



W.P.Crl.(MD)No.1668 of 2026

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : **25.03.2026**

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE **MRS.JUSTICE L.VICTORIA GOWRI**

W.P.Crl.(MD)No.1668 of 2026

R.Dhanapal

... Petitioner

Vs.

1. The State of Tamilnadu,
Rep. By, the Superintendent of Police,
Office of the Superintendent of Police,
Dindigul District.
2. The Deputy Superintendent Of Police,
Vedasandur Sub Division,
Dindigul District.
3. The Inspector of Police,
Vadamadurai Police Station,
Dindigul District.
4. The Tahsildar,
Vedasandur Taluk Office,
Dindigul District.
5. Ramasamy
6. Mothilal
7. Chinnaraj
8. Kubendran

... Respondents



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PRAYER : Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for issuance of Writ of Mandamus directing the respondents 1 to 4 to grant permission and provide adequate police protection for conducting temple festival and cultural programme at Sri Arulmigu Vinayagar, Sri Kaliyamman, Sri Mariamman, Sri Muniyandi and Sri Karuppanaswamy Temple, S.Paraipatti Village, Vedachandur Taluk, Dindigul District scheduled on 26.03.2026, 27.03.2026, 28.03.2026 and 29.03.2026 by considering the petitioner's representation dated 23.03.2026 as per the temple festival conducted in the year 2025 in accordance with law within the time stipulated by this Court.

For Petitioner : Dr.R.Alagumani
For Respondents : Mr.M.Sakthi Kumar (R1 to R3)
Government Advocate (Crl.)
Mr.M.Muthumanikkam (R4)
Government Advocate (Civil)
Mr.R.M.Arun Swaminthan (R5)

ORDER

This petition has been filed seeking for a direction to the respondents 1 to 4 to grant permission and provide adequate police protection for conducting temple festival and cultural programme at Sri Arulmigu Vinayagar, Sri Kaliyamman, Sri Mariamman, Sri Muniyandi and Sri Karuppanaswamy Temple,



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S.Paraipatti Village, Vedachandur Taluk, Dindigul District, scheduled on 26.03.2026, 27.03.2026, 28.03.2026 and 29.03.2026 by considering the petitioner's representation dated 23.03.2026 as per the temple festival conducted in the year 2025 in accordance with law within the time stipulated by this Court.

2. Heard the learned counsel on either side and carefully perused the materials placed before this Court. Since no adverse order is proposed to be passed against the respondents 6 to 8, notice to them is dispensed with.

3. The very same petitioner had earlier approached this Court seeking identical relief for the previous year with regard to the same temple, and this Court, by order dated 01.04.2025 in WMP (MD) No. 6863 of 2025 in WP (MD) No. 9189 of 2025, passed the following order:-

“I heard Mr.G.Gomathisankar for the petitioner, Mr.A.Kannan, learned Additional Government Pleader for the first respondent, Mr.M.Karunanithi, learned Government Advocate for the respondents 2 and 3 and Mr.C.Prithiv Raj for the respondents 4 to 6.

2. The dispute relates to performance of festival at Arulmigu Vinayagar, Sri Kaliyamman, Sri Mariamman, Sri Muniyandi and Sri Karuppanasamy Temple at S.Paraipatti Village, Vedasandur Taluk, Dindigul District.



3. *Prior to this Writ Petition, another Writ Petition came to be filed before this Court in W.P.(MD).No.8647 of 2025. After hearing the State respondents, this Court ordered the Writ Petition in the following terms:*

“7.Since the cultural programme is scheduled to be held on 31.03.2025 and the time is also too short, though the peace committee meeting is fixed today, without affecting the rights of the parties in conducting the festival, this Court is inclined to direct the respondents to consider the petitioner's representation in respect of conducting cultural programme positively and also provide adequate police protection for the said programme on 31.03.2025. If any rival party want to conduct the programme on alternative date, the same can also be considered sby the official respondents.”

