



WEB COPY

WP No. 47500 of 2025



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 03-12-2025

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P.B. BALAJI

WP No. 47500 of 2025

1. C.Easwaramoorthy
S/o.Late.Chinnappa
Gounder,D.No.70/1, Gandhiji Street,
Muthathuvayal, Mulatheri, Coimbatore-
641 114.

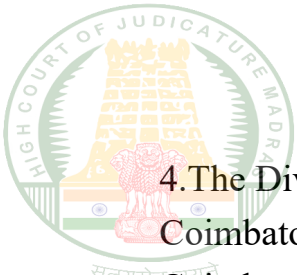
Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The Chief Secretary
Hr And Ce Department, 19, Uthamar
Gandhi Street, Nungambakkam,
Chennai-600 034.

2.The Principal Cheif Cosnervator Of
Forests,
Cheif Conservator Of Forest Office,
Guindy, Chennai-600 032.

3.The Joitn Commissioner
Hr And Ce Department,
Dr.Balasundaram Road, Coimbatore-
641 018.



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4.The Divisional Forest Officer,
Coimbatore Division Office,
Coimbatore-641 043.

5.The District Forest Officer
Coimbatore Division, Coimbatore-641
043.

6.The Executive Officer
Arulmigu Vellingiri Andavar Temple,
Poondi, Coimbatore-641 112.

7.The Forest Range Officer
Bolampatti Range Office, Iruttupallam,
Coimbatore-641 114.

Respondent(s)

PRAYER:- Writ Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a Writ of Mandamus directing the 5th respondent to grant permission to the petitioner and the devotees to enter and proceed up to the 7th Vellingiri Hill, stay there, and conduct 48 days of daily Nandha Deepa Pooja as well as the Karthigai Maha Deepam and Thiru Kalyanam to the Self-manifested Lord Shiva Lingam at the summit of the Seventh Hill continuously every year and for the current year till 14.01.2026 and further direct respondents 1, 3 and 6 to open the locks of the iron gate of the main shrine at the top of the Hill to enable the devotees / pilgrims to perform the aforesaid poojas

For Petitioner(s): M. Marudhachalam

For Respondent(s): Mr. K.Kathikeyan G.A for R1,3
and 6
Dr.T.Seenivasan,. Spl.G.P. for
R2,4,5 and 7



ORDER

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Heard Mr.M.Marudhachalam, the learned counsel for the petitioner, Mr.K.Karthikeyan, the learned Government Advocate (HR &CE) takes notice for the first, third and sixth respondents and Dr.T.Seenivasan, the learned Special Government Pleader takes notice for the second, fourth, fifth to seventh respondents

2. The grievance of the petitioner is that for the past several decades, the petitioner and the other worshippers have been permitted to perform Pooja at Vellingiri Hills, especially on Karthigai Maha Deepam and Thiru Kalyanam days, at the top of the Seventh Hill. However, from and after the Covid-19 Pandemic, there has been no permission granted to the petitioner and other devotees. The further grievance of the petitioner is that even for the year 2024, permission was refused and therefore, the petitioner approached this Court in W.P.No.36624 of 2024. The said writ petition was allowed by this Court on 09.12.2024, imposing certain conditions for worship. The same is usefully



extracted hereunder:-

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"6. Even in the conditions stipulated in the present case, it had been stated that the timing has to be maintained and is dependent on the weather condition. The same timing may be observed. The timings are therefore be fixed as between 7.00 a.m., to 4.00 p.m., however dependent on the climate."

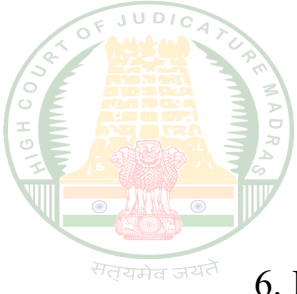
3. Insofar as the permission from the Forest Department is concerned, the learned Special Government Pleader appearing for the second, fourth, fifth to seventh respondents submits that permission has already been granted for worship for the next 48 days. Insofar as the request for removal of the Iron gates is concerned, the learned Government Advocate (HR & CE) appearing for the first, third and sixth respondents submitted that a resolution has been passed on 15.11.2025, rejecting the request made by the petitioner for opening the Iron gates in order to access the main shrine. However, it is in terms of the representation made by the learned Government Advocate, and based on written instructions. Hence, the respondents are directed to file a detailed counter-affidavit in this regard.



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4. In view of the fact that the festivities commence today, it is made clear that the petitioner and the other devotees shall be permitted to visit the hill and celebrate the Karthigai Maha Deepam and perform Nandha Deepa Pooja for next 48 days, on a daily basis between 7.00 a.m., and 4.00 p.m., subject to adverse climatic conditions, if any.

5. Insofar as the request of the petitioner that it is not possible for the devotees to return on the same day, it is seen that a similar request was made even in the earlier writ petition in W.P.No.36624 of 2024 and this Court, at paragraph 5 of the said, had recorded the grievances of the writ petitioner. However, this Court did not relax the timings, which were found acceptable by both the Forest Department as well as the Government. In view of the above, the petitioner shall file a detailed representation in this regard to the respondents, within a period of two weeks from today and the same shall be considered and disposed of on merits, expeditiously.



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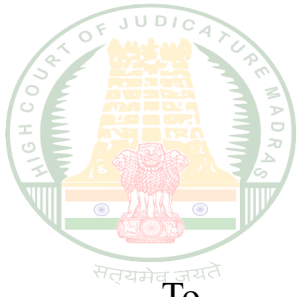
6. In the light of the above, the petitioner is at liberty to challenge the said resolution and the respondents shall furnish a certified copy of the resolution to the petitioner, enabling him to work out his remedies in accordance with law.

7. Post the matter on 17.12.2025, for counter.

03-12-2025

Kv

Note: Issue order copy on 03.12.2025



To
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