

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 17-07-2025

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE N. ANAND VENKATESH

WP No. 26255 of 2025

AND

WMP NOs. 29554 and 29557 OF 2025

1. Venkatesan

Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The District Collector
District Collectorate, Ariyalur 621
704

2. Superintendent Of Police
Ariyalur District

3. Mr. Parimalam,
PA Grievances To Collector
District Collectorate,
Ariyalur 621 704.

4. Revenue Divisional Officer
Udayarpalayam Division,
Ariyalur 621 704

5. The Assistant Commissioner
HR&CE, Ariyalur 621 704

6. The Inspector of Police,
Jayankondam Police Station,

Ariyalur 621 704

7.Samikannu

Respondent(s)

PRAYER

Writ petition filed under Article 226 of Constitution of India for the issuance of writ of Mandamus directing the respondents 1,4,5 to permit the petitioner and his community people to enter into the Arulmigu Puthukudi Ayyanar Temple and permit them to do worship and other ritual activities as such and permit them to participate in Temple Car Festival to be held on 16.07.2025 till 31.07.2025 and to pass orders.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.Deepika S
For
Respondent(s): Mr.T.M.Rajangam,
Government Advocate for
R1, R3 and R4
Mr.N.R.R.Arun Natarajan
Special Government Pleader
for R5
Mr.V.Meganathan
Government Advocate [Crl
Side] for R5

ORDER

This writ petition has been filed for the issue of writ of Mandamus directing the respondents to permit the petitioner and others, who belong to the Scheduled caste community to enter into the temple and to participate in the temple car festival to be held

from 16.07.2025 to 31.07.2025.

2. When the writ petition was taken up for hearing, the learned Special Government Pleader submitted that the concerned temple is not within the control of the HR&CE Department.

3. In the considered view of this Court, if a temple is permitted to be visited by the general public, it assumes the character of a public temple. In such an event, irrespective of the caste or community of the devotees, they must be permitted to offer their prayers to god. Caste and community are the creations of human beings and god is always considered to be neutral. That apart, preventing persons from offering prayers on the basis that they belong to Scheduled Caste community, is an affront to the dignity of persons who are discriminated based on their caste. This can never be permitted in a country, which is governed by the Rule of law. That apart, Section 3 of the Tamil Nadu Temple Entry Authorisation Act, 1947, makes it abundantly clear that notwithstanding any law, custom or usage to the contrary, every Hindu irrespective of the caste or sect to which he belongs to, shall be entitled to enter any Hindu temple and offer worship therein. If

they are restricted entry, it will amount to an actionable wrong / offence and the concerned person can be sued or prosecuted there for. This act came into force after a long struggle by many leaders, who wanted to ensure that persons are not prevented from entering into the temples based on their caste. The Act was brought into force as a policy taken by the State Government to remove the disabilities imposed on certain classes of Hindus against entry into Hindu temples in the State.

4. In view of the above discussion, there shall be a direction to the respondents 2 and 4 to ensure that all classes of Hindus are permitted to enter into the temple and participate in the festival. If any one prevents them from participating, action shall be taken in accordance with law. It shall be ensured that no law and order problem is created.

5. This writ petition is disposed of with the above directions. No costs. Consequently, the connected miscellaneous petitions are closed.

17-07-2025

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Note : Issue order copy on 17.07.2025

Index:Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Internet:Yes

Neutral Citation:Yes/No

To

1.The District Collector

District Collectorate, Ariyalur

2.Superintendent Of Police

Ariyalur

3.Parimalam, PA Grievances To
Collector

District Collectorate, Ariyalur
621 704.

4.Revenue Divisional Officer

Udayarpalayam division,
Ariyalur 621 704

5.Assistant Commissioner

HR&CE, Ariyalur

6.The Inspector Of Police

Jeyakondam Police Station,
Ariyalur

7.Samikannu

S/o. R Amasamy, Kandiyankoillai
Village, Ariyalur

N.ANAND VENKATESH J.
rka

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29557 OF 2025

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