

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

Monday, the 25th day of August 2025 / 3rd 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 30.06.2025 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 25th day of August, 2025

ORDER

Devan Ramachandran, J.

We begin recording upfront that we will not, and cannot, take these matters as being adversarial.

2. The assertion on one side is that there are defects to the “Moolavighraha” of the Temple; while on the other, it is stated that they have been rectified, or are in the process of being rectified.

3. We have no doubt that in spiritual matters of the Temple - in contradistinction to the temporal matters - it is the opinion of the Thantri which is acme because he enjoys the status of father of the deity.

4. Sri.R.Suraj Kumar - learned standing counsel for the Administrative Committee, affirmed the above; adding that an Expert Committee was constituted, after Ext.P3 report (in WP(C) No.7039/2025) had been adverted to. He also conceded that the Hon'ble Supreme Court had issued certain directions, which are being implemented in its letter and spirit.

5. However, we notice that the Expert Committee Report is not before us.

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6. Though a Note by the Thantri, marked as Ext.R3(3) is available, we are of the firm view that it may not be sufficient because, as we have said above, this case would revolve around the opinion and the impressions of the Thantri, more than anybody else.

7. Though the Executive Committee or the Administrative Committee, as the case may be, may have a say in temporal matters of the Temple, when it comes to the spiritual matters, we may have to give precedence to the opinion of the Thantri. We have no doubt, therefore, that our interaction in this case will have to be direct with him, which we will do in due course.

8. As matters now stand, this Court has not been favoured with a copy of the Expert Committee Report, nor do we have any further input on Ext.R3(3), in the form of an Action Taken Report.

9. We, therefore, adjourn this matter to be called on 11th September, 2025, directing the Administrative Committee to place on record:

(a) The Expert Committee Report

(b) A Note from the Thantri with respect to the action to be taken, or having been taken.

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(c) An Action Taken Report by the Committee in consonance with the opinion and directions of the Thantri.

We close this order under the hortative hope that all the stakeholders understand that while dealing with such matters, what is relevant is not controversy, but the concerted belief and wishes of the millions of people who have their conscience focused on the idol. The cosmic power generated is beyond description, and it is the responsibility of every generation to ensure that the same is maintained, to be handed over to the next. This is what we want the Committees to ensure, but without interfering with the spiritual activities, which shall be controlled, in the normal course, by the Thantri and other spiritual experts.

Sd/- DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN,
JUDGE

Sd/- M.B. SNEHALATHA,
JUDGE

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APPENDIX OF WP(C) 7039/2025**Exhibit P 3****TRUE COPY OF THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE COMMITTEE
AFTER INSPECTING THE MOOLAVIGRAHAM RECEIVED ON
05/11/2017.****Exhibit R3(3)****True copy of the letter dated 06.02.2025 from Sri. N.P.
Govindan Namboothiripad, the Chief Thanthri of the
Temple, along with a copy of the minutes of the meeting
of the Committee of Experts held on 18.01.2025**