

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 8th day of January 2026 / 18th Pousha, 1947

IA.NO.1/2026 IN SSCR NO. 33 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD - SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER REPORT - SM.NO. 33/2025 - REPORT ABOUT THE LETTER SUBMITTED BY THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD SEEKING EXTENSION OF TIME TO SUBMIT AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF GLOBAL AYYAPPA SANGHAMAM CONDUCTED AT PAMBA ON 20.09.25 - SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED - REG:

APPLICANTS/RESPONDENTS 2 TO 4:

1. TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD

REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, NANTHANCODE,
KAWDIAR POST, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695003

2. DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER

TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, DEVASWOM BUILDINGS,
NANTHANCODE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 005

3. EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SABARIMALA, SABARIMALA P.O., PATHANAMTHITTA-689 662

RESPONDENTS/PETITIONER & 1ST RESPONDENT:

1. SUO MOTU

2. STATE OF KERALA

REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695001

Application praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed therewith the High Court be pleased to extend the time granted by this Hon'ble Court by order dated 07.11.2025 for the preparation and submission of a comprehensive and foolproof Income and Expenditure Statement by one month in the interest of justice.

This Application coming on for orders, upon perusing the application and this court's final order dated 07/11/2025, the affidavit filed in support thereof, and upon hearing the arguments of Sri.S.Rajmohan, Senior Government Pleader, Standing Counsel for Travancore Devaswom Board and Smt.Sayujya Radhakrishnan, Amicus Curiae for Sabarimala Special Commissioner, the court passed the following:



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

SSCR No. 33 of 2025

Dated this the 08th day of January, 2026

ORDER

Raja Vijayaraghavan V, J.

I.A. No. 1 of 2026

By order dated 11.09.2025 in WP(C) No. 32854 of 2025 and connected cases, this Court issued the following direction in paragraph No. 25(f):

"f) The respondents shall maintain clear, detailed, and transparent accounts reflecting the total estimated cost of the event, including accommodation and travel expenses, together with the contributions received from sponsors. Such accounts shall be subject to audit, and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the Special Commissioner within forty-five (45) days of the event, for placement before this Hon'ble Court along with a report."

2. Later, by order dated 07.11.2025 in SSCR No. 33 of 2025, this Court, having regard to the submissions advanced, granted an extension of 45 days to comply with the directions.

3. An application seeking further extension of time has now been filed. In paragraph Nos. 4 and 5, it has been stated as under:

"4. It is respectfully submitted that the files relating to the "Agola Ayyappa Sangamam 2025" were handed over to the Chartered Accountant of the Travancore Devaswom Board for the purpose of preparing the Income and Expenditure Statement connected with the said programme. The Chartered Accountant, however, returned the files along with a letter raising certain queries. In the said letter, it has been specifically stated that the Indian Institute of Infrastructure and Construction (IIIC) has not submitted the complete bills pertaining to the programme and that, without the complete and revised bills, the audit and preparation of the Income and Expenditure Statement cannot be completed.

5. On receipt of the above intimation from the Chartered Accountant, necessary communications were issued to the Indian Institute of Infrastructure and Construction (IIIC), directing them to submit the complete and revised bills at the earliest to the Chartered Accountant so as to enable completion of the audit process without further delay. In response, Indian Institute of Infrastructure and Construction (IIIC) submitted another set of bills and vouchers vide letter dated 23.12.2025, which were presented to the Chartered Accountant firm for verification. The verification report is yet to be received by the Board and a further period of one month is required to prepare and submit a comprehensive and foolproof Income and Expenditure statement to the Special Commissioner. "

4. Sri. G. Biju, learned Standing Counsel, submitted that the report, as directed by this Court, will be placed before the Special Commissioner within an outer limit of one month. He further submitted that there has been no wilful laches on the part of the Board and that the delay in complying with the directions was occasioned solely due to the reasons stated earlier.

5. We deprecate the delay on the part of the Board in placing the audited accounts before the Special Commissioner. We are not satisfied with the explanation offered by the Board for such delay. However, in view of the

submission made by the learned Standing Counsel that the accounts will be placed before the Special Commissioner within an outer limit of one month, we are of the view that one further opportunity can be granted in the interests of justice.

6. In that view of the matter, the time granted for submitting the details as narrated in paragraph 25(f) of the interim order is extended by a further period of one month from today. It is made clear that no further extension shall be granted under any circumstances, and in the event of failure to file the reports within the extended period, appropriate action for violation of the directions of this Court shall be initiated against the concerned respondents.



Sd/-
RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V,
JUDGE

Sd/-
K.V. JAYAKUMAR,
JUDGE

APM