



W.P.(MD)Nos.23501 & 22596 of 2025

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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 26.11.2025

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE **DR.JUSTICE ANITA SUMANTH**  
AND  
THE HONOURABLE **MR.JUSTICE C.KUMARAPPAN**

W.P.(MD)Nos.23501 & 22596 of 2025

W.P.(MD)No.23501 of 2025

A.V.B.Prabhu

... Petitioner

/Vs./

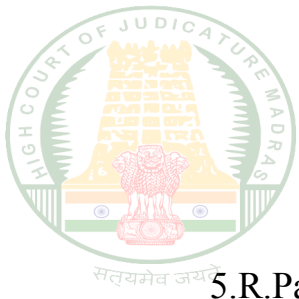
1.The Secretary to Government,  
Religious Endowments Department,  
Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

2.The Commissioner,  
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department,  
119, Nungambakkam High Road, Chennai - 600 034.

3.The Executive Officer,  
Sri Kallazhagar Temple,  
Azhagarkoil,  
Madurai District.

4.V.R.Venkatachalam,  
Chairman of Board of Trustees,  
Sri Kallazhagar Temple,  
Azhagarkoil, Madurai District.

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5.R.Pandiyarajan  
Member of Board of Trustees,  
Sri Kallazhagar Temple,  
Azhagarkoil,  
Madurai District.

6.A.Senthilkumar,  
Member of Board of Trustees,  
Sri Kallazhagar Temple,  
Azhagarkoil,  
Madurai District.

7.P.Ravikumar,  
Member of Board of Trustees,  
Sri Kallazhagar Temple,  
Azhagarkoil,  
Madurai District.

8.Meenakshi Priyanth,  
Member of Board of Trustees,  
Sri Kallazhagar Temple,  
Azhagarkoil,  
Madurai District.

... Respondents

(Respondents 4 to 8 are suo motu impleaded vide order of this Court dated 22.10.2025 in W.P.(MD)No.23501 of 2025)

PRAYER:- Writ Petition - filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus, calling for the records pertaining to Na.Ka.No.3400/2023/A2 dated 11.10.2024 issued by the third respondent herein, the Regional Joint Commissioner of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Madurai Region in



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respect of Civil Works pertaining to Sri Kallazhagar Temple, Azhagarkoil, Madurai District and quash the same as being in violation of Section 36 read with Section 66(1) and Section 86(2) of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, the Management and Preservation of Properties of Religious Institutions Rules framed under the said 1959 Act, Section 11(1) and (3) of the Tamil Nadu Heritage Commission Act, 2012, the law laid down by a Full Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its order dated 12.03.2024 in SLP(c)No.9495 of 2022 and the dictum of the Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court laid down in its order dated 09.01.2025 in W.P.No.19084 of 2025 and further order restoration of the funds of temple utilized without any authority of law for the civil works in the said Temple.

For Petitioner : Mr.M.R.Venkatesan  
for Mr.RM.Arun Swaminathan  
For Respondents : Mr.Veerakathiravan (for R1 & R2)  
Additional Advocate General  
Assisted by  
Mr.J.Ashok  
Additional Government Pleader  
: Mr.A.K.Sriram (R3)  
Senior Counsel  
Assisted by Mr.S.Manokar



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Venkatesh Sowrirajan

... Petitioner

/Vs./

1.The State of Tamil Nadu,  
Rep. by Additional Chief Secretary,  
Department of Tourism,  
Culture & Religious Endowments,  
Secretariat, Fort St.George,  
Chennai - 600 009.

2.The Commissioner,  
Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments  
Department, 119, Uthamar Gandhi Road,  
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 034.

3.The Joint Commissioner,  
Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments  
Department, Ellis Nagar, Madurai - 625 001.

4.The Executive Officer,  
Sri Kallazhagar Temple,  
Azhagarkoil, Madurai - 625 301.

5.The Board of Trustees,  
Sri Kallazhagar Temple,  
Azhagarkoil,  
Madurai - 625 301.

