

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM**PRESENT****THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V****&****THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K. V. JAYAKUMAR****Friday, the 21st day of November 2025 / 30th Karthika, 1947****SSCR NO. 37 OF 2025**

**IN THE MATTER OF TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD - SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER
REPORT - SM.NO.37/2025 - REGARDING THE CROWD MANAGEMENT DURING MANDALA-
MAKARAVILAKKU SEASON 2025-2026 - SUO MOTU - PROCEEDINGS INITIATED - REG:**

PETITIONER:**SUO MOTU****RESPONDENTS:**

1. **STATE OF KERALA**
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695001
2. **STATE POLICE CHIEF**
POLICE HEAD QUARTERS, VAZHUTHACAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM -695 010
3. **THE DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF, PATHANAMTHITTA - 689 645**
4. **THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR**
COLLECTORATE, PATHANAMTHITTA, KERALA - 689645
5. **THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD**
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR POST,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 003
6. **DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER**
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR POST,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695003
7. **THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
SABARIMALA, PAMPA TRIVENI P.O., PATHANAMTHITTA - 689670



8. THE CHIEF POLICE COORDINATOR
(ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, (POLICE HEADQUARTERS)
SANNIDHANAM, SABARIMALA, PATHANAMTHITTA, PIN - 689 713
9. EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
SANNIDHANAM, SABARIMALA, PATHANAMTHITTA - 689 713
10. CHIEF VIGILANCE AND SECURITY OFFICER
(SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE), TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD,
NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR POST, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 003
11. PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
FOREST HEADQUARTERS, VAZHUTHACAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695014
12. FOREST RANGE OFFICER
PAMBA RANGE, VALLAKKADAVU P.O., VANDIPERIYAR (VIA),
IDUKKI - 685553
13. KERALA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
REPRESENTED BY ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR, TRANSPORT BHAVAN,
FORT P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 035
14. THE TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER, KERALA
TRANSPORT COMMISSIONERATE, VAZHUTHACAUD,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 014
15. THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER (ENFORCEMENT)
STADIUM JUNCTION, KAIPATTOOR ROAD, NH 183A,
PATHANAMTHITTA - 689 645
16. THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, GENERAL HOSPITAL JUNCTION,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 035
17. KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
REPRESENTED BY ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR, JALABHAVAN,
VELLAYAMBALAM - 695033
18. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD, TRANSMISSION DIVISION,
AZHOOR ROAD, PATHANAMTHITTA - 689645

19. DIRECTOR GENERAL

KERALA FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS, FIRE FORCE JUNCTION,
PULIMOODU P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695001

20. DEPUTY EXCISE COMMISSIONER

EXCISE DIVISION OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, DEVASWOM BOARD BUILDING,
PATHANAMTHITTA - 689645

21. THE DIG OF POLICE

GROUP CENTRE, CRPF, PALLIPURAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 316

*ADDL.R22 IMPEADED

22. DEPUTY DIRECTOR,

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, (PERIYAR WEST DIVISION),
PERIYAR TIGER RESERVE, PEERUMEDU P.O., IDUKKI - 685531

***IS SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDITIONAL 22ND RESPONDENT VIDE
ORDER DATED 19/11/2025 IN SSCR.NO.37/2025**

BY DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

BY SRI.S.RAJMOHAN, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER

BY SRI.NAGARAJ NARAYANAN, SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PLEADER (FOREST)

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR KERALA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR KERALA WATER AUTHORITY

BY SMT.SAYUJYA RADHAKRISHNAN, AMICUS CURIAE FOR SABARIMALA

SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

THIS SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER REPORT HAVING COME UP FOR
ORDERS AGAIN ON 21/11/2025, UPON PERUSING THE REPORT AND THIS COURT'S
ORDER DATED 19/11/2025, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE
FOLLOWING:

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

SSCR No. 37 of 2025

Dated this the 21st day of November, 2025

ORDER

Raja Vijayaraghavan V. J.

