



WEB COPY

WP No. 13776 of



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 09-04-2026

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THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE M.DHANDAPANI

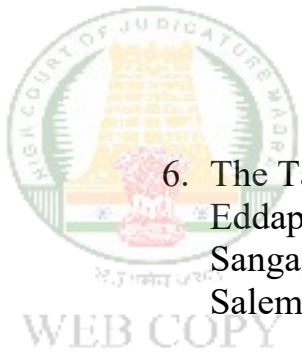
WP No. 13776 of 2026

S.Kandasamy
S/o.K.Seerangan
3/76,Azhanpaliyam
Kachipalli village
K.Vadukapatti post
Eddpadi Taluk
Salem District

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The commissioner
Hindu Religious and charitable Endowments
Department
Salem Region
Salem District
2. The Joint Commissioner
Hindu Religious and charitable Endowments
Department
Salem Region
Salem District
3. The Assistant Commissioner
Hindu Religious and charitable Endowments
Department
Salem Region
Salem District
4. The District collector
Fort Main Rd,
Salem District-636 001
5. The Revenue Divisional officer
Sangagiri
Salem District.



6. The Tahsildar
Eddapadi Taluk
Sangagiri
Salem District
7. The Inspector of Police
Kakapalayam police station
Salem District
8. R.Ravi
S/o.Ramagounder
Ekapuram village
Sankagiri Taluk
Salem District -637 502
9. L.Govindan
S/o.Lakshmana Gounder
Ekapuram village, Sankagiri Taluk
Salem District -637 502
- 10.Thangam
S/o.Chinna tambi
No.3N/11,Sri Kuppusami timbars
Backside of Govt boys higher secondary school
Nainapatti,
Eddapadi Taluk
Salem District -637 502
- 11.Govindan
S/o.Panchami
No.2/210,Ekapuram village
Sankagiri Taluk
Salem District-637 502
- 12.Madhaiyan
S/o.govindan
No.2/162,Ekapuram village
sankagiri Taluk
Salem District -637502



13. Ramachandran
S/o. Lakshmanan
No.2/182, Ekapuram village
sankagiri Taluk
Salem District -637502
14. Jayakumar
S/o. Ramachandran
No.2/186, Ekapuram village
sankagiri Taluk
Salem District -637502
15. Ramasamy
S/o. Lakshmanan
No.1-26C1, Ekapuram village
sankagiri Taluk
Salem District -637502
16. Ramasamy
s/o.131, Ekapuram village
sankagiri Taluk
Salem District -637502
17. Perumal gounder
s/o. Ramasamy
Ekapuram village
sankagiri Taluk
Salem District -637502
18. Chinnu
S/o. Lakshmanan,
No.2-155, Ekapuram village
sankagiri Taluk
Salem District -637502
19. Mahendran
S/o. Vellai Gounder
No.2-231, Ekapuram village
sankagiri Taluk
Salem District -637502
20. Raja
S/o. Ramasamy



No.1-33,Ekapuram village
sankagiri Taluk
Salem District -637502

21.Sivakumar
S/o.Lakshmanan
No.2-154,Ekapuram village
sankagiri Taluk
Salem District -637502

..Respondent(s)

Prayer: Writ Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of writ of Mandamus directing the respondents 2 and 3 to consider the petitioners representation dated 27.2.2026 and ensure proper protection of the Arulmigu panchumathal Amman Temple/Arulmigu Sri Perumal Swamy Temple, Salem District properties including the temple jewels, gold articles and Hundial collections and to take appropriate action against the respondents 8 to 21 in accordance with law, in order to prevent any misuse or misappropriation of the offering to ensure transparency in the administration of the temple affairs and to safeguard the temple properties and Hundial collections in accordance with law.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.U.Gowri Shankar

For Respondent(s): Mr.A.V.Meghanathan, Government Advocate
(Crl.Side) for R7
Mr.T.M.Rajangam, Government Advocate for R4
to R6
Mr.S.Ravichandran, Special Government Pleader
for R1 to R3

Order

This Writ Petition is filed by the petitioner to direct the respondents 2 and 3 to consider the petitioners representation dated 27.2.2026to safeguard the temple properties and Hundial collections in accordance with law.



2. Case of the petitioner is that the Temple viz., Arulmigu Panchumaathal Amman and Arulmigu Sri Perumal Swamy Temple, situated at Ekapuram Village, Sankagiri Taluk, Salem District, is a hereditary temple. However, respondents 8 to 21 are suddenly interfering with the affairs of the temple. Hence, the petitioner filed W.P.No.1602 of 2026, to forthwith take over the administration of the said Temple, wherein, this Court directed the petitioner to approach the authorities under Section 63(b) of the HR & CE Act to establish hereditary trusteeship. The petitioner has already filed an application under Section 63(b) of the HR & CE Act and it is still pending. Since the private respondents unlawfully interfere with the administration of the temple, the petitioner has filed the present writ petition.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that due to continuous harassment by the respondents 8 to 21 and police interference, and to safeguard the long-standing religious customs, the petitioner has filed O.S.No.89 of 2023 before the Civil Court at Sangagiri. It is further submitted that despite repeated representations to the official respondents, no effective steps has been taken to take over administration or secure temple assets. Therefore, prays for appropriate orders.



4. Learned Special Government Pleader (HR & CE) appearing for the respondents 1 to 3 has produced a communication of the Joint Commissioner (HR & CE), Salem, dated 08.04.2026, and submitted that the temple is a private temple and not under the control of HR & CE Department. It is further submitted that necessary action will be taken after the conclusion of the election proceedings.

5. Heard both sides and also perused the materials available on record.

6. It is not in dispute that the temple is a private property and that a dispute exists between the petitioner and respondents 8 to 21 with regard to the administration of the temple. The matter is already pending before the Civil Court in O.S.No.89 of 2023. Since the temple is a private property and is not under the control of HR and CE and as the dispute is between the individuals, this Court is not inclined to go into the merits of the matter in exercise of its writ jurisdiction. Hence, the petitioner is at liberty to redress his grievance before the Civil Court in the pending Suit.

Accordingly, this Writ Petition is dismissed. No costs.

09-04-2026

Index: Yes/No
Speaking/Non-speaking order
Neutral Citation: Yes/No

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To

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Salem Region
Salem District
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Hindu Religious and charitable Endowments Department
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M.DHANDAPANI J.

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