

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V
&
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE K. V. JAYAKUMAR**

**Friday, the 19th day of September 2025 / 28th Bhadra, 1947
DBP NO. 52 OF 2025**

**IN THE MATTER OF COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD - COMPLAINT ALLEGING MALADMINISTRATION
AND CORRUPTION AT CHOTTANIKKARA - SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED BASED ON A
COMPLAINT DATED 24.04.2025 FROM SRI. THAMPY THILAKAN-REG.**

PETITIONER:

SUO MOTU

RESPONDENTS:

1. STATE OF KERALA
REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695001.
2. COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, ROUND NORTH,
THRISSUR - 680001.
3. COMMISSIONER
COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD, SWARAJ ROUND NORTH,
ROUND NORTH, THRISSUR, PIN-680 001
4. THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
CHOTTANIKKARA DEVASWOM, CHOTTANIKKARA P.O.,
ERNAKULAM, PIN-682312
5. DEVASWOM MANAGER
CHOTTANIKKARA BHAGAVATHI TEMPLE, CHOTTANIKKARA P.O.,
ERNAKULAM, PIN-682312
6. THE TEMPLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, CHOTTANIKKARA TEMPLE COMPOUND,
CHOTTANIKKARA P.O., ERNAKULAM, PIN-682312

***ADDL.R7 & R8 IMPEADED**

7. THE CHOTTANIKKARA GRAMA PANCHAYAT,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, CHOTTANIKKARA P.O.,
ERNAKULAM DISTRICT – 682312
8. THE DISTRICT TOWN PLANNER,
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT TOWN PLANNER, LSGD PLANNING,
DPC SECRETARIAT BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, CIVIL STATION, KAKKANAD,
ERNAKULAM – 682030

***ARE SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDITIONAL RESPONDENTS 7 AND 8 AS PER ORDER DATED 10/09/2025 IN DBP.NO.52/2025.**

****ADDL.R9 TO R11 IMPEADED**

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
SUCHITWA MISSION, DEPARTMENT OF LSGD, PUBLIC OFFICE BUILDING,
3RD FLOOR, REVENUE COMPLEX, LMS, VELLAYAMBALAM ROAD,
UNIVERSITY OF KERALA SENATE HOUSE CAMPUS, PALAYAM,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695033
10. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MARAMATH WING, COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD, CDB HEAD QUARTERS,
SWARAJ ROUND NORTH, THRISSUR - 680001
11. ASSISTANT ENGINEER,
CHOTTANIKKARA DEVASWOM, CHOTTANIKKARA, KOCHI - 682 312

****ARE SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS ADDL. RESPONDENTS 9 TO 11 VIDE ORDER DATED 19.09.2025 IN DBP 52/2025.**

BY SRI.S.RAJMOHAN, SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER

BY SRI.K.P.SUDHEER, SC, COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD

THE DEVASWOM BOARD PETITION HAVING COME UP FOR ORDERS AGAIN ON 19/09/2025, UPON PERUSING THE PETITION AND THIS COURT'S ORDER DATED 10/09/2025, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING

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

DBP No. 52 of 2025

Dated this the 19th day of September, 2025

ORDER

Raja Vijayaraghavan V, J.

This matter concerns serious lapses in cleanliness and maintenance within the premises of the Chottanikkara Temple. In our order dated 20.08.2025, we had observed that the photographs produced along with the petition depict widespread filth and decay, including in the kitchen and adjoining areas. The materials reveal a complete lack of hygiene and sanitation. The complaint further discloses misconduct on the part of the temple staff, a marked deterioration in the quality of offerings made to the deity, and a conspicuous failure of effective oversight by the vigilance wing.

2. We note that the District Co-ordinator, Navakeralam Karma Padhathi, has issued a communication dated 11.03.2025 to the 4th respondent, recording that several defects had been detected during inspection. He recommended, inter alia, the provision of a proper bin system to segregate plastic, paper, bottles, and organic waste, the installation of a water-treatment plant for safe dispensation, and the setting up of an incinerator in accordance with the specifications of the Pollution Control Board, along with various other remedial measures. Several of the directions have not been complied with.

3. Having considered the facts and circumstances, we are of the view that

the presence of the Executive Director of the Suchitwa Mission, the Executive Engineer of the Maramath Wing of the Cochin Devaswom Board, and the Assistant Engineer of the Chottanikkara Devaswom is necessary for the effective adjudication of this matter, so that appropriate and enforceable directions can be issued.

4. We suo motu implead -

1. Executive Director, Suchitwa Mission, Department of LSGD, Public Office Building, 3rd floor, Revenue Complex, LMS, Vellayambalam Road, University of Kerala Senate House Campus, Palayam, Thiruvananthapuram - 695033

2. Executive Engineer, Maramath Wing, Cochin Devaswom Board, CDB Head Quarters, Swaraj Round North, Thrissur - 680001

3. Assistant Engineer, Chottanikkara Devaswom, Chottanikkara, Kochi - 682 312

as additional respondents.

Let the matter be listed on 24.09.2025. The Executive Engineer, Maramath Wing, Cochin Devaswom Board, and the Assistant Engineer, Chottanikkara Devaswom, shall be personally present before this Court. They shall specifically state before us the steps they have taken to remedy the situation at Chottanikkara.

Post on 24.09.2025.

Sd/-
RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V,
JUDGE

Sd/-
K.V. JAYAKUMAR,
JUDGE

msh