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W.P.No.12554 of 2026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 02-04-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE M.DHANDAPANI

W.P.No.12554 of 2026

E.Kuppannan

...Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The Commissioner
Hindu Religious & Charitable
Endowments Board, No.119,
Uthamar Gandhi Salai,
Nungambakkam, Chennai.
2. The Joint Commissioner
Hindu Religious & Charitable
Endowments Board,
Salem & District.
3. The Inspector, Hindu Religious &
Charitable Endowments Board,
Namakkal & District.
4. The Inspector of Police
Namakiripettai Police Station,
Nammakkal District.
5. Ganapathy

...Respondent(s)



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PETITION under Article 226 of The Constitution of India praying for the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus to direct the 1st respondent to consider the representation dated 26.2.2026 given by the petitioner and to make necessary arrangements to perform Pongal festival to Thoppapatti Periyamariamman Temple, Namakkal on par with others in view of the judgements rendered by this court in 2010 4 MLJ Page No.1077 [Board of Trustees, Pottai Mariamman Temple Vs. Revenue Divisional Officer-Cum-Executive Magistrate, Kallakurichi] and 2025 Supreme (Online) (Madras) Page No.55578 [Selvaraj Vs. District Collector, Kanchipuram].

For Petitioner(s):	Mr.P.Vijendran
For Respondent(s):	Mr.S.Ravichandran, AGP for R1 to R3 Mr.V.Meghanathan, GA (Crl.Side) for R4

ORDER

This is a petition filed by the petitioner seeking a direction to the first respondent to consider his representation dated 26.2.2026 for making necessary arrangements to perform pongal festival to Thoppapatti Periyamariamman Temple, Namakkal on par with others in view of the

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judgments of this Court in the case of Board of Trustees, Pottai Mariamman Temple Vs. Revenue Divisional Officer-cum-Executive Magistrate, Kallakurichi [reported in 2010 (4) MLJ 1077] and in the case of Selvaraj Vs. District Collector, Kanchipuram [reported in 2025 Supreme (OnLine) (Madras) 55578].

2. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner, the learned Additional Government Pleader accepting notice for respondents 1 to 3 and the learned Government Advocate (Criminal Side) accepting notice for the fourth respondent. In view of the limited nature of the relief this Court proposes to grant, notice to the fifth respondent is dispensed with and the writ petition itself is taken up for final disposal.

3. The case of the petitioner is as follows:

(i) The petitioner claims to be a devotee of Periyamariyamman Temple, Thoppapatti Village and Post, Rasipuram Taluk, Namakkal District. The said temple comes under the High Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The petitioner also claims to be belonging to a



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scheduled caste community whereas the fifth respondent belongs to backward community.

(ii) The fifth respondent along with others are preventing the scheduled caste people entering into the said temple and conducting pongal festival. Despite giving several complaints by a third party, no effective steps were taken to redress the grievance of the persons like the petitioner. The petitioner has been giving representations every year seeking for protection. Even for this year, the pongal festival is proposed to be conducted on 09.4.2026. Hence, seeking protection to conduct the festival, the petitioner sent a representation dated 26.2.2026. As it did not evoke any response, the petitioner is before this Court.

3. When the matter is taken up for hearing, the learned Additional Government Pleader appearing for respondents 1 to 3 has produced a communication dated 01.4.2026 i.e. yesterday issued by the Executive Officer of the temple to the Special Government Pleader, HR & CE Department, High Court, Chennai with a copy to the Assistant Commissioner, HR & CE Department, Namakkal requesting to issue



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suitable directions to make arrangements to perform pongal festival in the said temple by all the general public on par with other temples. This is recorded.

4. In the light of the above, the writ petition is disposed of with a direction to the first respondent to consider the representation of the petitioner dated 26.2.2026, make arrangements to perform pongal festival on 09.4.2026 to Thoppapatti Periyamariyamman Temple, by all the general public including the petitioner and pass appropriate orders at the earliest. No costs.

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

RLI

Note: Issue order copy on 06.04.2026



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To

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Hindu Religious & Charitable
Endowments Board, No.119,
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Nungambakkam, Chennai.
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M.DHANDAPANI, J.

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