

**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 18th day of June 2026 / 28th Jyaishta, 1948
WP(C) NO. 40608 OF 2025(A)**

PETITIONER:

- 1. SUO MOTU AS PER THE ORDER DATED 21.10.2025 IN SSCR 23/2025 REGARDING THE HEIST AND PLUNDERING OF GOLD FROM THE GOLD-CLADDED DWARAPALAKAS PLACED ON EITHER SIDE OF THE SREEKOVIL, SABARIMALA., PIN - 682031**

RESPONDENTS:

- 1. THE STATE OF KERALA REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM , PIN - 695001**
- 2. THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, NANTHANCOD, KAWDIAR POST, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003**
- 3. THE CHIEF VIGILANCE AND SECURITY OFFICER (SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE) TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM HEAD QUARTERS, NANTHANCOD, KAWDIAR POST, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003**
- 4. THE STATE POLICE CHIEF POLICE HEAD QUARTERS, VAZHUTHACAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695010**
- 5. THE SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR KERALA STATE AUDIT DEPARTMENT, TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003**

BY Advs.

SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PLEADER FOR R1 & R4

**S.SREEKUMAR (SR.) along with SHRI.G.BIJU, STANDING COUNSEL FOR
R2, R3 & R5**

This petition again coming on for orders upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C) and this court's order dated 08/06/2026, the court passed the following:

THURSDAY, THE 18TH DAY OF JUNE 2026

WP(C) No. 40608 of 2025

SUO MOTU

VS

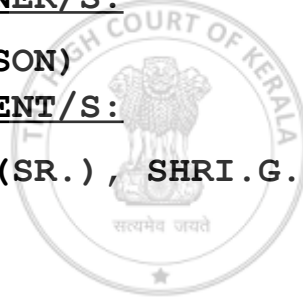
THE STATE OF KERALA & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

SUO MOTU (IN PERSON)

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

SRI.S.SREEKUMAR (SR.) , SHRI.G.BIJU, SC, TRAVANCORE
DEVASWOM BOARD



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

W.P.(C) No. 40608 OF 2025

Dated this the 18th day of June, 2026

ORDER**Raja Vijayaraghavan V, J.**

Today, when the matter was taken up, Sri. S. Sasidharan, IPS, Investigating Officer of the Special Investigation Team (SIT), appeared in person and placed before us a progress report in connection with Crime Nos. 3700/CB/CU-IV/TVPM/D/2025 and 3701/CB/CU-IV/TVPM/D/2025.

2. We have carefully gone through the investigation report and the materials placed before us. We find that, after the receipt of the analysis report from the National Metallurgical Laboratory and on the basis of the scientific inputs emerging therefrom, the focus of the investigation was narrowed and directed towards the transactions connected with the gold-plating of the Dwarapalaka idols in the year 2025. The records seized by the Investigation Team disclose a clear sequence of events leading to the removal of the Dwarapalaka idols from the Sannidhanam. Such sequence is borne out from the documents seized during the course of investigation, the communications exchanged among the accused persons, and the various decisions, orders and proceedings of the Board which ultimately facilitated the transportation and removal of the idols for the purpose of gold-plating. The Investigating Officer has informed us that substantial and

convincing materials have already been gathered indicating the involvement of the accused persons in the transactions.

3. It is submitted that the aspect of criminal conspiracy and the larger circumstances surrounding the transaction are presently under investigation. It is further submitted that the role played by certain officers of the Board who were holding responsible positions at the Sabarimala Temple during the relevant period is also being examined in detail, so as to ascertain whether they had any active involvement, direct or indirect, in the decision-making process that culminated in the removal and transportation of the idols and plates to Chennai for gold-plating.

4. On a query from us, the Investigating Officer submitted that the investigation has now reached its final stages. According to him, a comprehensive report detailing the extent of involvement of the persons concerned, the role of each accused in the transactions relating to the transportation and gold-plating of the Dwarapalaka idols in the year 2025, and the precise role played by the officials and employees connected with the transaction, will be placed before this Court on 29.06.2026. It is further submitted that, on the said date, the Investigating Officer shall also indicate the time required for completing the remaining formalities and for filing the final report before the jurisdictional court.

5. Having regard to the nature and gravity of the allegations, the significance of the issues involved, and the time already granted to the investigating agency, we are of the considered view that sufficient time has already been granted to carry the investigation forward and bring it to its logical

conclusion. Though the transactions under investigation are stated to span several decades and involve the examination of a large volume of records and materials, we are firmly of the opinion that the proceedings cannot be permitted to linger indefinitely. The interests of justice demand that the investigation be concluded within a reasonable timeframe and with due expedition.

6. In the above circumstances, and taking note of the submission that the investigation has substantially progressed and is nearing completion, we grant a final opportunity to the Head of the Special Investigation Team to place before this Court, on or before 29.06.2026, a comprehensive report setting out the involvement of the accused persons in connection with the removal and transportation of the Dwarapalaka idols and plates in the year 2025, the role played by the officials and employees concerned, and the specific timeframe within which the final report is proposed to be laid before the jurisdictional court. We make it clear that the investigation shall proceed with utmost diligence and seriousness and that all necessary steps shall be taken to ensure that the matter reaches its logical conclusion without any further undue delay.

Post on 29.06.2026.

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

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

PS/18/06/26