

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN
&
THE HONOURABLE MRS. JUSTICE M.B. SNEHALATHA

Wednesday, the 17th day of September 2025 / 26th Bhadra, 1947
WP(C) NO. 7039 OF 2025(D)

PETITIONER:

R. RAJASEKHARAN PILLAI (ADVOCATE), AGED 72 YEARS, S/O. LATE
RAGHAVAN PILLAI, SAI RANGAM, ERUVA EAST, PATHIYOOR. P.O, KAYAMKULAM,
ALAPPUZHA DISTRICT., PIN - 690508

RESPONDENTS:

1. STATE OF KERALA REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE (DEVASWOMS) SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.,
PIN - 695001
2. CHAIRMAN, ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE SREE PADMANABHASWAMY TEMPLE,
NORTH NADA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM., PIN - 695023
3. SREE PADMA`NABHASWAMY TEMPLE REPRESENTED BY ITS EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
NORTH NADA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM., PIN - 695023
4. CHIEF THANTRI SREE PADMANABHASWAMY TEMPLE THANTRI MADOM, EAST NADA,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM., PIN - 695023

Writ petition (civil) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to direct the respondents 2 and 3 to submit a report on the steps taken by them to rectify the defects in the Moolavigraham of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple after filing of Exhibit P 3 Report and also the present condition of the Moolavigraham of Sree Padmanabhaswamy before this Hon'ble Court, pending disposal of this Writ Petition (C).

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 25.08.2025 and upon hearing the arguments of M/S.M.BALAGOVINDAN, MINI GANGADHARAN & T.K.ANANDA PADMANABHAN Advocates for petitioner, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER for R1 and of STANDING COUNSEL for R2 to R4, the court passed the following:

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN & M.B.SNEHALATHA, JJ.

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Dated this the 17th day of September, 2025

O R D E R

Devan Ramachandran, J.

Sri.Nandakumara Menon, learned Senior Counsel, instructed by Smt.Smitha, today entered appearance for the 4th respondent and sought time to make available the Note that this Court had requisitioned from his client, through the order dated 25.08.2025. The learned Senior Counsel informed us that the ‘Thanthri’ had a bereavement in his family; and therefore, that he is incapacitated, spiritually, to take any decision, much less action.

2. We certainly accede to the request of the learned Senior Counsel and adjourn these matters to be called on 06.10.2025.

3. However, there is a controversy on record as to if the work as suggested by the ‘Expert Committee for renovation of the ‘Moolabimbam’ ((hereinafter referred to as the ‘Expert

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Committee’ for short) has begun; and if so, in what manner it is proceeding. We choose not to say much at this stage because, an Action Taken Report has been placed on record by the Executive Officer of the Temple, in which, he has averred, in paragraph 14 thereof, that the 4th respondent has been requested to provide a *‘report on the current state of the ‘moolabimbam’* (sic), after consulting with the Expert Committee; and that, subsequently, a public notification will be issued to invite experts qualified in the field for *‘undertaking the renovation and repair works of the moolabimbam’* (sic). It also speaks about the recommendations of the Committee to construct the ‘Balalayam’ for the purpose of commencing the restorative works and also about the intent to publish the proposal in leading Newspapers.

4. Factually, therefore, we are unable to discern, at least at this stage, what really has been done pursuant to the report of the ‘Expert Committee’ and such other works of the temple.

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5. As already indicated in our earlier orders, the Chief ‘Thanthri’ is recognized to be the ultimate authority in all spiritual matters – this being admitted by the learned counsel appearing for the parties herein – and this Court acts in *loco parentis*, exercising *parens patriae* jurisdiction because the idol is construed to be a perpetual minor. Obviously, this Court has full control over the assets of the deity; but when it comes to spiritual matters, normally, we will be constrained to follow what the Chief ‘Thanthri’ opines and advises. This is why we called for a Note from the Chief ‘Thanthri’, but since a request is made for some more time for it to be made available, we are sure that it will not be proper for us to issue any further orders now.

6. Suffice to say, any action taken, or to be taken, with respect to the ‘Moolabimbam’ and other restorative works of the Temple in terms of the recommendations of the ‘Expert Committee’ shall be finalised, undertaken, proceeded with and

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completed only as per the advice and instructions of the Chief
‘Thanthri’.

Post on 06.10.2025.

Sd/-

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN, JUDGE

Sd/-

M.B.SNEHALATHA, JUDGE

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