



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

1

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE A. BADHARUDEEN

THURSDAY, THE 4TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025/13TH AGRAHAYANA, 1947

BAIL APPL. NO. 13782 OF 2025

CRIME NO.3700/CB/CU-IV/2025 OF CRIME BRANCH,

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Thiruvananthapuram

AGAINST THE ORDER DATED 06.11.2025 IN CRMC NO.3208 OF
2025 OF DISTRICT COURT & SESSIONS COURT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

PETITIONER/ACCUSEDNO.6:

S SREEKUMAR
AGED 57 YEARS
S/O SIVAN PILLAI, RESIDING AT KAILAS ATLRA C1,
ANIYOOR, TEMPLE LINE, CHEMPAZHANTHY P.O,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695587
BY ADVS.
SHRI.S.GOKUL BABU
SHRI.M.ANIL PRASAD
SRI.KESHAVRAJ NAIR
SMT.GAADHA SURESH
SHRI.VISWANATH JAYAN
SHRI.ASWIN S.
SMT.SWETHA PANDALAY H.
SRI.RENJITH B.MARAR

RESPONDENTS/STATE:

- 1 STATE OF KERALA
REPRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, PIN - 682031
- 2 STATION HOUSE OFFICER
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TEAM, CRIME BRANCH,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695008
BY ADVS.
SRI.GRACIOUS KURIAKOSE, ADDL.DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
PROSECUTION
SRI.C.K.SURESH, PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

THIS BAIL APPLICATION HAVING BEEN FINALLY HEARD ON
28.11.2025 ALONG WITH Bail Appl..13835/2025, THE COURT ON
04.12.2025, DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

2

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE A. BADHARUDEEN

THURSDAY, THE 4TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025/13TH AGRAHAYANA, 1947

BAIL APPL. NO. 13835 OF 2025

CRIME NO.3700/2025 OF CRIME BRANCH, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

PETITIONER/PETITIONER:

S. JAYASREE
AGED 61 YEARS
W/O VIJAYAKUMAR N PILLAI PRASANTHI, CHUMATHARA PO,
THIRUVALLA, NOW RESIDING AT 303F, DD DIAMOND
VALLEY, EDACHIRA, KAKKANAD, PIN - 682030

BY ADV SMT.R.RANJANIE
ADV.LAKSHMINARAYAN(SR.)

RESPONDENTS:

- 1 STATE OF KERALA
REPRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, HIGH COURT OF
KERALA, ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682031
- 2 THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TEAM
FOR INVESTIGATION OF CRIME NO 3700 OF 2025 OF CB PS
RELATING TO EVENTS COMMENCING WITH THE IRREGULAR
ENTRUSTMENT OF THE GOLD CLADDED DWARAPALAKAS AND
PEEDAM ON 19.7.2019 AND 20.7.2019 UNTIL REFIXATION
OF THE SAID DWARAPALAKAS ON 11.9.2019, CRIME
BRANCH, OFFICE OF THE CRIME BRANCH, INCHACKAL,,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695008

BY ADVS.
SRI.GRACIOUS KURIAKOSE,ADGP
SRI.C.K SURESH, PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

THIS BAIL APPLICATION HAVING BEEN FINALLY HEARD ON
28.11.2025 ALONG WITH Bail Appl..13782/2025, THE COURT ON
04.12.2025 DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

3

COMMON ORDER

Dated this the 4th day of December, 2025

B.A.No.13835/2025 is an application for anticipatory bail filed by the 4th accused in Crime No.3700/2025 of Crime Branch, Thiruvananthapuram. The 6th accused in the said crime has filed bail application No.13782/2025 seeking pre-arrest bail.

2. Heard the respective learned counsel for the petitioners at length as well as the learned Additional Director General of Prosecution (ADGP) appearing for the prosecution. Perused the relevant records.

3. Coming to the prosecution allegation, initially, crime No.3700/2025 was registered alleging commission of offences punishable under Sections 120B 403, 406, 409, 466, 467 r/w. Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code (hereinafter referred to as 'IPC'). During investigation,



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

4

on finding involvement of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act as amended in 2018 (hereinafter referred to as 'PC (Amendment) Act, 2018'), offence under Section 13(1)(a) of the PC (Amendment) Act, 2018 was also added. The prosecution case is that, in furtherance of a common intention of all the accused to obtain wrongful gain and to cause wrongful loss to the Travancore Devaswom Board, the 1st accused hatched conspiracy with accused Nos.2 to 10, who are bound to protect Devaswom properties, submitted an application before the Travancore Devaswom Board on 17.6.2019, in consequence of the conspiracy hatched between them for exacting that the Dwarapalaka sculptures made of copper plates in the Sabarimala Sannidhanam Shrine to be enshrouded with gold by process of cladding. The prosecution allegation further is that the 2nd accused, the then Administrative Officer, Sabarimala, and all other



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

5

accused fully aware that the Dwarapalaka sculptures were originally gold cladded in 1998, the 2nd accused wrote a letter in the year 2019 that they were just copper plates, which were intended to be plated with gold, and submitted a false report before the Travancore Devaswom Board in this regard. Then, in the year 2024, the 2nd accused again made an illegal recommendation to the Devaswom Board to allow 'Smart Creations', Chennai, for gold plating the Dwarapalaka sculptures. The 3rd accused, the then Executive Officer of Sabarimala Temple, who also knew that the plates of Dwarapalaka sculptures were enshrouded in gold, prepared a false recommendation letter stating that the golden plates are just copper plates and submitted the said letter to the Travancore Devaswom Board, for the purpose of giving the same to the accused. Thereafter, at the time of handing over the plates to the 1st accused, the 3rd accused prepared