By order dated 19.11.2025, having regard to the unprecedented rush of pilgrims and devotees, this Court directed that, for effective and safe crowd management, the Virtual-Q booking shall continue to be capped at 70,000 per day, and that spot bookings shall be limited to 5,000 per day until 24.11.2025. We also directed the Travancore Devaswom Board to ensure that the number of pilgrims permitted to traverse the Kanana Patha is strictly limited to 5,000 per day, and that such pilgrims must either possess a valid Virtual-Q booking or fall within the limit of spot bookings prescribed by this Court. We further directed the Devaswom Board to carry out an exercise to determine the carrying capacity of the area so that persons in excess of such capacity are not permitted to enter the Sannidhanam.

2. In the very same order, we had directed the respondents to constitute a Committee for the purpose of obtaining accurate Footfall and Crowd Flow Data Mapping across all nodes, including Nilakkal, Pamba, the trekking routes, and Sannidhanam. The Committee was directed to undertake a detailed survey to determine the area available in each of these zones and the optimum number of pilgrims that each zone can safely accommodate. Although the Committee is yet to be constituted, the respondents have placed

before us the approximate area, in square meters, of each of the relevant zones along with the corresponding green-zone capacity. We extract the same below.

SANNIDHANAM - PAMBA SECTOR

Stretch	Area (Sq.M)	Green Zone Capacity
Darshan Complex & Surroundings		2500
Flyover surrounding the shrine	750	1500
Thirumuttam	600	1200
Malikappuram Flyover	360	720
Malikappuram Temple Surrounding	400	800
Infront of Aazhi, Appam-Aravana Counter	252	504
Civil Darshan Queue Complex & Vadakkenada Queue Complex	2010	4020
Thazhe Thirumuttam (Vadakkenada)	200	400
Vavarunada	221	442
Pandithavalam		26750
Annadhanamandapam	750	1500
Koprakkalam	760	1520
Surroundings Incinator		1500
Infront of KSEB IB Complex	500	1000
Forest Office Complex & Surroundings	500	1000
KSW office Guest House & Surroundings	380	760
Virished	2500	5000
Sharamkutthi to U-turn to Nadapanthal	1000	2000
Nadapanthal	210 x 6 Nos.	2520
Nadapanthal on the northern Side(For pilgrims from Pullumedu Side)	50 mtr L x 1 mtr W x 3 No.	900
Marakkottam to Saramkutthi	900 Mtr L and varying width	3000
Saramkutthi Queue Complex	6 Nos	4800
Shed No.15	150	300
Shed No.16	150	300
Shed No.17	150	300

Shed No.18	150	300
SM-1	350	700
SM-2	350	700
TOTAL		66936

PAMBA

Sl. No.	Holding Place	Capacity
1	Anjaneya Auditorium and Pamba Ganapathi temple surroundings	2000
2	Pamba Manappuram Segment 1	250
3	Pamba Manappuram Segment 2	250
4	Pamba Manappuram Segment 3	250
5	Pamba Manappuram Segment 4	250
6	Pamba Manappuram Segment 5	250
7	Pamba Manappuram Segment 6	250
8	Pamba Manappuram Segment 7	250
9	Pamba Manappuram Segment 8	250
10	Pamba Manappuram Segment 9	250
11	Pamba Manappuram Segment 10	250
12	German Panthal	3000
13	Manappuram Open Space	5000
Total		12500

3. Having regard to the data with regard to area and the green zone capacity, the respondents shall ensure that the capacity is maintained in the safe zone.

4. The learned Standing Counsel submits that, pursuant to the orders of this Court and the restriction imposed on the inflow of pilgrims, crowd density has significantly reduced. It is pointed out that it may be appropriate to permit the Executive Officer and the Chief Coordinator to take decisions based on the actual inflow of pilgrims and to place the same before the Special Commissioner, so that, in the event the inflow is lesser, minor modifications to

the 5,000-pilgrim cap may be made and additional pilgrims may be permitted to enter.

5. Having regard to the above submissions, we permit the Executive Officer, in coordination with the Chief Coordinator and the Special Commissioner, to make minor modifications to the cap imposed by this Court, in the event that the inflow of pilgrims is lower, provided that the concentration of pilgrims shall, at all times, remain strictly within the green-zone limits.

Post on 03.12.2025.



Sd/-

**RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V,
JUDGE**

Sd/-

**K.V. JAYAKUMAR,
JUDGE**

PS/APM