

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 17th day of December 2025 / 26th Agrahayana, 1947****DBP NO. 52 OF 2025**

**IN THE MATTER OF COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD - COMPLAINT ALLEGING MALADMINISTRATION
AND CORRUPTION AT CHOTTANIKKARA - SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED BASED ON A
COMPLAINT DATED 24.04.2025 FROM SRI.THAMPY THILAKAN-REG.**

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

**REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695001.**

2. COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD

**REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, ROUND NORTH,
THRISSUR - 680001.**

3. COMMISSIONER

**COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD, SWARAJ ROUND NORTH,
ROUND NORTH, THRISSUR, PIN-680 001**

4. THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

**CHOTTANIKKARA DEVASWOM, CHOTTANIKKARA P.O.,
ERNAKULAM, PIN-682312**

5. DEVASWOM MANAGER
CHOTTANIKKARA BHAGAVATHI TEMPLE, CHOTTANIKKARA P.O.,
ERNAKULAM, PIN-682312
6. THE TEMPLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, CHOTTANIKKARA TEMPLE COMPOUND,
CHOTTANIKKARA P.O., ERNAKULAM, PIN-682312
*ADDL.R7 & R8 IMPEADED
7. THE CHOTTANIKKARA GRAMA PANCHAYAT,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, CHOTTANIKKARA P.O.,
ERNAKULAM DISTRICT – 682312
8. THE DISTRICT TOWN PLANNER,
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT TOWN PLANNER, LSGD PLANNING,
DPC SECRETARIAT BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, CIVIL STATION, KAKKANAD,
ERNAKULAM – 682030
*ARE SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDITIONAL RESPONDENTS 7 AND 8 AS PER
ORDER DATED 10/09/2025 IN DBP.NO.52/2025.
*ADDL.R9 TO R11 IMPEADED
9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
SUCHITWA MISSION, DEPARTMENT OF LSGD, PUBLIC OFFICE BUILDING,
3RD FLOOR, REVENUE COMPLEX, LMS, VELLAYAMBALAM ROAD,
UNIVERSITY OF KERALA SENATE HOUSE CAMPUS, PALAYAM,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695033
10. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MARAMATH WING, COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD, CDB HEAD QUARTERS,
SWARAJ ROUND NORTH, THRISSUR - 680001
11. ASSISTANT ENGINEER,
CHOTTANIKKARA DEVASWOM, CHOTTANIKKARA, KOCHI - 682 312
*ARE SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDL.RESPONDENTS 9 TO 11 VIDE ORDER
DATED 19.09.2025 IN DBP 52/2025.

***ADDL.R12 IMPEADED**

**12. THE SPECIAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT,
LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
*IS SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDL.R12 VIDE ORDER DATED 26.11.2025
IN DBP.NO.52/2025**

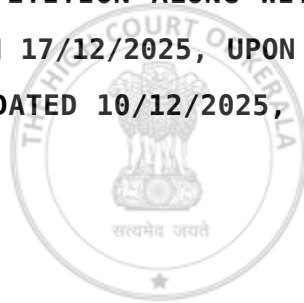
BY SRI.S.RAJMOHAN, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER

BY SRI.K.P.SUDHEER, SC, COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD

**BY M/S.T MADHU, C.R.SARADAMANI, B.S.SURAJ KRISHNA, AVANTHIKA R.,
KARTHIK KRISHNA M., ARUNIMA A.R. and T.S.DAVIS,
Advocates for R6**

BY SRI.VINEETH KOMALACHANDRAN, Advocate for R7

**THE DEVASWOM BOARD PETITION ALONG WITH CONNECTED CASES HAVING
COME UP FOR ORDERS AGAIN ON 17/12/2025, UPON PERUSING THE PETITION AND
THIS COURT'S COMMON ORDER DATED 10/12/2025, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY
PASSED THE FOLLOWING:**



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

DBP Nos. 52, 64 of 2025 and W.P.(C) No. 32689 of 2023

Dated this the 17th day of December, 2025

ORDER

Raja Vijayaraghavan V, J.

It is submitted by the learned Standing Counsel appearing for the Devaswom Board that, in compliance with the directions issued by this Court in the order dated 10.12.2025, the Officers of the Suchithwa Mission have visited the Chottanikkara Temple and conducted an inspection of the premises. It is further submitted that a detailed report in this regard shall be placed before this Court on 21.01.2026.

2. This Court, in the earlier orders, had specifically noted that the surroundings of the Chottanikkara Temple were in a deplorable condition, with plastic waste, food remnants, and garbage strewn indiscriminately in and around the temple premises. There was also leakage of filthy water into the nearby pond, which is being used for ritualistic purposes. The pipes and drains were also run down and ineffective. This Court had observed that the measures adopted by the temple authorities were wholly inadequate, thereby posing serious environmental, public health, and sanitation concerns in a place revered by one and all and of great religious importance.

3. The Suchithwa Mission, being the State's nodal agency entrusted

with the implementation of scientific solid waste management, plastic waste reduction, sanitation, and cleanliness initiatives, has to play a proactive and advisory role in addressing these issues. The Mission Officers shall, therefore, render specific inputs and recommendations to ensure that both the exterior surroundings as well as the interior precincts of the Chottanikkara Temple are restored to and maintained in a clean, hygienic, and orderly condition. Having considered all the relevant inputs, we direct that the mandate of the additional respondent No. 9— Suchithwa Mission— shall include, among others:

- a) assessment of existing waste generation and disposal practices within the temple premises;
- b) formulation of a scientific waste segregation mechanism, including plastic and non-plastic waste;
- c) recommendation of sustainable waste processing and disposal systems;
- d) advising on the placement of adequate waste bins, signage, and awareness measures for pilgrims;
- e) Sufficiency of Sewage disposal facilities, incinerators, its placement and the structural changes that are required to streamline its functioning.
- f) suggesting institutional mechanisms to ensure continuous and perpetual maintenance of cleanliness, rather than ad hoc or seasonal measures.

4. The objective shall be not merely cosmetic cleanliness, but the establishment of a robust, sustainable, and permanently enforceable sanitation framework, befitting the stature of a major temple that attracts large numbers of devotees on a daily basis. The report to be submitted by

the Suchithwa Mission shall specifically address these aspects and indicate the corrective, preventive, and long-term measures required to ensure enduring compliance.

Post on 21.01.2026.

Sd/-
RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V,
JUDGE



Sd/-
K.V. JAYAKUMAR,
JUDGE

BR