

**HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI
AND
HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE C.PRAVEEN KUMAR**

WRIT PETITION No.254 OF 2020

ORDER:

(Per Hon'ble Sri Justice Joymalya Bagchi)

[Proceedings taken up through Video Conferencing]

In spite of service of notice to the Petitioner and to his counsel, none appears today.

We have considered the averments in the writ petition. The writ petitioner claims to be a devotee of Sri Venkateshwara Swamy, Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanam. He states that the respondent –Devasthanam is performing sevas namely, i) Abhishekam Seva, 2) Thomala Seva, 3) Arjitha Brahmotsavam 4) Yekanta Utsavalu (Srivari Varshika Brahmotsavams – 2020) and 5) Maha Laghu Darshan, in a wrongful and irregular procedure. Accordingly, prayer has been made to issue direction upon the respondent-Devasthanam to rectify the method of holding the aforesaid rituals.

We are of the view that the present Public Interest Litigation is not maintainable for the following reasons:

Firstly, procedure of conducting rituals is the exclusive domain of the Devasthanam and cannot be a matter of adjudication unless it impacts secular or civil rights of others.

Secondly, the respondent-Devasthanam cannot be said to be discharging public duties in the matter of conducting rituals. Such activities falling within ecclesiastical domain are not amenable to writ jurisdiction at the behest of an outsider.

Accordingly, we are of the opinion that the Writ Petition is devoid of merits and is liable to be dismissed.

Accordingly, the Writ Petition is dismissed. No costs.

Miscellaneous petitions pending if any, shall stand closed.

JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

JUSTICE C.PRAVEEN KUMAR

05.01.2021

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ORDER:

(Per Hon'ble Sri Justice Joymalya Bagchi)
(disposed of)

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