

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 28-08-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY

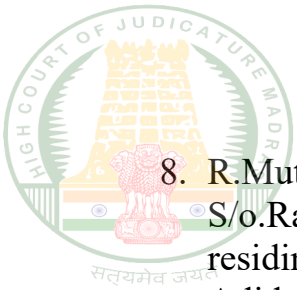
**WP No. 33121 of 2026
and W.M.P.No.36412 of 2026**

V.Sundaram
S/o.Vellaiyan,
1/117, Adhidraavidar Street,
Ramanayakkanpalayam Post,
Attur Taluk,
Salem District - 636108.

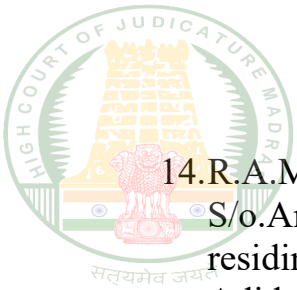
..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The District Collector
Salem District,
Salem.
2. The Revenue Divisional Officer,
Attur,
Salem District.
3. The Tashildar,
Attur
Salem District
4. The Superintendent of Police,
Salem District,
Salem.
5. The Deputy Superintendent of Police,
Attur,
Salem District.
6. The Inspector of Police,
Attur Rural Police Station,
Salem District-636108
7. Muthusamy
S/o. Palani
residing at
Adidraavidar Street,
Ramanayakkanpalayam Post,
Attur Taluk,
Salem District - 636108



8. R.Muthu
S/o.Rajamanickam
residing at
Adidraavidar Street,
Ramanayakkanpalayam Post,
Attur Taluk,
Salem District - 636108
9. Palanisamy
S/o.Periyasamy
residing at
Adidraavidar Street,
Ramanayakkanpalayam Post,
Attur Taluk,
Salem District - 636108
- 10.K.Mari
S/o.Kulandhai,
residing at
Adidraavidar Street,
Ramanayakkanpalayam Post,
Attur Taluk,
Salem District - 636108
- 11.P.Kalidas
S/o.Periyasamy,
residing at
Adidraavidar Street,
Ramanayakkanpalayam Post,
Attur Taluk,
Salem District - 636108
- 12.A.Selvam
S/o.Arumugam,
residing at
Adidraavidar Street,
Ramanayakkanpalayam Post,
Attur Taluk,
Salem District - 636108
- 13.P.Bagiyaraj
S/o.Palani,
residing at
Adidraavidar Street,
Ramanayakkanpalayam Post,
Attur Taluk,
Salem District - 636108



14.R.A.Murugesan
S/o.Annamalai,
residing at
Adidraavidar Street,
Ramanayakkanpalayam Post,
Attur Taluk,
Salem District - 636108

15.Annadurai
S/o.Govindhan,
residing at
Adidraavidar Street,
Ramanayakkanpalayam Post,
Attur Taluk,
Salem District - 636108

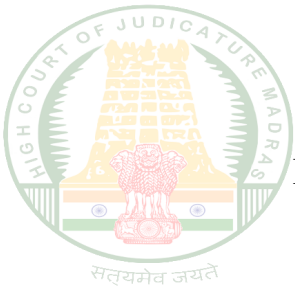
16.A.Mohan
S/o.Arumugam,
residing at
Adidraavidar Street,
Ramanayakkanpalayam Post,
Attur Taluk,
Salem District - 636108

..Respondent(s)

PRAYER: This Writ Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying to issue a Writ of Mandamus, directing the official respondents 1 to 3 to monitor and ensure that due representation is provided to the Milagu Kattan Adidraavidar Community in equal proportion on par with other Sect for enabling them to take part in Arulmigu Muthu Mariamman Temple Chariot Festival slated for 27.08.2026 in pursuant to the resolution of the Peace Committee dated 21.07.2026 besides forbearing the private respondents 7 to 16 to act in such manner preventing the Milagu Kattan Adi Draavidar Community from taking part in the above festival and pass such further or other orders.

