HC-KAR

NC: 2026:KHC:59908
WP No. 6639 of 2026

CNR: KAHC010144212026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 28TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE C.M. POONACHA

WRIT PETITION NO. 6639 OF 2026 (GM-R/C)

BETWEEN:

SHRI. PUNDARIKAKSHA BHAT
S/O LATE LAKSHMINARAYANA BHAT,
AGED ABOUT 80 YEARS, RESIDING NEAR VISHNUMURTHY TEMPLE, MAJURU VILLAGE AND POST, UDUPI TALUK AND DISTRICT-574106. (SENIOR CITIZEN BENEFIT NOT CLAIMED).

PETITIONER

(BY SRI. V B SHIVAKUMAR.,ADVOCATE)

AND:

1. STATE OF KARNATAKA
   DEPARTMENT OF HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS, VIDHANA SOUDHA, DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR VEEDHI, BENGALURU-560001. REP BY ITS SECRETARY.

2. THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
   DEPARTMENT OF HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENT, UDUPI DISTRICT, UDUPI-576101.

3. THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER,
   DEPARTMENT OF HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS, UDUPI DISTRICT, UDUPI-576101.

4. SRI VISHNUMURTHY TEMPLE,
   MAJURU VILLAGE, UDUPI TALUK AND DISTRICT- 574106.
   REP BY ARCHAK.

RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI. HARISHA A.S., AGA FOR R1 TO R3;
SRI. MANMOHAN PN.,ADVOCATE FOR R4)

THIS WP IS FILED UNDER ARTICLE 226 OF THE CONSTITITUION OF INDIA PRAYING TO-DIRECTING THE RESPONDENT AUTHORITIES TO COMPLETE THE PENDING PROCEEDINGS IN RDP TRI 65/12-13 IS AT ANNEXURE-A, BEFORE THEM UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE KARNATAKA HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS ACT, 1997 AND DIRECT THEM TO PASS NECESSARY ORDER/S KEEPING IN MIND RIGHTS OF THE PETITIONER TO CONDUCT POOJAS AND OTHER RITUALS IN THE FOURTH RESPONDENT SRI VISHNUMURTHY TEMPLE SITUATED IN LAND BEARING SY. NO. 78/5 OF MAJURU VILLAGE, UDUPI TALUK AND DISTRICT DURING THE MARGASHIRA, PUSHYA AND MAGHA MONTHS EVERY YEAR AND ALSO TO RECEIVE THE BENEFITS FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN TERMS OF THE TRUST DEED DATED 10.08.1985 IS AT ANNEXURE-J AS HEREDITARY ARCHAK AND MANAGING TRUSTEE AND ETC.,

THIS PETITION, COMING ON FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING, THIS DAY, ORDER WAS MADE THEREIN AS UNDER:

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE C.M. POONACHA

ORAL ORDER

The present writ petition is filed seeking for the following reliefs:

> *a) "Issue a writ in the nature of mandamus or any other appropriate writ or order or direction directing the respondent authorities to complete the pending proceedings in RDP TRI 65/12-13 is at Annexure-A, before them under the*

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provisions of the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997 and direct them to pass necessary order/s keeping in mind rights of the petitioner to conduct poojas and other rituals in the fourth respondent Sri Vishnumurthy temple situated in land bearing Sy. No. 78/5 of Majuru Village, Udupi Taluk and District during the Margashira, Pushya and Magha months every year and also to receive the benefits from the Government in terms of the trust deed dated 10.08.1985 is at annexure-J as hereditary Archak and Managing Trustee.

b) Grant such other and further reliefs as are just, including the cost of present petition.".

2. The primary contention put forth on behalf of the petitioner is that an application (Application No.26/2010-11) has been filed by the petitioner under Section 4 and Section 53 of the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997[1] seeking for de-notification of respondent No.4 - Temple.

3. It is the contention on behalf of the petitioner that although the proceedings are pending since the year 2013, the same has not been disposed of. The order sheet of the proceedings is produced as Annexure-A to the writ petition.

[1] Hereinafter referred to as 'Act'

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4. At the outset, an objection is raised as to the maintainability of this writ petition. In this regard, it is contended that, the writ petition is filed by an individual who claims to be a trustee of the "Majuru Sri Vishnu-murthi Seva Trust". A copy of the Trustee Deed dated 10.08.1985 is produced as Annexure-J to the writ petition. Hence, it is contended on behalf of the private respondents that the writ petition ought to be initiated by the Trust and that all the trustees ought to be made parties to the present writ petition.

5. Learned AGA submits that the matter is pending before the concerned authorities, since the legal question as to the interpretation of certain provisions of the Act is pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP Nos.24015-24020/2018.

6. Having regard to the fact that the interpretation of the provisions of the Act are pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and maintainability of the writ petition is also raised, it is expedient that the present petition be disposed of for the present.

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7. This order will not preclude the concerned parties from moving the concerned authorities for suitable orders in the pending matters consequent to disposal of the proceedings before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

8. Ordered accordingly.

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(C.M. POONACHA)
JUDGE

PNV
List No.: 1 Sl No.: 42