



2026:KER:6791

SSCR NO. 29 OF 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

WEDNESDAY, THE 28TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026 / 8TH MAGHA, 1947

SSCR NO. 29 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD - SABARIMALA
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER REPORT - SM.NO. 29/2025 - REPORT REGARDING
THE STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FACILITIES TO SABARIMALA
PILGRIMS AT THE EDATHAVALAMS FOR THE MANDALAM MAKARAVILAKKU
FESTIVAL SEASON 2025-2026 (1201 M.E.) - SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS
INITIATED - REG:

PETITIONER:

SUO MOTU

RESPONDENTS:

- 1 UNION GOVERNMENT,
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, REPRESENTED BY THE DIVISIONAL
RAILWAY MANAGER, (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DIVISION),
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695001
- 2 STATE OF KERALA
REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695001
- 3 TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR
POST, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695003
- 4 DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, DEVASWOM BUILDINGS,
NANTHANCODE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695003



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- 5 EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SABARIMALA, PAMPA TRIVENI P.O., PATHANAMTHITTA - 689670
- 6 EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
OFFICE OF THE SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER,
SABARIMALA, PATHANAMTHITTA, PIN - 689713
- 7 SECRETARY
DISTRICT TOURISM PROMOTION COUNCIL (DTPC), KODIMATHA,
KOTTAYAM - 686013
- 8 COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD
REP. BY ITS SECRETARY, ROUND NORTH, THRISSUR - 680001
- 9 MALABAR DEVASWOM BOARD
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, HOUSEFED COMPLEX,
ERANHIPALAM, KOZHIKODE - 673006
- 10 GURUVAYUR DEVASWOM MANAGING COMMITTEE
GURUVAYUR DEVASWOM, GURUVAYUR, PIN - 680101,
REPRESENTED BY ITS ADMINISTRATOR
- 11 ERUMELI GRAMA PANCHAYATH
REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY SH 44,
ERUMELI, KOTTAYAM - 686509
- 12 DISTRICT COLLECTOR,
COLLECTORATE, ALAPPUZHA - 688001
- 13 DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF,
MUKHAM PURAYIDOM, CIVIL STATION WARD, ALAPPUZHA 688012
- 14 CHENGANNUR MUNICIPALITY,
REP. BY ITS SECRETARY, CHENGANNUR, ALAPPUZHA 689121
- 15 DIVISIONAL MANAGER
SOUTHERN RAILWAY, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DIVISION
- 16 STATION MASTER,
CHENGANNUR RAILWAY STATION
- 17 STATION MASTER,
ERNAKULAM SOUTH RAILWAY STATION



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- 18 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER,
ERUMELI DEVASWOM
- 19 DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF,
KOTTAYAM
- 20 DISTRICT COLLECTOR,
KOTTAYAM
- 21 STATION HOUSE OFFICER,
ERUMELI POLICE STATION
- 22 STATION HOUSE OFFICER
ERNAKULAM TOWN NORTH (KASABA) POLICE STATION, CHITTOOR
ROAD, KACHERIPADY, ERNAKULAM - 682018
- 23 COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, KOCHI CITY
- 24 EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
PORUMKAL KADAVU ROAD, ERUMELI, KOTTAYAM - 686509
- ADDL R25 THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MINOR IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT, PATHANAMTHITTA
- IS SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDL.25TH RESPONDENT AS PER
ORDER DATED 07/11/2025 IN SSCR.NO.29/2025
- 26 SUBIN T T
THATTADATH HOUSE, ERUMELI PO, KOTTAYAM DISTRICT,
PIN-686509
- 27 SOMARAJAN V K
VAZHIMANGAKATHU VEEDU, ERUMELI PO, KOTTAYAM DISTRICT,
PIN-686509
- 28 R JAYARAJAN
GEETHA BHAVAN, ERUMELI PO, KOTTAYAM DISTRICT, PIN-686509
- 29 K R SOJI
KARIMANAKUNNEL, ERUMELI PO, KOTTAYAM DISTRICT,
PIN-686509



