

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 6<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025 / 14th Aswina, 1947

SSCR NO. 23 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD - SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER  
REPORT - SM.NO.23/2025 - REPORT REGARDING DETACHING OF GOLD COVERING OF  
'DWARAPALAKA IDOLS' ON EITHER SIDE OF SREEKOVIL WITHOUT INTIMATING COURT - SUO  
MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED - REG.

**PETITIONER:**

SUO MOTU

**RESPONDENTS:**

1. STATE OF KERALA  
REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,  
REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695001
2. THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY,  
NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR POST, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 003
3. THE DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER  
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, DEVASWOM BUILDINGS, NANTHANCODE,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695003
4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
SABARIMALA, SABARIMALA P.O., PATHANAMTHITTA - 689 662
5. CHIEF VIGILANCE & SECURITY OFFICER ( SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE)  
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM HEAD QUARTERS, NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR POST,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 003

**\*ADDL.R6 IMPEADED**

6. THE THIRUVABHARANAM COMMISSIONER,  
THIRUVABHARANAM OFFICE, ARANMULA, PATHANAMTHITTA, PIN- 689 533  
\*IS SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDITIONAL 6TH RESPONDENT VIDE ORDER  
DATED 10/09/2025 IN SSCR.NO.23/2025

**\*ADDL.R7 & R8 IMPEADED**

7. MR. UNNIKRISHNAN POTTY,  
NO. 27, SANKALP NRUSIMHA, SRIRAMAPURAM, BANGALORE,  
KARNATAKA- 560021
8. SMART CREATIONS,  
K34 1ST SECTOR, 10TH STREET, AMBATTUR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,  
AMBATTUR, CHENNAI, PIN- 600058

**\*ARE SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDITIONAL RESPONDENTS 7 AND 8 VIDE  
ORDER DATED 12/09/2025 IN SSCR.NO.23/2025**

**\*ADDL.R9 & R10 IMPEADED**

9. SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KERALA STATE AUDIT DEPARTMENT, TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 695003
10. STATE OF KERALA,  
REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,  
REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 695001

**\*ARE SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDITIONAL RESPONDENTS 9 AND 10 VIDE  
ORDER DATED 15.09.2025 IN SSCR NO. 23/2025**

**BY SRI.S.RAJMOHAN, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER**

**BY SRI.G.BIJU, SC, TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD**

**BY SMT.SAYUJYA RADHAKRISHNAN, AMICUS CURIAE FOR SABARIMALA  
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER**

**BY M/S.R.SUDHISH AND M.MANJU, Advocates for Addl.R7**

**BY ADVS.K.B.PRADEEP, KHEMA ELIZABETH SAMUEL &  
ANEETA NIRMAL MAMEN FOR ADDL.R8**

**THIS SABARIMALA SPECIAL COMMISSIONER REPORT HAVING COME UP FOR  
ORDERS AGAIN ON 06/10/2025, UPON PERUSING THE REPORT AND THIS COURT'S  
ORDER DATED 29/09/2025 (ORDER NO.1 & 2), THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY  
PASSED THE FOLLOWING:**

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

-----  
**SSCR No. 23 of 2025**  
-----

**Dated this the 06<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025**

**ORDER**

**Raja Vijayaraghavan V, J.**

A submission was made by the learned Standing Counsel appearing for the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) that SSCR No. 23 of 2025, which case had not been listed today, be taken up, as vital information has been received by the Chief Vigilance & Security Officer (Superintendent of Police), Travancore Devaswom.

2. In terms of the request made by the learned Standing Counsel, the matter was taken up.

3. We have heard the learned Standing Counsel appearing for the TDB, the learned counsel appearing for additional respondent Nos. 7 and 8, the learned amicus curiae and the learned Government Pleader.

4. The above Sabarimala Special Commissioner Report (SSCR) originated on the basis of a report filed by the Special Commissioner, concerning the removal of gold-cladded copper coverings of the "Dwarapalaka Idols" located on either side of the Sreekovil, without prior intimation to the Special Commissioner.

