

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 27-07-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE C. SARAVANAN

WP(MD) No. 21437 of 2026

and

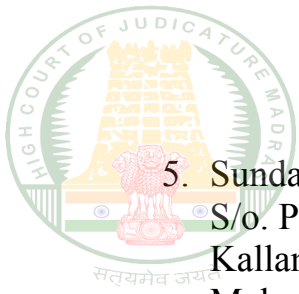
W.M.P.(MD)Nos.15919, 15921 and 15924 of 2026

M.Mandhaiyan Ambalam
S/o. R. Mandhai Veeran,
Kallampatti,
Melur Taluk,
Madurai District.

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The Joint Commissioner / Executive Officer
Arulmighu Kallazhagar Thirukovil
Devasthanam,
Alagarkovil,
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment
Department,
Madurai District - 625 306.
2. K.Madhavan Ambalam
S/o. Karukkan Ambalam,
Melakallanthiri,
Madurai East Taluk,
Madurai District.
3. Vaguththy Ambalam
S/o. Machakalai,
Melakallanthiri,
Madurai East Taluk,
Madurai District.
4. Deepan Chakravarthi
S/o. Malaiyandi,
Muduvarpatti,
Vadipatti Taluk,
Madudrai District.



5. Sundararajan Ambalam
S/o. Periyazhagan Ambalam,
Kallampatti,
Melur Taluk,
Madurai District.

6. A.Manthaiyan Ambalam
S/o. Alagu,
Kallampatti,
Melur Taluk,
Madurai District.

7. S.Vijayaraja Ambalam
S/o. Sethuraman,
Kallampatti,
Melur Taluk,
Madurai District.

8. S.S.Abbas
S/o. Sikkandar,
Kallampatti,
Melur Taluk,
Madurai District.

9. Muthuramalingam
S/o. VSM. Mathaiyan Ambalam,
No.204/3, Keelakallanthiri,
Madurai East Taluk,
Madurai District.

..Respondent(s)

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this Court to issue a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus, to call for the records of the impugned order in Na.Ka. No.1742/2025/E1 issued by the 1st respondent dated 05.08.2025 and quash the same as illegal and consequently directing the 1st respondent to receive the service charges for alighting Lord Kallalagar in the Kallampatti Common Mandapam (Mandagapadi) situated at Alagarkovil during the Aadi Festival on 28.07.2026 and in all future Aadi



Festivals and alight the Lord Kallalagar in the Mandagapadi and pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case and thus render justice.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.M.Purusothaman
for Mr.K.N.Vijayasenthil Kumar

For Respondent(s): Mr.V.Chandrasekar
Standing Counsel for R1

Mr.V.Muthukamatchi
for R2 and R5 to R8

ORDER

The petitioner is before this Court after his earlier attempt in W.P.(MD) No.21064 of 2026 proved futile. In the said writ petition, the petitioner had sought a direction to the first respondent herein to receive the service charges for alighting Lord Kallalagar at the Kallampatti Common Mandapam (Mandagapadi), situated at Alagarkovil, during the Aadi Festival on 28.07.2026 and during all future Aadi Festivals, and to ensure that Lord Kallalagar is brought to the said Mandagapadi.

2. The said writ petition was, however, dismissed at the stage of admission on 24.07.2026, while granting liberty to the petitioner to challenge the impugned order passed by the Deputy Commissioner, H.R. and C.E. Department. Pursuant thereto, the petitioner has filed the present writ petition seeking to quash the impugned proceedings of the first respondent in Na.Ka.No.1742/2025/E1, dated 05.08.2025, and consequently, to direct the first



respondent to receive the service charges for alighting Lord Kallalagar at the Kallampatti Common Mandapam (Mandagapadi), situated at Alagarkovil, during the Aadi Festival on 28.07.2026 and during all future Aadi Festivals.

3. The petitioner claims to represent one of the eight Ambalakarars of Kallampatti Village, Melur Taluk, Madurai District. It is the case of the petitioner that a dispute exists between two of the Ambalakarars, namely, Kuruni and Potta Kadachi, in relation to Kaluvamparai Karuppanasamy Temple. According to the petitioner, the dispute had earlier been resolved by way of a compromise entered into between the Ambalakarars in I.A.No.761 of 1968, wherein the following order came to be passed:

