

W.P.(MD) No.25104 of 2026

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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 02.09.2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE C.SARAVANAN

W.P.(MD) No.25104 of 2026

and

W.M.P.(MD) No.18765 of 2026

Tmt.D.Subbulakshmi,
W/o.Durai,
Member Board of Trustees,
Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple,
Madurai.

... Petitioner

Vs.

- 1.The State of Tamil Nadu,
Secretary to Government,
Commercial Taxes, Registration and
Religious Endowments Department,
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai - 600 009.
- 2.The Commissioner,
Hindu Religious and Charitable
Endowments Department,
Uthamar Gandhi Salai,
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 034.
- 3.The Joint Commissioner / Executive Officer,
Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple,
Madurai.



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4.Mrs.Rukumani Palanivel Rajan,
W/o.Palanivel Rajan,
No.2 Palayam Illam,
Vallabai Road, Chokkikulam,
Madurai North Taluk, Madurai District.

5.Mr.P.K.M.Chellaiah,
S/o.P.K.Mookan Ambalam,
Door No.144, Anna Nagar,
Madurai North Taluk, Madurai District.

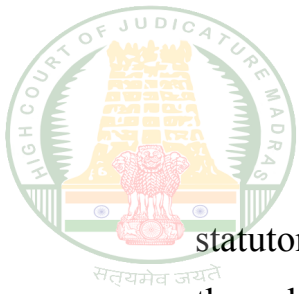
6.Mrs.S.Meena,
D/o.M.Sekar,
Door No.77, 4th Street, Harwinagar,
Arasadi, Melmadurai,
Madurai West Taluk,
Madurai District.

7.Mr.M.Seenivasan,
S/o.K.M.Munusamy,
Door No.122, 5th East Street,
K.K.Nagar, Madurai North Street,
Madurai District.

... Respondents

[R4 to R7 were *suo motu* impleaded by an order dated 01.09.2026]

Prayer : Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for issuance of a Writ of Mandamus, forbearing the respondents, their subordinates, servants, agents or any person acting under or through them, from in any manner interfering with, obstructing, preventing, restricting or otherwise impeding the petitioner and the other duly appointed and serving non-hereditary Trustees of Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai, from discharging and performing their respective



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statutory duties and functions as members of the Board of Trustees during the subsistence of their tenure, particularly in relation to the secular and administrative affairs of the Temple and consequently directing the respondents to extend all necessary cooperation and facilities to enable the petitioner and the other serving Trustees to effectively discharge their statutory duties and responsibilities in accordance with law.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Ragavendran

For R1 : Mr.P.V.Balasubramaniam,
Additional Advocate General - I
assisted by Mr.S.Venkatesh
Additional Government Pleader

For R2 : Mr.J.Bharathan
Additional Advocate General - V
assisted by Mr.R.Parthiban
Special Government Pleader

For R3 : Mr.V.R.Shanmuganathan
Standing Counsel

For R4 & R6 : Mr.P.Thilak Kumar

For R5 : Mr.S.Ramesh

R7 : Party-in-person

ORDER

The petitioner is before this Court seeking issuance of a Writ of Mandamus, forbearing the respondents, their subordinates, servants,

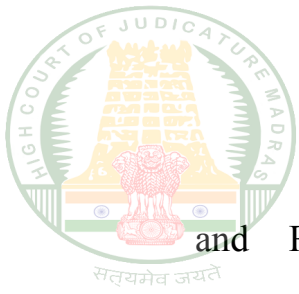


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agents or any person acting under or through them, from in any manner interfering with, obstructing, preventing, restricting or otherwise impeding the petitioner and the other duly appointed and serving non-hereditary Trustees of Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai, from discharging and performing their respective statutory duties and functions as members of the Board of Trustees during the subsistence of their tenure, particularly in relation to the secular and administrative affairs of the Temple and consequently directing the respondents to extend all necessary cooperation and facilities to enable the petitioner and the other serving Trustees to effectively discharge their statutory duties and responsibilities in accordance with law.

