

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 18th day of May 2026 / 28th Vaisakha, 1948****DBP NO. 52 OF 2025**

IN THE MATTER OF COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD - COMPLAINT ALLEGING MALADMINISTRATION AND CORRUPTION AT CHOTTANIKKARA - SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED BASED ON A COMPLAINT DATED 24.04.2025 FROM SRI.THAMPY THILAKAN-REG.

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

- 1. STATE OF KERALA**
REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695001.
- 2. COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD**
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, ROUND NORTH,
THRISSUR - 680001.
- 3. COMMISSIONER**
COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD, SWARAJ ROUND NORTH,
ROUND NORTH, THRISSUR, PIN-680 001
- 4. THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER**
CHOTTANIKKARA DEVASWOM, CHOTTANIKKARA P.O.,
ERNAKULAM, PIN-682312



5. **DEVASWOM MANAGER**
CHOTTANIKKARA BHAGAVATHI TEMPLE, CHOTTANIKKARA P.O.,
ERNAKULAM, PIN-682312
6. **THE TEMPLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, CHOTTANIKKARA TEMPLE COMPOUND,
CHOTTANIKKARA P.O., ERNAKULAM, PIN-682312
***ADDL.R7 & R8 IMPLEADED**
7. **THE CHOTTANIKKARA GRAMA PANCHAYAT,**
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, CHOTTANIKKARA P.O.,
ERNAKULAM DISTRICT – 682312
8. **THE DISTRICT TOWN PLANNER,**
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT TOWN PLANNER, LSGD PLANNING,
DPC SECRETARIAT BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, CIVIL STATION, KAKKANAD,
ERNAKULAM – 682030
***ARE SUO MOTU IMPLEADED AS ADDITIONAL RESPONDENTS 7 AND 8 AS PER**
ORDER DATED 10/09/2025 IN DBP.NO.52/2025.
***ADDL.R9 TO R11 IMPLEADED**
9. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,**
SUCHITWA MISSION, DEPARTMENT OF LSGD, PUBLIC OFFICE BUILDING,
3RD FLOOR, REVENUE COMPLEX, LMS, VELLAYAMBALAM ROAD,
UNIVERSITY OF KERALA SENATE HOUSE CAMPUS, PALAYAM,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695033
10. **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,**
MARAMATH WING, COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD, CDB HEAD QUARTERS,
SWARAJ ROUND NORTH, THRISSUR - 680001
11. **ASSISTANT ENGINEER,**
CHOTTANIKKARA DEVASWOM, CHOTTANIKKARA, KOCHI - 682 312
***ARE SUO MOTU IMPLEADED AS ADDL.RESPONDENTS 9 TO 11 VIDE ORDER**
DATED 19.09.2025 IN DBP 52/2025.

***ADDL.R12 IMPEADED**

12. THE SPECIAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT,
LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

*IS SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDL.R12 VIDE ORDER DATED 26.11.2025
IN DBP.NO.52/2025

BY SRI.S.RAJMOHAN, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER

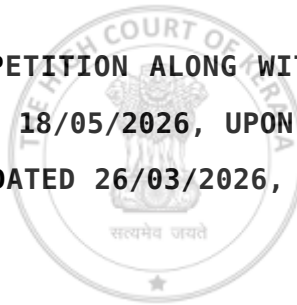
BY SRI.K.P.SUDHEER, SC, COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD

BY M/S.T MADHU, C.R.SARADAMANI, B.S.SURAJ KRISHNA, AVANTHIKA R.,
KARTHIK KRISHNA M., ARUNIMA A.R. and T.S.DAVIS,

Advocates for R6

BY SRI.VINEETH KOMALACHANDRAN & SRI.NIRMAL S., Advocates for R7

THE DEVASWOM BOARD PETITION ALONG WITH CONNECTED CASES HAVING
COME UP FOR ORDERS AGAIN ON 18/05/2026, UPON PERUSING THE PETITION AND
THIS COURT'S COMMON ORDER DATED 26/03/2026, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY
PASSED THE FOLLOWING:



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

**DBP Nos. 52 and 64 of 2025 and
WP(C) No. 32689 of 2023**

Dated this the 18th day of May, 2026

ORDER

Raja Vijayaraghavan V, J.

When the matter was taken up for consideration, the Nodal Officer, the Assistant Engineer, and the Devaswom Manager appeared before this Court and apprised us of the steps presently being undertaken for improving the waste management and sanitation facilities within the temple premises.

2. The Nodal Officer submitted that, pursuant to the directions issued by this Court and in strict compliance with the provisions contained in the Technical Manual on Solid Waste Management issued by the Suchitwa Mission, a comprehensive Detailed Project Report has already been prepared for establishing an effective and scientifically managed waste treatment system within the temple premises. It is stated that e-tenders have been invited for the construction of infrastructure facilities, including a shed for the Organic Waste Converter (OWC) Plant, Thumboormuzhi Model Aerobic Compost Units, and a Material Recovery Facility (MRF), at an estimated project cost of ₹20,70,000/-. It is further submitted that the Cochin Devaswom Board has taken a decision to issue the work order to the successful contractor so that the project can be implemented without further delay.

3. It is further submitted that parallel steps have also been initiated for the construction of a retaining wall on the southern and eastern sides of the proposed Waste Treatment Facility at an estimated cost of ₹36,90,000/-, with a view to ensuring the structural safety and long-term sustainability of the project. With regard to the supply, installation and commissioning of the Organic Waste Converter Machine, it is submitted that no bids were initially received pursuant to the earlier tender notification and, therefore, the authorities were constrained to undertake a re-tendering process. The tenders pursuant to the re-notification are scheduled to be opened on 02.06.2026.

4. Smt. Resmi. A, learned counsel appearing for the complainant, submitted that certain devotees arriving from outside the State are continuing to engage in cooking activities using gas cylinders within the temple premises, thereby creating safety concerns as well as sanitation related issues. The learned counsel further submitted that several portions of the temple premises continue to remain unclean despite the earlier directions issued by this Court regarding maintenance and sanitation.

5. The Nodal Officer, the Assistant Engineer and the Devaswom Manager assured this Court that every possible effort would be taken to ensure that the temple premises are maintained in a clean, hygienic and orderly manner befitting the sanctity of the temple and the large number of devotees visiting the premises daily. They further submitted that necessary steps would also be taken to address the issues highlighted by the learned counsel for the complainant.

Post on 25.05.2026, on which day Smt. Resmi. A, learned counsel for the complainant, shall place before this Court the relevant materials, if any, to substantiate the allegation that the temple premises are not being maintained in a clean and hygienic condition in spite of the directions issued by this Court.

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

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

APM