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

6

mahazars stating that the gold plates are just copper plates and falsely included the names of persons, who were not present at the time of preparing the mahazars, and recorded in the mahazars that the plates were being given to the 1st accused, and the signatures of the friends of the 1st accused were obtained. Accordingly, the 4th accused, the then Secretary, Travancore Devaswom Board ordered to handover the plates on Dwarapalaka sculptures to the 1st accused, as against the Board Minutes. The 5th and the 6th accused, although they knew that the Dwarapalaka sculptures were enshrouded with gold plates, put their signatures on the mahazars prepared on 19.07.2019 and 20.07.2019 as witnesses and caused the articles to be handed over to the 1st accused, and on 11.09.2019, when the Dwarapalaka sculptures were brought back to Sabarimala, prepared the second mahazar, without checking its actual



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

7

weight. It is further alleged that, the 7th accused, the then Thiruvabharanam Commissioner of Sabarimala Devaswam, who was duty bound to look after all these matters, did not depute a goldsmith at the time of removing the golden plates from the Dwarapalaka sculptures. Thereafter, on 29.08.2019, the 8th accused, the then Thiruvabharanam Commissioner of Sabarimala Devaswam, in the Smart Creation in Chennai, handed over the sculpture layers to the 1st accused, without comparing its weight in the mahazars, and thereby gave an opportunity to the 1st accused to perform pooja by illegally displaying the said Dwarapalaka sculptures in various places and houses. After that, on 11.09.2019, when the sculpture layers were restored in the shrine, the 8th accused was not present there and did not depute the Devaswom Smith, though his presence was mandatory at the time of handling the valuable items. On 11.09.2019, while installing the layers



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

8

on the Dwarapalaka sculptures, accused Nos 9 and 10, the then Executive Officer and Administrative Officer of Sabarimala, prepared a name-stake mahazar without correctly measuring its weight and recording the same in the registers. Furthermore, accused No. 10 did not prepare mahazar while attempting to fix the Thangupeedham (താങ്ങുപീഠം) belonged to Sabarimala Devaswom on the Dwarapalaka sculptures. It is further alleged that, when accused Nos.2 and 3 sent a letter to the Travancore Devaswom Board in 2019, recommending for gold plating the Dwarapalaka sculptures, the 10th accused, who was holding the charge of Devaswom Commissioner at the relevant time, did not inspect the Dwarapalaka sculptures. Thus, the very valuable and sacred Dwarapalaka sculptures of the Sabarimala shrine and the gold plates weighing 42800 grams attached to the northern and southern corners of the said sculptures



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

9

were given in custody of the 1st accused on 19.07.2019 and 20.07.2019 under the pretext of repair and maintenance to Bangalore and Hyderabad, where they used the sculptures to remove the originally cladded gold therein fraudulently for obtaining undue pecuniary advantage thereof. Then the accused persons entrusted the sculptures to Smart Creation, Chennai on 29.08.2019, where, only 394.900 grams of gold was plated on the sculptures and misappropriated the remaining gold and thereby caused huge loss to Travancore Devaswom Board and consequence to the holy deity Sabarimala.

4. While canvassing anticipatory bail to the 4th accused, the learned senior counsel appearing for the 4th accused submitted that she is entitled to anticipatory bail since her involvement in this crime could not be found from the prosecution materials and no *mens rea* on her part also to be found to show that she had committed any offences. It is



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

10

also pointed out that, outside the purview of merits, the 4th accused is a lady who underwent Kidney transplantation in 2013, as evident from Annexure A2, Annexure 7 and Annexure A8. According to the learned counsel for the 4th accused, as of now also, she has been under treatment and as per Annexure A8 document, dated 17.11.2025, it has been certified by the doctor who has been treating her that the 4th accused is 'continuing Immuno suppressive medications' to prevent the rejection of transplanted kidney and for which medicines advised and the list of medicines also shown in Annexure A8. Therefore, on medical exigencies, the 4th accused would deserve pre-arrest bail. On merits, according to the learned counsel for the 4th accused, in the bail application itself, the 4th accused raised specific contention in paragraph No.5 that, she happened to issue order dated 05.07.2019, in tune with the decision of the Board on



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

11

19.03.2019, to handover (കൈ മാറുന്നതിന്) the Dwarapalaka plates also. It is also pointed out that in the connected crime, viz., 3701/2025, the decision of the Board was to hand over the doors and on the said premise, order to handover the Dwarapalaka plates also was issued and the understanding of the 4th accused is that, it was the decision to hand over the same. It is also submitted that the 4th accused joined as L.D. Clerk in the Travancore Devaswom Board on 24.12.1982 on compassionate ground on the demise of her father and she held the post of Secretary of Travancore Devaswom Board from 03.07.2017 to 06.12.2019 and thereafter as Thiruvabharanna Commissioner upto 31.05.2020 and later, she superannuated from service on 31.05.2020. It is submitted that she had no involvement even in a petty case before registration of this case. Accordingly, it is submitted that the 4th accused is absolutely innocent of the allegations



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

12

and she deserves pre-arrest bail. It is also submitted that the 4th accused is ready to abide by any conditions as a pre-requisite for grant of anticipatory bail.

5. The learned counsel appearing for the 6th accused vehemently argued that the 6th accused joined as Administrative Officer in Sabarimala only on 17.07.2019 after transfer of the 2nd accused, Sri.Murari Babu, who held the post of Administrative Officer prior to that. According to him, the allegation against the 6th accused is that he had signed in two mahazars prepared by the 3rd accused for handing over of the Dwarapalaka plates to the 1st accused as against the Board Minutes. He submitted that this case might have originated from a larger conspiracy that had commenced even before the 6th accused joined as administrative officer, and therefore, it would not be safe to hold that the 6th accused had also joined in the conspiracy. If no conspiracy to be found, *prima facie*, against the 6th accused,



2025 : KER : 94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

13

none of the offences would attract against the 6th accused. He also would submit that the 6th accused is ready to subject himself for interrogation and other purposes to facilitate the investigation. Therefore, his custodial interrogation is not necessary. On this premise, the learned counsel pressed for grant of anticipatory bail for the 6th accused with offer to obey any conditions as a pre-requisite for granting pre-arrest bail.

