

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 11th day of September 2025 / 20th Bhadra, 1947
WP(C) NO. 32854 OF 2025(F)

PETITIONERS:

1. V.C. AJIKUMAR AGED 48 YEARS . V.C. AJIKUMAR , S/O. CHANDRANKUTTY VETTIKKANAL HOUSE, ERUMELI P.O. KOTTAYAM-, PIN - 686509
2. LOUIS ERUMELY AGED 49 YEARS S/O.DAVID KANDATHIL VEEDU PROPPPOS P.O., ERUMELI KOTTAYAM-, PIN - 686509

RESPONDENTS:

1. STATE OF KERALA REPRESENTED BY ITS CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT KERALA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANATHAPURAM . , PIN - 695001
2. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE (DEVASWOM) KERALA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANATHAPURAM – , PIN - 695001
3. TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY , DEVASWOM HEAD QUARTERS, NANDANCODE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003
4. THE FOREST RANGE OFFICER (SOUGHT TO BE IMPEADED) PAMBA RANGE VALLAKADAVU P.O., VANDIPERIYAR(VIA), (SOUGHT TO BE IMPEADED)

Writ petition (civil) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to restrain the respondents from conducting Global Ayyappa Sangamam as declared by the respondents Scheduled to be held on 20.09.2025 pending disposal of this case.

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 08.09.2025 and upon hearing the arguments of SRI.R.KRISHNA RAJ Advocate for the petitioners, SRI.S.RAJMOHAN, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER & SRI.MANOJ KUMAR N., STATE ATTORNEY for respondents 1 & 2 and of SRI.G.BIJU, STANDING COUNSEL for respondent 3, the court passed the following:

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

**W.P.(C) Nos. 32854, 33325 & 32857 of 2025 &
W.P.(PIL) No. 109 of 2025**

Dated this the 11th day of September, 2025

ORDER

Raja Vijayaraghavan V, J.

A series of writ petitions, including those styled as Public Interest Litigations, have been instituted challenging the decision of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) to conduct a Global Conclave of Ayyappa Devotees, scheduled to be hosted on 20.09.2025.

2. W.P.(C) Nos. 32854 of 2025, 32857 of 2025, and 33325 of 2025 have been filed by devotees and political activists, while W.P.(PIL) No. 109 of 2025 is filed by a party-in-person seeking substantially the same relief. In some of these Writ Petitions, counter-affidavits have already been filed by the State as well as the Devaswom Board. W.P.(C) No.33325 of 2025, however, was instituted only yesterday, and counter affidavits therein are yet to be filed.

3. In view of the urgency canvassed by the learned counsel for the petitioners and noting that pleadings are not yet complete in one of the Writ Petitions, the applications for interim relief are being taken up for consideration at this stage.

4. The petitioners contend that as per the available documents, the purported purpose of the conclave is to bring together Ayyappa devotees from

across the globe in a celebration of divine grace, cultural heritage, and collective devotion, and to foster a deeper spiritual connection among participants through a series of curated events, including discussion forums, cultural presentations, and interactive sessions with eminent leaders and scholars. By referring to the Government order dated 23.08.2025 produced in all these Writ Petitions, it is contended that the decision to host the conclave has been taken at the Government level and the Devaswom Board has been dragged in to provide a religious colour to a purely political event. They contend that the hosting of such a conclave with the stated objective of spreading the message of "Tat Tvam Asi" and presenting Sabarimala before the world as a spiritual, traditional, and sustainable global pilgrim centre falls wholly outside the secular duties of the Government. They contend that, by involving the Devaswom Board in this initiative, the Government is compelling the Board to act in violation of and beyond the scope of the Travancore-Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions Act, 1950 ('The Act' for the sake of brevity). According to the petitioners, the action of the Government in investing public funds for the propagation of "Tat Tvam Asi", a core tenet of the Hindu faith, is patently unconstitutional, as the Government has no authority in law to engage in or promote religious activity. If, on the other hand, the expenditure for the conduct of the summit is drawn from the Devaswom Fund, then such expenditure must necessarily withstand the scrutiny of the provisions of the Act.

