

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM  
PRESENT  
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V  
&  
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE K. V. JAYAKUMAR  
Tuesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June 2026 / 2nd Ashadha, 1948**

**DBP NO. 42 OF 2026**

**IN THE MATTER OF TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD - REQUEST FOR VIGILANCE ENQUIRY INTO SUSPECTED MISAPPROPRIATION OF GOLD PLATINGS ON THE "EZHARAPPONNANA" AND ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF TEMPLE PROPERTIES OF ETTUMANOOR MAHADEVA TEMPLE - SOU MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED BASED ON COMPLAINT BY SRI.A.G.PRASAD KUMAR -REG.**

**PETITIONER:**

**SUO MOTU**

**RESPONDENTS:**

- 1. STATE OF KERALA  
REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,  
REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIATE,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001**
- 2. THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD  
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR P.O.,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN-695003**
- 3. THE DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER  
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR P.O.,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003**

**BY SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER**

**BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD (BY ORDER)**

**THE DEVASWOM BOARD PETITION HAVING COME UP FOR ORDERS AGAIN ON 23/06/2026, UPON PERUSING THE PETITION AND THIS COURT'S ORDER DATED 10/06/2026, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING.**

TUESDAY, THE 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2026

DBP No. 42 of 2026

SUO MOTU

VS

STATE OF KERALA & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

NIL

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

SHRI.G.BIJU, SC, TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD



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

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**DBP No. 42 of 2026**  
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**Dated this the 23rd day of June, 2026**

**ORDER**

**Raja Vijayaraghavan V, J.**

The instant complaint is filed by a devotee, by name, A.G. Prasad Kumar, alleging that recently repair and renovation works were carried out on the gold plates covering the "Ezharaponnana" at the Ettumanoor Mahadeva Temple. It is further alleged that, during the course of such works, the original gold plates were removed and replaced with copper or other low-value metals. The complainant seeks initiation of a Vigilance investigation into the said allegations.

2. An affidavit has been filed by the 2nd respondent. Along with the said affidavit, the report of the Administrative Officer and that of the Assistant Devaswom Commissioner have been produced as Annexures R2(a) and R2(b), respectively.

3. In Annexure R2(a), it is stated that all relevant registers were duly inspected and cross-checked, and that inquiries were conducted with the concerned officers, based on which it was concluded that there are no records indicating any maintenance work on the Ezharaponnana or any misappropriation. A similar stand has been taken by the Assistant Devaswom Commissioner.

4. Though there is no reason to disbelieve the assertions made in the reports of the Administrative Officer and the Assistant Devaswom Commissioner, this Court is of the view that a direction can be issued to the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer, Travancore Devaswom Board, to inspect the temple registers as well as the Ezharapponnana and to submit a report before this Court containing his opinion and findings on the allegations.

5. During the course of such inquiry, the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer shall also avail the services of a Smith so that the weight, quality, and originality of the gold are duly examined.

Post on 31.07.2026.



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

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

**APPENDIX OF DBP 42/2026**

- Annexure R2(a)** True copy of the report No.125 submitted by the Administrative Officer, Travancore Devaswom Board before the Assistant Devaswom Commissioner, Ettumanoor dated Nil
- Annexure R2(b)** True copy of the report No.768 dated 2.4.2026 submitted by the Assistant Devaswom Commissioner, Travancore Devaswom Board before the Assistant Law Officer, Travancore Devaswom Board

