

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

DBA NO. 6 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD - SEEKING PERMISSION TO PUT UP
ADVERTISEMENT BOARDS AS REQUESTED IN ANNEXURE A(10)

PETITIONER:

COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD ROUND NORTH,
THRISSUR, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, PIN - 680001

BY ADV K.P.SUDHEER, SC, COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD



RESPONDENTS:

1. SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR KERALA STATE AUDIT DEPARTMENT,
COCHIN DEVASWOM AUDIT, ROUND NORTH, THRISSUR -, PIN - 680001

***ADDITIONAL RESPONDENT IMPLEADED**

2. THE TEMPLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF SREE VADAKKUMNATHA TEMPLE,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, SWARAJ ROUND NORTH,
THEKKINKAD MAIDAN, THRISSUR-680 001

*IS SUO MOTU IMPLEADED AS ADDITIONAL 2ND RESPONDENT VIDE ORDER
DATED 16.07.2025 IN DBA 6/2025

BY SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER

THIS DEVASWOM BOARD APPLICATION HAVING COME UP FOR ORDERS AGAIN
ON 16/07/2025, UPON PERUSING THE APPLICATION AND THIS COURT'S ORDER
DATED 15.07.2025, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING:

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

DBA No.6 of 2025

Dated this the 16th day of July, 2025

ORDER

Anil K. Narendran, J.

The Cochin Devaswom Board has filed this DBA seeking permission to the Temple Advisory Committee of Sree Vadakkumnathan Temple to put up advertisement boards as sought for in Annexure-A10 in strict compliance with the directions contained in Annexure A9 order of this Court dated 20.02.2025 in DBA No.3 of 2025.

2. On 15.07.2025, when this DBA came up for consideration, in the forenoon, the learned Senior Government Pleader sought time to get instructions from the Senior Deputy Director, Kerala State Audit Department, Cochin Devaswom Board Audit. Considering the urgency pointed out by the learned Standing Counsel for Cochin Devaswom Board, the matter was directed to be listed at 2.00 p.m. on 15.07.2025 for further consideration.

3. On 15.07.2025, when this DBA came up for consideration, it was disposed of with certain directions granting permission in terms of the directions contained in Annexure A9

order dated 20.02.2025 in DBA No.3 of 2025. Since it was noticed that, if as a matter of fact, the advertisement boards have been erected by the Temple Advisory Committee even before obtaining permission from this Court, it is a matter which requires serious consideration, therefore, Registry was directed to list this matter today as 'to be spoken to'. After hearing the arguments of the learned Standing Counsel for Cochin Devaswom Board and also the learned Senior Government Pleader for the 1st respondent Senior Deputy Direction, Kerala State Audit Department, Cochin Devaswom Board Audit, we deem it appropriate to recall the order dated 15.07.2025 and the said order is accordingly recalled.

4. The Temple Advisory Committee of Sree Vadakkumnatha Temple, represented by its Secretary, Swaraj Round North, Thekkinkad Maidan, Thrissur-680 001 is suo motu impleaded as additional 2nd respondent.

5. Registry to make necessary corrections in the cause title.

6. Issue notice to the additional 2nd respondent Temple Advisory committee, through the Assistant Commissioner, Thrissur Group, in his official e-mail ID 'dactsrgroup@gmail.com'. A complete set of this DBA along with a copy of this order shall be enclosed along with that notice.

7. In paragraph 3 of Annexure A9 order dated 20.02.2025 in DBA No.3 of 2025, this Court has reproduced the photographs marked as Annexure A10, produced along with I.A.No.1 of 2025, in that DBA, showing the places where the advertisement boards are proposed to be erected. The said photographs are extracted hereunder;

Nehru Mandapam



Naikkanal junction



Manikandalal



East Nada
(opposite Paramakkavu Temple)



West Nada - Right side



West Nada - Left side



Opposite District Hospital



Opposite CMS School



Opposite of Thekkemadam Road



Nehru Park



8. By Annexure A9 order dated 20.02.2025, this Court disposed of DBA No.3 of 2025 with the directions contained

therein. Paragraphs 8, 9 and also the last paragraph of that order read thus;

'8. In Paragraph No.9 of Annexure A7 order in DBP No.76 of 2024, this Court noticed the submission made by the learned Standing Counsel for Cochin Devaswom Board that the footpath outside the compound wall of Thekkinkad Maidan is on the land of Vadakkumnatha Devaswom, which has been leased out to Thrissur Municipal Corporation for providing a footpath. Paragraph No.9 of that order reads thus;

"9. During the course of arguments, the learned Standing Counsel for Cochin Devaswom Board has made available for the perusal of this Court a few photographs showing the present condition of the grill, advertisement boards, and hoardings on the compound wall of Vadakkumnatha Kshethra Maidan (Thekkinkad Maidan). On a query made by this Court, the learned Standing Counsel for the Board would submit that the footpath outside the compound wall of Thekkinkad Maidan is on the land of Vadakkumnathan Devaswom, which has been leased out to the 2nd respondent Thrissur Municipal Corporation for providing a footpath."

(underline supplied)

9. Having considered the materials on record and the submissions made at the Bar, we notice that the footpath surrounding the compound wall of Vadakkumnatha Kshethra Maidan (Thekkinkad Maidan) is on the land of Vadakkumnatha Devaswom, which has been leased out to the Thrissur Municipal Corporation for providing footpath. Now the repair/renovation work of the existing compound wall with provision for advertisement boards on the iron grill, is going on in terms of Annexure A7 order of this Court dated

09.10.2024 in DBP No.76 of 2024. From the photographs extracted hereinbefore at paragraph 3 (page Nos.4 and 5), we notice that the request made by the Cochin Devaswom Board is now confined to have advertisement boards having a size of 10 feet x 3 feet in the entry to Thekkinkadu Maidan near Nehru Mandapam, Naikkanal Junction, Manikandal, East Nada (opposite to Paramekkavu Temple), West Nada - right side and left side, opposite to District Hospital, opposite to CMS School, opposite to Thekkemadam and near Nehru Park.

In such circumstances, we deem it appropriate to grant permission to the Cochin Devaswom Board to exhibit advertisement boards having a size of 10 feet x 3 feet in the entry to Thekkinkadu Maidan near Nehru Mandapam, Naikkanal Junction, Manikandal, East Nada (opposite to Paramekkavu Temple), West Nada - right side and left side, opposite to District Hospital, opposite to CMS School, opposite to Thekkemadam and near Nehru Park, as shown in Annexure A10 photographs produced along with I.A.No.1 of 2025, which are extracted hereinbefore at paragraph 3 at page Nos.4 and 5, for the purpose of generating funds for Sivarathri festival, which is scheduled to be held on 26.02.2025, which is conducted directly by the Cochin Devaswom Board. The advertisement boards at the above 10 locations shall be exhibited strictly in compliance with the law laid down by this Court in **Satheesh [2022 (1) KLT 940]** and also the directions contained in Annexure A6 judgment of this Court dated 11.04.2023 in W.P.(C)Nos.26499 of 2018 and 4617 of 2022, after obtaining the required permission from Thrissur Municipal Corporation. The advertisements shall be approved by the Commissioner, Cochin Devaswom Board, who shall ensure that the advertisements do not contain any objectionable materials. The arches already erected as well as

the advertisement boards displayed on the arches shall be removed on 27.02.2025 itself.'

9. In W.P.(C)No.25245 of 2025 filed by a devotee of Lord Vadakkumnathan, which came up for consideration on 14.07.2025, the documents marked as Ext.P17 are photographs of the advertisement boards exhibited in Thekkinkad Maidan, by the Temple Advisory Committee, without obtaining permission from the Cochin Devaswom Board. The said photographs are reproduced hereunder;





The said photographs would show that even nameboards of a jewellery with LED lights are also placed on the arches already erected in Thekkinkad Maidan.

10. The submission of the learned Standing Counsel for Cochin Devaswom Board is that those nameboards of the jewellery have already been removed. The document marked as Annexure A14 is a report dated 10.07.2025 of the Devaswom Manager, Sree Vadakkumnathan Devaswom to the Assistant Commissioner (Estate), wherein it is stated that the advertisements have been removed on 04.07.2025.

11. The learned Standing Counsel for Cochin Devaswom Board would submit that the advertisement boards on all the ten places have already been erected by the Temple Advisory Committee.

12. The Devaswom Commissioner, Cochin Devaswom Board shall take necessary steps to ensure that proper income is generated by way of exhibiting such advertisements at the places permitted in Annexure A9 order of this Court dated 20.02.2025 in DBA No.3 of 2025. The income generated by way of such advertisements shall be kept separately in the appropriate account as per the rules (bye-laws) framed under Section 76A of the Travancore-Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions Act, 1950, the

appropriate of which shall be subject to further orders to be passed in this DBA. The Board shall ensure that no nameboards with LED lights as seen in the photographs extracted hereinbefore at paragraph 9 are permitted to be exhibited by the Temple Advisory Committee.

List this matter for further consideration on 21.07.2025.

**Sd/-
ANIL K. NARENDRAN, JUDGE**



**Sd/-
MURALEE KRISHNA S., JUDGE**

bkn/-

APPENDIX OF DBA 6/2025

ANENXURE A 9

TRUE COPY OF ORDER DATED 20.2.2025 IN DBA NO. 3/2025 PASSED BY THIS HONOURABLE COURT .

ANNEXURE A 10

TRUE COPY OF APPLICATION DATED 03.07.2025 SUBMITTED BY SREE VADAKKUMNATHA KSHETHRA UPADESHAKA SAMITHI TO THE DEVASWOM MANAGER, VADAKKUMNATHA DEVASWOM ALONG WITH A SKETCH OF ADVERTISEMENT BOARDS SOUGHT TO BE PUT UP.

