

THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA

Ernakulam-682031

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Date: 01-11-2022

No: DI-3/138984/2022

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM

Sub: "Kodathi Vilakku" event at Guruvayur Temple – Instruction to Judicial Officers at Thrissur Judicial District – reg.

Ref: Instruction from Honorable Mr. Justice. A. K. Jayasankaran Nambiar, Judge-in-Charge of Thrissur District.

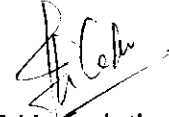
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With reference to above, it has come to the notice of the High Court that an event under the banner of "Kodathi Vilakku" is being hosted annually at the *Guruvayur* temple by an organizing committee comprising *inter alia* of members of the Chavakkad Munsiff Court Bar Association. While there can be no objection to the members of the Bar Association organizing such events, either individually or collectively, the use of the name "Kodathi Vilakku," is unacceptable for it gives the impression that the courts in our State are in some way connected with the organization of the event. The fact that judicial officers of all ranks, including those professing other religions, feel compelled/obliged to attend the annual event that is invariably attended by the High Court Judges as well, indicates the extent to which the term "Kodathi Vilakku" can be misleading.

As secular democratic institutions under the Constitutions, the courts cannot be seen engaging in activities that promote any particular religion. Accordingly, while steps are being explored to prevent the organizers of the event from using the name "Kodathi Vilakku" in future, the Judicial Officers in Thrissur Judicial District are advised not to actively involve themselves in the organizing of the said event, either by

consenting to be a part of the organizing committee or in any other manner. They shall also not feel compelled or obliged to attend the event.

(By Order)



J.Hemalettha
Joint Registrar



To,

The Principal District Judge, Thrissur. (He shall communicate it to all Judicial Officers in the District immediately.)