5. Inviting the attention of this Court, specifically to Sections 15, 15A, 25, 31, and 33 of the said Act, it is contended that the activities of the Travancore Devaswom Board are strictly confined to the administration and management of

Devaswoms and other Hindu religious institutions, and that there is no statutory authority for the Board to undertake propagation of the Hindu religion by convening or hosting a conclave of this nature or to spend Devaswom funds for such an event as it would contravene the provisions of the Act. It is further submitted that the respondents cannot be permitted to collect funds on behalf of the deity, and, for that matter, not even a single paise collected in the name of the deity can be used for activities not permitted under the provisions of the Act. It is contended that the hosting of the conclave is not within the ambit of the duties of the Board as spelt out under Section 15A of the Act.

6. The petitioners also state that the underlying intention is to convert the sacred pilgrimage to Sabarimala into a form of commercial religious tourism, which, they contend, is impermissible in law. In some writ petitions, serious objections have been raised to the action of the Board and the Minister in charge of Devaswom in extending invitations to the Chief Minister of a neighbouring State, who, according to the petitioners, is a self-proclaimed atheist. It is alleged that the attempt to conduct a summit in the name of Lord Ayyappa is motivated purely by political considerations, and that the Devaswom Board cannot be made a participant in such political designs.

7. The petitioners contend that the action of the State Government and the TDB to host a conclave in the name of "Global Ayyappa Sangamam" constitute a breach of statutory and fiduciary duties owed by the TDB to the deity and the

devotees and thereby infringe upon their fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 21, and 25 of the Constitution of India.

8. In the counter affidavit filed by the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), it is contended that the petitioners have approached this Court with mala fide intent, alleging political motives and oblique considerations. According to the TDB, the Global Ayyappa Sangamam, scheduled to be held on 20.09.2025 at Pampa, is conceived as a unique spiritual, cultural, and developmental conclave organized by the TDB in cooperation with, and with the support of, the Government of Kerala. The event commemorates the Platinum Jubilee of the TDB and is expected to bring together approximately 3,000 Ayyappa devotees from across the globe. It is asserted that the primary objectives of the conclave include the participation of religious scholars and devotees from around the world and the projection of Sabarimala as a Global Pilgrimage Centre. Exhibitions are proposed to be conducted to highlight temple traditions and the 75-year journey of the TDB. The conclave, it is urged, will also provide a structured platform for devotees to interact with the Government and the TDB on matters concerning infrastructural development and pilgrim facilities at Sabarimala.

9. It is further stated that the decision to conduct the Sangamam was taken at the meeting held on 26.05.2025, and thereafter approved by the Government of Kerala vide order dated 23.08.2025, following several rounds of high-level deliberations. For the proper conduct of the event, the Indian Institute of Infrastructure and Construction has been entrusted with organizational

responsibilities. It is stated that the affairs of the Sabarimala Temple are managed with the coordinated support of multiple government departments and statutory authorities to ensure pilgrim welfare. Attention is also drawn to the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament of India, which emphasized the necessity of a comprehensive Master Plan for Sabarimala addressing infrastructure, pilgrim safety, and environmental safeguards. Pursuant to the terms of reference issued by the Government of Kerala, a Master Plan has been prepared, vetted, and approved by the Government. The Master Plan envisages phased development over a period of 50 years, with an estimated outlay of Rs.1,300 Crores.

10. It is stated that the Sangamam is being conducted at Pampa without infringing upon the religious traditions and customs of the Sabarimala Temple or in any manner compromising the sanctity of the pilgrimage. The programmes scheduled under the conclave are intended to advance the sustainable development of Sabarimala in line with the Master Plan, which duty stands vested with the Board under Section 15A of the Travancore-Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions Act, 1950. Registration of participants is facilitated through the "Virtual Q Portal". In the case of foreign pilgrims, only those who have visited Sabarimala twice within the last three years are eligible for registration. It is further highlighted that the principal income of Sabarimala arises from offerings made by devotees and from the auction of "Kutaka rights." Devotees have traditionally contributed funds towards developmental works and pilgrim amenities. To enable transparent collection of such contributions for the Sangamam, a dedicated bank account has been opened in the

Dhanalakshmi Bank in the name of the Devaswom Accounts Officer. The event, it is stated, is expected to catalyse greater contributions and thereby facilitate the implementation of the objectives set forth in the Master Plan.