1. That the existing 8 Karai- Ambalams do continue as Karai-Managers of the villages and do carry on the functions in a united way ;
2. That, should vacancy arise in the post of any Karai- Manager the respective Karalkaras be at liberty to appoint Karai -Manager in accordance with precedence.
3. That, for performing functions touching the common causes of the villagers and for celebrating festivals, youth associations of Ambalams be formed after due publicity by beat of tom-tom by the thotti, and meetings be convened then and there and decisions arrived and in accordance with such decisions, the aforesaid functions and festivals be carried on ;
4. That, leading the village common funds or purchasing properties for the village or leasing the village lands or leasing in any other manner. do take place in accordance with the decisions of the general meeting of the villagers and the records pertaining there to be taken in the names of the 8 Karai ambalams (Karai Managers).
5. That the accounts of the village be entrusted with and maintained by the 8 Karai Manager, Viz., the Nottakkar



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6. That, the said accounts, documents and the funds on hand be kept in the village iron safe and the keys of the iron safe be continued to be kept by four Karai – Ambalams as before i.e., First and second karaikaras do have one key, that the fifth and sixth karaikaras do have the third key and the seventh and eight kariakars do have the fourth key every year and each set of the aforesaid Karaikaras do exchange the key with him with the other set on the 3rd of Chithirai every year.
7. That the iron safe aforesaid be opened, if need be all the 8 Karai-ambalams in the presence of the youth Association.
8. That the outstanding by way of mortgage etc., have been realised and the realisation along with the connected records have been placed in the village iron safe.
9. That the parties do have no recourse against the other and
10. That the parties do bear their own costs of the cause.

4. Insofar as the impugned order is concerned, the petitioner's request for permitting the Mandagapadi at the Kallampatti Common Mandapam (Mandagapadi), situated at Alagarkovil, during the previous Aadi Festival was rejected by the first respondent/Deputy Commissioner by proceedings dated 05.08.2025. The said request was rejected with the following observations:

இந்த தீர்ப்புரை மீது நாளது தேதிவரை மேல்முறையீடுகள் எவையும் செய்யப்பட்டு, அவ்வழக்குகளில் உத்தரவுகள் ஏதேனும் பிறப்பிக்கப்பட்டதாக ஆவணங்கள் எவையும், இத்திருக்கோயில் நிருவாகத்திடம் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்படாத நிலையில், இந்த தீர்ப்பானது, " A Judgement in rem " என்றும், இந்தத் தீர்ப்பு வழக்குத் தரப்பினரையும் வழக்குடன் தொடர்புடைய அனைவரையும் கட்டுப்படுத்தும் தன்மை கொண்டதென முடிவு செய்யப்படுகிறது. அதனடிப்படையில், மேற்படி நீதிமன்றத்தால் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்பட்டு, உத்தரவிடப்பட்டுள்ள இணைக்கத்தீர்வு ஷரத்துக்களின், ஷரத்துப்பத்தி எண். 1-ல் "கிராம பொதுக்காரியங்களை நடத்துவதற்கும், உற்சவங்களை நடத்துவதற்கும், அவ்வப்போது அம்பல இளங்கச்சிகள் அடங்கிய பொதுக்கூட்டத்தை முறைப்படி, தோட்டி மூலம் தண்டோரா செய்து கூட்டி, அந்தக் கூட்டத்தில் எடுக்கப்பட்ட முடிவுப்படி காரியங்கள் நடத்துவதென்றும்," என்று ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்பட்டபடி,



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மதுரை மாவட்டம், மேலூர் வட்டம், எண்.55-நிர் கல்லம்பட்டி கிராமத்தின் எட்டு கரைக் கார்களும், அம்பல இளங்கச்சிகள் அடங்கிய பொதுக்கூட்டத்தை முறைப்படி அறிவிக்கை செய்து கூட்டி, அந்தக் கூட்டத்தில் எடுக்கப்பட்ட முடிவுப்படி, கல்லம்பட்டி கிராமத்திற்கு சொந்தமான மண்டகப்படியில், அருள்மிகு கள்ளழகர் சுவாமியை எழுந்தருளச் செய்ய விண்ணப்பிக்கும்பட்சத்தில் அவ்விண்ணப்பத்தை ஏற்று அருள்மிகு கள்ளழகரை கல்லம்பட்டி மண்டகப்படியில் எழுந்தருள ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்படும்.

