1 and A2 for offences under S.U/ss. 342, 344,372,373, 354 r/w S.109 and S.34 of IPC and U/ss3(1) and 5(1)(d)(ii) of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act. Both the accused pleaded not guilty to the charge framed against them. Then the case was posted for evidence of the prosecution. The accused herein were defended by their own counsel. From the side of the prosecution, the victim was examined in part as PW1. Thereafter, A1 filed an application seeking to read over the charge again and to permit him to plead guilty. The said

application was allowed on 30.12.2025, and the charge against A1 was again read over, to which he pleaded guilty. A1 was made aware of the nature of the accusation and the consequences of pleading guilty. A1, after understanding the same, pleaded guilty to the charges framed against him for offences under S.342, 344 r/w S.109 of IPC, S.372, 373 R/W S.34 of IPC and under S.3(1) and 5(1) (d) (ii) of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 r/w S.34 of IPC. The plea of A1 was recorded under S.229 of IPC, and he was convicted for the aforesaid offences.

4. Heard the 1st accused on the question of sentence as required u/s.235(2) of Cr.P.C. The learned counsel for the 1st accused was also heard on the question of sentence. A1 submitted that he is now aged 59 years, and he has wife and a daughter who is studying in plus-two. The learned Special Public Prosecutor argued that, considering the nature and gravity of offences and the manner in which he committed the aforesaid offences, the 1st accused has to be awarded the maximum punishment provided for the offences. On the other hand, the learned counsel for the 1st accused submitted that a lenient view may be taken in awarding sentence. Considering the nature and gravity of offences and the manner in which he had committed

the aforesaid offences, I am of the view that he is not entitled to leniency in the matter of punishment and he deserves exemplary punishment.

5. The offence U/s. 342 IPC is punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year or with a fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, this court is of the considered opinion that a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for a period of one year is adequate for the above offence.

6. The offence U/s. 344 IPC is punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, this court is of the considered opinion that a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for a period of three years and a fine of ₹2,000/- is adequate for the above offence.

7. The offence U/s. 372 of IPC is punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, this court is of the considered opinion that a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for a period of

ten years and a fine of ₹5,000/- is adequate for the above offence.

8. The offence U/s. 373 of IPC is punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, this court is of the considered opinion that a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for a period of ten years and a fine of ₹5,000/- is adequate for the above offence.

9. The offence U/s. 3(1) of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act is punishable on first conviction with rigorous imprisonment for a term of not less than one year and not more than three years and also with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees and in the event of a second or subsequent conviction, with rigorous imprisonment for a term of not less than two years and not more than five years and also with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, this court is of the considered opinion that rigorous imprisonment for a period of 3 years and a fine of ₹1,000/- is adequate for the above offence.

10. The punishment provided for the offence U/s. 5(1) (d) (ii) of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act is rigorous

imprisonment for a term not less than 7 years and not more than 14 years, and also with a fine which may extend to two thousand rupees. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, this court is of the considered opinion that rigorous imprisonment for a period of 10 years and a fine of ₹1,000/- is adequate for the above offence.

11. The next aspect to be considered is the period of set off under S.428 of Cr.P.C. A1 surrendered before the Judicial First-Class Magistrate Court-I, Ernakulam, on 02.12.2014, and he was remanded to Sub Jail, Ernakulam. Even though a bail application was filed before the said court, the same was dismissed, and the case was committed to the Sessions Court, Ernakulam, on 23.02.2015. Thereafter, the case was transferred to the Sessions Court, Kottayam. The said case was taken on file as S.C.168/2015 and made over to this court. On 27.06.2015, the said case was clubbed with this case. On 27.02.2016, A1 was granted bail in this case. He is also accused in many other cases. He is the 1st accused in sessions cases 139/14, 575/15, 310/19, 311/19, 318/19, 328/19, 321/19, 322/19, 325/19, 326/19, 330/19, 315/19, 316/19, 317/19, 324/19, 329/19, 319/19, 327/19, 314/19, 313/19, 323/19, 320/19 and S.C.312/2019. When S.C. 312/2019 was scheduled for trial, A1 absconded. In the present case also,

A1 absconded, and on 24.04.19, notice was issued to his sureties, and this court ordered to register M.C against the sureties of A1. On 15.06.2019, when he was arrested and produced in S.C 312/2019, he was remanded. After A1 was remanded in the said case, he was produced in this case on 29.08.2019, pursuant to a production warrant, and has since been in custody in this case as well.

12. Learned counsel for A1 submitted that he is entitled to set off during the period from 02.12.2014 to 27.02.2016 and from 29.08.2019 to 10.04.2026. In this context, it is useful to refer to the judgment of the Hon'ble Apex Court in State of Maharashtra V Najakat (AIR 2001 SC 2255) and the judgment of the Hon'ble High Court in Chandran V State of Kerala (2007(4) KHC 607).

13. In the case of Najakat(supra), the Hon'ble Apex Court held as follows:

“ 18. Reading [Section 428](#) of the Code in the above perspective, the words of the same case are not to be understood as suggesting that the set off is allowable only if the earlier jail life was undergone by him exclusively for the case in which the sentence is imposed...

.....21. We have no reason to think that the High Courts mentioned above have gone wrong in taking the view that [Section 428](#) of the Code permits the accused to have the period undergone by him in jail as an under-trial prisoner set off against the period of

sentence imposed on him irrespective of whether he was in jail in connection with the same case during that period.”

14. In the case of Chandran (supra), the Hon’ble High Court held as follows:

“To summarise and to harmonise Najakat’s case with the decision in Bensons case, it has to be held that while considering the claim for set off by an accused person every court has to consider whether the accused had undergone detention during investigation, enquiry or trial of the same case. If such detention is referable and attributable to the investigation conducted in the case, notwithstanding the absence of production of the accused before the Magistrate or omission to issue a production warrant, the accused must be held to be entitled for set off. This is so notwithstanding the fact that the accused may be detained in custody in connection with other cases also, and the detention was not exclusively referable to the case in question.”

15. In view of the aforesaid judgments of the Hon’ble Apex Court and the Hon’ble High Court, this court is of the considered opinion that A1 is entitled to set off for the period from 02.12.2014 to 27.02.2016 and from 29.08.2019 to 10.04.2026.

16. It is to be noted that on 12.02.2021, A1 was convicted and sentenced to undergo imprisonment and to pay fine in S.C 312/2019 for offences U/ss. 344 and 372 of IPC and U/ss3(1) and 5(1)(d)(ii) of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act.

Learned counsel for the 1st accused submitted that, considering the facts and circumstances of the case, period of detention already undergone by him and the age of the 1st accused, this is a fit case for giving a direction to run the sentence to be imposed in this case concurrently with the sentence imposed in S.C 312/2019. In this context, it is useful to refer to S.427 of Cr.P.C.

S.427. Sentence on offender already sentenced for another offence.

(1) When a person already undergoing a sentence of imprisonment is sentenced on a subsequent conviction to imprisonment or imprisonment for life, such imprisonment or imprisonment for life shall commence at the expiration of the imprisonment to which he has been previously sentenced, unless the Court directs that the subsequent sentence shall run concurrently with such previous sentence: Provided that where a person who has been sentenced to imprisonment by an order under section 122 in default of furnishing security is, whilst undergoing such sentence, sentenced to imprisonment for an offence committed prior to the making of such order, the latter sentence shall commence immediately.

(2) When a person already undergoing a sentence of imprisonment for life is sentenced on a subsequent conviction to imprisonment for a term or imprisonment for life, the subsequent sentence shall run concurrently with such previous sentence.

17. So, by virtue of S.427 of Cr.P.C, the court has power and discretion to direct that all the subsequent sentences run concurrently with the previous sentences. Coming to the present

case, the occurrence took place in 1995, and now the 1st accused is aged 59 years. He has been in custody for more than 8 years. This case is one of the series of similar cases known as “Vithura Cases”. He is the 1st accused in 23 similar cases and he has been convicted and sentenced in another similar case. It is pertinent to note that he has not contested the case and pleaded guilty. In SC.312/2019, he was convicted and sentenced to undergo R.I. for a period of 2 years under S.344 IPC, R.I. for a period of 10 years under S.372 IPC, R.I. for a period of 2 years under S.3(1) of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and R.I. for a period of 10 years under S.5(1) (d) (ii) of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, I am inclined to give a direction to run the sentence to be imposed in this case concurrently with the sentence imposed in S.C 312/2019.