11. In the counter affidavit filed by respondents 1 and 2, it is asserted that the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) would not be in a position to organize an event of such magnitude without the active support and coordination of multiple government departments. In the said circumstances, a series of high-level meetings were convened and several committees constituted to ensure smooth, efficient, and accountable implementation. It is further stated that extensive preparatory measures have already been undertaken, including the erection of a German-style pandal with a seating capacity of 3,000 participants, the establishment of administrative offices, arrangements for accommodation, parking facilities, and requisite medical support. Special emphasis, it is pointed out, has been placed on adherence to environmental safeguards in recognition of the ecological sensitivity of the Pampa region. It is categorically stated that the event is being funded primarily through sponsorships and voluntary contributions, with measures instituted to maintain transparent accounts, subject to statutory audit, thereby ensuring complete financial accountability. The Sangamam, it is submitted, is thus a legitimate, meticulously planned commemoration of the Platinum Jubilee of the TDB, and a decisive step towards positioning Sabarimala as a Global Pilgrimage Destination.

12. Sri. Krishna Raj, the learned counsel appearing for the petitioners in W.P.(C) Nos. 32854 of 2025 and 32857 of 2025 reiterated the contentions raised in the Writ Petitions. According to the learned counsel, the powers and functions of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) are clearly circumscribed by the provisions of the Act, and in that context, the attempt of the TDB to expend funds for the purpose of celebrating the 75th year of its constitution is patently illegal. It is contended that the proposal to conduct the Global Ayyappa Sangamam is wholly beyond the scope of the duties, powers, and jurisdiction vested in the TDB under law. To underscore his submission that a political event is being masqueraded as a religious conclave, the learned counsel pointed out that political leaders, including those who are avowed atheists, have been invited to participate in the Sangamam. The learned counsel further placed reliance on the statement filed by the Forest Department in D.B.P. No.3 of 2022, and on the orders passed by this Court therein, to contend that convening such a programme on the banks of the sacred river Pampa is not only unwarranted but impermissible. He would also place reliance on the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **S.R. Bommai and Ors. v. Union of India and Ors.**¹, and **Sri. Adi Visheshwara of Kashi Vishwanath Temple v. State of U.P.**², to argue that the State is constitutionally prohibited from intruding into non-secular matters or extending favour to a particular faith for political ends. The learned counsel took strong objection to the action of the respondents, emphasizing that not even a scrap of paper has been produced by the Devaswom

¹ [(1994) 3 SCC 1]

² [(1997) 4 SCC 606]

Board to substantiate that the Board, as constituted under Chapter II of the Act, has ever taken a formal decision to convene the Sangamam.

13. Sri. Sajith Kumar, the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner in W.P.(C) No. 33325 of 2025, reiterated the contentions advanced by Sri. Krishna Raj. According to the learned counsel, a secular authority such as the State Government cannot divert Devaswom funds for purposes unconnected with the Devaswom. He contended that the maintenance and utilization of Devaswom Funds are governed strictly by Sections 24 to 26 of the Travancore-Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions Act, 1950, which mandate that such funds shall be applied only towards customary religious ceremonies or for the benefit of the Hindu community. Any attempt by the respondents to expend Devaswom funds or to collect sponsorships on behalf of the deity for purposes extraneous to the Act, it is urged, would constitute a clear violation of Sections 24 to 26 of the Act. The learned counsel asserted that the proposed Sangamam is nothing but a political event in disguise and, in any event, cannot lawfully be convened on the sacred banks of the river Pampa.

14. We have also heard Sri. Ajeesh Kalathil Gopi, the learned counsel, who contended that this is a fit case where this Court ought to invoke its parens patriae jurisdiction to preserve the holy temple and its sacred precincts. According to the learned counsel, the proposed event runs counter to both the law and the observations of this Court in **Major Vellayani Devi Temple Advisory Committee v. State of Kerala**³, and **Hindu Seva Kendram v. State of Kerala**⁴. It is further

³ [2023 (2) KHC 290]

⁴ [2023 3 KHC 258]

contended that the failure of the TDB to discharge its duties responsibly would not only amount to a serious breach of fiduciary trust but would also represent a transgression of its statutory authority. The learned counsel emphasised that the rights of the petitioner as a devotee, guaranteed under Articles 14, 21, and 25 of the Constitution of India, stand violated by the actions of the respondents.