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- 30 SHIJO K S
KULANGARA HOUSE, ERUMELI PO, KOTTAYAM
DISTRICT, PIN-686509
- 31 NIZAR PA
PUTHEN VEEDU, ERUMELI PO, KOTTAYAM DISTRICT, PIN-686509
- 32 HAKKIM P A
PATTANI PEEDIKA HOUSE, ERUMELI PO, KOTTAYAM DISTRICT,
PIN-686509
- 33 IDEAL ENTERPRISES
GROUND FLOOR, XXVII/33, VENDUVAZHY, KOTHAMANGALAM,
ERNAKULAM - 686691
- 34 KERALA ENVIRO INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED-LABORATORY
INSIDE FACT-CD CAMPUS, AMBALAMEDU, KOCHI - 682303

ARE SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDITIONAL RESPONDENTS 33 &
34 VIDE ORDER DATED 03.12.2025 IN SSCR NO 29/2025

- ADDL R35 CENTRAL DRUGS STANDARD CONTROL ORGANISATION
REPRESENTED BY THE DRUGS CONTROLLER GENERAL OF INDIA,
FDA BHAVAN, ITO KOTLA ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110002
- ADDL R36 KERALA STATE DRUGS AND FOOD CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
REPRESENTED BY THE DRUGS CONTROLLER, RED CROSS ROAD,
VANCHIYOOR P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695035
- ADDL R37 KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
DISTRICT OFFICE, PATHANAMTHITTA, REPRESENTED BY THE
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER, OPPOSITE GENERAL HOSPITAL, K.K.
NAIR ROAD, PATHANAMTHITTA DISTRICT

ARE SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDITIONAL R35 TO R37 AS PER
ORDER DATED 05.12.2025 IN SSCR 29/2025

- ADDL R38 SRI. P. U. ASHRAF,
PUTHENPURACKAL COIR MART, MUNDAKAYAM-ERUMELI ROAD,
MUNDAKAYAM, ERUMELI, KERALA - 686509

IS SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDL. R38 VIDE ORDER DATED
08.12.2025 IN SSCR NO. 29/2025



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ADDL R39 ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
DISTRICT OFFICE, KOTTAYAM

ADDL R40 THE CHIEF GOVERNMENT ANALYST
DRUGS TESTING LABORATORY, RED CROSS ROAD, VANCHIYOOR
P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695035

ARE SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDITIONAL R39 AND R40 AS PER
ORDER DATED 17.12.2025 IN SSCR NO.29/2025

BY ADVS.

O.M.SHALINA, DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA
SHRI.G.BIJU, SC, TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
SMT.R.RANJANIE, SC, MALABAR DEVASWOM BOARD
SMT.CHITHRA CHANDRASEKHARAN, SC, ERUMELY GRAMA
PANCHAYAT
SHRI.V.N.HARIDAS, SC, CHENGANNUR MUNICIPALITY
SHRI.V.PREMCHAND
SRI.BABU CHERUKARA
SRI.BABU JOSEPH KURUVATHAZHA
SRI.ANZAR BASHEER
SMT.ARCHANA K.S.
SHRI.NOEL EALIAS
SHRI.JAYACHANDRAN R.

ADV S RAJMOHAN(SR GP), ADV SAYUJA RADHAKRISHNAN (SC)

THIS SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER REPORT HAVING COME UP
FOR ADMISSION ON 28.01.2026, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED
THE FOLLOWING:

**ORDER****Raja Vijayaraghavan V, J.**

This matter pertains to the report submitted by the Special Commissioner detailing the measures required to be undertaken for providing adequate facilities to Sabarimala pilgrims at Edathavalam during the Mandalam–Makaravilakku festival season of 2025–2026.

2. Pursuant to the orders issued by this Court, necessary facilities have been provided for the benefit of the pilgrims.

3. In the course of the proceedings, it was brought to the notice of this Court that there was indiscriminate disposal of small plastic shampoo sachets in the said area. It was further brought to the notice of this Court that there has been an increasing use of synthetic coloured kumkum powder by pilgrims and devotees during Pettathullal.

4. In terms of the directions issued by this Court, routine inspections were conducted by the competent statutory authorities, pursuant to which synthetic kumkum was seized. In certain cases, criminal proceedings have also been initiated against the offenders.

