



W.P.No.3339 of 2025

WEB COPY

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 20.02.2025

CORAM :

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY

W.P.No.3339 of 2025

P.Prabhakar

.. Petitioner

Versus

1. The Commissioner,
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments
Department,
Nungambakkam High Road,
Nungambakkam,
Chennai - 600 034.
2. The Joint Commissioner,
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments
Department,
NSC Bose Nagar,
Ramani Nagar, Thanjavur - 613 007.
3. The Assistant Commissioner,
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments
Department,
NSC Bose Nagar,
Ramani Nagar, Thanjavur - 613 007.



W.P.No.3339 of 2025

WEB COPY

4. The Executive Officer/Thakkar,
Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Temple,
Vendakkottai, Pattukkottai Taluk,
Thanjavur District.

5. Purushottaman

.. Respondents

(R4 impleaded as per order, dated 07.02.2025 in
W.M.P.No.5021 of 2025 in W.P.No.3339 of 2025)

(R5 impleaded as per order, dated 13.02.2025 in
W.M.P.No.4599 of 2025 in W.P.No.3339 of 2025)

Prayer : Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India,
pleased to issue a Writ of Mandamus directing the respondent to take action
in pursuance of the representation of the petitioner, dated 06.01.2025 to fix a
date for the maiden run of the temple chariot during the Tamil month of Thai
2025 (தை மாதம் 2025).

For Petitioner : Mr.V.Raghavachari,
Senior Counsel,
for M/s.S.Nivashini

For Respondents : Mr.K.Karthikeyan,
Government Advocate (HR & CE),
for RR-1 to 3

: Mr.K.J.Shiva Arudhra, for R4



W.P.No.3339 of 2025

WEB COPY

: Mr.M.Santhanaraman, for R5

ORDER

This Writ Petition is filed for a mandamus directing the official respondents to take action pursuant to the representation of the petitioner, dated 06.01.2025 to fix a date for the maiden run of the temple chariot during the Tamil month of Thai 2025.

2. The grievance of the petitioner is that the petitioner and the other villagers had donated funds and they made a new chariot for the purpose of the Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy temple in Vendakottai village, Pattukottai taluk. The trial run is not made by the respondents and the chariot is yet to be approved. Therefore, the petitioner is before this Court.

3. Heard *Mr.V.Raghavachari*, learned Senior Counsel for the petitioner and *Mr.K.Karthikeyan*, learned Government Advocate (HR & CE) for the respondent Nos.1 to 3, *Mr.K.J.Shiva Arudhra*, learned Counsel for the fourth

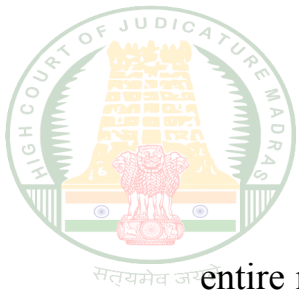


W.P.No.3339 of 2025

respondent and *Mr.M.Santhanaraman*, learned Counsel for the fifth
WEB COPY
respondent.

4. The learned Senior Counsel for the petitioner would submit that the only ground, on which, the entire process is stalled is that the roads are not made ready. The roads are made ready even with reference to two streets which are pointed out, the devotees themselves are indulging in the action of widening the road and they will fill it with appropriate stones and other sturdy material so as to bear the weight of the chariot and will make it ready in such a manner that the chariot will run in all the streets in the usual route. Steps will also be taken to ensure safety of the chariot, deity and the devotees who will be drawing the chariot. Therefore, he requests that a trial run be made.

5. The learned Government Advocate for HR & CE Department would submit that only because of the road width, there is a difficulty. The



W.P.No.3339 of 2025

WEB COPY

entire road has to be made ready so as to bear the weight of both the wheels of the chariot which include appropriate width for the chariot to run. The department will inspect and make the trial run possible.

6. The learned Counsel for the Executive Officer would submit that there is a procedure and the road width is not at all enough considering the size of the chariot. Further, his view should also be considered while making the trial run.