4. *A reading of the above order shows that this Court had directed the respondents to permit conducting cultural programme and also to provide adequate police protection for the said programme on 31.03.2025. It is not in dispute that the cultural programme was held yesterday. The problem that arises today is regarding the festival to be conducted from 01.04.2025 to 04.04.2025.*

5. *Mr.Gomathi Sankar pleads that the petitioner has been a Poosari for Mariamman Temple for more than ten years. This plea is stoutly resisted by the learned counsel for the contesting private respondents. The status of the petitioner as “Oor Periya Pannai” is also in dispute.*

6. *The respondents 4 to 6 have, on previous occasions, celebrated the festival for the aforesaid temples on different dates from those celebrated by the writ petitioner. As an interim arrangement, I am inclined to follow the same pattern for this year also. The petitioner claims that the State respondents 1 to 3 are preventing the holding of the festival.*

7. *Mr.A.Kannan and Mr.M.Karunanithi in unison state that the State respondents are not preventing anyone from celebrating the festival, but it is the petitioner and the respondents 4 to 6, who are creating a problem for the conduct of the festival.*



8. *On account of the private dispute between the petitioner and the respondents 4 to 6, the temple festival need not come to a grinding halt as has happened last year.*

9. *Since the petitioner has already been permitted to hold the function in terms of the order in W.P.(MD).No.8647 of 2025 dated 28.03.2025, I pass the following directions:*

i. *The petitioner herein, namely, R.Dhanapal (Petitioner in W.P.(MD).No.8647 of 2025) is permitted to celebrate the festival from 01.04.2025 to 04.04.2025.*

ii. *The respondents 4 to 6 shall celebrate the festival between 06.04.2025 and 08.04.2025.*

iii. *As to who is the Poosari for the temple would have to be decided by the jurisdictional Civil Court and not by the respondents 1 to 3.*

iv. *For the function to be celebrated by the writ petitioner, either he or any other person appointed by him can perform the rights as Poosari. The respondents 4 to 6 will not interfere with the same.*

v. *Similarly, for the function to be celebrated by the respondents 4 to 6, either they or any other person appointed by them shall function as a Poosari and the writ petitioner will not interfere with the same.*

vi. *The respondents 1 to 3 shall ensure that both the functions conducted by the petitioner as well as by the respondents 4 to 6 go on smoothly. In case any mischievous element attempts to interfere with the same, the respondents 1 to 3 shall swing into action and take necessary steps to prevent any untoward incident from taking place.*

10. *This Writ Miscellaneous Petition is ordered in the above terms."*



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4. In view of the above, this Court passes the following directions:-

i. The petitioner herein, namely, R.Dhanapal (petitioner in W.P.(MD).No. 8647 of 2025 & WP(MD)No.9189 of 2025) is permitted to celebrate the festival from 26.03.2026 to 29.03.2026;

ii. The respondents 5 to 8 shall celebrate the festival between 03.04.2026 and 07.04.2026;

iii. The issue as to who is the Poosari for the temple would have to be decided by the jurisdictional Civil Court and not by the respondents 1 to 4.

iv. For the function to be celebrated by the writ petitioner, either he or any other person appointed by him can perform the rights as Poosari. The respondents 5 to 8 will not interfere with the same.

v. Similarly, for the function to be celebrated by the respondents 5 to 8, either they or any other person appointed by them shall function as a Poosari and the writ petitioner will not interfere with the same.

vi. The respondents 1 to 4 shall ensure that both the functions conducted by the petitioner as well as by the respondents 5 to 8 go on smoothly. In case any mischievous element attempts to interfere with the same, the respondents 1 to 4 shall swing into action and take necessary steps to prevent any untoward incident from taking place.



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5. This Writ Petition is ordered in the above terms.

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25.03.2026

NCC : Yes / No
Index : Yes / No
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Note: Issue order copy on 25.03.2026.

TO:-

1. The Superintendent of Police,
Office of the Superintendent of Police,
Dindigul District.
2. The Deputy Superintendent Of Police,
Vedasandur Sub Division,
Dindigul District.
3. The Inspector of Police,
Vadamadurai Police Station,
Dindigul District.
4. The Tahsildar,
Vedasandur Taluk Office,
Dindigul District.
5. The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.



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L.VICTORIA GOWRI, J.

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Order made in
W.P.Crl.(MD)No.1668 of 2026

Dated
25.03.2026