# Madras HC Upholds HR&CE Officer Dismissal Over Temple Land

The Madras High Court confirmed a Government Order dismissing an HR&CE Executive Officer for allowing temple land transfer to private individuals.

A landmark Madras High Court ruling upholding the dismissal of an HR&CE department official for dereliction of duty in protecting temple properties.

## KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Madras High Court** confirmed the Government Order issued for dismissing a Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) department Executive Officer from service.
- The officer was dismissed for allowing **20.94 acres** of temple land, worth several crore rupees, to be transferred to private individuals.
- **Justice Krishnaswamy Govindarajan** delivered the ruling while invoking the **parens patriae** jurisdiction.
- The High Court also sought details regarding steps taken by the **Tamil Nadu government** to retrieve the encroached land.

## DID YOU KNOW..!?

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department in **Tamil Nadu** administers Hindu temples and religious endowments under the **Tamil Nadu** HR&CE Act.

**Parens patriae** is a legal doctrine giving the State sovereign power and responsibility to protect persons and property, including public trusts and temples, unable to protect themselves.

Temple lands in Tamil Nadu are legally classified as inalienable properties, and **Executive Officers** hold statutory duties to safeguard them from encroachments.

The **Madras High Court** exercises writ jurisdiction under **Article 226** of the Constitution of India to review administrative actions and service matters.

The Tamil Nadu **HR&CE Act** was enacted to provide better governance and administration of Hindu religious institutions and endowments in the state.

Under administrative law, departmental disciplinary proceedings and dismissal orders of government servants are subject to **judicial review** by High Courts.

**REVISION FLASHCARD**

*Madras HC upheld the dismissal of an HR&CE Executive Officer for failing to protect temple land, invoking parens patriae.*

Syllabus Relevance: Highly relevant for TNPSC Group 1 and Group 2 questions on Madras High Court judgments, HR&CE administration, and State administrative actions.

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