6. The learned ADGP placed two separate statements, detailing the role of the 4th accused as well as the 6th accused, with the copy of decisions of the Board meeting on 03.07.2019 and copy of the order dated 05.07.2019, issued by the 4th accused, and also the relevant pages of the Devaswom Manual Volume I published by Travancore Devaswom board, showing the duties of the Administrative Officers of Sabarimala. It is pointed out that as per clause (e) (9), it is the duty of the Administrative Officer *to check all sorts of waste, misappropriation and malpractices in the institution* and as per clause (e)(17), it is the duty of the Administrative Officer *to have*



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

14

custody of valuables of the Devaswam. Contrary to the submission, the learned counsel for the 6th accused submitted that, as per Annexure A3, hierarchy existing in the Devaswom Board would show that the Administrative Officers are the officers of the lowest rank and above them, there are Group Assistant Devaswom Commissioner, Sabarimala Executive Officer, Devaswom Commissioners and Assistant Secretary and Secretary, Superintendent of Police, Law officer, Enquiry Commissioner, Cultural Director etc. It is pointed out by the learned counsel for the 6th accused that even though the 6th accused signed in the mahazars, he did not know anything about the conspiracy.

7. The learned ADGP, countered this argument and submitted that the 4th accused joined in the Travancore Devaswom Board in the year 1982, as stated by her, and continued till 31.05.2025. Similarly, the 6th accused joined in the Travancore Devaswom Board on 21.12.1997 and retired on



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

15

31.03.2024.

8. The question to be considered is whether, on merits, the 4th accused as well as the 6th accused are entitled to get anticipatory bail. In this connection, it is pertinent to refer the relevant pages of the reports filed by the Investigating Officer in both petitions. In B.A.No.13835 of 2025 the relevant portions read as under:

2. It is submitted that, on 6.10.2025, the Honourable High Court of Kerala, in SSCR 23/2025 had ordered to constitute a Special Investigation Team to investigate all aspects of the matters related to the gold plating of the Dwarapalakas of Sabarimala Sreekovil. It was further ordered that Sri. S. Sasidharan (IPS), Asst. Director, KEPA shall carry out the investigation under the supervision of Sri. H. Venkatesh, ADGP (Crimes & Law and Order) and that SP shall be assisted by selected Police Officers from Kerala Police. The Hon. Court ordered the SIT to consider the report submitted by the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer and to promptly register crime case in accordance with law.

Pursuant to the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala and on the basis of the letters received from



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

16

the Commissioner, Travancore, along with the reports of the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer, Travancore Devaswam Board, two crime cases were registered at Crime Branch Police Station on 11.10.2025 as,

- 1. Cr. 3700/CB/CU-IV/TVPM/D/2025 U/S 403, 406, 409, 466, 467, and 34 IPC*
- 2. Cr. 3701/CB/CU-IV/TVPM/D/2025 U/S, 403, 406, 409, 466, 467 and 34 IPC.*

Cr. 3700/2025 is related to the offences committed with regard to the removal of cladded gold from the Dwarapalaka idol plates and side pillar plates.

2. xxxx

Pursuant to the registration of the case, I, Sasidharan. S, IPS, Assistant Director KEPA took over the investigation of the case on 12.10.2025. As part of the investigation, the scene mahazar was prepared, several records were seized from various Devaswam offices, Smart Creations Chennai and also during the searches conducted at the houses of the accused persons. The documents seized were perused and closely examined and investigated into in conjunction with the statements of witnesses recorded. Several Devaswam officials and other people acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the cases were questioned thoroughly and their versions are being cross checked and subjected to scrutiny. During the



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

17

course of investigation, A1, A2 and A3 were arrested and the investigation is progressing. Sec. 120.B IPC and Sec. 13(1)(a) of Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act 2018 were added, subsequent to the revelation of these officers during the investigation.

	List of Accused as per FIR	Date of Arrest
1	Unnikrishnan Potty, Sponser, Bangalore	16.10.2025
2	Murari Babu, Former Administrative Officer, Sabarimala	23.10.2025
3	D.Sudheesh Kumar, Former Executive Officer, Sabarimala	01.11.2025
4	S.Jayasree, Former Secretary Thiruvithamcore Devaswam Board	
5	K.Sunil Kumar, Former Assistant Engineer, Maramathu Vibhagam Sabarimala	
6.	S.Sreekumar, Former Administrative Officer, Sabarimala, Thiruvithamcore Devaswam Board	
7	K.S.Byju, Former Thiruvabharanam Commissioner, Thiruvithamcore Devaswam Board	
8.	R.G.Radhakrishnan, Former Thiruvabharanam Commissioner, Thiruvithamcore Devaswam Board	
9	V.S.Rajendra Prasad, Former Executive Officer, Sabarimala	



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

18

10	K.Rajendran Nair, Former Administrative Officer, Sabarimala	
----	--	--

PARA-WAR REMARKS ON THE STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. The petitioner is added as accused No.4 in Crime No.3700/CB/CU-IV/TVPM/D/2025 of Crime Branch Police Station.

2. No Remarks

3. No Remarks

4. During the period of the commission of the offence in this case, the petitioner was serving as the Secretary of Travancore Devaswam Board. The Secretary, as stipulated in the Travancore Devaswam Board Manual, is the Chief Administrator of the Board and all the papers to the President and members shall pass through the Secretary with her notes and recommendations. As the convener of the meetings of the Board, her duty includes preparation of Agenda of Board meetings, preparation of minutes and submission of the minutes for the Board's approval. Ordinarily all communications issued from the Boards shall be signed by the Secretary.

