

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM**PRESENT****THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V****&****THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE K. V. JAYAKUMAR****Thursday, the 16th day of October 2025 / 24th Aswina, 1947****SSCR NO. 29 OF 2025**

**IN THE MATTER OF TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD - SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER
REPORT - SM.NO. 29/2025 - REPORT REGARDING THE STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO PROVIDE
ADEQUATE FACILITIES TO SABARIMALA PILGRIMS AT THE EDATHAVALAMS FOR THE MANDALAM
MAKARAVILAKKU FESTIVAL SEASON 2025-2026 (1201 M.E.) - SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS
INITIATED - REG:**

PETITIONER:**SUO MOTU****RESPONDENTS:**

1. **UNION GOVERNMENT, MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS,
REPRESENTED BY THE DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER,
(THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DIVISION), THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695001**
2. **STATE OF KERALA
REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695001**
3. **TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, NANTHANCOD, KAWDIAR POST,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695003**
4. **DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, DEVASWOM BUILDINGS, NANTHANCOD,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695003**



5. EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SABARIMALA, PAMPA TRIVENI P.O., PATHANAMTHITTA - 689670
6. EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
OFFICE OF THE SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER, SABARIMALA,
PATHANAMTHITTA, PIN - 689713
7. SECRETARY, DISTRICT TOURISM PROMOTION COUNCIL (DTPC),
KODIMATHA, KOTTAYAM - 686013
8. COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD
REP.BY ITS SECRETARY, ROUND NORTH, THRISSUR - 680001
9. MALABAR DEVASWOM BOARD
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, HOUSEFED COMPLEX, ERANHIPALAM,
KOZHIKODE - 673006
10. GURUVAYUR DEVASWOM MANAGING COMMITTEE
GURUVAYUR DEVASWOM, GURUVAYUR, PIN - 680101,
REPRESENTED BY ITS ADMINISTRATOR
11. ERUMELI GRAMA PANCHAYATH
REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, SH 44, ERUMELI, KOTTAYAM - 686509
12. DISTRICT COLLECTOR, COLLECTORATE, ALAPPUZHA - 688001
13. DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF,
MUKHAM PURAYIDOM, CIVIL STATION WARD, ALAPPUZHA 688012
14. CHENGANNUR MUNICIPALITY
REP. BY ITS SECRETARY, CHENGANNUR, ALAPPUZHA - 689121
15. DIVISIONAL MANAGER
SOUTHERN RAILWAY, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DIVISION
16. STATION MASTER, CHENGANNUR RAILWAY STATION
17. STATION MASTER, ERNAKULAM SOUTH RAILWAY STATION

18. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, ERUMELI DEVASWOM
19. DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF, KOTTAYAM
20. DISTRICT COLLECTOR, KOTTAYAM
21. STATION HOUSE OFFICER, ERUMELI POLICE STATION
22. STATION HOUSE OFFICER,
ERNAKULAM TOWN NORTH (KASABA) POLICE STATION, CHITTOOR ROAD,
KACHERIPADY, ERNAKULAM - 682018
23. COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, KOCHI CITY
24. EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
PORUMKAL KADAVU ROAD, ERUMELI, KOTTAYAM - 686509

BY SRI.S.RAJMOHAN, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER

BY DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR MALABAR DEVASWOM BOARD

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR GURUVAYOOR DEVASWOM MANAGING COMMITTEE

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR ERUMELY GRAMA PANCHAYATH

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR CHENGANNUR MUNICIPALITY

BY SMT.SAYUJYA RADHAKRISHNAN, AMICUS CURIAE FOR SABARIMALA

SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

THIS SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER REPORT HAVING COME UP FOR
ADMISSION ON 16/10/2025, UPON PERUSING THE REPORT, THE COURT ON THE SAME
DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING:

**RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V.,
&
K.V. JAYAKUMAR, JJ.**

SSCR No. 29 of 2025

Dated this the 16th day of October, 2025

ORDER

Raja Vijayaraghavan V, J.

This report has been filed by the Special Commissioner, detailing the measures required to provide adequate facilities for Sabarimala pilgrims at the Edathavalams during the Mandalam–Makaravilakku Festival Season 2025–2026 (1201 M.E.).

2. From the report, we note that the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) maintains Edathavalams for Sabarimala pilgrims adjoining its temples along the pilgrimage route. The Indian Railways maintains two resting places for Sabarimala pilgrims, one at Kottayam and the other at Chengannur. The District Tourism Promotion Council, Kottayam, maintains an Edathavalam near Erumeli. These Edathavalams provide pilgrims with shelter, sanitation facilities, and potable drinking water. It is also observed that in certain locations, Annadhanam is provided.

3. We further note that the State Government has initiated a project, funded by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), for the construction of additional Edathavalams at various locations. However, the progress of construction appears to be delayed.

4. With respect to the large congregation of pilgrims at Erumeli, it has been brought to our notice that there exists a Thode (stream) in front of

the temple. It has been reported that pilgrims frequently use shampoos packaged in plastic sachets and discard them in and around the Thode, leading to pollution and environmental degradation. In view of the above, the District Administration, Kottayam, shall forthwith impose a ban on the use of shampoos in plastic sachets in and around Erumeli. All necessary measures shall be taken to strictly enforce this directive.

5. The respondents, including the local authorities, the Travancore Devaswom Board, and other stakeholders, shall ensure that pilgrims undertaking the pilgrimage are provided with potable drinking water, Annadhanam, clean and safe resting shelters, and properly maintained toilet and sanitation facilities. The Travancore Devaswom Board shall, in particular, ensure that all toilets and sanitation facilities at Sannidhanam and locations where pilgrims congregate are kept scrupulously clean, and no effort shall be spared in maintaining hygienic conditions. The concerned local authorities, namely, the Erumeli Grama Panchayat, Chengannur Municipality, shall monitor the same through the respective Health Inspectors, and a report shall be filed before this Court.

Post on 29.10.2025

Sd/-

**RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V,
JUDGE**

Sd/-

**K.V. JAYAKUMAR,
JUDGE**

APM