



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 27-11-2025

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE M.DHANDAPANI

WP No. 43636 of 2025

P.Gowri

Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The District Collector
Salem, Salem District
- 2.The Revenue Divisional Officer
Salem, Salem District
- 3.The Tahsildar
Kadyampatti Taluk, Salem District
- 4.The Superintendent Of Police
Salem, Salem District
- 5.The Deputy Superintendent Of Police
Omalur, Salem District
- 6.The Inspector Of Police
Deevattipatti Police Station,
Salem District
- 7.K.Venkatachalam

Respondent(s)

PRAYER: This writ petition is filed under Article 226 of Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents 1 to 6 to ensure that the petitioner and her family member are granted equal access to temple rituals, including the distribution of holy water and to initiate appropriate action against



the 7th respondent and his associates for their acts of social ostracism by considering the petitioner representation dated 11.8.2025 within a time frame

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For Petitioner(s): M/s.K.Pragadesh Ganapathy
For Respondent(s): Mr.P.Ganesan Addl.Govt. Pleader
For RR1 To 3
Mr.S.Balaji Govt. Advocate
Crl. Side RR4 to 6
M/s.R.Prabakar for R7

ORDER

This petition has been filed seeking a direction to the respondents 1 to 6 to ensure that the petitioner and her family member are granted equal access to temple rituals, including the distribution of holy water and to initiate appropriate action against the 7th respondent and his associates for their acts of social ostracism by considering the petitioner representation dated 11.8.2025 within a time frame.

2. It is the case of the petitioner that the petitioner belong to Kannadiyar community. One of the four communities that have traditionally worshipped at the Amaravathi Amman Temple in her village. According to long-standing customs, the distribution of holy water during temple festivals signifies social inclusion. Since 2018, the 7th respondent who holds the position of temple pusari has denied her family access to the temple and refused to distribute the holy water to them. Hence, the petitioner made a representation and the same is



not considered. Hence, the present writ petition.

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3. The learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that this Court may direct the respondents to consider and pass orders on the petitioners representation within the stipulated time as fixed by this Court.

4. The learned counsel for the 7th respondent submitted that he never prevented the petitioner to worship the temple deity and the temple authorities will provide holy water to the petitioner. However, the petitioner is not entitled for any special permission and special rights in the administration of the temple.

5. Heard the learned counsel for both side and perused the materials available on record.

6. Recording the submission made by the learned counsel for the 7th respondent, this court directs the 7th respondent to allow the petitioner and her family members to worship the deity and provide holy water. If the petitioner wants to provide any donation to the temple, the temple authorities shall collect the same. However, the petitioner is not entitled for any special permission for worshipping deity including the temple administration.

7. With the above directions, the writ petition is disposed of. No costs.



However, liberty is granted to the petitioner to work out his remedy in the manner known to law if he has any grievance.

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Index: Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Internet: Yes

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

To

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Salem, Salem District

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M.DHANDAPANI J.

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