In this case, on 17.06.2019, the 1st accused, Sri. Unnikrishnan Potty addressed a letter to the 3rd accused, Sri.Sudheesh Kumar, (Executive Officer, Sabarimala) stating that he would repair and gold plate the Dwarapalaka idol plates and the side plates on sponsorship basis. The 2nd accused, Sri.Murari Babu, the then Administrative Officer of



2025 : KER : 94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

19

Sabarimala, took the letter from A1 and forwarded it to A3 along with his own letter wherein he purposefully and with ulterior motives misrepresented the Gold cladded plates as just "ചെമ്പ് പാളികൾ". The 3rd accused forwarded this letter to the Devaswam Commissioner on 18.06.2019, again falsely representing the plates as "ചെമ്പ് തകിടുകൾ". On 28.06.2019, the Deputy Devaswam Commissioner of the office of the Devaswam Commissioner sent a letter to the Secretary, A4, citing the letter of A3, seeking orders for permission to get the repair works and gold plating works of the "ചെമ്പ് തകിടുകൾ" of the Dwrapalaka plates done by A1. A4, who was the Secretary of the Board included this proposal in the Agenda for the Board meeting that was to be held on 03.07.2019. The Board discussed the matter as item No. 77 and accorded permission as follows in the minutes: ദേവസ്വം കമ്മീഷണറുടെ ശുപാർശ പ്രകാരം ശബരിമല ശ്രീകോവിലിന്റെ കതകിന് ഇരുവശത്തും ഉള്ള ദ്വാരപാലകന്മാരെ പൊതിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള ചെമ്പ് തകിടുകളിൽ അറ്റകുറ്റപണികൾ പൂർത്തിയാക്കി സ്വർണ്ണം പൂശുന്നതും കൂടാതെ ശ്രീകോവിലിന്റെ തെക്ക് വടക്ക് മൂലകളിൽ പൊതിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള ചെമ്പ് തകിടുകളിൽ അറ്റകുറ്റപണികൾ പൂർത്തിയാക്കി സ്വർണ്ണം പൂശുന്നതും ഉൾപ്പെടെയുള്ള ജോലികൾ ശ്രീ ഉണ്ണികൃഷ്ണൻ പോറ്റി, ബാംഗ്ലൂർ എന്ന ഭക്തന്റെ പൂർണ്ണ ചെലവിലും ഉത്തരവാദിത്വത്തിലും ശാസ്ത്രവിധി പ്രകാരം തിരുവാഭരണം കമ്മീഷണറുടെ മേൽനോട്ടത്തിൽ പൂർത്തിയാക്കുന്നതിന് അനുമതി നൽകി Annexure-I)

The minutes was signed by the President, 2 members and A4 Jayasree. On 05.07.2019, the



2025 : KER : 94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

20

Board issued its proceedings on the above matter. The proceedings was signed by A4. The proceeding of the Board is as follows:-

തിരുവാഭരണം കമ്മീഷണർ, എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് ആഫീസർ ശബരിമല, അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേറ്റീവ് ആഫീസർ ശബരിമല, ശബരിമല തന്ത്രി, എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് എൻജിനീയർ, ശബരിമല, അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് എൻജിനീയർ ശബരിമല എന്നിവരുടെ സാന്നിധ്യത്തിൽ നിലവിൽ ശ്രീകോവിലിന്റെ കതകിന് ഇരുവശത്തും ഉള്ള ദ്വാരപാലകന്മാരെ പൊതിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള ചെമ്പ് പാളികളും, കൂടാതെ തെക്ക് വടക്ക് മൂലകളിൽ പൊതിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള ചെമ്പ് തകിടുകളും ഇളക്കി മഹസ്സർ പ്രകാരം തൂക്കം, അളവ് എന്നിവ ബോധ്യപ്പെട്ട് ശ്രീ ഉണ്ണികൃഷ്ണൻ പോറ്റിക്ക് സ്വർണ്ണം പൂശുന്നതിനായി കൈമാറുന്നതിനും, തിരുവാഭരണം കമ്മീഷണറുടെ മേൽനോട്ടത്തിൽ സ്വർണ്ണം പൂശുന്നതിനും അതിന് ശേഷം ശബരിമല എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് ആഫീസർ, അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേറ്റീവ് ആഫീസർ ശബരിമല, ശബരിമല തന്ത്രി, എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് എൻജിനീയർ, ശബരിമല, അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് എൻജിനീയർ ശബരിമല എന്നിവരുടെ സാന്നിധ്യത്തിൽ ശാസ്ത്രവിധി പ്രകാരം തിരികെ ഫിറ്റു ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും അനുവദിച്ചു ബോർഡുത്തരവാകുന്നു (Annexure-II)

On comparing the decision of the Board as written on the minutes book on 03.07.2019 with the Board proceedings issued on 05.07.2019 and signed by A4 Jayasree, it could be seen that there are several additions in the Board proceedings, the most glaring of which is the addition of the words "ഉണ്ണികൃഷ്ണൻ പോറ്റിക്ക് സ്വർണ്ണം പൂശുന്നതിനായി കൈമാറുന്നതിന്". Following the circulation of the Board order to A2, A3 and others, 2 separate mahazers were prepared on 19.07.2019 and



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

21

20.07.2019 to dismantle and hand over the 12 Dwarapalaka plates and 2 side plates respectively to A1 Unnikrishnan Potty for repair works and gold plating. Both the mahazers were signed by A2, A3 and others and on both the mahazers the Copper plates were deliberately misrepresented as "ചെമ്പ് തകിടുകൾ" instead of Gold cladded Copper plates which indicates the devious designs of the accused to hand over the Gold cladded plates to A1 which later paved way for the misappropriation of the gold from these plates.