6.Rangarajan Narasimhan,  
Arangan Thirumutram,  
Kollidam Road,  
400 meters west of Andavan Ashramam,  
Srirangam, Trichy - 620 006.

... Respondents

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(Respondent No.6 impleaded vide order of this Court dated 22.10.2025 in W.M.P.(MD)No.20782 of 2025 in W.P.(MD)No.22596 of 2025)

PRAYER:- Writ Petition - filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus calling for the records relating to G.O Ms.No.135, dated 08.03.2024, issued by the 1st Respondent and quash the same as arbitrary, illegal and ultra vires the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 and consequently restrain the Respondents, their subordinates, agents, contractors or any other persons acting under their authority or instructions from proceeding with or in any manner carrying out any civil or commercial construction activities pursuant to G.O Ms.No. 135, dated 08.03.2025 using surplus temple funds within or in the immediate vicinity of the premises of Arulmighu Kallazhagar Temple, Madurai.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.G.Vadiraj Anirudh

For Respondents : Mr.Veerakathiravan (for R1 to R3)

Additional Advocate General

Assisted by

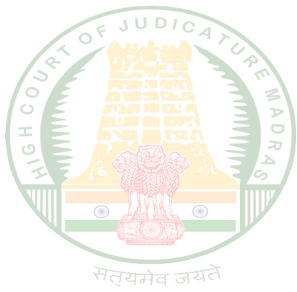
Mr.J.Ashok

Additional Government Pleader

: Mr.A.K.Sriram (R4 & R5)

Senior Counsel

Assisted by Mr.S.Manokar



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**ORDER**

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(Order of the Court was made by **DR.ANITA SUMANTH, J.**)

Heard in part. List on 28.11.2025.

2. Mr.Ashok, learned Additional Government Pleader circulates the list of Government Orders, under which, funds have been sanctioned for reformative and rehabilitation works of structures within the Alagarkoil campus as follows:

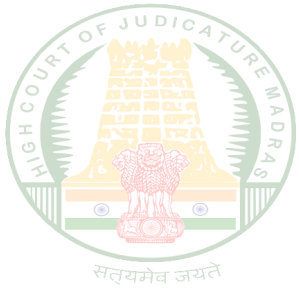
(i) G.O (P)No.40, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments (RE3-1) Department, dated 22.03.2022.

(ii) G.O(P)No.49, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments (RE3-1) Department, dated 30.03.2022.

(iii) G.O.Ms.No.171, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments (RE4.1) Department, dated 16.03.2024.

(iv) G.O(P)No.155, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments (RE3-1) Department, dated 24.07.2024.

(v) G.O.Ms.No.557, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments (RE1-1) Department, dated 24.12.2024.



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3. He will also circulate a copy of the Government Order under which the appointment of trustees for those temples falling under Clause (iii) of Section 46 of the Tamil Nadu HR & CE Act, 1959 is made, today.

**[A.S.M.J.] & [C.K.J.]**  
**26.11.2025**

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To

1.The Secretary to Government,  
Religious Endowments Department,  
Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

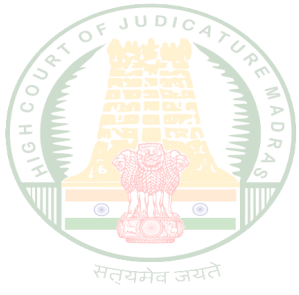
2.The Commissioner,  
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department,  
119, Nungambakkam High Road, Chennai - 600 034.

3.The Additional Chief Secretary,  
Department of Tourism,  
Culture & Religious Endowments,  
Secretariat, Fort St.George, Chennai - 600 009.

4.The Joint Commissioner,  
Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments  
Department, Ellis Nagar, Madurai - 625 001.

5.The Executive Officer,  
Sri Kallazhagar Temple,  
Azhagarkoil,  
Madurai District.

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**DR.ANITA SUMANTH, J.**  
**AND**  
**C.KUMARAPPAN, J.**

*mbi*

Order made in  
W.P.(MD)Nos.23501 & 22596 of 2025

Dated:  
26.11.2025