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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 05-11-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE S. M. SUBRAMANIAM

AND

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE R.RAJESH VIVEKANANTHAN

WP No. 45049 of 2026

CNR: {HCMA012511682026}

V.Ranganathan

Case QR

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The Executive Officer
   Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment
   Department (HR and CE)
   Arulmigu Thiruvalleeswarar Temple,
   No.1, Sannathi Street, Padi,
   Chennai-600 050

2. The Junior Engineer (JE)
   Zone-7, Greater Chennai Corporation,
   Zonal Office Building, No.536, CTH Road
   Ambattur Chennai-600 053

3. V.Lakshminarayanan

4. L.Rukmani

5. L.Sritha

..Respondent(s)

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Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India issuing writ of mandamus directing respondents 1 and 2 to conduct a statutory inquiry and to take appropriate enforcement action against respondents 3 to 5 for unauthorized demolition and illegal construction on the land of Arulmigu Thiruvalleeswarar Temple, Padi, by considering and dispose of the petitioners representations dated 25.07.2026 on merits and in accordance with law.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.N.Kannan

For Respondent(s): Mr.D.Yashwanthrajan
Government Advocate for R1
Ms.R.V. Gayatri
Standing Counsel For R -2

ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by S.M.Subramaniam J.)

The present writ petition has been instituted to direct the respondents 1 and 2 to conduct a statutory enquiry and to take appropriate enforcement action against respondents 3 to 5 for unauthorized demolition and illegal construction on the land of Arulmigu Thiruvalleeswarar Temple, Padi, by considering and dispose of the petitioner's representations dated 25.07.2026 on merits and in accordance with law.

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2. Learned Counsel for the petitioner would submit that respondents 4 and 5 have unauthorisedly put up construction in temple property. Thus, petitioner is constrained to move the writ petition.

3. Learned Government Advocate appearing on behalf of the HR&CE Department opposed by stating that regarding unauthorised construction, it is a private dispute between the petitioner and the respondents 4 and 5. As far as the subject property is concerned, it belongs to the temple and the competent authority has initiated eviction proceedings under Section 78 of the HR&CE Act.

4. Since the subject property belongs to the deity in a temple, the competent authorities are bound to protect the interest of the minor deity and to ensure that temple properties are restored and utilised for the benefit of the temple and devotees, and in a manner as contemplated under the provisions of the Act and Rules.

5. Inaction on the part of the authorities is also to be viewed seriously. It is the duty mandated under the Act to protect the temple property. The interest of the deity is to be protected by High Court, in exercise of *parens patriae* jurisdiction. The competent authority of the HR&CE Department shall initiate the eviction proceedings and resume

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the temple property and utilise the same for the benefit of the temple.

6. With the above observation, the writ petition stands dismissed. No costs. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petitions, if any, are closed.

(S.M.S.,J.) (R.R.V.,J.)
05-11-2026

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

GD

To

1. The Executive Officer
   Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment
   Department (HR and CE)
   Arulmigu Thiruvalleeswarar Temple,
   No.1, Sannathi Street, Padi, Chennai-600
   050
2. The Junior Engineer (JE)
   Zone-7, Greater Chennai Corporation,
   Zonal Office Building, No.536, CTH Road
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S.M.SUBRAMANIAM, J.
AND
R.RAJESH VIVEKANANTHAN, J.

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