15. In response, Sri K. Gopalakrishna Kurup, the learned Advocate General, submitted that the Government is merely extending support to a distinguished spiritual gathering hosted by the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), intended to bring together Ayyappa devotees from across the globe. It is contended that the Government has acted strictly within its constitutional and statutory mandate, as it is the duty of the State to ensure safety, public order, and the provision of infrastructural requirements for large congregations. Without proper coordination among multiple Government Departments, such an event cannot be effectively or safely conducted. It is further submitted that under the second phase of the Master Plan, there exists a statutory requirement to provide sustainable infrastructure facilities to pilgrims while ensuring environmental safeguards. Hosting the event, it is urged, provides a structured platform for devotees to interact with the Government and the TDB on matters concerning developmental and infrastructural issues at Sabarimala. Placing reliance on the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Prafull Goradia v. Union of India**⁵, wherein the contention that utilization of tax revenues for the Hajj pilgrimage would violate Article 27 of the Constitution was rejected, the learned Advocate General submitted that an unduly

⁵ [(2011) 2 SCC 568]

rigid approach in such matters may not be adopted and the Courts must permit some "free play in the joints" of the State machinery. According to him, the mere fact that the Government and its agencies are extending infrastructural and logistical support for an event organized by the TDB does not, by itself, amount to a violation of Articles 14, 15, or 21 of the Constitution of India. He pointed out that the Chief Minister of Kerala was invited to attend the grand celebration of "Kumbh Mela" which was organized by the Government of Uttar Pradesh from 13th January to 25th of February, 2025 at Prayagraj, by the Government of the State and it was the Chief Minister of UP who had requested for the participation of various groups.

16. Sri. Biju, the learned Standing Counsel appearing for the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), submitted that the proposed conclave is conceived as a step towards achieving the sustainable development of Sabarimala in accordance with the Master Plan. It is pointed out that the funds required for infrastructural development are sourced primarily from offerings made by devotees, and that the Sangamam is intended to serve as a launch platform for the implementation of the Rs.1,300 Crore Master Plan. According to the learned Standing Counsel, the hosting of such a conclave, with the avowed objective of ensuring sustainable development and enhanced pilgrim facilities, squarely falls within the statutory duties and responsibilities vested in the Board under the Act. He would also highlight various activities carried out in the temple to improve its infrastructure on the basis of sponsorship of devotees.

17. Having considered the submissions advanced, we find that the conclave is a one-day event and about 3000 delegates are expected to partake in the congregation, which is to be held on the banks of the Holy River Pamba, which is considered as the gateway to Sannidhanam. The key objectives of the Sangamam, as borne out from the materials placed before us, including the Government order constituting various committees, are to project Sabarimala as a universal symbol of spiritual harmony and to inspire global reflection on sacred discipline and shared humanity. From the records placed before us, it can be seen that the Travancore Devaswom Board seeks to highlight ongoing developmental and preservation efforts, while simultaneously promoting the cultural, spiritual, and pilgrimage tourism dimensions of Sabarimala. Another avowed objective is the strengthening of community bonds and the reaffirmation of Kerala's role as a custodian of a living spiritual tradition. While it is true that the objectives, as worded, may not have been felicitously expressed, the ultimate purpose that underlies them is both sublime and legitimate, and cannot be faulted.

