



IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

KALABURAGI BENCH

DATED THIS THE 26TH DAY OF MARCH, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S.VISHWAJITH SHETTY

WRIT PETITION NO. 200325 OF 2026 (GM-R/C)

BETWEEN:

SRI UDAYAKUMAR POOJARI
S/O MALLIKARJUN POOJARI,
AGED ABOUT 35 YEARS, OCCU: ARCHAKA OF
HULIGEMMA TEMPLE.,
R/O NEAR SHANKARLINGA TEMPLE, AROLI VILLAGE,
TQ. MANVI, DIST. RAICHUR.

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI. ARUNKUMAR AMARGUNDAPPA, ADVOCATE)

AND:

1. THE COMMISSIONER,
HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND
CHARITABLE, ENDOWMENT DEPARTMENT,
ALURU VENKAT RAO ROAD,
NEAR CENTRAL POLICE STATION, CHAMARAJPET,
BENGALURU-560 018.
2. THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
RAICHUR, DIST. RAICHUR-584 101.
3. THE TAHASHILDAR,
MANVI, TQ. MANVI, DIST. RAICHUR-584 123,
CUM ADMINISTRATOR,
SRI. HULIGEMMA DEVI TEMPLE, AROLI,
TQ. MANVI, DIST. RAICHUR.
4. SRI RAJU POOJARI S/O HULIGEPPA POOJARI,
AGED ABOUT 48 YEARS, OCC: AGRICULTURE,



5. SMT. SUDHAMMA W/O KRISHNAPPA,
AGED ABOUT 54 YEARS, OCC: HOUSEHOLD.
6. SRI JAMADAGNI POOJARI S/O HULIGEPPA POOJARI,
AGED ABOUT 38 YEARS, OCC: AGRICULTURE,
7. SRI SOOGURAPPA POOJARI
S/O HULIGEPPA POOJARI,
AGED ABOUT 30 YEARS, OCC: AGRICULTURE,

RESP.NO. 4 TO 7 ARE
R/O NEAR SHANKARLINGA TEMPLE, AROLI VILLAGE,
KURDI HOBOLI, TQ. MANVI, DIST. RAICHUR-584 203.
8. SRI SHEKARAPPA S/O MUNIYAPPA POOJARI,
AGED ABOUT 34 YEARS, OCC: AGRICULTURE,
9. SRI TIMMAPPA S/O SHEKARAPPA POOJARI,
AGED ABOUT 34 YEARS, OCC: AGRICULTURE,
10. SRI BALARAJU S/O NALLAREDDY,
AGED ABOUT 37 YEARS, OCC: AGRICULTURE,
11. SRI SURESH S/O NARASINGAPPA,
AGED ABOUT 55 YEARS, OCC: AGRICULTURE,
12. SRI NARASAPPA S/O RAMANNA,
AGED ABOUT 48 YEARS, OCC: AGRICULTURE,
13. SRI KRISHNAPPA
S/O HULIGEPPA DONGOOR,
AGED ABOUT 48 YEARS, OCC: AGRICULTURE,
RESP.NO. 8 TO 13 ARE
R/O AROLI VILLAGE, NEAR HULIGEMMA TEMPLE,
KURDI HOBOLI, TQ MANVI, DIST RAICHUR-584 203.

...RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI MALLIKARJUN SAHUKAR, AGA FOR R1 TO 3;
SRI JAYANANDAYYA, ADVOCATE FOR R4, R6, R8, R9,
R10, R12 AND R13;
SRI KRUPA SAGAR PATIL, ADVOCATE FOR R5 AND R7;
NOTICE TO R11 SERVED)



THIS WRIT PETITION IS FILED UNDER ARTICLES 226 AND 227 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, PRAYING TO, A) QUASH THE IMPUGNED ORDER DATED 23-09-2025 BEARING NO. COMP 13253/DC-RCR-END/12/10/2017-18 PASSED BY THE RESPONDENT NO.2 VIDE ANNEXURE-M, CONSEQUENTLY DIRECT THE RESPONDENT AUTHORITIES TO DECLARE THE PETITIONER AND RESPONDENT NO.4 AND 7 ARE HEREDITARY ARCHAKAS OF GODDESS HULIGEMMA DEVI TEMPLE OF AROLI VILLAGE, TQ MANVI DIST RAICHUR. B) SUCH FURTHER ORDER OTHER RELIEFS BE GRANTED TO THE PETITIONER TO WHICH THE PETITIONER WOULD BE FOUND ENTITLED TO ON THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CASE.

THIS PETITION, COMING ON FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING IN B GROUP, THIS DAY, ORDER WAS MADE THEREIN AS UNDER:

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S.VISHWAJITH SHETTY

ORAL ORDER

1. This writ petition under Articles 226 & 227 of the Constitution of India, is filed seeking for the following reliefs:

(i) Quash the impugned order dated 23.09.2025 bearing No.COMP13253/DC-RCR-END/12/10/2017-2018, passed by the respondent No.2, vide Annexure-M, consequently direct the Respondent Authorities to declare the petitioner and respondent No.4 to 7 are hereditary Archakas of Goddess 'Huligemma Devi' Temple of Aroli village, taluka Manvi, district Raichur;

(ii) Such further order other reliefs be granted to the petitioner to which the petitioner would



be found entitled to on the facts and circumstances of the case.

2. Heard the learned counsel for the parties.

3. The petitioner claims that, he is a hereditary Archaka in Huligemma Devi Temple, Aroli village, taluka Manvi, district Raichur, along with respondent Nos.4 to 7 herein and he has been performing Pooja and other rituals in the said temple. The respondent No.2-Deputy Commissioner by order dated 23.09.2025 had rejected the application of the petitioner to appoint him as hereditary Archaka of Huligemma Temple of Aroli village, taluka Manvi, district Raichur and being aggrieved by the same, the petitioner is before this Court.

4. This Court on 17.02.2026 has passed an interim order which reads as under:

"Learned counsel for the petitioner is present.

Learned Additional Government Advocate upon instructions submits that, no other Archaka has been appointed by the State. Therefore, the Temple cannot be left without performing Puja, as devotees will be attending



and the deity cannot be left without the performance of the Puja and religious activities.

Under the circumstances, the petitioner as well as respondent Nos.4to 7 shall perform the Puja till further orders are passed by this Court.”

5. Learned Additional Government Advocate submits that, subsequent to the said interim order the Deputy Commissioner on 09.03.2026 has passed an order directing the Tahasildar to appoint the petitioner and respondent Nos.4 to 7 herein as Archakas of the Huligemma Devi Temple, Aroli village, Manvi taluka, Raichur district and considering the interim order passed by this Court and also the order dated 09.03.2026 passed by the Deputy Commissioner, the Tahasildar on 18.03.2026 has passed an order appointing the petitioner and respondent Nos.4 to 7 herein as Archakas of the aforesaid Temple. Under the circumstances, this writ petition may be disposed of taking note of the order dated 18.03.2026 passed by the Tahasildar.

6. The said submission is placed on record.



7. Since the petitioner and the respondent Nos.4 to 7 to the present petition are now appointed by the Tahasildar as Archaka of Huligemma Devi Temple, the earlier order passed by the Deputy Commissioner at Annexure-M dated 23.09.2025 rejecting the claim of the petitioner to be appointed as a Archaka in the aforesaid Temple needs to be formally set aside.

8. Accordingly, the following:

ORDER

- (i) The writ petition is partly allowed;
- (ii) The order dated 23.09.2025 passed by the respondent No.2 vide Annexure-M is quashed.

Sd/-
(S.VISHWAJITH SHETTY)
JUDGE