

W.M.P.No.1714 of 2026
in W.P.No.1668 of 2026

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 19.01.2026

CORAM :

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY

W.M.P.No.1714 of 2026
in W.P.No.1668 of 2026

R.Sathiyamoorthy

.. Petitioner

Versus

1. The Commissioner,
HR & CE Department,
No.119, Uthamar Gandhi Salai,
Nungambakkam,
Chennai – 600 034.

2. The Joint Commissioner,
HR & CE Department,
Collectorate Campus,
Villupuram – 605 602.

3. The Executive Officer,
Arulmighu Shri Aranganadha Perumal Temple,
Thiruvarangam Village,
Vanapuram Taluk,
Kallakurichi – 605 802.

.. Respondents

Prayer : Writ Miscellaneous Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, pleased to pass an order of stay on the Kudamuzhukku Abishekam proposed to be conducted by the HR & CE Department on 28.01.2026 pending disposal of the present Writ Petition.



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For Petitioner : Mr.Sunny Sheen Akkara

For Respondents : Mr.N.R.R.Arun Natarajan
Special Government Pleader

ORDER

This Writ Miscellaneous Petition is filed with a prayer to pass an order of stay on the *Kudamuzhukku Abishekam* proposed to be conducted by the HR & CE Department on 28.01.2026 pending disposal of the present Writ Petition.

2. Upon hearing the learned Counsel for the petitioner and perusing the material records of the case including the additional documents and photographs that are filed during the course of the hearing, the grievance of the petitioner is that *Arulmighu Aranganayagi sametha Aranganadha Swamy Thirukoil, Adi Thiruvarangam, Vanapuram taluk, Kallakurichi district* is an ancient temple, having great following and is full of aesthetic and heritage structures. When the respondent department is taking up the work of *tiruppani* and when a huge outlay is being made in respect of various works, suddenly, with a corporate attitude of fixing a target, they announced the date of *kumbabhishekam* on 28.01.2026.



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3. According to the learned Counsel for the petitioner, the same was premature. Even before completion of the work, they ought not to have announced the date. The same is in direct violation of the Division Bench judgments of this Court. The Division Bench in W.P.No.574 of 2015 had issued a slew of directions which include the completion of works to the satisfaction of the Committee constituted by the said Division Bench. When the work, even with reference to the presiding deity, is ongoing, the *kumbabhishekam* cannot be conducted. By the judgment, dated 24.06.2025 in W.P.(MD).Nos.5596 and 8990 of 2025, another Hon'ble Division Bench has issued guidelines of approaching the Department of Civil Engineering, I.I.T, Madras, even for distress-mapping and a detailed project report. The same is admittedly not done and therefore, the said guidelines issued by the Division Bench along with the direction of practice of pre-fixing the date of *kumbabhishekam* which was ordered to be stopped, are blatantly violated. Therefore, if the *kumbabhishekam* is permitted to be proceeded, the same would be in violation of the judgments of this Court. Besides, the *agamas* regarding completing the work before conducting the *kumbabhishekam* will also be



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violated. The persons who are visiting the temple are now at risk as the drainage remains incomplete without being completed. All the construction materials are strewn in and around the temple. The electrical work itself is not completed exposing the devotees to risk. There was no tearing hurry to conduct the *kumbabhishekam* in such a manner.

4. The learned Counsel would rely upon specific photographs where the compound wall is partly in a dilapidated condition and in some places, even the plants that are grown in the cracks developed, are not removed. The earth between the *inner praharam* and *outer praharam* is completely muddy and the floor is not made even. The photograph of the works that are being undertaken with regard to the drainage is also shown. The learned Counsel has also produced the photographs where the artisans are working on the main deity and the '*thailam*' that is applied, will take a few weeks even to dry, is the case of the petitioner. The learned Counsel would also orally submit that even a minor portion of the finger of the deity was damaged during this work and the opinion of the expert is not taken with reference thereto and the *kumbabhishekam* is now being proceeded by doing some makeovers.



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5. Per *contra*, the learned Special Government Pleader for the respondents would submit that the direction with reference to approaching the I.I.T, Madras was issued only with particular case in mind and therefore, in every case, the department need not approach the I.I.T, Madras. It is only in appropriate cases, the direction would apply. In that particular case, since already an application is made even before the commencement of *tiruppani*, the same was directed. But, generally for conducting the *kumbabhishekam*, the directions issued by the earlier Division Bench to go before the Regional Level and the State Level Expert Committee by detailing the works and the Committee consisting of the Archaeological, Structural and *Agama* Experts will inspect the temple and certify which are the works to be undertaken and as per the directions that are given, in an aesthetic manner and in the supervision of the experts, the renovation/restoration works, are being carried on. The works are almost complete with reference to the presiding deity, the various *sannidhis* of the deities and the *gopurams*. The work is in the progress with reference to the drainage in the *inner praharam*. The same will be completed in one or two days. The compound wall, though remains incomplete, can be



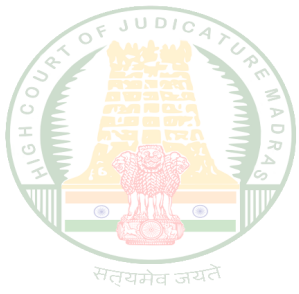
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completed even after the performance of the *kumbabhishekam*. 80% of the work in the compound wall is also over. The works are done aesthetically and with the directions of the *agama* experts, no *agama* rule is violated. The works are done as per the specifications and there is no fast forwarding in this regard. Due regard will be taken to complete every work of electrification and drainage covering etc., well before 28.01.2026 and all the construction materials will be removed and the temple will be cleaned and the safety and hygienic conditions of all the devotees will be ensured.