18. The Travancore-Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions Act, 1950 enacted by the State Legislature makes provision for the administration, supervision and control of incorporated and unincorporated Devaswoms and of other Hindu Religious Endowments and Funds. Section 3 of the Act deals with vesting of administration in the Board. Section 4 of the Act deals with the constitution of the Travancore Devaswom Board. Section 15 of the Act deals with vesting of jurisdiction in the Board. Section 15A of the Act, inserted by Act 5 of 2007, with effect from 12.04.2007, deals with duties of the Board. As per Section 15A, it shall be the duty

of the Board to perform the following functions, namely, (i) to see that the regular traditional rites and ceremonies according to the practice prevalent in the religious institutions are performed promptly; (ii) to monitor whether the administrative officials and employees and also the employees connected with religious rites are functioning properly; (iii) to ensure proper maintenance and upliftment of the Hindu religious institutions; (iv) to establish and maintain proper facilities in the temples for the devotees. Section 16 of the Act deals with supervision and control by the Board. As per Section 16, the Board shall, subject to the provisions of Part I of the Act, exercise supervision and control over the acts and proceedings of all officers and servants of the Board and of the Devaswom Department. Under Section 16A, the Board may borrow any sum for investment only with the previous sanction of the Government and subject to such conditions and limitations as the Government may determine. Section 24 of the Act deals with maintenance of Devaswoms, etc., out of Devaswom Fund. Section 27 of the Act deals with Devaswom properties. Section 31 of the Act deals with management of Devaswoms. As per Section 31, subject to the provisions of Part I and the rules made thereunder, the Board shall manage the properties and affairs of the Devaswoms, both incorporated and unincorporated as heretofore, and arrange for the conduct of the daily worship and ceremonies and of the festivals in every temple according to its usage. Under Section 32, the Board is required to keep regular accounts of all receipts and disbursements in respect of the institutions under its administration and the accounts of the Board are to be audited annually. Under Section 33 of the Act, the Board is required to prepare a budget for the next financial year showing the

probable receipts and disbursements of the incorporated and unincorporated Devaswoms and Hindu Religious Institutions under its Management. The Board is also required to submit to the Government the copies of the budget within two months of each financial year. As per Section 35, only with the prior approval of the Government can the Board make rules to carry out all or any of the purposes of the Act not inconsistent therewith. A reading of the provisions of the Act clearly make out that there will be a broad governmental oversight over finances, appointments, service conditions, and audits, while leaving matters of ritual, custom, and religious practice to be regulated strictly in accordance with usage, with minimal State interference.

19. The management or administration of a temple, unlike the performance of religious rites therein, partakes of a secular character. When the administration of a temple is vested in a statutory body, such as the Travancore Devaswom Board, and the State is entrusted with supervisory control through legislation, it is expected that the State will discharge its responsibility diligently in ensuring that such secular functions are carried out in a transparent and accountable manner.

20. In this context, it is significant to note that Phase II of the Sabarimala Master Plan commenced in November 2005. The Master Plan is a long-term developmental framework with a perspective extending to the year 2050. It encompasses all aspects of regional development in the context of the Sabarimala pilgrimage, based on an agreed Concept Plan. The ultimate objective of the Master Plan is to provide sustainable and modern infrastructure facilities to pilgrims, while

simultaneously safeguarding the fragile environment of the region. The plan covers a wide spectrum of issues, including pilgrim management, the development of base camps and transit facilities, land-use and transportation linkages, and the adoption of the latest technological and economically viable solutions wherever feasible. It also analyses infrastructure requirements, physical and social amenities, and services necessary to support the pilgrimage, as well as land and development management strategies for Pampa and Sannidhanam. Further, it contemplates development models for built spaces, an implementation and monitoring framework, options for phasing, strategies for resource mobilisation, disaster management protocols, and the creation of institutional mechanisms to oversee regional development. The long-term perspective, extending to 2050, is intended to earmark land and other resources in advance to ensure orderly development over the decades. This demonstrates the sustained initiatives undertaken jointly by the Government, the Forest Department, and the Travancore Devaswom Board.

21. It is evident from the Government Order dated 23.08.2025 that the stated objective of the proposed conclave is to conduct a broad-based consultation with all stakeholders so as to bring diverse perspectives into the long-term Master Plan for Sabarimala. The purpose is to incorporate suggestions and inputs from devotees as well as from the general public. The Government Order further clarifies that the deliberations will extend to allied development projects such as the Sabari Rail and the proposed Sabarimala Airport. It is also emphasised that the inputs received from invitees representing various walks of life are to be consolidated and integrated into the planning process, thereby ensuring that the developmental

initiatives are inclusive, consultative, and reflective of the expectations of the larger community of devotees. As held by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Prafull Goradia** (supra), the sovereign State is entitled to some "free play in the joints," and it cannot be contended that the Government must stand aloof in relation to a Sangamam associated with one of the most sacred temples in the State.

