

W.P.(MD)No.20431 of 2025

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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 28.07.2025

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE C.SARAVANAN

W.P.(MD)No.20431 of 2025

K.N.R.Krishnaraj

... Petitioner

-VS-

1.The Joint Commissioner,
Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department,
119, Uthamar Gandhi Salai,
Nungambakkam, Chennai.

2.The Joint Commissioner,
Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department,
Teppakulam Street,
Thiruvanaikovil,
Tiruchirappalli - 620 005.

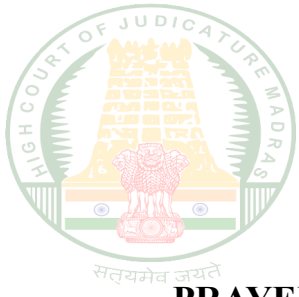
3.The Assistant Commissioner,
Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department,
Teppakulam Street, Thiruvanaikovil,
Tiruchirappalli - 620 005.

4.D.Mangalaselvi

5.D.Sujatha Rajashree

6.G.Santheswari

... Respondents



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PRAYER: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents 1 to 3 to retrieve the property belonging to Arulmighu Devi Thirukovil, situated at Sri Rangan, Tiruchirappalli District, by evicting the encroachers under Section 78 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 and better administration of the said temple and consider the petitioner's representation dated 22.04.2024.

For Petitioner : Mr.K.Guhan
For R1 to R3 : Mr.SS.Madhavan
Additional Government Pleader

ORDER

This Writ Petition has been filed seeking a direction to the respondents 1 to 3 to retrieve the property belonging to Arulmighu Devi Thirukovil, situated at Srirangan, Tiruchirappalli District, by evicting the encroachers under Section 78 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 [hereinafter referred to as "the H.R. & C.E. Act"], to ensure better administration of the said Temple and to consider the petitioner's representation dated 22.04.2024.



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2. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner is a descendant of Nawab T.S.Rajamanickam Pillai, who was reportedly responsible for the construction of Arulmighu Devi Thirukovil, located in T.S.No.2654/1A at Srirangam, Tiruchirapalli District.

3. This is the second round of litigation before this Court. Earlier, the petitioner had approached this Court by filing W.P.(MD)No.6257 of 2024, seeking issuance of a Mandamus to direct the respondents to retrieve the properties belonging to Arulmighu Devi Thirukovil, by evicting the encroachers under Section 78 of the Act, by considering the petitioner's representation dated 27.12.2023, within a time frame to be fixed by this Court. By order dated 14.03.2024, the said Writ Petition was disposed of with a direction to the petitioner to submit an appropriate representation to the respondents. Pursuant to the said order, the petitioner has submitted a representation dated 22.04.2024 and the same is still pending.

4. The learned Additional Government Pleader for the respondents submits that an enquiry has been initiated and certain information has been called for. The



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learned Additional Government Pleader has further produced a copy of the communication/instruction dated 26.07.2025, wherein it has been stated as under:-

"ஆவணங்களை பார்வையிட்டு விசாரணை மேற்கொள்ளபடவேண்டியுள்ளது. ஆவணங்கள் வரப்பெற்றவுடன் மேற்பொருள் தொடர்பாக நடவடிக்கை மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டு, தவறு நடைபெற்றுள்ளது என தெரிய வரும் பட்சத்தில் உடன் நடவடிக்கை மேற்கொள்ளப்படும் என்ற விபரம் கனிவுடன் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளப்படுகிறது. கால அவகாசம் வேண்டப்படுகிறது."

5. The learned Additional Government Pleader further submits that the Temple does not fall within the purview of the H.R. & C.E. Department and that the temple land has been encroached upon by third parties. It is also submitted that large-scale mutations have taken place. However, the petitioner's representation dated 22.04.2024 is under active consideration.

6. Recording the aforesaid submissions, this Writ Petition is disposed of with a direction to the third respondent to expedite the proceedings and pass appropriate orders, in accordance with law, at the earliest. It is made clear that this order is passed without prejudice to the petitioner's liberty to initiate appropriate



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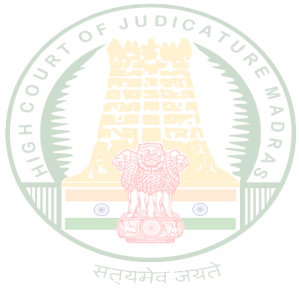
proceedings to seek eviction of the encroachments, by espousing the rights of the deity. No costs.

NCC : Yes / No
Index : Yes / No
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28.07.2025

To:-

- 1.The Joint Commissioner,
Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department,
119, Uthamar Gandhi Salai,
Nungambakkam, Chennai.
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C.SARAVANAN, J.

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