SUBMISSIONS OF THE PETITIONER

2. The learned counsel for the petitioner, Mr.R.Ragavendran, would submit that the respondents have printed the invitation for the ensuing Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam of Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai, which commences with Vigneshwara Poojai on 06.09.2026. It is further submitted that the format of the invitation approved by the Board of Trustees, which included the petitioner and four other trustees appointed pursuant to G.O.Ms.No.269, Tourism, Culture

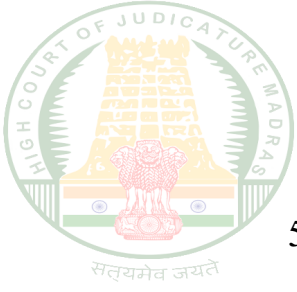


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and Religious Endowments Department, dated 06.11.2023 and subsequently renewed *vide* G.O.Ms.No.483, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department, dated 30.12.2025, has not been followed.

3. It is submitted that the invitation that has now been printed and circulated has deleted the names of the trustees appointed by the Government pursuant to the aforesaid G.O. and therefore, interferes with the exercise of the powers of the duly appointed trustees under Section 47 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959.

4. The learned counsel for the petitioner would draw attention to the invitation for the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam of the subject temple held in the year 1995, wherein the names of the trustees appointed under Section 47 of the Act were included. It is further submitted that during the subsequent Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam held in the year 2009 also, the names of the five trustees appointed at that time were also included in the invitation printed for the said Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam.

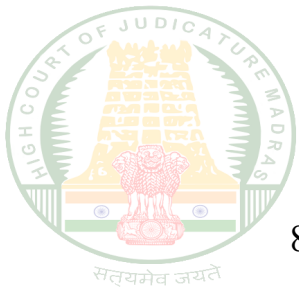


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5. It is further submitted that even in respect of the sub-temple of the subject temple, namely, Arulmigu Sugantha Kunthalambigai Sametha Thiruvappudaiyar Temple, Sellur, Madurai, during the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam held on 30.11.2025, the names of the trustees, including that of the petitioner, were printed in the invitation for the said Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam, as per the decision of the Board of Trustees, along with the names of the Executive Officer and the Joint Commissioner.

6. It is further submitted that the trustees had approved the format of the invitation by including their names, in accordance with the established practice of the temple in respect of the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam. However, in the invitation now printed, the names of the trustees have been omitted and replaced with the words “Chairman of Board of Trustees and Trustees” (அறங்காவலர் குழுத்தலைவர் மற்றும் அறங்காவலர்கள்).

7. It is further submitted that the decision to exclude the names of the members of the Board of Trustees was taken by the officials as well as the Executive Officer without any consultation with the Board of Trustees.



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8. It is further submitted that there are, however, no documents to substantiate how and when the decision was taken by the officials as well as the Executive Officer, either independently or in unison, to exclude the names of the members of the Board of Trustees from the invitation. It is submitted that the past practice cannot be deviated unless there is a specific resolution to that effect passed by the Board of Trustees.

9. It is further submitted that the officials as well as the Executive Officer may have printed only a limited number of invitations and that the remaining invitations can be printed by including the names of the members of the Board of Trustees. It is submitted that in temples under the control of the H.R. & C.E. Department, wherever important functions such as the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam are held, the names of the members of the Board of Trustees of the respective temples are printed in the invitations.

10. He would submit that, since January 2026, about 570 resolutions have been passed, out of which 312 resolutions pertain to the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam scheduled to be held on 17.09.2026. This indicates that the Board of Trustees has maintained cooperation with the second and third respondents and, thereby, with the first respondent. It



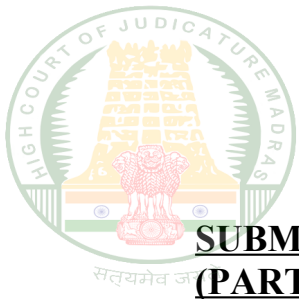
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is further submitted that there is no justification for excluding the names of the members of the Board of Trustees.

IMPLEADMENT OF THE OTHER TRUSTEES

11. Since the trustees act in unison under Rule 14 of the Functioning of the Board of Trustees Rules and the order to be passed by this Court may or may not adversely impact the rights of the co-trustees, who were appointed along with the petitioner under Section 47 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, the four other trustees were suo motu impleaded as the fourth to seventh respondents by this Court vide order dated 01.09.2026.

