

Karur Temple Land Row: Alleged Encroachments and Legal Challenge

After a ban on registration of title deeds for 3,085 acres of patta lands in Karur district was lifted, a PIL was filed in the Madras High Court's Madurai Bench challenging the District Collector's decision.

A controversy surrounding temple land in Karur, involving alleged government encroachments and legal challenges over valuable properties.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **C. Joseph Vijay** visited **Karur** on **July 10, 2026**.
- Activist **T.R. Ramesh** accused the **TVK government** and the **HR & CE** of handing over lands valued at around **₹25,000 crore** to "encroachers".
- A ban on registration of title deeds for **3,085 acres** of **patta lands** in **Karur district** was recently lifted.
- A **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)** was filed in the **Madras High Court's Madurai Bench** challenging the **District Collector's decision**.
- Collector **C. Muthukumaran** had made a recommendation on **July 9** regarding the land issue.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR & CE) Department** administers Hindu temples and their properties in **Tamil Nadu**.

The HR & CE Department functions under the provisions of the **Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959**.

The **Madras High Court**, one of India's three chartered High Courts, was established in **1862** under the **Indian High Courts Act, 1861**.

The **Madurai Bench** of the Madras High Court was established in **2004** to serve the southern districts of **Tamil Nadu**.

Public Interest Litigation (PIL) allows any public-spirited citizen or organization to approach the court for the enforcement of **rights of a group of people**.

The concept of PIL was pioneered in India by **Justice P.N. Bhagwati** and **Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer** in the **1970s**.

Karur, located on the banks of the **Amaravathi River**, is historically known for its **textile industry** and as a significant trading center in **ancient Tamilakam**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Karur temple land row involves alleged encroachments and a PIL in Madras High Court's Madurai Bench.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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