The A4, who had more than 35 years of service at Travancore Devaswam Board had clear knowledge that all the adornments connected with the Sreekovil of Sabarimala are gold cladded. When the report from the office of the Devaswam Commissioner, seeking permission to get the Chembu Thakidukal repaired and gold plated by A1, Smt. Jayasree. A4 having clear knowledge that they are indeed gold cladded, instead of sending the letter back for clarification, suppressed the fact and prepared board notes by deliberately misrepresenting the plates as "ചെമ്പുതകിടുകൾ". Moreover, in the board proceedings circulated on 05.07.2019, she again with ulterior motives, committed grave official misconduct by deliberately adding the words "ശ്രീ ഉണ്ണികൃഷ്ണൻ പോറ്റിക്ക് സ്വർണ്ണം പൂശുന്നതിനായി കൈമാറുന്നതിന് ". By this act of misconduct she aided the handing over of the Dwarapalaka idol plates and side plates to A1 which



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

22

subsequently led to the misappropriation of gold from these plates by A1 and other accused at Smart Creations Chennai. By enabling the idols plates to be taken out of the Sabarimala premises, A4 also acted in violation of the provisions of the Travancore Devaswam Board manual which clearly states that the works involving the handling of valuables should always be carried out at a place within the Devaswam premises. Hence the contentions of the petitioner that she has not committed any act or omissions is devoid of any merit and thus is not maintainable.

5. From Para 4 it is clear that A4 has committed grave official misconduct which subsequently led to the misappropriation of gold from the sacred Dwarapalaka idol plates and side plates of the Sreekovil of Sabarimala Temple."

9. In addition to that,it is pertinent to refer the relevant pages of the report filed by the Investigating Officer in B.A.No.13872 of 2025 the relevant portions read as under:

"7. a). As per the Devaswam Board Manual Vol-I. Chapter -V. X (b) (4) the Administrative Officer of Sabarimala have to keep all the valuables of the Devaswam entrusted to his care and maintain registers of valuables properly and up to date. Moreover in Devaswam Board Manual Vol. I, Chapter XV, Section 14 (E) (9) it shall be the duty of the Administrative Officer to check all sorts of wastes,



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

23

misappropriation and malpractices in the institution and in Chapter XV Sec 14 (E) (17) it is again reiterated that it shall be the duty of the Administrative Officer to have the custody of the valuables of the Devaswam. Hence the contention of the petitioner that the functions of the Administrative Officer is restricted to conduct Poojas, Festivals and routine administration under the direction of higher officers and that he has no independent authority over valuables is contrary to facts and misleading.

b). *From the above facts it is clear and unequivocal that the Administrative Officer is the custodian and protector of the valuables of the Devaswam.*

c). *As above*

d). *The gold cladded dwarapalaka plates (12 pieces) and the side plates (2 pieces) were affixed over the sacred dwarapalaka idols and both sides of the dwarapalaka idols respectively. These articles were not kept in the strong rooms but was placed strategically and religiously near the Sreekovil of Sabarimala Temple. The plates being of priceless value, were under the custody of the petitioner and hence he cannot evade from his bounden duty and responsibility by trying to shift the responsibility to any other officer of the Devaswam.*

e & f. *In page No. 116 of Volume II of Travancore Devaswam Board Manual, it is mentioned that the works involving the use or handling of valuables,*



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

24

belonging to the Devaswam should always be carried out at a place within the Devaswam premises and also in the presence of an officer authorized by the Thiruvabharanam Commissioner. From the forgoing paragraphs it is abundantly clear that the petitioner who was the Administrative Officer was the custodian of the valuables and he was duty bound to safeguard the valuables from misappropriation. As a responsible devaswam official and moreover as a public servant, he should have taken sufficient measures to prevent the priceless devaswam plates from falling into the hands of a 3rd party such as A1, whose nominees took the gold cladded plates out of the Devaswam premises. By signing on the falsified mahazer, the petitioner facilitated and aided the movement of the sacred plates out of the Devaswam premises which subsequently led to the misappropriation of gold plates at Chennai. Hence the contention that the petitioner is a complete stranger in the proceedings and not an authorized officer to handle the valuable is absolutely baseless and contrary to the provisions of the Travancore Devaswam Board Manual.

g). As explained in **d**.

H). As per the Devaswam Board Manual Vol-I, Chapter-V, X(b)(4), the Administrative Officer of Sabarimala has to keep all the valuables of the Devaswam entrusted to his care and maintain registers of valuable properly and up to date. Moreover in Devaswam Board Manual Vol- I, Chapter XV, Section 14 (E) (9) it shall be the duty of the Administrative Officer to check all sorts of wastes,



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

25

misappropriation and malpractices in the institution and in Chapter XV Sec 14 (E)(17) it is again reiterated that it shall be the duty of the Administrative Officer to have the custody of the valuables of the Devaswam. Hence the contention of the petitioner that the functions of the Administrative Officer is restricted to conduct Poojas, Festivals and routine administration under the direction of higher officers and that he has no independent authority over valuables is contrary to facts and misleading.

8). As a public servant, the petitioner who was the Administrative Officer of Sabarimala, had committed grave official misconduct by flouting all the provisions of the Travancore Devaswam Board Manual, misused his official position by failing to protect and safeguard the valuable gold cladded dwrapalaka idol plates and side plates. By attesting the falsified mahazers prepared by A3, he deliberately connived with other accused to illegally hand over these valuable articles to A1. Sri. Unnikrishnan Potty who took the articles to Smart Creations Chennai, where these gold cladded articles were misappropriated by A1 and others, causing wrongful loss to Travancore Devaswam Board."

10. According to the learned ADGP, going through the facts disclosed in the statements filed and as discernible from the prosecution records, the role of the 4th accused as well as the 6th accused, in committing the crime pursuant to conspiracy hatched between them to make loss



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

26

of 4,541.900 gram (42,800 – 38,258.100) of gold from the assets of Sabarimala deity, could be seen *prima facie*.

11. On tracing the genesis of the case, as submitted in the report of the Investigating Officer and as could be decipherable from the prosecution records, this crime as well as the other crime was registered as ordered by the Division Bench of this Court in SSCR 23/2025, to constitute a Special Investigation Team to investigate all aspects of the matters related to the gold plating of the Dwarapalakas of Sabarimala Sreekovil and its misappropriation. The allegation specifically in the present crime is that, a decision was taken by the Devaswom Board on 03.07.2019 and the decision was, as recommended by the Commissioner of Devaswom, that the Dwarapalakas placed on the door of the Sreekovil of Sabarimala and the two items on the southern and northern corners of the same



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

27

made use of copper plates to be subjected to gold cladding and it was decided to do the said work by including the first accused, Sri.Unnikrishnan Potty, in his expense as per the rituals under the supervision of the Thiruvabharanam Commissioner. Thus, going by the Director Board decision, there was no decision by the Director Board to hand over the Dwarapalaka plates, (in fact, cladded with gold in its origin when the same were offered by the devotee, but falsely stated in the minutes as copper plates) to hand over the same to anybody outside. That apart, as pointed out by the learned ADGP and as extracted hereinabove, the Devaswom Board Manual does not empower anything to be taken outside from the Sreekovil for any purpose, and every repairing works are to be done within the Sannidhanam and not outside.

12. Even though, it is argued by the learned



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

28

counsel for the 4th accused that the 4th accused, as the Secretary, had issued order dated 05.07.2019 permitting to handover the Dwarapalaka plates to the custody of Sri.Unnikrishnan Potty, (the 1st accused) for gold plating as decided by the Board, *prima facie*, the order issued by the 4th accused would show that the same was not in accordance with the board decision, dated 03.07.2019. It is relevant to note further that, based on the order dated 05.07.2019, and citing the said order, as on 20.07.2019, the Dwarapalaka plates were entrusted to Sri.Unnikrishnan Potty after measuring the same as 17 kg and 400 gm for the purpose of gold plating. It is relevant to note that even though the weight of the Dwarapalaka plates handed over to Sri.Unnikrishnan Potty for gold plating (in fact, the same did not require gold plating at all, since those Dwarapalaka plates are, in their origin, gold cladded items), was 42,800 gm, then the weight



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025
29

of the same on replacement at the Sreekovil was reduced to 38,258.100 gm and thereby a total of 4,541.900 gm weight was lost. The prosecution has a specific case that, the 6th accused, who was the custodian of the Dwarapalaka plates, not only signed in the mahazar describing the items as copper plated to hand over the same to the 1st accused, without any proper verification, but also failed to weigh the same when the 1st accused returned the same, to see the weight difference and any manipulation thereof. As pointed out by the learned ADGP, if the weight difference was noticed at the time of its return, the entire scam should have been brought to light, and this crime could be detected then and there itself; and because of the serious laches on the part of the 6th accused (the custodian), this crime has been detected only when the Special Commission, appointed by the High Court, on suspicion of this scam conducted inquiry



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

30

in the year 2025. This would show serious laches on the part of the 6th accused in doing his duties properly and also his involvement in this crime.

13. A perusal of prosecution records, with a view to find out the complicity of accused Nos.4 and 6, it could be seen that there has been deliberate intention and largely moulded conspiracy hatched by the accused persons and certain other persons holding higher positions having connection with the administration of Sabarimala, *prima facie*. Otherwise, it is not at all possible to take the items outside the Sannidhanam, a holy place, as against the Devaswom Board Manual and also for gold cladding of the Dwarapalaka plates which would not require any gold cladding as its origin itself is gold. That is to say, as submitted by the learned ADGP, the 1st accused, Sri.Unnikrishnan Potty, is neither 'the poojari' nor 'the



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

31

assistant poojari' of the Sabarimala temple. But he continued in the Sabarimala without any official designation under the grace of some high profile officials and as part of conspiracy hatched between the accused persons, he was authorised to take out the Dwarapalaka plates, originally cladded with gold, on the premise of describing the same as one made of 'copper plates', as against the mandate of Devaswom Board Manual. On perusal of the prosecution records, the allegations are very serious and mind blowing since such a misappropriation happened in a sacred place, viz., Sabarimala Sannidhanam and this Court is shocked of the events. It appears from the prosecution records *prima facie* that Sri.Unnikrishnan Potty has not assigned with any duty in particular and if so, why he continued and dealt with the affairs of the Sabarimala Sannidhanam is a serious matter. It could be gathered further that Sri.Unnikrishnan Potty created



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

32

an aura and enjoyed an unbridled freedom to devour the valuable gold of the holy deity, with connivance of the accused persons and this would not be possible without the involvement of some big guns who had role in the administration of Sabarimala temple of the Devaswam Board. Therefore, the investigation must go on further to elicit and bring all the culprits involved in this crime without leaving any room for escape as the allegations are very serious as already observed.

14. Coming to the decision taken by the Board, the same would show that, the Dwarapalaka plates, which according to the Board, were copper plated ones and not gold plated ones. In fact, Dwarapalaka plates are actually cladded with gold in its origin and therefore, there is no necessity for doing any other process of cladding or plating of gold over the same. The conspirators and the perpetrators of



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

33

this crime who were well aware of the fact that by recording the Dwarapalaka plates as one made of copper and the same to be allowed to be subjected to gold cladding, on that premise, the gold originally therein could be misappropriated for getting illegal gratification for themselves and accordingly, they had recorded the Dwarapalaka plates as fully made of copper in the minutes of the Devaswam Board as well as in the mahazars one of which was signed by the 6th accused. Similarly, the 4th accused also issued order to handover the Dwarapalaka plates to the 1st accused shown the description of the Dwarapalaka plates as copper made, though she also is fully aware of the fact that those are originally gold cladded items. Thus, the accused persons with knowledge that once the Dwarapalaka plates to be recorded as copper plated items in the Board decision and the corresponding mahazars, it is easy for them to swindle away the gold cladded over the



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

34

same to sell and make money out of the same. Thus, *prima facie*, the conspiracy, in the instant case, is in a widest magnitude, including some other higher officials other than the accused persons now arrayed and without the involvement of the higher officials, this kind of large scale looting of gold, that too, from a holy temple like Sabarimala, where lakhs of people bestowed themselves, should not have happened. Therefore, even though the investigation is on the right direction, the investigation should be widened to include those who have involvement in this scam, particularly tracing the higher ups who had control, connection and constant contact with Sri.Unnikrishnan Potty, since Sri.Unnikrishnan Potty, the 1st accused, continued in Sabarimala under the grace of some big guns. Therefore, the investigating officer shall have to consider the widest conspiracy and investigate on the involvement of the big guns in the scam without fail to ensure fair investigation.