22. By convening a one-day conference at Pampa, we are not persuaded that the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) is engaging in an activity beyond the scope of its statutory powers under the Act. The evident objective is to mobilize much-needed funds and obtain constructive inputs to streamline and implement the proposals embodied in the Master Plan. Insofar as the Sabarimala Temple is concerned, it is a matter of record that several developmental activities have historically been sponsored by devotees, and if such contributions are judiciously utilized for infrastructural improvement and for streamlining the management of temple affairs, it would directly advance the larger interests of the Board as well as the devotees. This assumes particular significance in circumstances where it is practically impossible for either the State or the TDB alone to consolidate and expend the enormous quantum of funds required for infrastructural development.

23. From the programme schedule placed before us, we note that the event includes presentations and panel discussions on the Master Plan, sustainability and resilience, spiritual pilgrimage circuits, preservation of Sabarimala's unique potential for the future, as well as sessions on crowd management, preparedness, and disaster management. If such deliberations yield actionable outcomes, they

would undeniably contribute to the overall development, resilience, and infrastructural strengthening of the temple and its precincts. Since the State has filed an affidavit clarifying that it is merely providing logistical and infrastructural support for the event, we find no reason to conclude that the State is indulging in non-secular activities. We also find no reason to doubt the assertion by the Government and the TDB that the event is funded primarily through sponsorships and voluntary contributions. At the same time, we expect the TDB to maintain transparent accounts for every paise received and spent, and the same shall be subject to statutory audit.

24. In view of the foregoing discussion, we find no reason to interdict the conduct of the Global Ayyappa Sangamam scheduled to be held on the banks of the River Pampa on 20.09.2025.

25. However, we deem it necessary to issue the following directions in the larger interest of maintaining the sanctity of Sabarimala and the ecological balance of the holy River Pampa:

- a) The Board shall hereafter exercise strict discretion to ensure that no event is conducted on the banks of the River Pampa in any manner that compromises its sanctity, whether by erecting permanent or temporary structures.
- b) During the days of the conclave and throughout the preparatory works, the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) shall ensure that none of the rituals,

ceremonies, or related functions are disturbed or diminished to the detriment of the devotees.

- c) Any temporary structures proposed for the event shall be strictly minimal, least intrusive, and specifically designed to prevent environmental degradation or disturbance to the sacred precincts.
- d) All necessary steps shall be taken to ensure that no plastic bottles, cups, or other non-biodegradable waste are used or generated. The sanctity and cleanliness of the River Pampa shall be preserved at all times, and immediate measures shall be implemented to remove any waste that may inadvertently arise.
- e) In view of the anticipated presence of several eminent persons, including Chief Ministers, Ministers of neighbouring States, and foreign dignitaries, the respondents shall ensure that the influx of such invitees does not, in any manner, impair the facilities or spiritual experience of ordinary pilgrims. Under no circumstance shall the ingress or egress of pilgrims be disrupted, whether on account of security arrangements or otherwise.
- 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.

- g) No special privilege shall be extended to any participant. No "privilege cards," whether akin to club memberships or otherwise, shall be issued.
- h) All participants shall be treated solely as devotees of Lord Ayyappa, and no special benefit or priority shall be accorded, either for visiting the temple or for any related purpose.
- i) A proper and comprehensive crowd-management plan shall be drawn up and scrupulously implemented to ensure that parking facilities and the movement of ordinary pilgrims remain entirely unaffected.
- j) Adequate medical and emergency facilities shall be established and maintained at the venue and in the surrounding areas to safeguard public health and safety.
- k) These directions are issued to guarantee that the event, if conducted, is undertaken in a manner that preserves the sanctity of Sabarimala, protects the environment, ensures financial transparency, and secures the rights, safety, and spiritual experience of ordinary pilgrims as paramount.

Sd/-

**RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V,
JUDGE**

Sd/-

**K.V. JAYAKUMAR,
JUDGE**

@S/APM