

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No(s).11295/2011

(From the judgement and order dated 31/01/2011 in WPC No.36487/2009
of The HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM)

SRI MARTHANDA VARMA AND ANR.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF KERALA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(With appln(s) for impleadment as party respondent and permission to place
addl. documents on record and directions with office report)
(FOR FINAL DISPOSAL)

WITH

SLP(C) NO. 12361 of 2011

(With appln.(s) for directions and with prayer for interim relief and
office report)
(FOR FINAL DISPOSAL)

SLP(C) NOS. 17081-17082 of 2011

(With appln.(s) for directions and with prayer for interim relief and
office report)
(FOR FINAL DISPOSAL)

W.P. (C) No. 518 of 2011

(with office report)

Date: 13/02/2013 These Petitions were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R.M. LODHA

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A.K. PATNAIK

Mr. Gopal Subramaniam, Sr. Adv. (Amicus Curiae)

Mr. Aporva Kurup, Adv.

Mr. Ardhendumauli Kumar Prasad, Adv.

Mr. Nishit Agrawal, Adv.

For Petitioner(s)

SLP 11295/2011; Mr. K.K. Venugopal, Sr. Adv.

SLP 12361/2011

Mr. Krishnan Venugopal, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Parameswaran Nair, Adv.

Mr. Shyam Mohan, Adv.

Ms. Ashwati Balraj, Adv.

Mr. B.V. Deepak, Adv. for

M/S. T.T.K. Deepak & Co.

SLP 17081-82/2011

Mr. M.K.S. Menon, Adv.

Mr. Robin V.S., Adv.

Ms. Sharika Surendran, Adv.

Ms. Asha Gopalan Nair, Adv.

WP 518/2011

Mr. Nishe Rajen Shonker, Adv.

For Respondent(s)

Mr. P.B. Suresh, Adv.

Mr. Vipin Nair, Adv. Adv.
Mr. T.K. Anandpadmanabhan, Adv.
Mr. Udayatiya Banerjee, Adv. for
M/s. Temple Law Firm

Union of India Ms. Rashmi Malhotra, Adv.
 Mr. M. Khairati, Adv.
 Ms. Sonam Anand, Adv. for
 Mr. D.S. Mahra, Adv.

State of Kerala Ms. Liz Mathew ,Adv.
 Ms. Sana Hashmi, Adv.
 Mr. Philip Mathew, Adv.

 Mr. R. Sathish, Adv.

 Mr. V. Ramasubramanian, Adv.

 Mr. C.K. Sasi, Adv.

 Mr. Sajith. P, Adv.

 Mr. Nishe Rajen Shonker, Adv.
 Mr. Deepak Dixit, Adv.

 Mr. Balaji Srinivasan, Adv.
 Mr. Jaikriti S. Jadeja, Adv.
 Mr. K. Vijay Kumar, Adv.

 Mr. Sivan Madathil, Adv.
 Ms. Usha Nandini V., Adv.
 Mr. Biju P. Raman, Adv.
 Mr. Vishnu Shankar, Adv.

 Mr. Sanand Ramakrishnan, Adv.

UPON hearing counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

We have heard Mr. Gopal Subramaniam learned Amicus Curiae and Mr. K.K. Venugopal, learned senior counsel for the petitioners in S.L.P. (C) Nos. 11295 of 2011 and 12361 of 2011.

2. Section 20 of the Travancore Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions Act, 1950 provides that there shall be a Committee to advise the Ruler of Travancore in the discharge of his functions. The Committee shall be known as "Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple Committee" and composed of three Hindu members nominated by the Ruler of Travancore. The tenure of the members of the Committee may be determined by the Ruler.

3. We are informed by Mr K.K. Venugopal, learned senior counsel, that the Committee on January 8, 2013 resolved that the Trustee may appoint a nominee of his choice to report the conduct of administration and to act according to the directions by the Trustee from time to time.

4. Pursuant to the above resolution, we are further informed that the Ruler (trustee) has nominated Mr. Adithya Varma as his honorary nominee to report on the conduct of administration of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple and to act according to the directions issued from time to time.

5. Mr. K.K. Venugopal also informed us that within 10 days from today, the Executive Officer shall be appointed along with one

Assistant Executive Officer and as suggested by Mr. Gopal Subramaniam, learned Amicus Curiae, Mr. Gopal Padmanabhan shall be appointed as Assistant Executive Officer.

6. We accept the above statements of Mr. K.K. Venugopal.

7. On December 12, 2012, we issued further directions on the report submitted by Mr. Gopal Subramaniam, learned Amicus Curiae in continuation of our earlier orders.

8. With regard to para 3(a) of the Report, further time of one week is granted for compliance.

9. Pursuant to our direction for strengthening of Kallaras 'A', 'C', 'D', 'E' and 'F', we are informed that measurement of Kallaras 'C', 'D', 'E' and 'F' will be completed within four weeks. Let measurement of these Kallaras be completed within this time.

10. As regards inventorisation of certain items in respect of utensils and ornaments used for the purpose of worship in Kallaras D, E and F, we grant further time of four weeks for compliance.

11. As regards the suggestion contained in para 8 of the Report, further time of two weeks is granted for compliance.

12. In respect of suggestion given in para 9 of the report, further time of one week is granted for compliance.

13. As regards suggestion given in para 10 of the report, further time of one week is granted for compliance.

14. In respect of suggestion given in paras 15 & 16 of the report, further time of two weeks is granted for compliance.

15. As regards additional security measures, further time of two weeks is granted for compliance.

16. As regards inventorisation, we are informed that time schedule given in the order dated December 12, 2012 shall be maintained and within nine months, the task will be completed. We accept the statement.

17. As regards suggestion contained in para 32 of the report, we are informed that Mr. Gopalakrishnan of M/s. Srinivasa & Krishna, Chartered Accountants has been appointed as the Auditor of the Temple. Thus, the said suggestion has been complied with.

18. We accept and record the statement of Mr. K.K. Venugopal, learned senior counsel for the petitioners in S.L.P. (C) Nos. 11295 of 2011 and 12361 of 2011, which he earlier made on December 12, 2012, that all requisite religious practices are being followed.

19. We are informed that representations received by learned Amicus Curiae from various groups have now been handed over to Justice M.N. Krishnan (Retd.), who will consider those representations in consultation with the Executive Officer as soon as he is appointed.

20. As already directed on December 12, 2012, the Government of Kerala and Corporation of Trivandrum shall ensure that Padmatheertham and Mitranandapuram tanks are cleaned by March 12, 2013 positively.

21. List this group of matters for further hearing on April 8, 2013 at 2 P.M.

| (Pardeep Kumar)
| Court Master

| | (Renu Diwan)
| | Court Master

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