

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V

&

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K. V. JAYAKUMAR

Wednesday, the 11th day of February 2026 / 22nd Magha, 1947

DBAR NO. 2 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD - SPECIAL REPORT (FINAL) ON THE
SERIOUS EMBEZZLEMENT AT THE PETROL PUMP, NILAKKAL - REG:

PETITIONER:

JOINT DIRECTOR,
KERALA STATE AUDIT DEPARTMENT, TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003

BY GOVERNMENT PLEADER for the petitioner

RESPONDENTS:

1. THE SECRETARY, TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, NANTHANCOD, KAWADIAR POST, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003

*ADDL.R2 IMPEADED

2. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTRE (NIC),
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, E2A, RAJAJI BHAVAN, BASANTH NAGAR,
CHENNAI - 600 090

*IS SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDITIONAL RESPONDENT AS PER ORDER
DATED 17/09/2025 IN DBAR.NO.2/2025

*ADDL.R3 IMPEADED

3. KERALA STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED (KSITIL),
REPRESENTED BY ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR, 1ST FLOOR, SAANKETHIKA,
PF ROAD, PATTOM PALACE P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695004

*IS SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDITIONAL RESPONDENT NO.3 AS PER
ORDER DATED 16.01.2026 IN DBAR NO.2/2025

BY SRI.G.BIJU, SC, TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD FOR R1

BY SMT.O.M.SHALINA, DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

FOR ADDL.R2

BY SRI.K.A.ABDUL SALAM, SC, KITFRA & SRI.SUNIL V.MOHAMMED FOR R3

THIS DEVASWOM BOARD AUDIT REPORT ALONG WITH CONNECTED CASE HAVING COME UP FOR ORDERS AGAIN ON 11/02/2026, UPON PERUSING THE REPORT AND THIS COURT'S ORDER DATED 28/01/2026, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING:



**RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V.,
&
K.V. JAYAKUMAR, JJ.**

DBAR No. 2 OF 2025

Dated this the 11th day of February, 2026

ORDER

Raja Vijayaraghavan V, J.

This order shall be read in continuation of the order dated 28.01.2026.

2. As recorded in the earlier order, we had interacted with the officers of Kerala State Information Technology Infrastructure Ltd. (KITFRA) and had directed them to inform this Court of the precise time frame within which the Technical Requirement Specification (TRS) / System Requirement Specification (SRS) for the project could be prepared, after acquiring the requisite domain knowledge pertaining to temple administration and allied functions. We had also specifically directed that the software proposed to be designed shall seamlessly integrate all essential and statutory functions so as to ensure transparency, operational efficiency, accountability, financial discipline, and improved service delivery in matters relating to temple administration, as well as the public interface.

3. Pursuant to the aforesaid directions, KITFRA has placed before us an "Implementation Roadmap – Enterprise-Grade Digital Transformation of Travancore Devaswom Board," produced as Annexure-A, along with Annexure- B

detailing the institutional framework, including the delineation of roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders involved in the execution of the project.

4. On a perusal of Annexure- A, we find that the proposed system design envisages 15 core integrated modules, collectively covering the entire functional spectrum of the project. The proposed architecture is stated to be scalable and extensible, with in-built provision to incorporate additional modules in future, should the operational, administrative, or statutory requirements of the Travancore Devaswom Board so warrant. The system is proposed to be built on a cloud-native architecture to ensure reliability, business continuity, data integrity, and enterprise-grade security. We have also perused the phased implementation roadmap, comprising approximately 14 phases, beginning with foundational strategic alignment (Phases 1 to 4), followed by technical blueprinting (Phases 5 to 7), sourcing and detailed architecture (Phases 8 to 10), construction and systems integration (Phases 11 to 13), and culminating in validation, deployment, stabilization, and evolutionary expansion.

5. Upon further interaction, we are informed that the reference model proposed for the present project is the Kerala Solutions for Managing Administrative Reformation and Transformation (K-SMART), developed by the

Information Kerala Mission and launched across all Urban Local Bodies in the State on 01.01.2024, and subsequently extended to Rural Local Bodies as well. It is submitted that, based on stakeholder inputs and field implementation, the platform has evolved into a large-scale enterprise system capable of managing complex administrative, regulatory, and financial functions across more than 1,200 Local Self-Government Institutions. We are further apprised that the architecture of K-SMART is founded on cloud-native and microservices principles, with in-built audit trails and accountability frameworks. It appears that several functional components and service modules proposed in the present system bear operational similarity to those deployed within the K-SMART ecosystem.

6. Having considered the statement and materials placed before us by KITFRA, and upon prima facie satisfaction regarding the conceptual and architectural framework, we are of the view that the project proposal may be taken forward, subject to necessary inputs, refinements, and approvals from the State Government as well as the Travancore Devaswom Board.

7. We are informed that a period of six months would be required for the preparation and finalisation of the requisite technical and bid documents, as directed by this Court. It is further submitted that the process of tendering to

software development agencies can be undertaken only thereafter. However, on a specific query made by this Court, we are informed that the development model adopted by the Information Kerala Mission for the K-SMART platform can also be adopted in the present case, in which event preliminary work and system development activities could commence at an earlier stage. By way of a ballpark financial estimate, we are informed that the total cost incurred for the K-SMART platform, inclusive of developer engagement and infrastructure provisioning, was approximately ₹70 crores, and that the development cost for the proposed enterprise-grade digital transformation of the Travancore Devaswom Board is likely to be substantially lower, particularly since certain modular components and technological frameworks of K-SMART can be adapted and deployed in the present project.

8. Let the Travancore Devaswom Board and the learned Government Pleader respond.

Post on 18.02.2026 along with the connected case.

Sd/-
**RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V,
JUDGE**

Sd/-
**K.V. JAYAKUMAR,
JUDGE**

ANNEXURES IN DBAR NO.2/2025

ANNEXURE -A	TRUE COPY OF THE DETAILED STATEMENT OUTLINING THE PROPOSED TIMELINES FOR PREPARATION OF RFP DOCUMENTS AND SUBSEQUENT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION
ANNEXURE -B	TRUE COPY OF A PRELIMINARY TECHNICAL AND FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TDB AND THE CORRESPONDING SCOPE OF WORK ENVISAGED UNDER THE PROPOSED DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