5. In our order dated 10.09.2025, after considering the submissions of the parties, we had observed that, in light of the earlier order dated 30.06.2023 in SSCR No. 13 of 2023, which mandates the obtaining of prior sanction, the action of the Board in detaching the gold-cladded copper coverings without prior intimation to the Special Commissioner and without seeking appropriate orders from this Court constituted an unwarranted and irregular exercise of authority. We had further observed that the requirement of giving prior written intimation to the Special Commissioner is not a mere procedural formality, but a vital safeguard intended to ensure adequate checks and balances. Such a measure is designed to guarantee that temple property is duly protected and not subjected to waste, misuse, or loss.

6. Accordingly, this Court had suo motu impleaded the Thiruvabharanam Commissioner as an additional respondent and directed the Devaswom Commissioner, the Executive Officer, and the Thiruvabharanam Commissioner to show cause why proceedings should not be initiated against them for wilful violation of the binding directions of this Court. We had also ordered the immediate cessation of the repair works being carried out at the 8th respondent concern, under the sponsorship of Sri. Unnikrishnan Potty, and issued further directions for the sacred Dwarapalakas to be re-transported to the Sannidhanam.

7. To rule out any possibility of malpractice, we had directed the respondents to produce before this Court the complete files and records relating to the repair of the gold-cladded Dwarapalaka Idols. Little did we

realise, while issuing such directions, that we were in fact opening a hornet's nest.

8. On 12.09.2025, when the matter was taken up for consideration, we noted upon a detailed perusal of the records that the Thiruvabharanam Commissioner had, by communication dated 30.07.2025, addressed to the Executive Officer, stated that the copper plates covering the Dwarapalakas were already gold-coated and that Smart Creations, Chennai, lacked the technical expertise to remove the existing coating. The Thiruvabharanam Commissioner had further opined that the work could only be executed by adopting traditional methods and, based on the estimate prepared by the Devaswom Smith, approximately 303 grams of gold would be required for the purpose. However, we observed that within a span of eight days, i.e., on 08.08.2025, the Thiruvabharanam Commissioner completely reversed his earlier stance following further discussions with the sponsor. He issued a subsequent communication recommending that the gold-cladded components be transported to Smart Creations, Chennai, for electroplating, and further requested that an emergent meeting be convened to take a decision on the same. In this context, we also came across a letter dated 21.08.2025 issued by the Thiruvabharanam Commissioner, wherein reference is made to the directions issued by the President of the Travancore Devaswom Board to expedite the gold-plating work as agreed to be undertaken by the sponsor. We noted with concern that the higher officers of the Travancore Devaswom Board had conveniently disregarded the binding stipulation contained in page No. 152 of the Travancore Devaswom Board

Sub Group Manual, which unequivocally mandates that repair works of the nature involved in the instant case shall be carried out within the Sannidhanam itself. In the same order, we had also referred to an e-mail dated 02.10.2024, purportedly issued by one C.K. Vasudevan, bearing the e-mail ID ckconstructions789@gmail.com, and seen to have been sent by the 7th respondent. In the said communication, the 7th respondent sought permission to dismantle the Dwarapalaka Idols for applying an additional layer of gold-coating. Significantly, the 7th respondent further requested the Devaswom Board to hand over “the former pair of gold-coated, similar Dwarapalakar idols which are kept idly in the strong room, for extracting the gold coated on them, which will in turn minimise the total expenditure” (sic). It was also offered that the same pair of idols would be returned after the extraction process.

9. In view of the serious nature of these disclosures emerging from the communications on record, we directed the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer (Superintendent of Police) to seize all relevant files and records pertaining to the gold-plating or gold-cladding of the Dwarapalakas, the door lintel, the Lakshmi Roopam, and the Kamanam, commencing from the date of the original cladding, whenever that may have been.