6. I have considered the rival submissions made on either side and perused the material records of the case.

7. The main question that is raised in the Writ Petition is whether the respondents are liable to approach the I.I.T, Madras in respect of each and every temple and the same will be decided in the main Writ Petition. Secondly, whether the respondents were right in fixing the date of *kumbabhishekam* without completing the 100% works, will also be decided in the main Writ Petition.

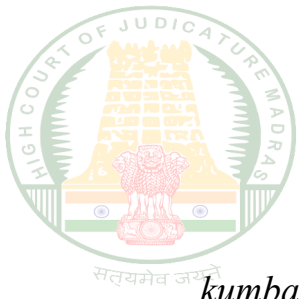


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8. In the meanwhile, the interim relief that is prayed for is to stop the *kumbabhishekam*. Stopping of the *kumbabhishekam*, especially, after the date is fixed and is publicized and the notices are printed and especially, when there are only 8 days, in between the said date, will normally not be undertaken by this Court unless compelling reasons are made out in exceptional cases. The same will also hurt the sentiments of the devotees. Therefore, in this case, if any incompleteness of the work in the main *sannidhis* or in the *gopuram* where the *kumbabhishekam* is performed, is demonstrated, certainly, the same would make out an exceptional case of even going to the extent of stopping the *kumbabhishekam*. But, what is pointed out is incompleteness of certain works which, *prima facie*, according to this Court, is not violative of the Hon'ble Division Bench's directions that all the essential work should be completed before the conduct of the *kumbabhishekam*. It is common knowledge that some work or the other in the compound wall etc., will be incomplete and will be completed after the *kumbabhishekam* is performed.

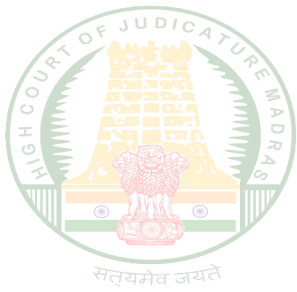
9. In that view of the matter, I am of the view that the



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kumbabhishekam need not be stopped at the nth hour. At the same time, two things have to be ensured. Firstly, the essential constructions have to be completed. Secondly, the quality of the construction should also be good and commensurate for the money spent. Just because the date of *kumbabhishekam* is declared, all artistic and work involving craftsmanship cannot be hurriedly completed which will affect the structural stability or even the purpose of renovation in the long run. Therefore, I am of the view that while no interim order is being granted stalling the *kumbabhishekam*, let the Additional Commissioner (*Tiruppani*) who is heading the 12 member State Level Expert Committee, nominate three members from and out of the State Level Expert Committee, in which, it must be ensured that one must be the official of the Government, one must be the official relating to Archaeological importance and one must be the *vaishnava agama* expert. Those three members shall carry out a detailed inspection of the temple as expeditiously as possible either on 21.01.2026, 22.01.2026 or 23.01.2026 depending on their convenience and they shall issue such directions to the contractors or the persons managing the affairs to do such things that are necessary so that the *kumbabhishekam* can go on, on 28.01.2026.

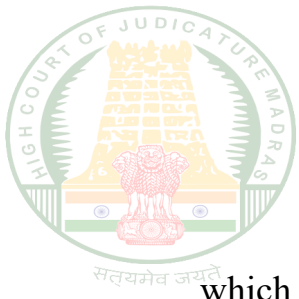


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10. During the inspection, if the committee finds that any of the essential thing which is to be completed before 28.01.2026, is not complete and cannot be completed before 28.01.2026, they shall issue directions to postpone the *kumbabhishekam* also. In any event, the Sub-Committee shall thoroughly check the quality of the works undertaken and if any work has to be redone even after the *kumbabhishekam*, such directions can be given. The durability of the drainage will be the responsibility of both the officials and contractors and if there is any leakage, cracks etc., subsequent checks will be carried out on all the works, after six months after the *kumbabhishekam*, ensuring that the works are of quality in nature. This Court will also consider conducting of detailed audit with reference to whether the funds are properly utilised or not, after the report of the Expert Committee.

11. While issuing the above interim directions, I am unable to accede to the prayer of the petitioner to stall the *kumbabhishekam* by this order without further enquiry. Let the *kumbabhishekam* shall go on with due protection to all the devotees and with due nod of the sub-committee



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which is going to inspect the premises. It will be open for the Sub-Committee to give all directions relating to work, stopping of any work or even stopping the *kumbabhishekam* or to conduct any other additional work to make any other provision for the devotees etc. The petitioner has also agreed to be present during the inspection and point out any infirmity to the Committee. As agreed, it will also be open for the parties to mention the mater before this Court, if situation warrants.

12. Let the matter be called on 05.02.2026 and the reports be placed before this Court.

19.01.2026

grs

To

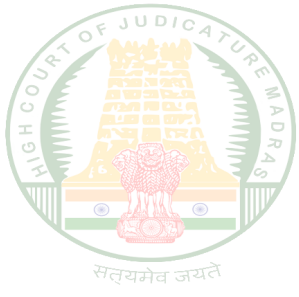
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3. The Executive Officer,
Arulmighu Shri Aranganadha Perumal Temple,
Thiruvaramgam Village,
Vanapuram Taluk,
Kallakurichi – 605 802.
4. The Additional Commissioner (Tiruppani),
HR & CE Department,
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D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY, J.

grs

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