



W.P.(MD)No.4304 of 2026

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 18.02.2026

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE KRISHNAN RAMASAMY

W.P.(MD)No.4304 of 2026
& W.M.P(MD)Nos.3577 & 3578 of 2026 of 2026

- 1.S.Muruganantham
- 2.J.Sundarrajan
- 3.Rudhramoorthy
- 4.Balaguru

... Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Joint Commissioner
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Admn.) Department
Madurai.

2. The Deputy Commissioner/Executive Officer
Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple
Thirupparankundram, Madurai.

... Respondents

Prayer:

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a Writ of Mandamus, directing the 2nd respondent to fix the date for the Maasi Festival commencing from 01.03.2026, initiating by Kaappukattuthal in Arulmigu Veyilugundha Amman Temple, Thirupparankundram, Madurai followed by the 10 days rituals, as requested by the petitioners in their representation dated 07.02.2026



WEB COPY



W.P.(MD)No.4304 of 2026

For Petitioner : Ms.J.Anandhavalli
for Ms.S.Meenakshi Babu

For Respondent : Mr.K.Balasubramani, SGP for R1
Mr.V.Chandrasekar, for R2

ORDER

This writ petition has been filed to direct the 2nd respondent to fix the date for the Maasi Festival commencing from 01.03.2026, initiating by Kaappukattuthal in Arulmigu Veyilugundha Amman Temple, Thirupparankundram, Madurai followed by the 10 days rituals, as requested by the petitioners in their representation dated 07.02.2026.

2. When this matter came up for hearing on 13.02.2026, this Court has passed the following orders:

“This writ petition has been filed seeking a direction to the second respondent to fix the date for the Maasi Festival commencing from 01.03.2026, beginning with Kaappukattuthal, in Arulmigu Veyilugundha Amman Temple, Thirupparankundram, Madurai District, followed by the ten days’ rituals, as requested by the petitioners in their representation dated 07.02.2026.

2. Mr.K.Balasubramani, learned Special Government Pleader, takes notice for the first respondent and Mr.V.Chandrasekar, learned counsel, takes notice for the second respondent.



3. *The learned counsel appearing for the petitioners would submit that the Maasi Festival is traditionally celebrated in the above temple with ten days of rituals, commencing with Maavusathuthal on Sunday and followed by Kaappukattuthal on Monday night. It is further submitted that during the same Tamil month of Maasi, on the day of Maasi Karthigai, animal sacrifice is performed by a particular community as part of long-standing temple customs.*

4. *According to the petitioners, the respondents have now fixed the Maasi Festival from 16.02.2026 to 23.02.2026. It is submitted that 15.02.2026 is Mahasivarathiri and, during that period, separate poojas and rituals connected with Sivarathiri will be performed. Therefore, it would not be feasible to conduct the ritual of Maavusathuthal simultaneously. It is further submitted that Maasi Karthigai falls on 23.02.2026 and that every year, on that day, animal sacrifice takes place inside the temple premises as per established practice. If the Sivarathiri rituals, Maavusathuthal, and Kaappukattuthal are conducted simultaneously, it would cause inconvenience to devotees and would be contrary to the customary practices of the temple, considering the distinct nature of the rituals performed on those occasions.*

5. *Per contra, the learned counsel appearing for the respondents would submit that the festival dates have already been fixed by Sthanika Bhattars after conducting Aarudam. It is contended that the petitioners, being poojaris, cannot seek alteration of the dates once they have been fixed by the competent temple authorities.*



W.P.(MD)No.4304 of 2026

6. *This Court, prima facie, is of the view that during Mahasivarathiri, separate and elaborate poojas are conducted. In such circumstances, conducting the ritual of Maavusathuthal simultaneously may give rise to practical and customary difficulties, as contended by the petitioners. Further, the submissions regarding Maasi Karthigai and the long-standing practice associated therewith also require consideration.*

7. *In view of the above and considering the prima facie case made out by the petitioners, there shall be an order of interim injunction restraining the respondents from proceeding with the Maasi Festival as per the schedule fixed from 16.02.2026 to 23.02.2026, until further orders.*

8. *Registry is directed to post this case on 18.02.2026 for further hearing."*

3. As per the direction of this Court vide aforesaid order dated 13.02.2026, today, the learned Special Government Pleader appearing for the respondents would submit that the original Maasi festival, which was planned from 16.02.2026 to 23.02.2026, has already been stopped.

4. Now, the learned counsel for the petitioner made a request to fix the beginning date of Maasi festival on 02.03.2026.



W.P.(MD)No.4304 of 2026

WEB COPY

5. However, the learned counsel respondents would submit that the petitioner may be permitted to start the festival from 01.03.2026. Hence, he requests this Court to pass appropriate orders.

6. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the respondents and also perused the materials available on record.

7. In the present case, the original Maasi Festival, which was planned between 16.02.2026 and 23.02.2026 was stopped. Now, a request was made by the petitioner to commence the said Festival on 02.03.2026. However, the respondents seek for commencement on 01.03.2026.

8. In view of the above, the petitioner is granted liberty to make submission before the respondent with regard to the commencement of Maasi festival either on 01.03.2026 or on 02.03.2026. In such case, the respondent shall take a decision on this aspect in accordance with law.



W.P.(MD)No.4304 of 2026

WEB COPY

9. With the above directions, this writ petition is disposed of. No cost. Consequently, the connected miscellaneous petitions are also closed.

18.02.2026

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Index : Yes / No

Neutral Citation : Yes / No

nsa

To

1. The Joint Commissioner

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Admn.) Department
Madurai.

2. The Deputy Commissioner/Executive Officer

Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple

Thirupparankundram, Madurai.



W.P.(MD)No.4304 of 2026

KRISHNAN RAMASAMY.J.,

nsa

W.P.(MD)No.4304 of 2026
& W.M.P(MD)Nos.3577 & 3578 of 2026 of 2026

18.02.2026