10. The matter was thereafter taken up on 15.09.2025, on which day we noticed that Communication No. R.O.C.3624/95/M dated 04.05.1999 had been issued by the Secretary of the Travancore Devaswom Board, granting permission to the Divisional Engineer to fix gold-cladded

Dwarapalakas at the entrance of the Sreekovil. However, at that stage, the concerned officers were unable to trace any records pertaining to the said proceedings. Curiously enough, it appeared that the Board officials had conveniently overlooked the fact that the copper plates in question had already been gold-cladded and affixed in accordance with the said order of 1999. This omission became more apparent upon our examination of the General Mahazar prepared on 19.07.2019, which recorded that Sri. Unnikrishnan Potty had approached the Travancore Devaswom Board seeking permission, at his own sponsorship, to undertake the gold-plating of the Dwarapalaka Idols. Pursuant thereto, an order dated 05.07.2019 had been issued granting such permission. It was in the presence of the Thiruvabharanam Commissioner, the Executive Officer, Sabarimala Devaswom, the Administrative Officer, the Thanthri of the Sabarimala Temple, the Executive Engineer, the Assistant Executive Engineer, and the Devaswom Smith that the gold-cladded copper plates were removed and entrusted to Sri. Unnikrishnan Potty directly. Astonishingly, the said Mahazar referred to the “gold-cladded plates” merely as “copper plates,” making no mention whatsoever of the existing gold coating. We had observed that this was highly unusual and clearly indicative of irregularities, warranting a thorough and detailed enquiry. Accordingly, in order to ascertain the true facts and circumstances, we directed the Superintendent of Police to seize and produce before this Court all relevant records, including the Mahazars, disclosing the following particulars—

- (i) The quantity of gold used in the year 1999 for cladding the

Dwarapalakas, together with the name and details of the sponsor and the artisan who executed the work;

- (ii) The quantity of gold used in the year 2019 for the subsequent plating;
- (iii) The quantity of gold proposed or utilised for the ongoing process in 2025;
- (iv) The manner in which gold was recovered and reused, along with all associated records; and
- (v) Details concerning the second set of Dwarapalakas and Peedam, stated to be retained in the strong room.

11. On 17.09.2025, when the matter was taken up, the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer (Superintendent of Police) produced before this Court certain Registers and Mahazars that had been seized. The Mahazar dated 19.07.2019 records that twelve “copper plates,” weighing a total of 25.400 kilograms and covering the Dwarapalakas, were removed and entrusted to the 7th respondent for gold-plating on 19.07.2019. It also records that the Peedams (two in number), on which the Dwarapalakas stood, weighing a total of 17.400 kilograms, were handed over to him on 20.07.2019. Thus, by simple arithmetic, the combined recorded weight of all entrusted items was 42.800 kilograms. The records further revealed that these twelve gold-cladded copper plates and the two Peedams were produced by Sri. Unnikrishnan Potty at Smart Creations only on 29.08.2019, more than one month and nine days after their removal. We also noted that a Mahazar was drawn up at that time in the presence of the Devaswom Smith



and the Superintendent, Thiruvabharanam Commissioner's Office, and was signed by Sri. Unnikrishnan Potty. This Mahazar recorded the total weight of the items as merely 38.258 kilograms, showing a glaring and unexplained reduction of 4.541 kilograms from the weight recorded at Sannidhanam.

12. We had expressed our doubt that the copper plates entrusted by Sri. Unnikrishnan Potty to Smart Creations may, in fact, have been another set of plates altogether. Notably, this reduction in weight was intentionally left unnoticed by the Devaswom officials who were present at the time. After completion of the re-plating, yet another Mahazar was prepared, in which the total weight of the entire items was recorded as 38.653 kilograms, still showing a shortfall of 4.147 kilograms from the original recorded weight of 42.800 kilograms. We also found that a Mahazar was drawn up on 11.09.2019 at the time of refixation of the Dwarapalakas and Peedams in the Sopanam. Astonishingly, the weight of the items refixed was not recorded at all. Such an omission cannot be brushed aside as innocent or inadvertent. When the weights had been scrupulously documented at the time of removal, and again before and after gold-plating, it was incumbent upon the Devaswom officials to record the corresponding weight at the time of refixation as well. This failure, we observed, may not be accidental but deliberate and intended to suppress critical details and conceal discrepancies.

