

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

Wednesday, the 19th day of November 2025 / 28th Karthika, 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 P3 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 29.10.2025 and upon hearing the arguments of M/S.M.BALAGOVINDAN, MINI GANGADHARAN & T.K.ANANDA PADMANABHAN Advocates for petitioner, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER for R1, STANDING COUNSEL for R2 to R4 and of SRI.N.NANDAKUMARA MENON (SENIOR ADVOCATE) along with M/S.SMITHA S.PILLAI, P.K.MANOJKUMAR, ALICE THOMAS & M.C.SINY, Advocates for respondent 4, the court passed the following:

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN & M.B.SNEHALATHA, JJ.

WP(C)No.7039/2025 & 19711/2025

Dated this the 19th day of November, 2025

O R D E R

Devan Ramachandran, J.

Read order dated 29.10.2025 and the earlier orders dated 06.10.2025 and 15.10.2025.

2. Sri.R.Suraj Kumar – learned Standing Counsel for the Administrative Committee of the ‘Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple’, has filed a Memo, annexing therewith the ‘Report of the Committee of Experts for Renovation of Moolabimbam’.

3. Going by the aforesaid report – which Sri.Nandakumara Menon, learned Senior Counsel, instructed by Smt.Smitha – appearing for the Chief ‘Thanthri’, affirms to be settled in conjunction with his client – the works enumerated therein will have to be initiated, pursued and completed within certain specific time frames.

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4. Sri.R.Suraj Kumar, however, submitted that before the works can commence, the consent of five ‘Shilpis’, identified by the Committee of Experts, have to be obtained. He added that the Administrative Committee has already requested their consent and is awaiting the same.

5. No doubt, going by the Report of the Committee of Experts, every work identified will have to be done with the sanctity it behoves the cosmic power of the temple; and obviously, the ‘Shilpis’ identified will have to agree to conduct the works. Their consent, therefore, becomes imperative; and since the Administrative Committee is stated to have sought it, we have to await the same.

6. The Report also mentions that the quantities of the articles required for construction will be fixed within two weeks, and the said date is yet to come.

7. Sri.M.Balagovindan and Sri.D.Sreekumar – learned counsel for the petitioners in these matters, even today voiced

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an apprehension, that unless this Court monitors the work, it will slip back into its old pace.

8. We propose not to engage in any recrimination or contest at this stage, since the resolve – as that of any devotee – is that the works are completed within time frames.

9. We are further told that the culmination of ‘Lakshadeepam’ of the temple is on 14.01.2026 and that the works can begin only thereafter. However, we do not propose to wait until then because, we require to be told whether the consent of the ‘Shilpis’ have obtained and the quantities of the articles have been discerned.

For this purpose, we adjourn these matters to be called on 10.12.2025.

I.A.No.1/2025 in WP(C)No.19711/2025

The petitioner seeks that a former IAS Officer, who is also the former Executive Officer of the temple, be appointed as the ‘Special Commissioner’, to oversee the ‘Lakshadeepam’ festival of the Temple 2025-26.

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The afore request, as impelled by Sri.D.Sreekumar – learned counsel for the petitioner, is, however, vehemently opposed by Sri.Suraj Kumar – learned Standing Counsel for the temple, relying upon a counter affidavit.

We certainly find no cause to either treat this Writ Petition as a adversarial one, or to engage ourselves in the recriminatory averments of the parties against each other.

This Court is fully aware that the Temple is being administered by an ‘Administrative Committee’, chaired by the District Judge; and by an Advisory Committee, chaired by a Retired Judge of this Court.

We record the submissions of Sri.Suraj Kumar that the ‘Lakshadeepam’ festival is being overseen by the Administrative Committee on a day to day basis; but are of the view that the Advisory Committee also have a role to play in this.

We, therefore, direct the ‘Advisory Committee’ of the Temple to keep an overall sight of the preparations and conduct of the ‘Lakshadeepam’ festival in such manner as it may deem

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fit; and favour us with a note/report, on the conclusion of the same.

Sd/-

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN, JUDGE

Sd/-

M.B.SNEHALATHA, JUDGE

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