



2025:KER:87682

SSCR No. 34 of 2025

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V

&

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE K. V. JAYAKUMAR

MONDAY, THE 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025 / 26TH KARTHIKA, 1947

SSCR NO. 34 OF 2025

*IN THE MATTER OF TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD - SABARIMALA
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER REPORT - SM.NO. 34/2025 - REPORT
REGARDING CHANGE OF POLICE CONTROLLER AT SANNIDHANAM
DURING MANDALA-MAKARAVILAKKU SEASON 2025-26 - SUO MOTU
PROCEEDINGS INITIATED - REG*

PETITIONER:

SUO MOTU

RESPONDENTS:

- 1 STATE OF KERALA
REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, REVENUE (DEVAWOM) DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695001
- 2 STATE POLICE CHIEF
POLICE HEAD QUARTERS, VAZHUTHACAUD,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 010
- 3 DISTRICT COLLECTOR
COLLECTORATE, PATHANAMTHITTA, KERALA-689645
- 4 DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF
PATHANAMTHITTA-689 645



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- 5 TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, NANTHANCODE,
KAWDIAR POST, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 003
- 6 DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, DEVASWOM BUILDINGS,
NANTHANCODE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN-695 005
- 7 EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SABARIMALA, SABARIMALA P.O., PATHANAMTHITTA-689 662

ADDL R8 THE CHIEF POLICE CO-ORDINATOR
ADGP (HQ), THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.
[IS SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDITIONAL 8TH RESPONDENT
VIDE ORDER DATED 10/11/2025 IN SSCR.NO.34/2025]

SRI. S. RAJMOHAN, SR GP
SRI. G. BIJU, SC, TDB
SMT. SAYUJYA RADHAKRISHNAN, AMICUS CURIAE

THIS SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER REPORT HAVING COME UP
FOR FINAL HEARING ON 17.11.2025, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY
DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:



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ORDER

Raja Vijayaraghavan V, J.

The instant report filed by the Special Commissioner pertains to the change of the Police Controller at Sannidhanam during the Mandala–Makaravilakku festival season 2025–26.

2. Having perused the report, this Court noticed that the erstwhile officer, Sri. K.C. Anilkumar, Grade Sub-Inspector, had been functioning in the said post for the past twenty-two years. We had expressed our serious apprehension that the prolonged continuance of the same officer in such a sensitive and critical position is likely to lead to institutional entrenchment, thereby adversely affecting transparency, administrative efficiency, and the impartial discharge of duties. A post of this nature, particularly at the Sannidhanam, necessarily demands periodic rotation to eliminate the risk of the administration being influenced by extraneous considerations, which would inevitably compromise the fair and effective discharge of official responsibilities.

3. It was brought to our attention that Sri. Krishnakumar.R., APSI, KAP-I, has now replaced the said officer. Considering the significance of the post and its impact on the overall governance of the



Sannidhanam, we had directed the Chief Police Co-ordinator, ADGP (HQ), Thiruvananthapuram, to place before us details of the officer's credentials, service record, and overall suitability prior to the confirmation of the officer as Police Controller. We further directed that the newly appointed officer's integrity, competence, and temperament be thoroughly examined to ensure that he satisfies the standards expected for such an assignment.

4. In compliance with the aforesaid directions, an affidavit has been submitted by the Chief Police Co-ordinator. It is stated therein that, with a view to ensuring effective coordination among stakeholders, streamlining police duty detailing, and improving public relations and logistical arrangements during the Mandala–Makaravilakku festival season 2025–26, the Police Control Rooms have been further reorganised by Order dated 05.11.2024 issued by the Director General of Police & State Police Chief, Kerala. Under the said order, Sri. Krishnakumar R., APSI, KAP-I, has been included as the 11th member of the Control Room under Ext.R8(3).

5. It is further stated that, pursuant to the directions issued by this Court, an enquiry was conducted, which revealed that the said officer had been arrayed as an accused in Crime No. 001 of 2016 registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation, Kochi Unit. The CBI has filed its final report, and the matter is presently pending before the CBI Special Court-II. Departmental proceedings have also been initiated in relation to the same incident and remain pending. Consequent to these proceedings, the officer



was reverted from the post of Inspector of Police (Armed Police) to Sub-Inspector (Armed Police). It is stated that he has not been entrusted with the special charge of Police Controller and is only a member of the Control Room team. It is further affirmed that, in order to ensure transparency and maintain public trust, the said officer has now been relieved from duty at Sabarimala. It is also reported that no other officer presently assigned to the Control Rooms has been posted at Sabarimala for more than two years.

6. Having carefully considered the assertions in the affidavit, we note that it was pursuant to Order No. U2-11776/2025/PHQ dated 17.01.2025, that permanent Police Control Rooms have been established at Sannidhanam, Nilakkal, and Pamba, in coordination with the Sabarimala Temple opening schedules and police duty arrangements. From the affidavit, it is evident that Sri. Krishnakumar R., appointed pursuant to the Order dated 17.01.2025, was involved in a crime registered by the CBI. Now that he has been removed from the said position, we do not deem it necessary to consider this issue any further.

7. Before parting, we direct the State Police Chief as well as the Chief Police Co-ordinator to ensure that henceforth, at Sannidhanam, only officers possessing integrity, and good service record, and the capability and aptitude to discharge their duties with dedication and promptitude shall be appointed to the various Control Rooms. The State Police Chief and the Chief Police Co-ordinator shall exercise due diligence, undertake stringent



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verification, and maintain the high standards of scrutiny before selecting and appointing officers for duty at Sannidhanam.

This SSCR is disposed of.

Sd/-
**RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V,
JUDGE**

Sd/-
**K.V. JAYAKUMAR,
JUDGE**

APM