13. We had clearly observed that the unexplained reduction in the weight of the gold-cladded copper plates, the casual and unverified

entrustment of these valuable articles to Sri. Unnikrishnan Potty, the protracted and unjustified delay in their production before the 8th respondent, and the deliberate misdescription of gold-cladded plates as mere “copper plates” in the Mahazars dated 19.07.2019 and 20.07.2019 together reveal a disturbing pattern of callous negligence and probable misconduct. We hence directed the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer (Superintendent of Police) to conduct a comprehensive investigation into every aspect of the matter and to submit a detailed report before this Court within three weeks.

14. The matter was next taken up on 29.09.2025. It was brought to our notice that, on 27.09.2025, a search had been conducted at the residence of one Mini, sister of Sri. Unnikrishnan Potty, and gold-plated Peedams, concealed in a sealed cover, were seized from her house. We were shocked by this revelation and observed that the Devaswom officials are equally, if not more, culpable in the matter. We directed the investigating officer to pursue the inquiry with utmost vigour and to expose every malpractice prevailing at the Sannidhanam.

15. Since it had emerged from the records that no proper inventory was being maintained of the valuables, including gold, silver, precious stones, and articles of antiquity, we deemed it imperative to ensure transparency and accountability. Accordingly, we appointed a learned former Judge of this Court, Justice K.T. Sankaran, to conduct a comprehensive appraisal and to prepare a fully digitised and verifiable inventory of all valuables kept at the Sannidhanam.

16. Today, when the matter was taken up, the Chief Vigilance & Security Officer (Superintendent of Police) has submitted a report dated 06.10.2025, requesting this Court to grant permission to compare the sealed gold-plated Dwarapalakas brought after gold-plating in terms of the orders issued by this Court. It is stated in the report that in the course of the investigation, photographs of the gold-cladded copper plates taken on 19.07.2019 and 20.07.2019 were seized. The aforesaid photographs were compared with the photographs of the Dwarapalakas taken on 07.09.2025. The report further states that there are marked differences between the gold-cladded copper plates as depicted in the photographs from 2019 and 2025. We grant permission to the Officer to carry out the said exercise.

17. The Chief Vigilance and Security Officer (Superintendent of Police) has further produced before us a letter issued by the Manager (Finance), McDowell & Company Ltd., United Breweries Group, addressed to the Secretary, Travancore Devaswom Board, Thiruvananthapuram. The letter details the gold-plating work and specifies the quantum of gold used for the gold-cladding of the Sreekovil of the Sree Ayyappa Swami Temple at Sabarimala. From the said letter, which bears the endorsement of the officers of the Board, we note that, in respect of the two Dwarapalakas in front of the Sreekovil, a total of 1,564.190 grams (1.564 kilograms) of gold was used. The total quantity of gold utilised for the entire gold-cladding project executed through traditional methods, covering (i) the roof of the Sreekovil (including the front and rear arches), (ii) the rain gutter above the Hundi, (iii) the Hundi in front of the Sopanam, (iv) the narrative panels

depicting the story of Lord Ayyappa on both sides of the Sreekovil, (v) the front door of the Sreekovil and the arch above it, (vi) the two Dwarapalakas in front of the Sreekovil, (vii) three Ghanadwarams (Kamakudam), (viii) the side beadings and eight surrounding pillars, and (ix) five Kalasams, including those of Kannimoola Ganapathy and Nagaraja (handed over to the officer-in-charge at Sabarimala) is recorded as 30,291 grams. This document conclusively establishes that the Dwarapalakas handed over by the Devaswom Board to Sri. Unnikrishnan Potty had been cladded with 1.564 kilograms of gold, and were therefore not mere “copper plates,” as inaccurately described in the Mahazar dated 19.07.2019. This revelation fundamentally alters the complexion of the case and brings within its fold the ingredients of the offences of theft, criminal misappropriation and criminal breach of trust. The reduction in the recorded weight of approximately 4.5 kilograms when the items were returned after “gold-plating” is a matter of extreme gravity. In view of these findings, we observed that accountability must be fixed, and appropriate action initiated against all responsible. It can now be unmistakably concluded that the gold-cladding executed through traditional methods in 1998–99, sponsored by the United Breweries Group, utilised more than 1.5 kilograms of gold for the Dwarapalakas alone. Our earlier apprehension that the items refixed at the Sannidhanam were a different set of copper plates, now appears fully justified in light of the foregoing facts. There also appears to be a distinct and grave possibility that the original gold-cladded Dwarapalakas were disposed of to a willing purchaser for a substantial monetary consideration,

and that the proceeds thereof were misappropriated by those responsible for the fraud. Only a detailed, meticulous, and professionally conducted investigation can unravel the full extent of the wrongdoing and bring to light all facets of this matter.