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

35

15. Coming back, it could be noticed that, as on 03.07.2019, the Travancore Devaswom Board decided to do gold plating works to the Dwarapalaka plates and also the plates on the southern and northern corners of the Sreekovil, describing those items are fully made of copper, without any gold plating, and it was decided to do the work of gold plating on those items at the instance of Sri. Unnikrishnan Potty, the 1st accused, as per the decision of the Thanthri and under the supervision of the Devaswom Commissioner. In this context, it is relevant to refer that even though the Devaswom Board did not decide to send the Dwarapalaka plates outside for gold plating, the decision of the Board, describing those items originally cladded with gold as items fully made of copper, would show the deceitful intention and consequential misappropriation of the gold, actually platted therein, so as to make unlawful enrichment to the perpetrators of the crime



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

36

and corresponding loss to the Devaswom Board, and in turn, the holy 'Sabarimala Ayyappan'. So, the decision itself would show the involvement of the Devaswom Board members in describing the items as purely made of copper, though its original was gold cladded, and also would show the involvement of the decision makers who decided so as on 03.07.2019.

16. The prosecution records would reveal the role of the 4th accused. The 4th accused, having worked under the Devaswom Board as Secretary during the relevant time, issued an order dated 05.07.2019, which led to Sri.Unnikrishnan Potty to get custody of the items, that too against the Board decision. It is relevant to note that, after two days of the decision of the Board (decision of the Board was on 03.07.2017), the 4th accused passed an order on 05.07.2019, to handover the Dwarapalaka plates and items



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

37

on the southern and northern corners of the Sreekovil to Sri.Unnikrishnan Potty, though actually there was no decision by the Board to do so. In this context, it is relevant to refer that, as argued, the 4th accused had joined in Travancore Devaswom Board as an L.D. Clerk on 24.12.1982 and by promotion, reached the post of Secretary of Travancore Devaswom Board, holding that position from 03.07.2017 to 06.12.2019 and also as Thiruvabharanam Commissioner upto 31.05.2020 till her retirement. Therefore, the knowledge of the 4th accused regarding this stature of the Dwarapalaka plates and the items on the southern and northern corners of the Sreekovil, as originally gold cladded items is damn sure and the 4th accused could not contend that she was not aware of the same. Thus, knowing fully well that what was stated in the Board decision on 03.07.2019, describing the Dwarapalaka plates and the other items on the southern and



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

38

northern corners of the Sreekovil were described as mere copper plates, is an absolute falsehood. Therefore, if the 4th accused is innocent and not involved in the conspiracy, the natural response from the 4th accused should be to write a letter to the Board stating that Dwarapalaka plates and other items decided to be gold plated, describing the same as copper made, was wrong and therefore, no order could be issued. Unfortunately, instead of doing the said exercise, as a bona fide employee of the Devaswom Board, who was bestowed with the duty of protecting the interest of the respectable deity of Sabarimala, she did not point out the same, instead she had issued an order within two days, that too, in deviation from the decision of the Board, to hand over the Dwarapalaka plates to the 1st accused to take them out for the purpose of gold plating, though, in fact, no such gold plating was required as far as the items are concerned, since



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

39

its origin itself is gold plated. Thus, the role of the 4th accused is well made out *prima facie*, and on merits, the 4th accused could not wriggle out from the prosecution. Since the role of the 4th accused is well made out, *prima facie*, in a huge scam, she is not entitled to get anticipatory bail on merits, as her arrest, custodial interrogation and the modus operandi are to be ascertained.

17. Coming to the case of the 6th accused, according to the learned counsel for the 6th accused, even though a large conspiracy had started earlier before joining of the 6th accused (the 6th accused joined only on 17.07.2019) as Administrative Officer of the Sabarimala, he did not hatch any conspiracy. Adverting to this contention, it is worthwhile to mention that he must have been aware of his duties as per the Devaswom Board Manual and it was his duty 'to *check all sorts of waste, misappropriation and malpractices in the institution*' and also 'to *have custody of the valuables of Devaswam*'. In



2025 : KER : 94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

40

the instant case, the specific allegation against the 6th accused is that, the 6th accused, who joined as the Administrative Officer as on 17.07.2019, following his predecessor, Sri.Murari Babu (who got arrayed as the 2nd accused in this crime), had signed a mahazar prepared by the 3rd accused, Sri.Sudheesh Kumar, to hand over the twelve pieces of Dwarapalaka plates to the 1st accused for repair works and gold works and in the mahazar, instead of describing the Dwarapalaka plates as gold cladded plates, it was stated that the same were copper made items. It is relevant to note that, when the 6th accused, who is the Administrative Officer, is duty bound to protect the valuables of the Devaswom, being the custodian of the same, could not blindly sign a mahazar prepared on 19.07.2019, after two days of his joining, without enquiring about the contents and assessing the nature of Dwarapalaka plates intended to be handed over to the 1st accused. In fact, as submitted, the 6th



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

41

accused, joined Travancore Devaswom Board on 21.12.1997 and is well aware of the fact that the Dwarapalaka plates, including the twelve plates, handed over to the 1st accused, were originally gold cladded and he should not have signed in the mahazar if he had no involvement in the alleged conspiracy to join hands with the other accused in the matter of getting the gold cladded plates entrusted to the 1st accused with intent to misappropriate the gold therefrom.

