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Writ Petition No.7003 of 2024

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 18.03.2024

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE N.ANAND VENKATESH

Writ Petition No.7003 of 2024

and

W.M.P.No.7912 of 2024

S.Ramajeyam

...Petitioner

Vs

1. The District Collector,
Ariyalur District, Ariyalur.

2. The Superintendent of police,
Ariyalur Ariyalur District.

3. The Inspector of Police,
Meensurutti Police Station,
Ariyalur, Ariyalur District.

... Respondents

PRAYER : Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying to issue a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus, calling for the records of the impugned order in Na.Ka.No.C2/10214/2023, dated 09.03.2024 passed by the first respondent and quash the same, consequently directing the first respondent to grant permission to conduct Manjuvirattu on 20.03.2024 at Madura Suthukulam Village, Kattagaram, Udayarpalayam Taluk, Ariyalur District.



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For Petitioner : Mr.K. Balu
For Respondents : Mr.A.Gopinath,
Government Advocate (Crl.Side)

ORDER

This writ petition has been filed challenging the impugned proceedings of the first respondent dated 09.03.2024 and for consequential direction to the first respondent to grant permission to the petitioner to conduct Manjuvirattu on 20.03.2024.

2. Heard Mr.K.Balu, learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and Mr.A.Gopinath, learned Government Advocate (Crl.Side) appearing for the respondent.

3. The permission that was sought for by the petitioner was rejected by the first respondent only on the ground that some untoward incidents had taken place in the year 2022.



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4. When the matter was taken up for hearing on 15.03.2024, this Court directed the learned Additional Public Prosecutor to take instructions as to whether the event had taken place without any untoward incident in a smooth manner during the previous year.

5. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that no untoward incident had taken place during the year 2023. However, the learned Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that the election nomination starts from 20.03.2024 and therefore, entire police force will be posted at various locations. In the light of this development, it is submitted that it may not be possible for police to provide police protection in this case. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor further submitted that the election in Tamil Nadu is coming to an end on 19.04.2024 and therefore, the petitioner can fix the Manjuvirattu event on 22.04.2024 or any other date, thereafter.

6. The learned counsel for the petitioner was directed to take instructions on the above submission made by the learned Additional Public Prosecutor.



7. The learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that Manjuvirattu event forms part of the temple festival, which is conducted in 'Panguni' Tamil Month and therefore, this event cannot be conducted after the completion of the Tamil Month.

8. This court has to take into consideration the difficulty expressed by the police in granting permission in this case, due to the election notification. The service of the police will be required elsewhere to ensure that the election process goes on in a smooth manner. In view of the same, the petitioner cannot conduct the Manjuvirattu festival in an elaborate manner on 20.03.2024. In order to complete the formalities as a part of the temple festival, that can be conducted as a small event for an hour with the cattle belonging to the temple and the same shall take place for an hour from 3.00 to 4.00 p.m. on 20.03.2024. Thereafter, no permission shall be granted. The respondent police shall ensure that this short event for the minimum period goes on in a smooth manner.



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9. This writ petition is disposed of in the above terms. No costs.

Consequently, connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

18.03.2024

Note: Issue order copy on 19.03.2024.

Index : Yes/No

Speaking order: Yes/No

Neutral citation: Yes/No

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To

1. The District Collector,
Ariyalur District, Ariyalur.
2. The Superintendent of police,
Ariyalur Ariyalur District.
3. The Inspector of Police,
Meensurutti Police Station,
Ariyalur, Ariyalur District.
4. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.



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N.ANAND VENKATESH, J

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