As a result, the 1st accused is sentenced for the offences committed in this case as follows:

- i. The 1st accused is sentenced to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a period of one year U/s. 342 of IPC.
- ii. The 1st accused is sentenced to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a period of three years, and to pay a fine of ₹2,000/- U/s. 344 of IPC. In default of payment of fine, he shall undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a further period of one month.

- iii The 1st accused is sentenced to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a period of ten years and to pay a fine of ₹5,000/- U/s. 372 of IPC. In default of payment of the fine, he shall undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a further period of two months.
- iv. The 1st accused is sentenced to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a period of ten years and to pay a fine of ₹5,000/- U/s. 373 of IPC. In default of payment of the fine, he shall undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a further period of two months.
- v. The 1st accused is sentenced to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a period of 3 years and to pay a fine of ₹1,000/- under S.3(1) of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. In default of payment of fine, he shall undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a further period of one month.
- vi. The 1st accused is sentenced to undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a period of 10 years and to pay a fine of ₹1,000/- under S.5(1) (d) (ii) of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. In default of payment of the fine, he shall undergo Rigorous Imprisonment for a further period of one month.
- vii The fine amount, if paid or realized, will be paid to the victim, as compensation U/s 357(1) Cr.P.C
- viii 1st accused is entitled to set off for a period of detention undergone by him during the investigation and trial, that is, from 02.12.2014 to 27.02.2016 and from 29.08.2019 to 10.04.2026.
- ix The substantive sentence of imprisonment shall run concurrently.
- x The substantive sentence of imprisonment imposed in the present case shall run concurrently with the substantive sentence of imprisonment imposed in S.C No.312/2019.

At the time of the occurrence, the victim was aged 17 years and she has suffered grave physical and mental trauma on account of the offences committed against her. Considering the

nature of offences, its lasting impact on psychological well-being and the social life of the victim, this court is of the considered opinion that just and reasonable compensation shall be awarded to the victim. Having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case, I am of the view that she requires rehabilitation under the victim compensation scheme. Hence, I recommend the District Legal Services Authority, Kottayam to decide the quantum of compensation to be awarded to her for her rehabilitation under the victim compensation scheme as provided u/s. 357-A of Cr.P.C.

Dictated to the Confidential Assistant, transcribed by her, revised and corrected by me and pronounced in Open Court on this, the 10th day of April, 2026.

Sd/-

Subash. S
Addl. Sessions Judge-II (Spl.),
Kottayam

APPENDIX: NIL.

Id/-

Addl. Sessions Judge-II(Spl).
Kottayam.

Serial No. of the Case	:	Sessions Case No.168/2014
Crime Number and	:	Crime No.5/96
		Vanitha Police Station
		Ernakulam
Name of Police Station		and Cr.No. 192 CR 96 CBCID
		Ernakulam.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCUSED

Sl No	Name	Father's Name	Occupation	Residence	Age
1	Suresh			Jubariya Manzil, Kattambilly, Ittivalakkal, Kollam.	
2.	Manoharan @ Manoj			Pullichankodu Veedu, Perummkattavilakara, Thiruvananthapuram.	

Dates of

Occurrence : 1995 November to 1996 May

Complaint : 24.07.1996

Apprehension and Release on bail : A1 Surrendered on 02.12.2014 and released on bail on 27.02.2016. He absconded again and he was produced in this case on 29.08.2019 on production warrant and now he is in custody.

Committal : 23.02.2015

Judgment : 10.04.2026

Reason for delay : No delay

Remarks : Nil

Id/-

Addl. Sessions Judge-II(Spl).

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//True Copy//

Sd/-

Subash. S

**Addl. Sessions Judge-II (Spl.),
Kottayam**