For Petitioner(s):

MR.S.HAJANAZIRUDEEN
Senior Counsel
for Mr.M.Rajendiran



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For Respondent(s):

MRS. INTHU KARUNAKARAN
SPECIAL GP for R1 TO R3.
MR. DURAI GUNASEKARAN
GOVT ADVOCATE for R4 TO R6.
Mr.G.MOHAMMED ASEEF FOR R7 TO 16

ORDER

The Prayer in the Writ Petition is for a mandamus directing the official respondents 1 to 3 to monitor and ensure that due representation is provided to Milagu Kattan Adidravidar Community in equal proportion on par with the other sect enabling them to take part in Arulmigu Muthu Mariamman Temple Chariot Festival slated on 27.08.2026.

2. When the matter came up for hearing the learned Special Government Pleader would submit that already peace committee meeting was held and without reference to the caste or creed, everyone was permitted to take part in the festival and the festival is going on. Therefore the prayer in the Writ Petition has become infructuous. She would further submit that in the peace committee, it was agreed that everybody will be permitted to participate in the temple festival, however, with reference to ‘கரைக்காரர்கள் உரிமை’ (Karaikarargal Rights), it was agreed that the parties will approach the Civil Court and get relief.



3. In reply thereof, the learned Senior Counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner would submit that even though the people from the petitioners caste were permitted to participate this year and also from the next year, steps should be taken to ensure that such a situation does not recur in future years.

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

5. With reference to temple entry and participation in the festival, the Tamil Nadu Temple Entry Authorisation Act, 1947 itself is very clear that nobody can be restrained on the basis of the caste. This Court has also repeatedly passed orders that on the basis of a non existing thing called 'caste' nobody can be prevented entry or participation in the temple festival.

6. Therefore, if any person prevents another person from entering the temple on casteist grounds, particularly if a person belonging to a Scheduled Caste is prevented from entering the temple, such an act would amount to the practice of untouchability and would constitute a violation of the fundamental right guaranteed under Article 17 of the Constitution of India. The person perpetrating such an act would be liable for prosecution in accordance with law.

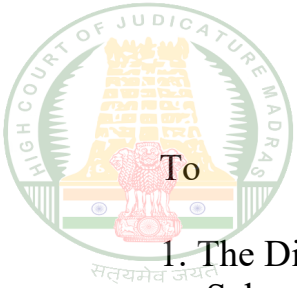


7. It is categorically stated that as far as participation in the festival is concerned, this year it is permitted and the learned Special Government Pleader would submit that even in the ensuing years, there will not be any discrimination with reference to participation. Only with reference to the rights, to conduct festival etc., it is agreed in the peace committee meeting that they will approach the appropriate Civil Court. Therefore whenever it comes to rights to perform any festival or administration is concerned, it is open for the petitioner or for that matter, any devotee without reference to caste or creed, to approach the appropriate authority under the Hindu Religious Charitable and Endowments Act, 1859 under Section 63, before the Joint Commissioner concerned or the appropriate Civil Court for the relief.

8. With the aforesaid observations and the liberty is kept open, and also recording the fact that this year participation is ensured and the festival is going on, this Writ Petition stands closed. No costs. Consequently, the connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

JER/RSM

28-08-2026



To

1. The District Collector
Salem District,
Salem.

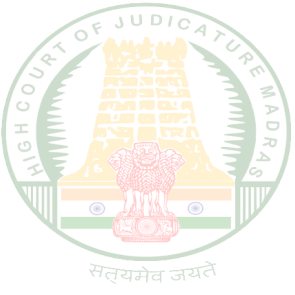
2. The Revenue Divisional Officer,
Attur,
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3. The Tashildar,
Attur
Salem District

4. The Superintendent of Police,
Salem District,
Salem.

5. The Deputy Superintendent of Police,
Attur,
Salem District.

6. The Inspector of Police,
Attur Rural Police Station,
Salem District-636108



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D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY, J.,

JER/RSM

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