

# VERDICTUM.IN

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL K.NARENDRAN  
&

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P.G. AJITHKUMAR

Tuesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> day of February 2022 / 19th Magha, 1943

DBP NO. 5 OF 2022

IN THE MATTER OF COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD - MATTER PERTAINING TO SREE POORNATHRAYEESA TEMPLE - RITUAL OF WASHING THE FOOT OF BRAHMIN AS PART OF PANTHRANDU NAMASKARAM - SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED - REG:

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**PETITIONER:**

SUO MOTU

**RESPONDENTS:**

1. STATE OF KERALA

REPRESENTED BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,  
REVENUE (DEVASWOM) DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695 001.

2. COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD

REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, ROUND NORTH, TRICHUR-680 001.

3. DEVASWOM OFFICER

POORNATHRAYEESA TEMPLE, THRIPUNITHURA DEVASWOM,  
THRIPUNITHURA-682 301.

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD

BY THE GOVERNMENT PLEADER FOR R1

BY ADV.SRI.P.RAMACHANDRAN, AMICUS CURIAE FOR OMBUDSMAN

THE DEVASWOM BOARD PETITION HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON 08/02/2022, UPON PERUSING THE PETITION, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING.

**ANIL K. NARENDRAN & P.G. AJITHKUMAR, JJ.**

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**DBP No.5 of 2022**  
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**Dated this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022**

**ORDER**

**Anil K. Narendran, J.**

This DBP is registered suo motu, by proceedings dated 04.02.2022, based on a news item that appeared in Kerala Kaumudi daily dated 04.02.2022, in which it is stated that, as part of 'Panthrandu Namaskaram' in Sree Poornathrayeesa Temple, Tripunithura under the management of Cochin Devaswom Board, the devotees are made to wash the feet of 12 brahmins as atonement for sins. A copy of the news item that appeared in Kerala Kaumudi daily on 04.02.2022 is enclosed along with the proceedings dated 04.02.2022.

Today, when this matter is taken up for consideration, the learned Standing Counsel for Cochin Devaswom Board, on instructions, would submit that in connection with 'Panthrandu Namaskaram' in Sree Poornathrayeesa Temple, the devotees are not made to wash the feet of brahmins, as stated in the news report.

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It is the 'Thantri', who wash the feet of 12 poojaris of Sree Poornathrayeesa Temple, in connection with 'Panthrandu Namaskaram'.

The learned Standing Counsel for Cochin Devaswom Board seeks two weeks time to file affidavit on behalf of the 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent.

List on 25.02.2022.



**Sd/-**

**ANIL K. NARENDRAN, JUDGE**

**Sd/-**

★ **P.G. AJITHKUMAR, JUDGE**

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