

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V
&
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE K. V. JAYAKUMAR
Wednesday, the 7th day of January 2026 / 17th Pousha, 1947**

DBP NO. 67 OF 2025

**IN THE MATTER OF COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD - REPORT NO.57/2025 IN PETITION NO.16/2025 - SEEKING APPROVAL FOR THE ESTIMATE FOR THE REPAIR OF MAIN BLOCK (H BLOCK) OF SREE KERALA VARMA COLLEGE , THRISSUR - SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED
- REG:**

PETITIONER:

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

RESPONDENT:

**THE SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR,
KERALA STATE AUDIT DEPARTMENT, COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD AUDIT,
THRISSUR**

**BY SRI.S.RAJMOHAN, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER
BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD
BY SRI.P.RAMACHANDRAN, AMICUS CURIAE FOR OMBUDSMAN**

THE DEVASWOM BOARD PETITION HAVING COME UP FOR ORDERS AGAIN ON 07/01/2026, UPON PERUSING THE PETITION AND THIS COURT'S ORDER DATED 27/11/2025, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING.

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

DBP No. 67 of 2025

Dated this the 7th day of January, 2026

ORDER

Raja Vijayaraghavan V, J.

This matter relates to the repair and conservation of the Main Block (H Block) of Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur, Kerala.

2. By order dated 27.11.2025, this Court had, in paragraph 17, observed and directed as follows:

“17. In these circumstances, we direct the Cochin Devaswom Board to engage a qualified Architect, or to utilise the expertise of the Maramath Wing, to prepare a preliminary structural and architectural condition assessment forthwith. A comprehensive structural audit shall be conducted by a qualified Structural Engineer, mapping the grade of deterioration, the condition of the roof and rafters, the load-bearing capacity of the walls, and termite-induced damage. The Engineer shall also prepare proper architectural documentation, including a roof plan with a tile-condition assessment. Material specifications for timber, roofing materials, purlins and bracings, painting systems, and all other components shall be clearly set out, along with a detailed conservation plan. A detailed estimate and Bill of Quantities shall thereafter be prepared covering timber rafters, tiles, tile-laying techniques, fasteners, scaffolding, labour, dismantling and disposal charges, contingencies, and conservation

charges. As far as possible, the structural authenticity and heritage character of the building shall be maintained. Only after the above exercise is completed may the work be tendered to a competent contractor skilled in the restoration of old and heritage structures. If the condition assessment and Bill of Quantities are properly prepared, the Maramath Wing can themselves oversee the execution and take the work to its logical completion.”

3. When the matter is taken up today, the learned counsel appearing for the Cochin Devaswom Board submits that, as per proceedings dated 24.12.2025, sanction has been accorded to M/s DD Architects to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR), incorporating details of the existing timber used in the roof, an assessment of the structural stability of the walls, specifications of timber proposed for renovation, materials for roof repairs, painting, and other allied works.

4. It is further submitted that upon receipt of the work order, M/s DD Architects, by communication dated 05.01.2026, requested that the preparation of the DPR be entrusted to INTACH, Thrissur, which is stated to be one of the largest non-governmental organisations in the country engaged in heritage conservation. It is also pointed out that INTACH includes former students of the college as well as professionals with experience in conservation work.

5. It appears that, in tune with the above suggestion, nine Architects and Engineers associated with INTACH have visited the college and carried out

an initial condition assessment of the Main Block. They have indicated that a detailed condition assessment report, highlighting the extent of damage and proposing appropriate conservation solutions, would be required.

6. As a preliminary step, it has been decided to undertake comprehensive documentation of the structure. On inspection, it was noticed that the maintenance of the building is poor and that the present condition poses a potential risk to the safety of students and teachers. INTACH has sought a period of five months for submitting the detailed report and has requested a sum of ₹5,00,000/-, with 50% payable as advance, towards expenses for the preparation of the DPR.

7. The learned Standing Counsel appearing for the Devaswom Board submits that, having regard to the nature of the work and the need to preserve Kerala Varma College in its pristine and heritage character, the Board would consider the proposal of INTACH, Thrissur. He seeks an adjournment of two weeks to place the decision of the Board and a further report in this matter before this Court.

Post on 23.01.2026.

Sd/-
RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V
JUDGE

Sd/-
K. V. JAYAKUMAR
JUDGE

msh