

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V
&
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE K. V. JAYAKUMAR
Thursday, the 19th day of February 2026 / 30th Magha, 1947

WP(C) NO. 40608 OF 2025(A)

PETITIONER:

1. SUO MOTU AS PER THE ORDER DATED 21.10.2025 IN SSCR 23/2025 REGARDING THE HEIST AND PLUNDERING OF GOLD FROM THE GOLD-CLADDED DWARAPALAKAS PLACED ON EITHER SIDE OF THE SREEKOVIL, SABARIMALA, PIN - 682031

RESPONDENTS:

1. THE STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM , PIN - 695001
2. THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR POST, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003
3. THE CHIEF VIGILANCE AND SECURITY OFFICER (SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE), TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM HEAD QUARTERS, NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR POST, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003
4. THE STATE POLICE CHIEF, POLICE HEAD QUARTERS, VAZHUTHACAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695010
5. THE SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR, KERALA STATE AUDIT DEPARTMENT, TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003.

BY S. RAJMOHAN, SR.GOVERNMENT PLEADER FOR R1 & R4

S.SREEKUMAR (SR.) along with SHRI.G.BIJU,STANDING COUNSEL FOR R2, R3 & R5

This petition again coming on for orders upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C) and this court's order dated 09/02/2026, the court passed the following:

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

WP(C) No. 40608 of 2025

Dated this the 19th day of February, 2026

ORDER

Raja Vijayaraghavan V, J.

When the matter was taken up for consideration, Sri. S. Sasidharan, IPS, the Investigating Officer, and the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer (Superintendent of Police) have appeared before us in person.

2. In our Order dated 09.02.2026, we had noted that an advanced forensic and metallurgical examination is absolutely essential and that the results thereof would constitute the foundation upon which the prosecution must rest its case to establish the allegations in a clear, cogent, and legally sustainable manner. We directed the team to undertake specialised scientific examinations, including X-ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy (XRF) to determine surface elemental composition; Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) for ultra-trace impurity and elemental profiling; and Optical Emission Spectroscopy (OES) to analyse alloy composition and metallurgical uniformity.

3. The Investigating Officer has informed us that the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, has expressed its willingness to conduct

tests on the control and questioned samples by the specified methods. It is stated that the Laboratory has agreed to undertake the examinations free of cost, considering their significance. A total of 36 samples have been collected, of which 30 pertain to Crime No. 3700 of 2025, and 6 pertain to Crime No. 3701 of 2025. It is further submitted that the samples have been produced before the Enquiry Commissioner and Special Judge (Vigilance), Kollam, for onward transmission to the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, for scientific examination. The Laboratory has also intimated that the tests will be conducted expeditiously and the results furnished at the earliest.

4. It is further submitted that efforts are being made to obtain call data records from the mobile service providers in respect of the phones allegedly used by certain accused persons and their interactions. It is stated that, as more than two years have elapsed, issuance of appropriate directions to the mobile service providers, namely Vodafone Idea, Jio, BSNL, and Airtel, may be necessary to secure any available data that may disclose material particulars relating to the crime. We grant permission to the Investigating Officer to make appropriate requests to the said mobile service providers. Upon receipt of such request, and subject to availability, the service providers shall endeavour to furnish the data to the Special Investigation Team.

5. The head of the Investigation Team has submitted that the analysis reports pertaining to the DVR data and the call data records are yet to be obtained. It is further submitted that the findings from the National Metallurgical

Laboratory, Jamshedpur, would constitute the very basis and fulcrum of the prosecution case. According to the Investigation Team, the Laboratory has assured that the results will be furnished at the earliest. In view of the said assurance, it is submitted that the final report can be laid before the jurisdictional court on or before 31.03.2026.

6. The learned Government Pleader has submitted that the Director, Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau, Thiruvananthapuram, has issued Order No. E1-2974/2026/DVACB dated 10.02.2026, pursuant to the directions of this Court in WP(C) No. 40608 of 2025, appointing Sri. Hari C.S., Deputy Superintendent of Police, Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau, SIU-I, Thiruvananthapuram, to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the allegations of irregularities in the misappropriation of gold connected with the Temple Flag Mast at Sabarimala. The names of the officers appointed to assist the head of the Investigation Team have also been furnished. It is stated that a report regarding the inquiry shall be submitted within a period of 30 days.

Post on 26.03.2026.

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

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

APM