18. Yet another shocking revelation that has come to our notice is an e-mail dated 09.12.2019, issued by the additional 7th respondent from the e-mail ID "vichu\_vt@yahoo.com." The said e-mail is addressed to the President of the Travancore Devaswom Board. Pertinently, this communication appears to have been sent after the refixation of the gold-plated Dwarapalakas on 11.08.2019. The contents of the e-mail read as follows:

" Respected Sir,

I am Unnikrishnan Potty residing in bangalore. I would like to inform you that, I have some gold balance in my hand after finishing the gold work of sabarimala sanctum sanctorum main door and dwaraplakar's. I would like to use it for a girl's marriage who needs support and genuine, in coordination with travancore devaswom board. Please give your valuable opinion in this regard."

19. It appears that an endorsement was made by the addressee calling for the reports of the Thiruvabharanam Commissioner and the Executive Officer.

20. Immediately thereafter, in response to the above e-mail, a letter dated 17.12.2019 is seen issued by the Secretary of the Travancore

Devaswom Board, wherein it has been stated as under:

"ശബരിമല ശ്രീകോവിലിലെ വാതിലിനും, ദ്വാരപാലകർക്കും സ്വർണ്ണം പുശിയത് കഴിച്ച് സ്പോൺസറായ ശ്രീ ഉണ്ണികൃഷ്ണൻ പോറ്റിയുടെ വശം നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുള്ള സ്വർണ്ണം തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ദേവസ്വം ബോർഡുമായി സഹകരിച്ച് വിനിയോഗിക്കുന്നതിന് സംബന്ധിച്ച് സൂചനയായി അപേക്ഷ ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. (പകർപ്പ് ഇതോടൊപ്പം അയക്കുന്നു). ആയത് സംബന്ധിച്ച് താങ്കളുടെ അഭിപ്രായം അറിയുവാൻ താൽപ്പര്യപ്പെടുന്നു."

21. A perusal of the e-mail dated 09.12.2019, read in conjunction with the subsequent communication dated 17.12.2019 issued by the Secretary, Travancore Devaswom Board, to the Thiruvabharanam Commissioner, makes it abundantly clear that the 7th respondent was in possession of excess gold remaining from the gold-plating work. The said e-mail reveals that he had, in fact, requested the President of the Travancore Devaswom Board to permit utilisation of the surplus gold for other purposes, including the solemnisation of the marriage of a girl known or related to him. This revelation is deeply disturbing and exposes, yet again, the extent of the impropriety involved. It unmistakably demonstrates the alarming manner in which certain Devaswom officials had acted in concert with Sri. Unnikrishnan Potty, betraying both the sanctity of temple property and the trust reposed in them by the devotees.

22. We have also perused the letter dated 16.10.2024 issued by the 8th respondent, addressed to the Executive Officer, Travancore Devaswom Board, requesting that the Dwarapalaka Peedam be handed over directly to

Sri. Unnikrishnan Potti, Pranavam Nivas, No. 54, Sreeramapuram, Tamil Nadu. As to the insistence made by the 8th respondent to entrust the sacred Dwarapalakas Plates to the 7th respondent is also a matter to be investigated.

23. It is brought to our notice by the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer (Superintendent of Police) that he shall conclude the enquiry and submit a detailed and comprehensive report before this Court on 10.10.2025, covering all aspects of the matter.