18. According to the learned counsel for the 6th accused, without the aid of Section 120B IPC, none of the offences would attract against the 6th accused, *prima facie*. While addressing this contention, it is observed that even without the aid of Section 120B IPC independently, the offence under Section 13(1)(e) punishable under Section 13(2) of the PC Act (Amendment), 2018 would attract against the 6th accused, who is the custodian of the valuables including the



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

42

Dwarapalaka plates entrusted to the 1st accused, since Section 13(1)(a) of the PC Act provides that *a public servant is said to commit the offence of criminal misconduct, punishable under Section 13(2) of the PC Act, 2018, if he dishonestly or fraudulently misappropriates or otherwise converts for his own use any property entrusted to him or any property under his control as a public servant or **allows any other person so to do.*** Therefore, *prima facie*, the offences alleged by the prosecution against the 6th accused as well as the 4th accused are well made out. In such a case, this Court is of the considered view that in the event of grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioners herein, who are accused Nos.4 and 6, the entire investigation under the auspices of the Division Bench of this Court would be collapsed and effective investigation would become meaningless. Further, a detailed investigation is to be done regarding the



2025 : KER : 94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

43

misappropriated gold by questioning the petitioners in custody to find out the involvement of the higher officials who are also involved in this crime, since the investigation is still at the initial stage. Apart from that, the petitioners, who held key posts in the Devaswom Board, if released on anticipatory bail, they would influence the probable witnesses and would cause destruction and disappearance of evidence and also valid documents to impede the investigation of a very serious crime, relating to misappropriation of gold from the priceless and sacred Dwarapalaka plates and side plates of the famous Sabarimala temple where the interest of the Devaswom Board and lakhs of devotees is involved.

18. Therefore, on merits, accused Nos.4 and 6 do not deserve anticipatory bail.

19. Coming to the medical conditions of the 4th accused, as argued by the learned counsel for the 4th accused, is concerned, the learned Sessions Judge was not



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

44

inclined to consider the same, and the anticipatory bail plea filed by the 6th accused was dismissed negating the said contention.

20. In response to the medical records placed as part of the bail application, the Investigating Officer approached Lakeshore Hospital, Kochi, and obtained the entire medical report pertaining to the 4th accused, including details of the kidney transplantation in 2013 and produced the same before this Court for perusal. The learned ADGP specifically mentioned the discharge summary, which recorded her admission on 11.10.2025 and discharge on 14.10.2025. In the report, it has been stated that at the time of discharge on 14.10.2025, ***“patient is otherwise stable. She is being discharged with following advice. Her blood routine investigations were unremarkable with a normal creatinine values of 1.2mg/dl”***. The contention raised by the



2025 :KER: 94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

45

learned ADGP based on this discharge summary is that the argument advanced by the learned counsel for the 4th accused, that there was a tendency to reject the transplanted kidney and the 4th accused is continuing immuno suppressive medications for the same, is ruled out in view of the doctor's discharge summary, showing her stable condition and noting her creatinine level at 1.2mg/dl. Therefore, the learned ADGP would submit that the medical condition, as per the medical records collected by the Investigating Officer, also do not suggest any medical trauma to the 4th accused to avoid arrest and grant anticipatory bail to her. At the same time, it is also submitted by the learned ADGP that, in case of any medical emergency or medical aid, to be addressed in so far as the 4th accused is concerned,during her arrest or custody, the same would be provided as per law without fail.

21. Adverting to the medical grounds urged by



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

46

the learned counsel for the 4th accused, in view of the background facts of the treatment of the 4th accused, it could be gathered that after registration of this crime, as on 11.10.2025, she got admitted in Lakeshore Hospital, Kochi and underwent inpatient treatment till 14.10.2025. In fact, this crime was registered on 11.10.2025, on the date of admission of the 4th accused. After four days of treatment, the 4th accused was discharged, stating that ***“patient is otherwise stable. She is being discharged with following advice. Her blood routine investigations were unremarkable with a normal creatinine values of 1.2mg/dl”***. In this context, it is relevant to note that, thereafter, the anticipatory bail application filed by the 4th accused was dismissed by the Sessions Court on 13.11.2025 and Annexure A8, now produced before this Court stating that *“she is continuing Immuno suppressive*



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

47

medications to prevent the rejection of the transplanted kidney' was issued on 17.11.2025, that too, after filing of this anticipatory bail application on 14.11.2025. Thus, in the matter of medical exigency canvassed by the 4th accused, I do accept the contentions of the learned ADGP.

22. In this context, it is relevant to record the submission made by the learned ADGP that, even though the medical records do not justify the ailments to avoid the arrest and custodial interrogation of the 4th accused, the investigating team is ready to provide necessary medical aid during her arrest and subsequent stages, if required, to save her from complications. In view of the above, the medical conditions pointed out by the learned counsel for the 4th accused would not justify grant of pre-arrest bail, as such health conditions could be very well addressed by the Investigating Officer, by providing appropriate medical aid.



2025:KER:94002

BAIL APPL.NOS.13782 & 13835 OF 2025

48

23. The upshot of the discussion is that, the petitioners/accused Nos.4 and 6, do not deserve anticipatory bail so as to spoil the investigation of a very serious crime for the reasons elicited hereinabove. Therefore, these petitions are liable to be dismissed.

24. In the result, both petitions are dismissed with direction to the petitioners to surrender before the investigating officer and co-operate with the investigation forthwith.

25. However, it is made clear that as undertaken by the learned ADGP, if any medical emergency will be required to avoid the complications to the 4th accused during her arrest and custody, the same shall be given to the 4th accused without fail, in the interest of justice.

The interim order restraining arrest of the petitioners is vacated.

Sd/-
A.BADHARUDEEN,
JUDGE

nkr