12. After impleading the remaining members of the Board of Trustees, they have entered appearance through their respective counsel, except for one. As far as the fourth and sixth respondents are concerned, Mr.P.Thilak Kumar, learned counsel, appears. As far as the fifth respondent is concerned, Mr.S.Ramesh, learned counsel, appears. The seventh respondent appears as a party-in-person.



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SUBMISSIONS OF THE SEVENTH RESPONENT
(PARTY-IN-PERSON)

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13. The seventh respondent would submit that he has been associated with the subject temple for almost 25 years and has been a trustee for the last four years. He would further submit that during the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam held in the year 2009, the names of the then trustees were printed in the invitation and that this has been the practice of the temple all along.

14. On a specific query as to whether he has any say insofar as the non-inclusion of the names of the trustees in the invitation sent to the dignitaries and invitees is concerned, he would submit that he has no complaints whatsoever and would further submit that it is the desire of God that their names have not been printed.

15. As far as the receipt of the invitation is concerned, he would confirm that he has received a copy of the invitation and as such, has no other grievance insofar as the non-inclusion of his name, as also the names of the other members of the Board of Trustees who were appointed along with him pursuant to G.O.Ms.No.269, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department, dated 06.11.2023 and subsequently



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renewed vide G.O.Ms.No.483, Tourism, Culture and Religious

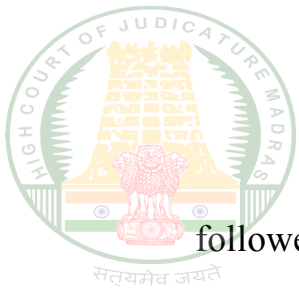
Endowments Department, dated 30.12.2025, is concerned.

16. The above statement of the seventh respondent, appearing as a party-in-person, stands recorded.

17. However, apart from the above, he would submit that there are several donors who have contributed to the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam and would therefore request to include their names in the stone carvings in the temple in order to honour them.

SUBMISSIONS OF THE FOURTH AND SIXTH RESPONDENTS

18. Mr.P.Thilak Kumar, learned counsel for the two other trustees, namely, the fourth and sixth respondents, would submit that the Board of Trustees is a statutory body and that the printing of the invitation contrary to the past practice is clearly vindictive on the part of the officials and the Executive Officer. It is submitted that although there is no specific procedure prescribed, a practice that has been followed during the past Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam ceremonies by printing the names of the members of the Board of Trustees in the invitations ought to have been



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followed without any deviation. It is further submitted that the officials as well as the Executive Officer are acting vindictively, as the present Board of Trustees were appointed during the previous regime.

19. He would further submit that as per the customary practice, the inscription stone for the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam should also depict the names of the members of the Board of Trustees, as was done in the past and that there should be no deviation from the said practice.

20. The submissions of Mr.P.Thilak Kumar, learned counsel for the fourth and sixth respondents, stand recorded.

SUBMISSIONS OF THE FIFTH RESPONDENT

21. Mr.S.Ramesh, learned counsel for the fifth respondent, would submit that he has no grievance regarding the non-inclusion of the names of the members of the Board of Trustees. Like the seventh respondent, he would also submit that it is the Will of the Almighty and that the non-inclusion of their names is of no significance, as the Board of Trustees is merely required to function for the religious institution.

SUBMISSION OF THE FIRST RESPONDENT

22. Mr.P.V.Balasubramanian, learned Additional Advocate

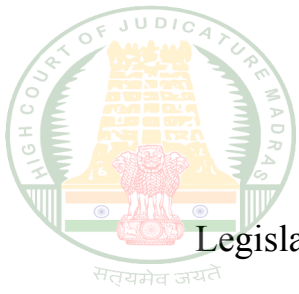


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General-I, assisted by Mr.S.Venkatesh, learned Additional Government Pleader, appearing for the first respondent, namely, the Secretary to the Commercial Taxes, Registration and Religious Endowments Department, who appears through Video Conferencing, would submit that about 570 resolutions have been passed by the Trustees, out of which 312 pertain to the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam scheduled to be held on 17.09.2026.

23. It is submitted that all the decisions have been implemented and therefore, the case of the petitioner that the respondents are trying to interfere with, obstruct, prevent, restrict or impede the petitioner and the other non-hereditary trustees is wholly a figment of the petitioner's imagination. He would further submit that there is no public duty cast upon the respondents to print the names of the trustees in the invitation and therefore, there is no question of issuing a writ of mandamus as prayed for by the petitioner.

24. Apart from the above, he would submit that the first respondent had no role insofar as the printing of the invitation is concerned. It is therefore submitted that the rumours that are floating around that a political game is being played out have to be arrested, particularly when the names of the Members of Parliament and the Members of the



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Legislative Assembly belonging to the opposite party have also been printed in the invitation. It is further submitted that the decision was taken by the third respondent, as the Board of Trustees had neither given any instruction nor passed any resolution insofar as the printing of the invitation and that the exclusion of the names of the members of the Board of Trustees was not intentional.

25. The learned Additional Advocate General would finally submit that, even if the prayer sought for in this Writ Petition is allowed, the clock cannot be turned back so as to grant the actual relief sought for by the petitioner, as the invitation has already been printed and circulated to the dignitaries and invitees and therefore, the non-inclusion of the names of the members of the Board of Trustees cannot now be rectified at this stage.

26. That apart, it is submitted that there is no statutory right vested in the Board of Trustees to have their names printed in the invitation for the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam scheduled to be held on 17.09.2026. It is further submitted that there are only four more days before the rituals connected with the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam commence on



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06.09.2026 and therefore, on this count also, the present Writ Petition is liable to be dismissed.

SUBMISSION OF THE SECOND RESPONDENT

27. Mr.J.Bharathan, learned Additional Advocate General-V, assisted by Mr.R.Parthiban, learned Special Government Pleader appearing for the second respondent, namely, the Commissioner of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, would submit that the affidavit is silent insofar as the alleged interference with, obstruction, prevention, restriction or impediment is concerned so as to warrant interference in the hands of this Court in respect of the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam. That apart, he would submit that no special privileges can be conferred upon the trustees appointed under Section 47 of the Act.

28. The learned Additional Advocate General would further submit that no privilege can be conferred on the trustees appointed under Section 47 of the Act. It is further submitted that neither the petitioner nor any other trustee can claim any right, privilege or recognition, as they are merely required to discharge their functions for the purpose for which

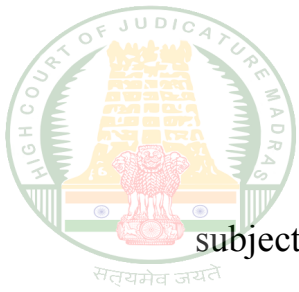


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they were appointed under Section 47 of the Act. It is further submitted that the petitioner as well as the other trustees can continue to discharge their functions during their tenure of office as devotees of the deity in the temple and that they cannot claim a right to have their names printed in the invitation. It is further submitted that all the resolutions passed hitherto would indicate that all the decisions taken by the trustees have been implemented in unison without any demur.

29. Apart from the above, he would submit that there are more than 40,000 temples coming under the purview of the H.R. & C.E. Department and that approximately 2,00,000 functions are held throughout the year, some of which are minor and some of which are major, such as the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam. It is further submitted that the second respondent, namely, the Commissioner, is not involved in the approval of invitations for any of the temples, much less in the approval of the invitation printed for the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam to be held at the subject temple on 17.09.2026.

30. That apart, it is submitted that the second respondent, Commissioner, is not involved in the day-to-day management of the



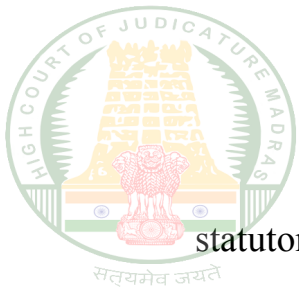
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subject temple, as the Board of Trustees has been appointed and it is for the Board of Trustees and the Executive Officer appointed for the aforesaid purpose, who are responsible for the printing of the invitation. It is further submitted that the third respondent may have taken a call by himself to print the invitation with exclusion of the names of the Board of Trustees, as the Board of Trustees had not passed any resolution in this regard and in the absence of any procedure for such printing.

31. It is submitted that if the petitioner and some of the Board of Trustees, who have been impleaded now, want to establish the customary rights based on the past practice, it is always open for them to approach the civil court to establish their right. Thus, in a way, the learned Additional Advocate General would submit that the manner in which the events unfolded is a *fait accompli*.

SUBMISSION OF THE THIRD RESPONDENT

32. Mr.V.R.Shanmuganathan, learned Standing Counsel for the third respondent, namely, the Joint Commissioner-cum-Executive Officer of the subject temple, would submit that in the absence of any rule, neither the petitioner nor any of the other trustees can claim as a matter of right that their names should be printed in the invitation. Since there is no



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statutory right to have their names printed in the invitation, the petitioner cannot maintain this Writ Petition.

33. The learned Standing Counsel would further submit that the petitioner cannot maintain this Writ Petition. It is further submitted that the prayer in this Writ Petition is for forbearing the respondents from interfering with, obstructing, preventing, restricting or otherwise impeding the petitioner and the other trustees of the subject temple from discharging and performing their respective statutory duties and functions as members of the Board of Trustees during the subsistence of their tenure, particularly in relation to the secular and administrative affairs of the Temple and consequently, directing the respondents to extend all necessary cooperation and facilities to enable the petitioner and the other serving trustees to effectively discharge their statutory duties and responsibilities in accordance with law. However, the arguments advanced during the course of hearing pertain only to the deletion of the names of the trustees from the invitation for the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam to be held on 17.09.2026.

34. The learned Standing Counsel would further submit that in paragraph 32 of the affidavit, the petitioner has concocted a story. It is



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submitted that the petitioner has projected as if the Board of Trustees had approved the proforma for the invitation and that ignoring the same, a new format has been printed by deleting the names of the trustees.

35. The learned Standing Counsel would also submit that 570 resolutions have been passed by the trustees since they assumed office, out of which 312 pertain to the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam and none of the resolutions deal with the printing of the invitation. Therefore, the question of invoking Rule 14 of the Functioning of the Board of Trustees Rules, framed under Section 116(2) read with Sections 47, 48 and 49 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, does not arise.

36. On another query as to who took the decision to print the invitation without the concurrence of the trustees, the learned Standing Counsel for the third respondent submits that the third respondent, being the Executive Officer of the temple and a responsible officer of the H.R. & C.E. Department, prepared the format of the invitation, which was approved by the second respondent. He would further submit that Section 23 of the H.R. & C.E. Act, 1959, empowers the second respondent with



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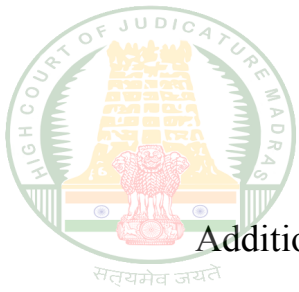
general superintendence and control over all temples and religious endowments to ensure their proper administration and the lawful appropriation of their income.

37. The learned Standing Counsel would draw attention to the contents of the invitation that has been printed. It is submitted that the invitation states, “Chairman of Board of Trustees and Trustees of Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai (அறங்காவலர் குழுத்தலைவர் மற்றும் அறங்காவலர்கள், அருள்மிகு மீனாட்சி சுந்தரேசுவரர் திருக்கோயில், மதுரை).” It is further submitted that no cause of action has arisen for the relief sought for in this Writ Petition.

38. It is further submitted that if at all the Board of Trustees wants their names to be included and recognised, it can be only under the proceedings under Section 63(e) of the H.R. & C.E. Act, 1959.

DISCUSSIONS

39. I have considered the arguments advanced by the learned counsel for the petitioner as well as the newly impleaded respondents, who are the other members of the Board of Trustees and the learned Additional Advocate General-I for the first respondent and the learned



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Additional Advocate General-V for the second respondent and and the learned Standing Counsel for the third respondent.

40. The relief sought for by the petitioner in this Writ Petition is as follows:-

“For issuance of a Writ of Mandamus, forbearing the respondents, their subordinates, servants, agents or any person acting under or through them, from in any manner interfering with, obstructing, preventing, restricting or otherwise impeding the petitioner and the other duly appointed and serving non-hereditary Trustees of Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, Madurai, from discharging and performing their respective statutory duties and functions as members of the Board of Trustees during the subsistence of their tenure, particularly in relation to the secular and administrative affairs of the Temple and consequently directing the respondents to extend all necessary cooperation and facilities to enable the petitioner and the other serving Trustees to effectively discharge their statutory duties and responsibilities in accordance with law.”

41. The facts that emerged from the elaborate submissions indicate that since 14.01.2026, about 570 resolutions have been passed by the Board of Trustees, out of which 312 specifically relate to the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam to be held on 17.09.2026. It is the admitted position that none of the resolutions passed for this year since



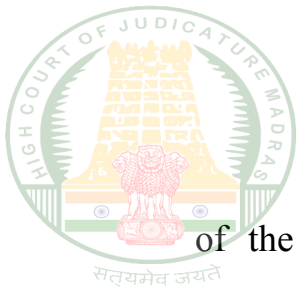
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14.01.2026 pertain to the printing of the invitation for the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam, which is normally held once in 12 years.

42. The tenure of trustees like the petitioner is two years under Section 47 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959. In this case, the trustees were appointed pursuant to G.O.Ms.No.269, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department, dated 06.11.2023 and subsequently renewed *vide* G.O.Ms.No.483, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department, dated 30.12.2025.

43. The records that have been filed before this Court clearly indicate that, in the past Kudamuzhukkus/Kumbabishegams held in the years 1995 and 2009, the names of the then Board of Trustees were printed in the invitation. This practice has not been followed for the present Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam to be held on 17.09.2026.

44. Both the first and second respondents have washed their hands



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of the matter, stating that they had no role in instructing the third respondent to deviate from the past practice of printing the names of the then Board of Trustees appointed under Section 47 of the Act in the invitation.

45. The act of the third respondent in excluding the names of the Board of Trustees in the invitation, by deviating from the past practice followed, clearly indicates arbitrariness and an attempt on the part of the third respondent to prevaricate the safeguards under Rules 14 and 15 of the Functioning of the Board of Trustees Rules, framed under Section 116(2) read with Sections 47, 48 and 49 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, vide G.O.Ms.No.4524, Revenue, dated 05.11.1960. An elaborate procedure has been prescribed under the Rules for the Executive Officer to implement the decisions of the Board of Trustees.

46. As per Rule 14 of the aforesaid Rules, all matters relating to the administration of the religious institution shall be decided at the meetings of the Board of Trustees. The Executive Officer or the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, as the case may be, shall carry into effect the decisions of the Board of Trustees after obtaining the orders of the competent



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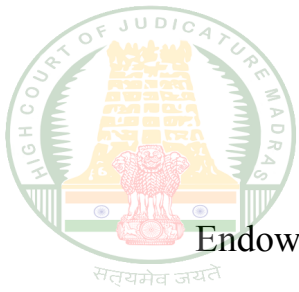
authority on individual subjects.

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47. Thus, it is incumbent on the third respondent to either inform the Board of Trustees of the decision that he proposes to take and thereafter obtain the approval of the Commissioner under Section 23 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959.

48. As per Rule 15 of the aforesaid Rules, the Executive Officer (in the case of a religious institution having an Executive Officer) or the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, as the case may be, may, in case of emergency, ascertain the opinion of the Board of Trustees by circulation of the records among all the trustees and in case of unanimity of opinion, carry out the decision. If there is a difference of opinion among the trustees during such circulation, the matter shall be considered at an emergent meeting of the Board of Trustees concerned for that purpose. Every unanimous decision ascertained through circulation shall be placed before the next meeting of the Board of Trustees for confirmation.