7. The learned Counsel for the newly impleaded fifth respondent would submit that certain allegations were made behind his back in the affidavit. He would further submit that it is not as if the petitioner himself has donated the entire chariot, but, everybody has participated. Nobody should be prevented in the trial run or in the festival, merely because the new chariot is donated. In fact, he is also appointed as a Non-hereditary Trustee for the current term.



W.P.No.3339 of 2025

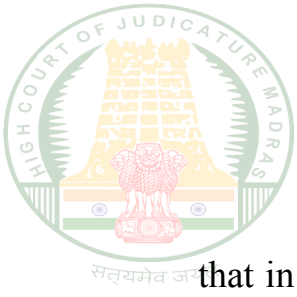
WEB COPY

8. In reply thereof, the learned Counsel for the petitioner denies the factual position and says that the entire temple is now administered only by the Executive Officer. The Executive Officer is also present before this Court.

9. I have considered the submissions made on either side and perused the material records of the case.

10. In this matter, the Court is certainly not concerned with the Hereditary Trusteeship or the rival claims that are made with reference to the trusteeship. The only question that is considered is that when the petitioner, along with all the villagers, have made ready the new chariot, whether that can be utilised for the temple or not.

11. The objection that is made on behalf of the official respondents is



W.P.No.3339 of 2025

WEB COPY

that in two places, the street is narrower and the chariot which is now made in the large size, is not usable. The chariot is already made ready from the donations of the petitioner as well as the other persons. Therefore, every effort can be made to see if the chariot can be used. That can be known only if the trial run is made. For the purpose of trial run, the devotees are now undertaking before this Court that wherever the road is narrower, they take steps to increase the road width and fill it up with concrete material so that the wheel is running on proper sturdy earth that will not in any manner hamper the run of the chariot. The additional weight which will be added in the form of deity and other toppings including flower decorations etc., will also be kept in mind and it will be checked whether the road would carry the chariot. Therefore, the matter stands resolved by the following directions:-

(i) Within one week from the date of receipt/production of a web-copy of this order without waiting for a certified copy of this order, the Executive Officer can fix a date for the trial run. On that date, along with the Executive Officer, the Assistant Commissioner, HR & CE Department and



W.P.No.3339 of 2025

WEB COPY

the Revenue Divisional Officer, Pattukottai or any other subordinate official

nominated by him, and one official from TANGEDCO shall also be present;

(ii) Before starting the trial run, the petitioner, the fifth respondent and all the devotees, shall also go around the route once and check whether any electrical line which will be coming in the way and in what way that can be maneuvered with;

(iii) Whether all the road margins have been duly filled up by using the proper material and upon ensuring the same, the trial run shall be started and if the chariot is run smoothly in the trial run, then, appropriate approval can be granted by the HR & CE authorities and the chariot will be marked as a duly approved chariot so that it can be used in the ensuing festivals appropriately;

(iv) The petitioner and the other devotees themselves made an undertaking before this Court that they will take immediate steps to fill up the road margins with appropriate material including M-sand, stones, gravel etc., as the case may be and that they will ensure that the earth is strong and



W.P.No.3339 of 2025

steady for the chariot to pass through.
WEB COPY

12. With the above directions, this Writ Petition is disposed of. There shall be no order as to costs.

24.02.2025

Neutral Citation : no
grs



W.P.No.3339 of 2025

To
WEB COPY

1. The Commissioner,
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments
Department,
Nungambakkam High Road,
Nungambakkam,
Chennai - 600 034.

2. The Joint Commissioner,
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments
Department,
NSC Bose Nagar,
Ramani Nagar, Thanjavur - 613 007.

3. The Assistant Commissioner,
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments
Department,
NSC Bose Nagar,
Ramani Nagar, Thanjavur - 613 007.



WEB COPY



W.P.No.3339 of 2025

D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY, J.

grs

W.P.No.3339 of 2025



WEB COPY



W.P.No.3339 of 2025

20.02.2025