



2025:KER:68544

SSCR No.18/2025

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V

&

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE K. V. JAYAKUMAR

TUESDAY, THE 16TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2025 / 25TH BHADRA, 1947

SSCR NO. 18 OF 2025

(IN THE MATTER OF TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD-SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER REPORT-S.M.NO.18/2025-REPORT REGARDING THE PERMISSION GRANTED BY THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD TO INSTALL A FIVE-PRECIOUS-METAL SACRED IDOL OF LORD AYYAPPA AT SABARIMALA TEMPLE - SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED - REG)

PETITIONER:

SUO MOTU

RESPONDENTS:

- 1 STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695001
- 2 THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR POST, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695003
- 3 THE DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER, TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, DEVASWOM BUILDING, NANTHANCODE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695003
- 4 EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SABARIMALA, SABARIMALA P.O., PATHANAMTHITTA -689662
- 5 CHIEF VIGILANCE & SECURITY OFFICER (SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE)
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM HEADQUARTERS, NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR POST,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695003



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6 CHIEF POLICE COORDINATOR (ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
POLICE, POLICE HEADQUARTERS, SABARIMALA,
PATHANAMTHITTA - 689713

7 DR. E.K. SAGADEVAN
CHAIRMAN, LOTUS HOSPITAL, 90, THAYUMANAVA SUNDARAM STREET,
POONDURAI MAIN ROAD, KOLLAMPALAYAM, ERODE - 638002

BY ADVS.

SRI.G.BIJU, SC FOR TDB

SRI.S.SUJIN,

SRI. S. RAJMOHAN, SR. GP

SMT. SAYUJYA RADHAKRISHNAN, SC FOR HIGH POWER COMMITTEE (AMICUS
CURIAE)

THIS SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER REPORT HAVING BEEN FINALLY HEARD
ON 10.09.2025, THE COURT ON 16.09.2025 DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:



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JUDGMENT

This proceeding was initiated on the basis of a report submitted by the Special Commissioner, Sabarimala regarding the permission granted by the Travancore Devaswom Board to the 7th respondent, Dr. E. K Sagadhevan, to install a "Panchaloha Vighram" of Lord Ayyappa in the premises of Sabarimala Sree Dharma Sastha Temple.

2. On 21.05.2025, the 7th respondent, Chairman, Lotus Multi Speciality Hospital and IVF Fertility Centre, on behalf of a devotee community of approximately 150 pilgrims from Erode, Tamil Nadu expressed their willingness and sought permission to donate a two foot tall 150 kg sacred idol of Lord Ayyappa manufactured with five precious metals as per a letter addressed to the President, Travancore Devaswom Board. The Secretary, Travancore Devaswom Board issued a letter to the Executive Officer, Sabarimala to extend full co-operation for the said venture. Thereafter, the 7th respondent issued a pamphlet requesting the public to donate money for the installation of Panchaloha idol of Lord Ayyappa at Sabarimala with bank account details and a QR code seeking donations. In the pamphlet, it was asserted that they have got the permission to install the idol of Lord Ayyappa at Sabarimala from Travancore Devaswom Board as well as from the Kerala



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Government.

3. By noticing this action of the 7th respondent, the Special Commissioner, Sabarimala submitted a report on 16.07.2025 as S.M.No.18/2025 before this Court for initiating appropriate action. On the basis of the aforesaid report filed by the Special Commissioner, this Court registered this suo-motu case on 23.07.2025. This Court has passed an order directing the 6th respondent Chief Police Co-ordinator, Sabarimala, to take necessary steps to ensure that a crime is registered in connection with the incident. It was further directed that appropriate measures are to be taken to ensure that the amount credited to the account referred to in the pamphlet is not withdrawn by the 7th respondent.

4. Pursuant to the directions issued by this Court, Travancore Devaswom Board has submitted a petition before the State Police Chief, Thiruvananthapuram regarding the illegal and unauthorized fund collection by the 7th respondent. The said petition was forwarded to the Inspector of Police, Pamba Police Station for taking legal action.

5. Subsequently, the Inspector of Pamba Police Station registered Crime No.253/2025 under Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita against the 7th respondent on 31.07.2025.



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6. We have heard the submissions of Sri. Biju, learned Standing Counsel for the Travancore Devaswom Board, Sri. S. Sujin, learned counsel appearing for the 7th respondent and Sri.S. Rajmohan, Senior Government Pleader.

