VERDICTUM.IN

CNR : KLHC010800042026

2026:KER:89101

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN

&

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE JOHNSON JOHN

FRIDAY, THE 20TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026 / 29TH KARTHIKA, 1948

WP(C) NO. 36188 OF 2026

PETITIONER:

ARUN ANIRUDHAN, AGED 42 YEARS
S/O LATE. ANIRUDHAN, 87, PAZHAYAPARAMPIL,
RANNI PERUNAD, MAMPARA P O,
RANNI PERUNAD, PIN - 689711.

BY ADVS.
SRI.V.SETHUNATH
SHRI.THOMAS ABRAHAM (K/1051/2010)
SHRI.SHAMNAS S.

RESPONDENTS:

1 THE STATE OF KERALA
REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF DEVASWOM, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA,
SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001

2 THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY NANTHANCODE,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695005.

3 THE DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER
THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, NANTHANCODE,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695005.

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4 ASST. DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER,
THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD,
ARANMULA GROUP, ARANMULA.P.O.
PATHANAMTHITTA DISTRICT, PIN - 689533.

BY ADV SRI.G.SANTHOSH KUMAR (P).

THIS WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON 20.11.2026, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:

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'C.R.'

JUDGMENT

Devan Ramachandran, J.

The petitioner complains that he has been kept away from the Temple Advisory Committee ('TAC') of 'Kakkad Sree Dharmasastha Temple', Perunad (Temple), solely because there are certain unsubstantiated criminal imputations against him. He prays that the Travancore Devaswom Board ('TDB') be directed to disregard such and include him in the 'TAC' of the Temple because, he has been validly elected, securing large number of votes.

2. Sri.G.Santhosh Kumar – learned Standing Counsel for the 'TDB', however, submitted that the allegations against the petitioner are not trivial but involve offences under Sections

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329(4), 115(2), 351(2), 384, 447, 294(b), 506 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), among others; and that, at least three FIRs, namely, Exts.P7, P8 and P9, are pending investigation against him. He added that Ext.P2 – 'Certificate of Involvement/Non-Involvement in Offences', which every elected member is mandatorily required to obtain, shows that the petitioner is involved in such crimes; and that, therefore, going by the approved bye-laws, he cannot be included in the 'TAC'. He concluded, saying that it is only if the petitioner is able to get an exoneration honourably, can he now stake any further claim.

3. Sri.V.Sethunath – learned counsel for the petitioner, conceded that his client is facing the afore FIRs; but argued that the

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charges against him are all concocted, fraudulent and without basis.

4. We are afraid that we cannot accept the submissions of Sri.V.Sethunath at this stage because, concededly, the bye-laws governing the constitution of the 'TACs', as approved by this Court, require every candidate to produce a 'Certificate of Involvement/Non-Involvement in Offences'. It is not within our province to go through the charges, or to declare a person guilty or non guilty.

5. As long as the bye-laws remain to the afore effect, we cannot find favour with the request of the petitioner.

In the afore circumstances, this Writ Petition is dismissed; however, leaving liberty to the petitioner to invoke other remedies as

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per law, including for his re-inclusion, after he is duly exonerated.

Sd/-

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN

JUDGE

Sd/-

JOHNSON JOHN

JUDGE

akv

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APPENDIX OF WP(C) NO. 36188 OF 2026

PETITIONER EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT P1	THE TRUE COPY OF THE MINUTES OF THE TEMPLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE KAKKAD SREE DHARMASASTHA TEMPLE, PERUNAD DATED 21-3-2026
EXHIBIT P2	TRUE COPY OF THE CUSTOMIZED P.C.C ISSUED BY THE PERUNAD POLICE STATION DATED 31-3-2026
EXHIBIT P3	TRUE COPY OF THE INTIMATION DATED 22-9-2026 BY THE SUB GROUP OFFICER, PERUNAD ALONG WITH APPROVAL OF THE TEMPLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE DATED 12-06-2026 BY THE 4TH RESPONDENT
EXHIBIT P4	THE TRUE COPY OF THE REPRESENTATION GIVEN BY THE PETITIONER TO THE RESPONDENTS DATED 23-9-2026
EXHIBIT P5	THE TRUE COPY OF THE REPLY GIVEN BY THE DEVASWOM SUB GROUP OFFICER, PERUNAD
EXHIBIT P6	THE TRUE COPY OF THE CIRCULAR DATED 6-6-2026 ISSUED BY THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
EXHIBIT P7	THE TRUE COPY OF THE FIR IN CRIME NO. 1161/ 2023 OF RANNY POLICE STATION
EXHIBIT P7(A)	THE TRUE COPY OF THE FINAL REPORT IN C.C NO. 87/ 2024 ON THE FILE OF J.F.C M.COURT , RANNY
EXHIBIT P7(B)	THE TRUE COPY OF THE RECEIPT ISSUED IN FAVOUR OF B.J.P PARTY
EXHIBIT P8	THE TRUE COPY OF THE F.I.R IN CRIME NO. CRIME NO.53/ 2024 OF PAMBA POLICE STATION
EXHIBIT P8(A)	THE TRUE COPY OF THE FINAL REPORT IN S.T NO. 542/ 2024 ON THE FILE OF THE

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	GRAMA NYAYALAYA , RANNI
EXHIBIT P9	THE TRUE COPY OF THE FIR IN CRIME NO. 180/ 2026 OF PERUNAD POLICE STATION
EXHIBIT P9(A)	THE TRUE COPY OF THE FINAL REPORT IN S.T.NO. 52 /2026 ON THE FILE OF THE GRAMA NYAYALAYA , RANNI
EXHIBIT P9(B)	THE COUNTER CASE IN FIR NO. 181/2026 OF PERUNAD POLICE STATION
EXHIBIT P10	TRUE COPY OF THE DISCHARGE BOOK ISSUED BY THE INDIAN ARMY

RESPONDENT EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT-R2(A)	TRUE COPY OF THE JUDGMENT DATED 29/09/2025 IN W.P(C) NO.36013/2025.
EXHIBIT-R2(B)	TRUE COPY OF THE LETTER BEARING NO. 2545, DATED 29/09/2026 ISSUED BY THE ASSISTANT DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER, ARANMULA GROUP TO THE DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER.