



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 18.08.2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE HEMANT CHANDANGOUDAR

WP No. 2365 of 2025

and

W.M.P.No.2682 of 2025

J.Ponraj
S/o.Late Joseph

..Petitioner

Vs

1. The Principal Secretary to Government /
The Prescribed Authority
Housing and Urban Development Department
Secretariat
Chennai-600 009.
2. The Member Secretary
Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority
Thalamuthu Natarajan Maaligai
Gandhi Irwin Road,
Egmore, Chennai-600 008.
3. The Commissioner
(Zone V), Tambaram City Municipal Corporation
No.1, Muthuranga Mudali Street
West Tambaram, Chennai-600 045.
4. Tr.Salomon Soundara Dass
Presbyter-in-charge and Chairman of CSI St.Mathews Church
East Tambaram
No.8, IAF Road, East Tambaram
Chennai-600 059.
5. Wesleyan Methodist Missionary
Trust Association Church
Rep. By Tr.Salomon Soundara Dass
No.8, IAF Road, East Tambaram
Chennai-600 059.

... Respondents



Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking a writ of Certiorari, calling for the records relating to the impugned order dated 14.10.2024 made in G.O(3D) No.58 passed by the 1st respondent upholding the Planning Permission Order issued by the 2nd respondent dated 12.10.2023 vide File No.CMDA/PP/INST/S/0122/2023 and quash the same.

For Petitioner:	Mr.N.S.Suganthan
For Respondents:	Mr.R.Nandhakumar, Additional Government Pleader, for R1 Mr.Akhil Akbar Ali, for R2 Mr.P.Srinivas, Standing Counsel, for R3 Mr.D.Senthil Kumar, for R4 & R5

ORDER

The petitioner challenges the order dated 14.10.2024 passed by the first respondent, upholding the planning permission granted by the second respondent on 12.10.2023.

2. The petitioner claims to be a member of the Church of South India and states that a Church is already functioning at the said premises. According to the petitioner, the fourth respondent, claiming to be the Presbyterian-in-charge and Chairman of CSI St. Mathews Church, obtained permission to construct a Church in the name of the fifth respondent without proper authorisation.

3. Admittedly, the petitioner is not a member of the fifth respondent Trust. The petitioner's grievance is that the fourth respondent, without proper authorisation, obtained building permission in the name of the fifth respondent. If



that is so, it is for the fifth respondent to question the same.

4. Learned counsel appearing for respondents 4 and 5 submitted that the fifth respondent had issued an authorisation letter.

5. The petitioner contends that the permission granted in favour of the fifth respondent has affected his right to worship and the smooth functioning of the Church. He also alleges that the fifth respondent has misappropriated funds belonging to the Church of South India.

6. All these issues involve disputed questions of fact, which cannot be adjudicated in a writ petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India. Further, the petitioner has already filed several suits seeking permanent injunction and challenging the building permission granted in favour of the fifth respondent. The petitioner is therefore at liberty to raise all the above contentions in the pending suits.

7. Accordingly, the writ petition is disposed of, leaving it open to the petitioner to raise all his contentions and pursue his remedies in the pending suits. This Court has not expressed any opinion on the merits of the rival claims.

8. Consequently, the connected miscellaneous petition is closed. There shall be no order as to costs.

18.08.2026

Speaking / Non-speaking order

Neutral Citation : Yes / No

Index : Yes / No

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HEMANT CHANDANGOUDAR J.

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