

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
(CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION)
SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 6554 OF 2021**

[AGAINST THE FINAL IMPUGNED JUDGMENT AND ORDER DATED 05.01.2021 PASSED BY THE HON'BLE DIVISION BENCH OF HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AT AMRAVATI IN WP (PIL) NO. 254/2020]

IN THE MATTER OF:

SRIVARI DAADAA

...PETITIONER

VERSUS

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS [TTD]

...RESPONDENT

**AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE SOLE RESPONDENT TIRUMALA
TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS [TTD]**

I, Dr. K.S.Jawahar Reddy, I.A.S, S/o Late K.S.Eswar Reddy, aged about 57 years, occupation Executive Officer, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, Tirupati, Chittoor district do hereby sincerely affirm and state as follows:

1. I respectfully submit that I am the Executive Officer of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams and the respondent herein and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case.
2. I have gone through the Special Leave Petition (Civil) No. 6554 of 2021 filed by the Petitioner and I deny various and all allegations,

contentions and averments made in the SLP as false, frivolous, vexatious and misconstrued.

3. I further state that, the Petitioner had filed one representation dated 18.03.2020 to the Pradhana Archaka (Chief Priest), Sri Venkateswara Temple, Tirumala; His Holiness Pedda Jeeyar Swamy, Sri Venkateswara Temple and the Hon'ble Minister for Endowments, Government of Andhra Pradesh raising certain objections in performance of sevas, utsavams to the LORD Sri Venkateswara and darshan of Lord Sri Venkateswara provided to the pilgrims. More particularly, he raised objections on the following sevas / utsavams performed to the Lord Sri Venkateshwara Swamy:

- a. Abhishekam Seva
- b. Arjitha Brahmostsavam
- c. Maha Laghu Darshanam

4. It is respectfully submitted that, the sevas / utsavams to the Lord Venkateswara are performed by Archakas under the supervision of His Holiness Pedda Jeeyangar swamy and Chinnayajeeyangar swamy, strictly in accordance with Vaikhanasa Agama. The system

of performing sevas / utsavams in the Temple were commenced by His Holiness Sri Ramanujacharya in the 10th century as per the Vaikhanasa Agama. The sevas / utsavams are performed by Archakas who are well versed in Vaikhanasa Agama and assisted / supervised by His Holiness Pedda Jeeyangar and His Holiness Chinna Jeeyangar who are in the lineage of His Holiness Ramanujacharya. There are perfect checks and balances introduced by His Holiness Ramanujacharya to ensure the sevas / utsavams are conducted strictly in accordance with Vaikhanasa Agama. The system is running perfectly since thousand years. The TTD also constitutes an Agama Advisory Committee from time to time consisting of qualified pandits in Vaikhanasa Agama to guide the Archakas and advise the TTD in various religious matters. The TTD Administration provides all the necessary infrastructure and support to the Archakas and His Holiness Pedda Jeeyangar to perform the rituals. The TTD Administration follows the advice of Agama Advisors, Pradhana Archakas and His Holiness Pedda Jeeyangar in assisting them to perform the rituals.

5. It is also submitted that, the rituals are performed with utmost sincerity, faith and devotion by the Religious staff and other Priests of the temple. Further, there is a committee to oversee the performance of rituals in the temple, viz "**Agama Advisory Committee**". A report was called for from the said committee referring the averments raised by the Petitioner. Copy of the opinion of the Agama Advisors [on the averments of the Petitioner] dated 24.11.2020 is attached as ANNEXURE P-1.

6. It is respectfully submitted that, the averments raised by the Petitioner that "without clothes" the Abhisheka Seva is being performed on every Friday to Lord Venkateshwara is vehemently denied. A white cloth called "*Kowpeenam*" is adorned to the Lord while performing Abhishekam with milk. The Abhishekam is strictly being performed combinedly by the Archakas and His Holiness Pedda Jeeyangar and Chinna Jeeyangar strictly following the age old tradition and Vaikhanasa Agama. The Petitioner has raised averments with respect to conduct of Arjitha Brahmostsavam that the procession of Lord on vahanams is not being conducted round the mada streets. It is submitted that Arjitha Brahmotsava seva has been introduced by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams for the benefit of public and

pecially designed by seating the Lord on three vahanams, viz., Garuda, Hanumanta and Sesha Vahanams. The utsavam itself has been designed in such a way that Lord appears to the devotees by seating on three vahanams without any procession. It is further submitted that during Annual Brahmotsavams and in certain special occasions like Nagapanchami, Garudapanchami, etc., the Lord takes processions on the vahanams round the mada streets. Therefore, the contention of the petitioner that the Lord is not taken in procession round the mada streets on vahanams during Arjitha Brahmotsavams is misconceived of the facts.

