

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****SSCR NO. 7 OF 2026**

**IN THE MATTER OF TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD - SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER
REPORT - SM.NO.07/2026 - REPORT REGARDING FINANCIAL MALPRACTICES OF CASUAL
LABOURERS AND PERMANENT DUTY STAFFS DURING MANDALA - MAKARAVILAKKU SEASON
2025-26 - SUBMITTING OF - SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED - REG:**

PETITIONER:**SUO MOTU****RESPONDENTS:****1. STATE OF KERALA**

**REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 001**

2. CHIEF POLICE COORDINATOR (ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE)

(POLICE HEADQUARTERS) SABARIMALA, PATHANAMTHITTA, PIN - 689713

3. TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD

**REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR POST,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 003**

4. DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER

**TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, DEVASWOM BUILDINGS, NANTHANCODE,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 003**

5. EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SABARIMALA, SABARIMALA P.O., PATHANAMTHITTA - 689 662

6. CHIEF VIGILANCE & SECURITY OFFICER (SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE)

**TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM HEAD QUARTERS, NANTHANCOD, KAWDIAR POST,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 003**

7. DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**LOCAL FUND AUDIT, TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695003**

BY SRI.S.RAJMOHAN, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD

BY SMT.SAYUJYA RADHAKRISHNAN, AMICUS CURIAE FOR SABARIMALA

SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

**THIS SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER REPORT HAVING COME UP FOR
ADMISSION ON 11/02/2026, UPON PERUSING THE PETITION, THE COURT ON THE SAME
DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING:**



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

SSCR No. 7 OF 2026

Dated this the 11th day of February, 2026

ORDER

Raja Vijayaraghavan V., J.

This report filed by the Special Commissioner pertains to alleged financial malpractices involving casual labourers and permanent duty staff engaged at Sannidhanam during the Mandala–Makaravilakku Season 2025–2026.

2. It is stated in the report that, based on secret information received by the Executive Officer, a discreet enquiry was conducted by the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer. As part of the enquiry, financial data was collected from the Post Offices and nearby banking institutions, including the State Bank of India, Sannidhanam Branch, and Dhanlaxmi Bank, Sannidhanam, with respect to amounts deposited for onward remittance from 17.11.2025 onwards.

3. The enquiry revealed that a total sum of ₹14,08,880/- was transferred through money orders from the Post Office alone, that too for a short span of period. It is further revealed that such remittances involved relatively substantial amounts transmitted within a short span of time, giving rise to suspicion regarding the source and legitimacy of the funds. The Vigilance Wing has also furnished particulars of certain remittances exceeding ₹25,000/- made by five employees. In respect of one employee, a resident of Pathanamthitta, an amount of ₹1,38,000/-

was remitted through the Post Office. In the case of another employee, the remittance amounted to ₹1,07,450/-. Similar patterns of remittance have been noticed in respect of three other individuals. Though the Vigilance Officer directed these persons to appear before the competent authority for enquiry, they failed to comply with the directions issued. It is therefore stated that a detailed and comprehensive enquiry is required, including the collection of transactional particulars from the concerned banks and postal authorities.

4. The learned Standing Counsel appearing for the Travancore Devaswom Board submitted that the Devaswom Commissioner has instructed the Executive Officer to lodge a formal complaint before the Sannidhanam Police Station so that an exhaustive criminal investigation may be undertaken, including scrutiny of the bank accounts of casual as well as permanent employees deputed for duty at Sannidhanam. It is further submitted that directions have already been issued to collect details relating to all suspicious and dubious transactions and that a crime will be registered in accordance with law.

5. Having regard to the seriousness and gravity of the allegations brought to our notice, we deem it appropriate to issue the following directions:

a) Accordingly, we direct the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer (Superintendent of Police) of the Travancore Devaswom Board to carry out an exhaustive investigation into all related aspects, including obtaining transactional and remittance details from the State Bank of India, Sannidhanam, Dhanlaxmi

Bank, Sannidhanam, Post Offices and other financial institutions operating in and around the area.

b) The Vigilance Officer shall, for the aforesaid purpose, endeavour to obtain the database of all employees who were on duty at Sannidhanam during the relevant period, whether temporary, casual, or permanent, so as to facilitate comprehensive scrutiny and to ascertain the full extent of any fraudulent activity or suspicious transfer of funds.

6. A comprehensive report shall be placed before this Court within a period of three weeks from today.

Post on 11.03.2026.



Sd/-

**RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V,
JUDGE**

Sd/-

**K.V. JAYAKUMAR,
JUDGE**

APM