5. Today, when the matter was taken up for consideration, the Drug Inspector, Kottayam, has appeared in person and has placed a report before this Court. The said report states that, with the conclusion of the Mandalam–Makaravilakku festival season, no sale or usage of kumkum is presently being observed in the area. The Drug Inspector has further assured this Court that continuous monitoring will be carried out to effectively curtail the sale of synthetic kumkum and that appropriate legal action will be initiated as and when any violations are detected.



6. Insofar as the registration of offences is concerned, it is reported that the seized articles have been forwarded to the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court-II, Kanjirappilly, and that the proceedings initiated in that regard shall take their own course in accordance with law. Now that the festival season has concluded, we are of the view that the report submitted by the Drug Inspector can be accepted and the said authority can be directed to act in accordance with law.

7. We, however, deem it necessary to remind the Travancore Devaswom Board of its statutory and administrative responsibility to sensitise pilgrims regarding the use of natural kumkum and to refrain from using prohibited plastic products during the forthcoming season by issuing appropriate guidelines and directions. Such advisories shall be given wide publicity through both print and digital media platforms.

The SSCR is accordingly closed.

Sd/-

RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V
JUDGE

Sd/-

K. V. JAYAKUMAR
JUDGE



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APPENDIX OF SSCR NO. 29 OF 2025

RESPONDENT ANNEXURES

ANNEXURE R11 (A) A TRUE COPY OF THE LETTER NO. 123/025 ISSUED BY THE TEAM LEADER, ENFORCEMENT SQUAD TO THE 11TH RESPONDENT DATED 10/10/2025.

ANNEXURE R11 (B) A TRUE COPY OF THE LETTER NO. 386309125 ISSUED BY 11TH RESPONDENT TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD DATED 13.10.2025

ANNEXURE R11 (C) A TRUE COPY OF THE REPLY NO. 526 DATED 16.10.2025

RESPONDENT ANNEXURES

ANNEXURE-R26 (A) A TRUE COPY OF THE BID SUBMISSION CONFIRMATION

ANNEXURE-26 (B) A TRUE COPY OF THE BID SUBMISSION CONFIRMATION

ANNEXURE-26 (C) A TRUE COPY OF THE RECEIPT DATED 22.10.2025 ISSUED BY THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD FOR KUTHAKA TENDER

RESPONDENT ANNEXURES

ANNEXURE R33A TRUE COPY OF BILL NO 4421 DATED 13/11/2025 ISSUED BY KJK TRADERS MUMBAI IN THE NAME OF MY PROPRIETARY CONCERN IDEAL ENTERPRISES.

ANNEXURE R33B TRUE COPY OF BILL NO 4423 DATED 18/11/2025 ISSUED BY KJK TRADERS MUMBAI IN THE NAME OF MY PROPRIETARY CONCERN IDEAL ENTERPRISES

ANNEXURE R33C TRUE COPY OF BILL NO 4426 DATED 1/12/2025 ISSUED BY KJK TRADERS MUMBAI IN THE NAME OF MY PROPRIETARY CONCERN IDEAL ENTERPRISES.

ANNEXURE R33D TRUE COPY OF INVOICE NO BB201/2-26 DATED 19/11/2025 TO PUTHENPURACKAL COIR MART ERUMELY FROM IDEAL ENTERPRISES KOTHAMANGALAM.

ANNEXURE R33E TRUE COPY OF INVOICE NO BB214/2-26 DATED 03/12/2025 TO PUTHENPURACKAL COIR MART ERUMELY FROM IDEAL ENTERPRISES KOTHAMANGALAM.

ANNEXURE R33F THE LAB REPORT OF INTERTEK INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED HANDED OVER TO MYSELF BY KJK TRADERS REGARDING KUMKUM IN GREEN COLOUR DATED



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30/09/2025 .