24. Having carefully gone through the entire sequence of events, we have no hesitation in holding that the findings recorded by the Vigilance Officer prima facie disclose the commission of several offences under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. We are convinced that a full-fledged and impartial investigation is required to identify and bring to book every person culpable in the matter. The responsibility, in our considered view, does not rest solely with respondent Nos. 7 and 8, but extends also to certain officers of the Travancore Devaswom Board. The communications and records clearly reveal that these officers were privy to the transactions and to the unlawful handing over of gold, in flagrant violation of the provisions contained in the Devaswom Manual. Even more alarming is the fact that the gold-plated articles returned after the 2019 plating were not weighed by the officers concerned. The materials on record make it evident that they were fully aware of both the reduction in the weight of the articles and the prior gold-cladding of the Dwarapalakas in 1998–99. Notwithstanding such

knowledge, the items were again entrusted for gold-plating. In the Mahazar, the articles were misleadingly described as mere “copper plates,” omitting any reference to the original gold cladding, which contained not less than 1.5 kilograms of gold. Having bestowed our anxious consideration upon the entire factual matrix, we are of the considered view that a Special Investigation Team, comprising officers of unquestionable integrity, is indispensable to conduct a thorough and effective probe into the matter.

25. After much deliberation, we are of the view that Sri. H. Venkitesh, ADGP (Law and Order), can be appointed as the Head of the Special Investigation Team that we constitute to investigate all aspects of the matter related to the Dwarapalakas. The investigation shall be carried out by Sri. S. Sasidharan (IPS), Assistant Director (Administration), KEPA, Thrissur, under the supervision of the ADGP. In order to assist the aforesaid team, we hereby direct the State to provide the services of Sri. Aneesh, Inspector of Police, Vakathanam Police Station, Kottayam, Sri. Biju Radhakrishnan, Inspector of Police, Kaippamangalam Police Station, Thrissur Rural and Sri. Sunil Kumar, Assistant Sub Inspector, Cyber Police Station, Thycadu, Thiruvananthapuram. If circumstances warrant, they may seek inputs from the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer (Superintendent of Police), who, according to us, along with his team, has done creditable work to bring out the irregularities.

26. We direct the Special Investigation Team constituted to consider the report submitted by the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer



(Superintendent of Police) and, upon ascertaining the specific offences disclosed therein, to promptly register a crime in accordance with law. The Team shall thereafter conduct a thorough, impartial, and expeditious investigation, employing all resources and expertise at its command, to ensure that the actual perpetrators are brought to justice and that every aspect relating to the Dwarapalakas is fully brought to light. The officers of the Team shall be directly answerable to this Court and shall ensure that the investigation is conducted with utmost discretion and integrity. They shall refrain from divulging any information to the public or the media until the investigation is completed and seek the permission of this Court before filing the final report before the jurisdictional Court. The Special Investigation Team shall formally assume charge of the investigation upon submission of the report by the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer (Superintendent of Police) on 10.10.2025. They shall strive to complete the investigation, expeditiously, at any rate within a period of 6 weeks from the date of commencement of the investigation. They shall be granted access to all the records maintained by the TDB at Sannidhanam and other places, and all cooperation shall be extended to conclude the investigation within the time granted by us.

27. We grant permission to the Chief Vigilance & Security Officer (Superintendent of Police) to open the strong room and unseal the gold-plated Dwarapalakas, for the limited purpose of comparing the same with the photographs which were taken in the year 2019 and prior to the same. Photographs which were handed over by the Chief Vigilance Officer

shall be retained as part of the record.

28. It has been brought to our notice that numerous complaints have been received at various Police Stations across the State seeking registration of crimes. Having already constituted a Special Investigation Team, supervised by the ADGP of Police and carried out by an Officer of the Rank of Superintendent of Police, after registering a crime, we are of the view that it would be appropriate for the team constituted by us to investigate all the aspects of the matter. If complaints are received in any of the Stations in the State of Kerala, the same shall be forwarded to the Special Investigation Team, as it relates to the same incident in respect of the same occurrence by applying the test of sameness.

For further report, list the matter on 10.10.2025.

Sd/-

**RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V,  
JUDGE**

Sd/-

**K.V. JAYAKUMAR,  
JUDGE**

APM