7. By order dated 06.08.2025 this Court directed the learned Government Pleader to get instructions and to report as to the quantum of funds collected by the additional 7th respondent from devotees.

8. As per the direction of this Court, the 6th respondent, Additional Director General of Police and Chief Coordinator, Sabarimala on 02.09.2025 has submitted a report stating the details of funds collected by the 7th respondent.

"On 07-07-2025 Rs. 500000/- (five Lakhs only) was credited to the account by Srinivasan K. through RTGS with transaction ID S71121600

On 15-07-2025 Rs. 1000/- (One Thousand only) was credited to the account by UPI transaction with Transaction id S49605548

On 15-07-2025 Rs. 100000/- (one Lakh only) was credited to the account by Srinivasan K. through NEFT with transaction ID S50644601

On 16-07-2025 Rs. 2000/- (Two Thousand only) was credited to the account by UPI transaction with Transaction id \$55684665

On 16-07-2025 Rs. 3001/- (Three Thousand and one only) was credited to the account by UPI transaction with Transaction id S55658323 and

On 16-07-2025 Rs. 5001/- (Five Thousand and one only) was



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credited to the account by UPI transaction with Transaction id S58754133 On 17-07-2025 Rs. 1005/- (One Thousand and five only) was credited to the account by UPI transaction with Transaction id S70874812

On 18-07-2025 Rs. 2000/- (Two Thousand only) was credited to the account by UPI transaction with Transaction id S75012058."

9. The report would reveal that a total sum of Rs.6,14,007/- was credited to the account of the Rotary Freedom India Trust after 04.07.2025, the date on which Travancore Devaswom Board issued permission to Dr. E. K. Sagadhevan to install a Panchaloha Idol of Lord Ayyappa at temple premises. The 6th respondent reported that the investigation of the case is at a preliminary stage. The Travancore Devaswom Board vide proceedings ROC 5322/25/Sab dated 28.07.2025, has recalled the permission issued to the 7th respondent. The 7th respondent vide letter dated 02.08.2025 informed his willingness to defer the project for which permission was granted by the Travancore Devaswom Board.

10. In that view of the matter, we find no reasons to keep this file pending. Therefore, this SSCR is closed with the following directions:

1. The investigation of Crime No.253/2025 of Pamba Police Station registered under Section 318(4) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, shall be completed as expeditiously as possible, at any rate, within a period of four months from



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the date of receipt of the certified copy of this judgment.

2. The jurisdictional magistrate on receipt of the report under Section 193 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita shall proceed with the matter in accordance with law.
3. The amount seized by the Police shall be produced before the jurisdictional Court, which Court shall deal with the same in accordance with law.

Sd/-

**RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V
JUDGE**

Sd/-

**K. V. JAYAKUMAR
JUDGE**

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APPENDIX OF SSCR 18/2025

RESPONDENT ANNEXURES

Annexure R2(a)	True copy of the report (E.O.P. No.875/25/Saba) dated 17.07.2025 of the Executive Officer, Sabarimala submitted before the Secretary, Travancore Devaswom Board along with annexed document
Annexure R2(b)	True copy of the proceedings of Travancore Devaswom Board vide R.O.C. 5322/25/Sab dated 28.07.2025
Annexure R2(c)	True copy of the complaint vide ROC No.14301/2025/SAB dated 31.07.22025 submitted by the Devaswom Commissioner, Travancore Devaswom Board before the State Police Chief, Thiruvananthapuram
EXHIBIT R7(a)	True copy of the communication dated 21.05.2025 submitted by this respondent.
EXHIBIT R7(b)	True copy of the communication dated 04.07.2025 of the Secretary of the 2nd respondent Board.
EXHIBIT R7(c)	True copy of the communication dated 27.06.2025 of Dr.Srinivasan
EXHIBIT R7(d)	True copy of the affidavit dated 02.08.2025 duly sworn to by Dr. Srinivasan regarding his contribution to the Gymnastic Stadium project
EXHIBIT R7(h)	True copy of the letter dated 02.08.2025 issued by this respondent to the President of the 2nd respondent Board.
EXHIBIT R7(e)	True copy of the e-mail communication dated 18.07.2025 issued to the Bank.
EXHIBIT R7(f)	True copy of the communication dated 24.07.2025 from the ICICI Bank informing that the account has been frozen on 23.07 2025
EXHIBIT R7(g)	True copy of the communication dated 19.07.2025 issued by this respondent to the President of the 2nd respondent Board.