ANNEXURE R33K	TRUE COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE DATED 22/11/2025 ISSUED BY KERALA ENVIRO INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED LABORATORY AMBALAMEDU
ANNEXURE R33G	THE LAB REPORT OF INTERTEK INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED HANDED OVER TO MYSELF BY KJK TRADERS REGARDING KUMKUM IN PINK COLOUR DATED 30/09/2025.
ANNEXURE R33H	THE LAB REPORT OF INTERTEK INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED HANDED OVER TO MYSELF BY KJK TRADERS REGARDING KUMKUM IN YELLOW COLOR DATED 17/10/2025.
ANNEXURE R33I	THE LAB REPORT OF INTERTEK INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED HANDED OVER TO MYSELF BY KJK TRADERS REGARDING KUMKUM IN ORANGE COLOUR
ANNEXURE R33J	THE LAB REPORT OF INTERTEK INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED HANDED OVER TO MYSELF BY KJK TRADERS REGARDING KUMKUM IN BLUE COLOUR.
ANNEXURE R33L	TRUE COPY OF THE SAID EXPLANATORY LETTER DATED 06/12/2025 ISSUED BY KJK TRADERS AT MUMBAI.
ANNEXURE R 38 1	TRUE COPY OF THE INVOICE NO BB199-2-6 DATED 15/11/2026
ANNEXURE R 38 2	TRUE COPY OF THE INVOICE BILLS NO BB201-2-26 DATED 19/11/2026
ANNEXURE R 38 3	TRUE COPY OF THE INVOICE BILLS NO BB214-2-26 DATED 03/12/2026
ANNEXURE R 38 4	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1278 DATED 16/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 5	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38 THE RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1279 DATED 16/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 6	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1280 DATED 16/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 7	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1281 DATED 16/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 8	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1282 DATED 16/11/2025



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ANNEXURE R 38 9	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1283 DATED 16/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 10	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1284 DATED 17/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 11	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1285 DATED 17/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 12	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1286 DATED 17/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 13	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1287 DATED 17/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 14	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1288 DATED 17/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 15	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1289 DATED 17/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 16	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1290 DATED 17/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 17	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1291 DATED 17/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 18	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1292 DATED 17/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 19	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1300- DATED 22/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 20	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1301 DATED 24/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 21	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1302 DATED 24/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 22	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1303 DATED 25/11/2025



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ANNEXURE R 38 23	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1304 DATED 26/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 24	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1305 DATED 26/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 25	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1306 DATED 27/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 26	TRUE COPY OF THE SALE EFFECTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT AS PER INVOICE NO 1307 DATED 27/11/2025
ANNEXURE R 38 27	TRUE COPY OF THE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY 38TH RESPONDENT THROUGH HIS STAFF DATED 28/11/2025 KERALA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER'S OFFICE AT KOTTAYAM
ANNEXURE R 38 28	A TRUE COPY OF THE RECEIPT ISSUED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER KERALA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER'S OFFICE DATED 28/11/2025
ANNEXURE-R34 (B)	TRUE COPY OF THE EMAIL LETTER DATED 17.11.2025 FORWARDED BY MR. ARIF MUHAMMED TO THE 34TH RESPONDENT.
ANNEXURE-R34 (C)	TRUE COPY OF THE RESPONSE DATED 17.11.2025, DETAILING THE CHARGES FOR ANALYSIS, FORWARDED TO THE 33RD RESPONDENT BY THE 34TH RESPONDENT.
ANNEXURE-R34 (D)	TRUE COPY OF THE UPI TRANSACTION, PERTAINING TO THE REMITTANCE OF RS.3,717/-.
ANNEXURE-R34 (E)	TRUE COPY OF THE TEST REPORT OF 8 PARAMETERS (NABL ACCREDITATION) ISSUED BY THE 34TH RESPONDENT.
ANNEXURE-R34 (F)	TRUE COPY OF THE TEST REPORTS OF 2 NON NABL ACCREDITED PARAMETERS, ISSUED BY THE 34TH RESPONDENT TO THE 33RD RESPONDENT.
ANNEXURE-R34 (A)	TRUE COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE OF THE ACCREDITATION OF NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR TESTING AND CALIBRATION LABORATORIES (NABL) ISSUED TO THE 34TH RESPONDENT, DATED 12.9.2025.
ANNEXURE R37 (A)	TRUE COPY OF THE REPORT NO. PCBDKT/691/2025-AE2 DATED 15-12-2025



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SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER, PCB,
KOTTAYAM.

ANNEXURE R37 (B)

TRUE COPY OF THE LETTER NO.
PCBDKT/691/2025-AE2 DATED 16-12-2025 ALONG
WITH ANALYSIS REPORT, SENT BY THE
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER, PCB, KOTTAYAM.