

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL K.NARENDRAN
&
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE MURALEE KRISHNA S.
Wednesday, the 16th day of July 2025 / 25th Ashadha, 1947

SSCR NO. 17 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD-SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER
REPORT-S.M.NO.17/2025-REPORT REGARDING THE USE OF TRACTOR BY ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF POLICE SRI. M.R. AJITH KUMAR DURING HIS VISIT TO SABARIMALA-SUO MOTU
PROCEEDINGS INITIATED-REG:

PETITIONER:

SUO MOTU

RESPONDENT:

1. STATE OF KERALA
REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695001
2. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE,
KERALA POLICE HEADQUARTERS,
THIRUVANATHAPURAM-695010
3. THE CHIEF POLICE CO-ORDINATOR,
(ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE (POLICE HEADQUARTERS))
SANNIDHANAM, SABARAMILA - 689713
4. THE CHIEF VIGILANCE AND SECURITY OFFICER
(SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE),
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, NANTHANCODE,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695003

5. THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR POST,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695003
6. DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER,
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR POST,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695003
7. DISTRICT COLLECTOR,
PATHANAMTHITTA, CIVIL STATION P.O.,
PATHANAMTHITTA-689645

BY SRI.S.RAJMOHAN, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER
BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
BY SMT.SAYUJYA RADHKARISHNAN, AMICUS CURIAE FOR
SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

THIS SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER REPORT HAVING COME UP FOR
ADMISSION ON 16.07.2025, UPON PERUSING THE REPORT, THE COURT ON THE SAME
DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING:

ANIL K. NARENDRAN & MURALEE KRISHNA S., JJ.

SSCR No.17 of 2025

Dated this the 16th day of July, 2025

ORDER

Anil K. Narendran, J.

The Special Commissioner, Sabarimala has filed this report regarding the use of tractor bearing Reg.No.KL-01/CN-3056 owned by Kerala Police, by the Additional Director General of Police (Armed Forces Battalion) on 12.07.2025 and thereafter on 13.07.2025 for having darshan at Sabarimala Sree Dharma Sastha Temple.

2. Along with the report, the Special Commissioner has placed on record the order of this Court dated 25.11.2021 in DBP No.26 of 2021, which was rendered by a Division Bench in which one among us [Anil K. Narendran, J.] was a party. The said order is one issued after taking note of the earlier order of this Court dated 13.10.2014 in SSCR No.7 of 2014, in which it was opined that carrying of passengers on tractors plying through Swamy Ayyappan Road should be prohibited. By that order, the then Division Bench dealing with Devaswom matters directed the Superintendent of Police, Pathanamthitta, to issue appropriate instructions to the Police personnel deputed for duty on Swamy Ayyappan Road to ensure that passengers, including officials of

Travancore Devaswom Board, officials of various Government Departments and Police personnel, do not travel on tractors plying through Swamy Ayyappan Road.

3. In the order dated 25.11.2021 in DBP No.26 of 2021, this Court made it clear that the earlier order prohibiting movement of devotees, Devaswom Officials, Police Personnel etc. in tractors used for transportation of goods through trekking path has to be implemented by all, in letter and spirit. Paragraph 13 and also the last paragraph of that order read thus;

“13. The order of this Court prohibiting the movement of devotees, Devaswom Officials, Police personnel etc. in tractors used for transportation of goods through trekking path has to be implemented by all, in letter and spirit. Such tractors cannot be used for transportation of devotees or any other person. In case any violation or obstruction from any corner, it should be reported to the Chief Vigilance Security Officer and also to the Special Commissioner, who shall bring it to the notice of this Court, if further orders are required.

Since the entire trekking path from Pamba to Sannidhanam is having CCTV coverage, with control panel at Pamba, the officers in charge of the control panels should report any transportation of devotees or any other person in the tractors used for transportation of goods to Sannidhanam, that should be forthwith intimated to the officers concerned for taking stringent actions against those persons.”

4. The learned Senior Government Pleader, on instructions, would submit that the 2nd respondent Director General of Police has already sought for an explanation from the Additional Director General of Police (Armed Forces Battalion) regarding the incident that happened at Sabarimala on 12.07.2025 and 13.07.2025. A crime has also been registered as Crime No.235 of 2025 of Pamba Police Station, under Sections 281 and 223 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and also Sections 66(1), 192A and 123 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

5. The learned Senior Government Pleader seeks time to place on record an affidavit sworn to by the 3rd respondent Chief Police Co-ordinator [Additional Director General of Police (Police Headquarters)], Sabarimala, explaining the facts and circumstances.

List on 04.08.2025.

Sd/-

ANIL K. NARENDRAN, JUDGE

Sd/-

MURALEE KRISHNA S., JUDGE

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