தற்போதைய நிலையில், பார்வைக்குறிப்பு 3-ல் கண்டுள்ள மனுவுடன் இணைத்து மண்டகப்படி கட்டணம் செலுத்தும் வகைக்கு வரப்பெற்ற வாங்கி வரை வோலையுடன் கூடிய மனுவானது, மேற்படி கல்லம்பட்டி கிராமத்தின் எட்டு கரைகளில், ஐந்தரைக்கரைகாரர்கள் மட்டும் ஒன்றுக்கூடி செய்துள்ள விண்ணப்பம் என்பதால், மேற்படி விண்ணப்பம், மேற்படி மதுரை மாவட்ட நீதிமன்றத்தில் கல்லம்பட்டி கிராம ஐந்து அம்பலகாரர்களை மேல்முறையிட்டாளர்களாகவும், எட்டு அம்பல காரர்களை எதிர்மேல் முறையிட்டாளர்களாகவும் கொண்டு நடத்தப்பட்ட மேல் முறையிட்டு வழக்கு எண். 69/1967-ல் 28.08.1968 தேதியிட்டு மேற்படி நீதி மன்றத்தால் மேற்படி வழக்குத்தரப்பினர் இடையே ஏற்பட்ட கழுக ஒப்பந்தத்தை ஏற்று அவ்வொப்பந்தத்தின் அடிப்படையில், பிறப்பிக்கப்பட்ட தீர்ப்பாணைக்கு முரணாக இருப்பதால், பார்வைக்குறிப்பு 3 மற்றும் 6-ல் கண்டுள்ள மனுதாரர்களின் கோரிக்கையை ஏற்க இயலவில்லை என தெரிவித்து, மனுதாரர்களால் மண்டகப்படி கட்டணத்திற்கென இவ்வலுவலகத்திற்கு அனுப்பிய ரூ.5200/-க்கான மேலூர் கிளை, கனரா வாங்கி வரைவோலை எண். 539904/ நாள். 25.07.2025 அசலாக இணைத்து இத்துடன் இணைத்தனுப்பி வைக்கப்படுகிறது.

(ஓம்) ந.யக்ஞ நாராயணன்
துணை ஆணையர்/செயல் அலுவலர்

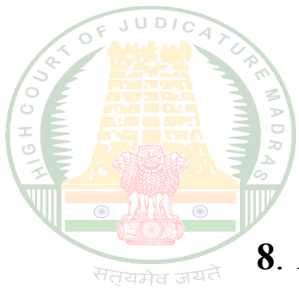
5. The learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the petitioner may be permitted to contribute towards the Mandagapadi to be conducted at the Kallampatti Common Mandapam (Mandagapadi), situated at Alagarkovil, during the Aadi Festival scheduled to be held on 28.07.2026 (tomorrow), which



is specifically earmarked for the eight Ambalakarars of the said Village. It was further submitted that the service charges/taxes may be collected from the petitioner and the other Ambalakarars, except the third and fourth Ambalakarars.

6. The learned counsel for the petitioner further submitted that, insofar as any ceremonial privilege is concerned, the same may, for the present, be also conferred upon the third and fourth Ambalakarars, namely, Kuruni and Potta Kadachi.

7. Per contra, the learned Standing Counsel appearing for the first respondent submitted that there has been a long-standing dispute among some of the Ambalakarars of the said Village and, on account of the said dispute, the petitioner's request was not acceded to during the previous year. It was, therefore, contended that the same request cannot be acceded to this year as well. It was further submitted that the third and fourth Ambalakarars have also instituted a suit in O.S. No.246 of 2025 before the District Munsif Court, Melur, after the impugned proceedings came to be passed and, therefore, on that ground also, the petitioner's request cannot be entertained. It was also submitted that permitting the petitioner to conduct the Mandagapadi is likely to give rise to a law and order situation.



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8. As far as the Mandagapadi in the temple is concerned, it is an annual religious event that has been conducted from time immemorial. The conduct of the Mandagapadi cannot be stalled merely because of the *inter se* disputes among the Ambalakarars. Therefore, this Court sees no impediment in directing the H.R. and C.E. Department to receive the Mandagapadi service charges from the first, second, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth Ambalakarars individually. If the third and fourth Ambalakarars are also willing to contribute towards the service charges, the H.R. and C.E. Department shall likewise receive the same.

9. However, it is made clear that no special or exclusive privilege shall be conferred upon any of the Ambalakarars in connection with the ensuing Aadi Festival scheduled to be held on 28.07.2026. The festival and the Mandagapadi shall be conducted peacefully under the supervision of the temple authorities, without conferring any preferential rights upon any particular group of Ambalakarars.

10. Accordingly, the Writ Petition stands disposed of. There shall be no order as to costs. Consequently, the connected Miscellaneous Petitions are closed.

27-07-2026

Index: Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

Note:- Issue order copy on 27.07.2026.



To

The Joint Commissioner / Executive Officer
Arulmighu Kallazhagar Thirukovil Devasthanam,
Alagarkovil,
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department,
Madurai District - 625 306.

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C.SARAVANAN, J.

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