49. Rules 14 and 15 of the Functioning of the Board of Trustees Rules and Section 23 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable



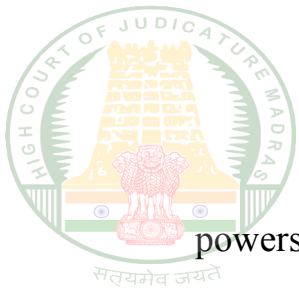
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Endowments Act, 1959, are reproduced below:-

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Rule 14	Rule 15	Section 23
All matters relating to the administration of the religious institution shall be decided at the meetings of the Board of Trustees. The Executive Officer or the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, as the case may be, shall carry into effect the decisions of the Board of Trustees after obtaining the orders of the competent authority on individual subjects.	(1) The Executive Officer (in the case of a religious institution having an Executive Officer) or the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, as the case may be, may, in case of emergency, ascertain the opinion of the Board of Trustees by circulation of the records among all the trustees and in case of unanimity of opinion carry out the decision. If there is a difference of opinion among the trustees during such circulation, the matter shall be considered at an emergent meeting of the Board of Trustees concerned for that purpose. (2) Every unanimous decision ascertained in circulation shall be placed before the next meeting of the Board of Trustees for confirmation.	23. Powers and duties of the Commissioner in respect of temples and religious endowments. - Subject to the provisions of this Act, the administration of all temples (including specific endowments attached thereto) and all religious endowments shall be subject to the general superintendence and control of the Commissioner and such superintendence and control shall include the power to pass any orders which may be deemed necessary to ensure that such temples and endowments are properly administered and that their income is duly appropriated for the purposes for which they were founded or exist: Provided that the Commissioner shall not pass any order prejudicial to any temple or endowment unless the trustees concerned have had a reasonable opportunity of making their representations.

50. Thus, the third respondent has acted beyond the scope of the



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powers vested with him and has unnecessarily precipitated the issue and thereby embarrassed the Board of Trustees and perhaps the first and second respondents, as admittedly, the decision has been taken without the consent of the second respondent.

51. The past practice and the current practice of printing the names of the Board of Trustees of various temples under the H.R. & C.E. Department have been deviated from. The printing of the invitations and distribution of the same by printing the names of the other dignitaries as per the usual protocol without the names of the Board of Trustees is now a *fait accompli*.

52. There is nothing much that can be done to remedy the damage caused to the office of the third respondent by the third respondent as he appears to have acted unilaterally. The alacrity shown by the third respondent to create a wedge in the temple administration is to be rebuked and frowned upon.

53. The learned Additional Advocate General-I for the first respondent and the learned Additional Advocate General-V for the second



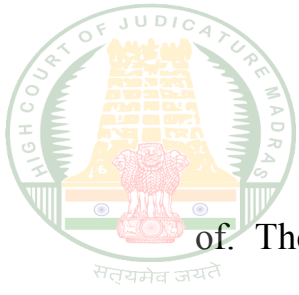
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respondent have stated that 3,000 invitations have been printed and distributed. This also indicates that things are beyond redemption at this stage, considering the fact that the temple rituals are to commence from 06.09.2026.

54. The only other direction, which can be issued at this stage, is that the first, second and third respondents shall ensure that in the stone inscription for the Kudamuzhukku/Kumbabishegam to be held on 17.09.2026, the names of the Board of Trustees are included, so that there are no further complaints and unnecessary politicking in the religious affairs of the temple.

55. The official respondents as well as the third respondent as the Executive Officer of the temple shall not deviate from the customary practice of the temple followed in the administration of the affairs of the temple in future and shall act strictly in accordance with law. The third respondent is directed to act strictly in accordance with the decisions of the Board of Trustees under the aforesaid Rules.

56. With the above observations, this Writ Petition stands disposed



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of. There shall be no order as to costs. Consequently, the connected

Miscellaneous Petition is closed.

02.09.2026

JEN

NCC : Yes / No

Index : Yes / No

To

1.The Secretary,
Commercial Taxes, Registration and
Religious Endowments Department,
State of Tamil Nadu,
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai - 600 009.

2.The Commissioner,
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department,
Uthamar Gandhi Salai,
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 034.



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C.SARAVANAN, J.

JEN

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02.09.2026