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WP(MD) No. 23445 of 2



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 14-08-2026

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THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE C. SARAVANAN

WP(MD) No. 23445 of 2026

and

W.M.P.(MD)Nos.17446 and 17448 of 2026

Ganesan
S/o.Thekchanam,
No.266/A, Maruthuva Nagar,
Sivagiripatti,
Palani Taluk,
Dindigul District

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The Commissioner,
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment
Chennai
2. The Joint Commissioner/Executive Officer,
Arulmighu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple,
Palani,
Dindigul 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 pertaining to the order passed by the 2nd respondent passed in his proceedings Se.Mu.Na.Ka.No.5293/2023/C2 dated 05.07.2026 and quash the same as illegal, consequently directing the 2nd respondent to permit him to discharge his duty in the tonsuring place of Lord Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple and pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of this case and thus render justice.

For Petitioner(s):

Ms.G.Subiksha



For Respondent(s):

Mr.R.Parthiban
Special Government Pleader for R1

Mr.R.Murali
Standing Counsel for R2

ORDER

The petitioner is before this Court challenging the impugned order passed by the second respondent, whereby the licence granted to the petitioner for tonsuring the heads of devotees visiting the second respondent-Temple has been cancelled, taking note of the alleged incident involving an altercation between the petitioner and his colleague, Kannan Babu, and also on account of the previous incidents involving the petitioner presenting himself at the Tonsuring Hall in a drunken state.

2. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that there is no record of any altercation between the petitioner and the said Kannan Babu and that no F.I.R. has also been registered against the petitioner. It is submitted that the impugned order is arbitrary and, therefore, deserves to be quashed.

3. The learned Standing Counsel for the second respondent, on the other hand, draws the attention of this Court to the terms of the licence, as per which, it is clear that a licensee is expected to behave properly with the devotees and should not come to the Tonsuring Hall after consuming alcoholic or narcotic substances.

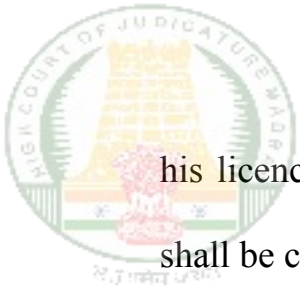


4. The learned Standing Counsel further submits that the petitioner, as a licensee, is entitled to an emolument of Rs.5,000/- per month and Rs.30/- for every token issued for tonsuring by the petitioner.

5. It is submitted that, since sharp blades are provided and the same were allegedly utilised by the petitioner to cause bodily injury, the atmosphere in the Tonsuring Hall gets vitiated, as the devotees are petrified. Therefore, it is submitted that, since the petitioner is only a licensee, the challenge to the impugned proceedings does not merit interference by this Court.

6. Having considered the submissions made by the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Standing Counsel for the second respondent, I am *prima facie* of the view that the licence is a privilege granted to the petitioner, which can be recalled at any point of time. Even if there are no other incidents indicating any violation of the terms of the licence, the licence can be withdrawn, as long as such withdrawal is not arbitrary.

7. Be that as it may, the allegation against the petitioner appears to be that he had indulged in a scuffle and thereby injured a co-worker. In such circumstances, I direct the second respondent to treat the impugned order as an order of suspension and issue a notice to the petitioner to show cause as to why



his licence should not be terminated. The proceedings pursuant to such notice shall be completed within a period of 30 days from today.

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8. The Writ Petition stands disposed of. No costs. Consequently, the connected Miscellaneous Petitions are closed.

14-08-2026

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

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To

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C.SARAVANAN, J.

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