7. It is submitted that, the averment of not showing the feet of the Lord during Maha Laghu Darshanam is denied and misconceived of facts. The darshan of the Lord is not a seva / utsavam prescribed in the Vaikhanasagama sastra. The TTD administration provides darshan of the Lord to the pilgrims keeping in view the number of pilgrims waiting for darshan of the Lord. It is submitted that, more than one lakh people on an average visit Tirumala for darshan of Lord. If every pilgrim is allowed to have darshan of Lord at Kulasekhara padi only about 9000 pilgrims can be provided darshan in a day at 800 per hour. Whereas, during Maha Laghu Darshan, about 5000 pilgrims

can be provided darshan per hour, resulting about 80,000 to 90,000 pilgrims are having darshan of the Lord in a day. To provide darshan of Lord to maximum number of pilgrims and satisfy them, TTD adopts Maha Laghu darshan. The Mahalaghu darshan was introduced in 2006, i.e., about fifteen years back. So far crores of pilgrims had darshan during the last fifteen years and nobody has objected to this kind of darshan. The pilgrim normally expects to have darshan within a reasonable time without much waiting and a glimpse of Lord which is being provided by the TTD. The TTD always keeps pilgrims interest at the top of agenda to provide them hassle free darshan and facilities in Tirumala. Since this is purely an administrative matter for the convenience of pilgrims, the averments of the petitioner are baseless and misconceived.

8. It is submitted that, an elevated ramp is arranged to ensure that the devotees can see the Lord right from the Garudalwar point, till the "Jaya Vijaya Point". This system in vogue since 15 years. Further as per the Agama prescription, the holy feet of the Lord are covered with Tulsi [Holy Basil leaves]. Therefore, even going close to the Lord, one cannot see the divine feet of the Lord. Therefore, it can be inferred that the Petitioner is not aware of the Agama practices of the temple.

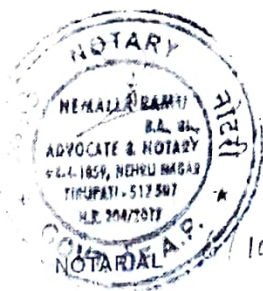
9. It is submitted that the Petitioner without ascertaining the truth and veracity has made roving and sweeping allegations against the Respondent Institution. The instant SLP is based on assumptions and presumptions of the Petitioner and has the nature of maligning the image of the Institution and also to disturb the faith and the religious feelings of the devotees at large. The instant Petition appears to have been filed with hidden agendas and oblique motives and the Petitioner lacks *bonafide* in instituting the present SLP.

10. The present affidavit is made *bonafide* and in the interest of justice and I say that the contents of the above Affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.


EXEDITIONER
T.T. DEVASTHANAMS
TIRUPATI

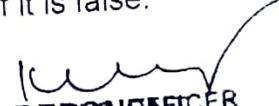
VERIFICATION:

Verified on this 5th day of October 2021 that the contents of my above affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge, nothing material has been concealed there from and no part of it is false.



ATTESTED BY

NOTARY 6/10/2021
NEMALLA RAMANI
ADVOCATE B.A., B.L
4-4-1854 Nehru Naga
TIRUPATI - 517 507
Cell: 9329344172
Reg. No. 127502/2017


EXEDITIONER
T.T. DEVASTHANAMS
TIRUPATI

Opinion of the Agama Advisors on the procedures being followed in Sri TT
Tirumala, as per Vaikhanasa Agamam

All the Kainkaryams / Rituals / Utsavams in Srivari Temple, Tirumala are being performed as per Vaikhanasa Agamam with proper supervision of Pradhana Archakas, Agama Advisors and HH Pedda Jeeyangar / HH Chinna Jeeyangar.

Abhishekam to Moolavarlu i.e., Main Deity is being performed on every Friday. A cloth called "KOWPINAM" is adorned to the Lord while performing Abhishekam with milk. Whereas Abhishekam to Utsava Deities will not be performed in Sannidhi [Sanctum Sanctorum] during Fridays. Further, the ritual performed to Utsava deities is also called as Tirumanjanam. All the kainkaryams / rituals to the Lord are being performed strictly as per Vaikhanasa Agama.

The Arjitha Seva such as Kalyanotsavam, Unjal Seva at Ayyana Mahal, Arjitha Brahmotsavam, Vasanthotsavam and Sahasra Deepalankara Seva are being performed to Sri Malayappa Swamy Varu along with Sridevi and Sri Bhodevi Ammavarlu, every day. Further, the Arjitha Brahmotsavam is being performed in Sri TT, daily as per usage, custom & practice in vogue.

With a view to prevent the spread of Corona Virus at Tirumala, the management has decided and conducting all the day-to-day Kainkayrams to the Lord in Ekantham as per Vaikhanasa Agama.

Based on the guidelines of COVID-19 issued by both Central & State Governments and as resolved by the TTD Board in Res.No.175 dated 28.08.2020 both Srivari Salakatla & Navarathri Brahmotsavam, 2020 were conducted in Ekantham in Sri TT, Tirumala.

Further, with a view to provide hassle free darshan of Lord to the pilgrims, Vahana Sevas during Salakatla Brahmotsavam was conducted at Sampangi Prakaram [Present Kalyanotsava Mandapam]. No irregular procedure was followed by the management in Srivari Temple, as alleged by the petitioner.

As per custom, usage and tradition being followed in Sri TT, Tirumala, the doors of Temple are being closed for some hours on the days of Solar / Lunar Eclipse.

All day-to-day kainkaryams to the Lord in Sri TT are being performed as per Vaikhanasa Agama without any dislocation. As the Arjitha Sevas are being performed with the participation of pilgrim devotees, but the same were stopped temporarily until the existence of normalcy from COVID-19.

Agama Advisors:

" TRUE COPY "