

SC reserves order on TN's plea against HC ruling on quota for Muslim converts

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday reserved its verdict on the Tamil Nadu government's plea against a Madras High Court judgment which held that a person converting to Islam was not entitled to claim reservation under the Backward Class (Muslim) category solely on the basis of conversion.

A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Shree Chandrashekhara reserved the judgement after hearing from counsel appearing for the state and the other parties. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for TN, submitted to the bench that the object behind the state government's order of March 9, 2024 was to ensure that persons belonging to socially and educationally backward communities are not deprived of reservation



benefits solely on account of conversion to Islam.

The HC's judgment arose from a petition filed by Sameer Ahamed, who converted from Hinduism to Islam in 2015, with the conversion being notified through a Gazette notification in 2016. He subsequently married according to Islamic rites and sought a certificate identifying him as a member of 'Muslim Lebbai' community to avail reservation benefits. His application was rejected by the tahsildar, prompting him to move the high court. The appeal was filed by the TN govt against the

June 25, 2026 HC judgement that struck down a March 2024 GO that said a convert to Islam from Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Denotified Communities or SCs may be treated as BC (Muslim) for availing reservation. The GO had also said that the person be issued with a community certificate as belonging to one of the 7 notified sects for availing reservation upon conversion. The TN government filed its plea through Thoothukudi collector and the revenue divisional officer, who were aggrieved by the declaration of unconstitutionality of government order (GO) No. 31 and the consequential findings.

The issue before the Court was whether a person converting to Islam can claim reservation under the Backward Class (Muslim) category solely on the basis of conversion. The Madras HC had earlier held

that such a person is not entitled to BC (Muslim) reservation just because of religious conversion. As per the HC, eligibility must be determined by social and educational backwardness, not religion alone.

The TN government challenged this view, in the apex court, arguing that the state's reservation policy recognises converts as part of the BC (Muslim) category if they meet the criteria of backwardness. The state said the HC order interferes with its policy to uplift marginalized communities.

The SC heard detailed submissions from the state and other parties on the interplay between religion, caste and backwardness in the context of reservation. The ruling is expected to clarify the legal position on quota claims by religious converts and could impact similar policies in other states.



FISHES CAN WAIT

With Red and Yellow alerts being issued by the India Meteorological Department for Kozhikode and other Kerala districts, fishermen secure their boats safely on the shore at Vellayil Harbour, Kozhikod, on Friday | VINCENT PULICKAL

TN govt leaked reports of Vijay's visit, but took U-turn after facing opposition: Udhaya

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE chief minister recalled that former opposition leader Karuthiruman (of the Congress) had, as early as 1969, advocated that the two states concerned and the union government should sit together to resolve the dispute.

Udhayanidhi Stalin, citing the all-party meeting convened by the Karnataka government recently, asked, "Why is the TVK government refusing to hold a similar meeting to demonstrate Tamil Nadu's unity on the Mokedatu issue?" On the CM's proposed Bengaluru visit, he said, "The state government first leaked reports regarding the visit, but took a U-turn after facing opposition."

Speaking on the motion, AI-ADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami stressed

that a separate tribunal for adjudicating the Mokedatu dam dispute is unnecessary. Besides demanding an all-party meeting, he urged the government to evaluate kuruvai crop losses and announce compensation for farmers.

CPI MLA T Ramachandran said an all-party delegation should meet the Prime Minister. CPM legislator R Chellasamy, referring to the CM's willingness to face humiliation to initiate talks with Karnataka, said that any insult to the CM would amount to an insult to the people of Tamil Nadu.

PMK MLA Sowmiya Anbumani, highlighting the irregular release of water by the neighbouring state, said Tamil Nadu should oppose the Mokedatu dam and that there was no

need for any other attempt to resolve the issue.

Replying to the discussion, Water Resources Minister N Anand recalled the legal steps taken by the government and assured the House that the government would not compromise on the state's rights and

would continue all legal, technical, and administrative measures to establish those rights. He said the government would review the measures adopted during previous drought years before deciding on opening the Mettur Dam for irrigation.

He pointed out that although the inflow increased, the state received only 4.947 tmcft of water against its entitled 46.359 tmcft as of August 6, resulting in a shortfall of 41.412 tmcft.

Two Erode schools among 9 in TN bag green school award

P SRINIVASAN @Erode

TWO schools from Erode have been selected for national-level awards under the 'Swachh Evam Harit Vidyalaya Rating (SHVR 2025-2026)', which promotes clean and green environments in the nation's schools. E Maanvizihi, Chief Educational Officer of Erode, said nine schools across TN have been selected for this award, including two schools from Erode.

"SHVR was introduced to encourage greener schools during the 2025-2026 academic year. Since most schools in the district boast a green and clean atmosphere, we ensured the participation of 1,702 schools in this initiative. Of these, 1,403 schools have received a four-star rating or higher. This aside, eight schools were selected at the district level and recommended for the state level. A total of 20 schools were recommended for the national level," the CEO said.

"Nine of them have been shortlisted to receive the Certificate of Merit at the national level. From Erode, Bannari Amman Vidya Niketan Matriculation Higher Secondary School (Alukkombai) and Panchayat Union Primary School (Elur) have been selected. The selected schools will receive ₹1 lakh cash prize each and a certificate of appreciation," the CEO added.

JEGADEESWARI PANDIAN
@ Madurai

AS many as 2,484 corruption cases are pending before the subordinate courts in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, according to a report submitted by the Registrar General of Madras HC to the Madurai Bench on Friday.

The report revealed that 2,423 corruption cases are pending before lower courts in Tamil Nadu, with Chennai leading the list with 359 pending cases, followed by Madurai and Coimbatore, which have 140 and 138 cases, respectively. Puducherry has 61 unresolved corruption cases. The registry submitted the report following a direction issued by Justice B Pugalendhi while

hearing a petition filed by A Shahul Hameed of Tirunelveli, seeking the expedition of trial in a corruption case pending against him before the principal district judge, Thoothukudi.

Hameed, who was working as an assistant engineer in TWAD board, was booked by the vigilance officials in 2021 for allegedly receiving a ₹30,000 bribe from a contractor for clearing his bills and has been under suspension since then. Though his trial commenced in 2023, he claimed that only two witnesses have been examined so far and sought direction to speed up the trial.

Hearing the plea on Thursday, Justice Pugalendhi referred to Section 4(4) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, which

mandates that special judges should hold trials on a day-to-day basis and try to conclude trials within two years from the date of filing of the chargesheet. It also says that in case of any extension, reasons should be recorded by the trial judge, and even then, the trial should not take more than four years, he added.

However, exclusive Special Courts for trial of offences under PC Act have been constituted only in eight districts, and the cases in the remaining districts are dealt with by the jurisdictional principal district judges, the judge noted.

EXPRESS READ

Tasmac staff struggle to issue bills due to huge crowd



During the hearing on Friday, the petitioner-in-person submitted that the retail outlets did not issue bills, even on Thursday. The government counsel informed that the Tasmac issued the circular on August 6 and the staff members are facing challenges in issuing bills as a large number of people throng outlets.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: Recently, Justice Ilanthiraiyan ordered all the Tasmac retail outlets to issue bills to consumers for every bottle sold and maintain billing records. Referring to the submission of the government counsel that Tasmac has recently issued a circular instructing its employees to issue bills and maintain bill books on sale particulars, the judge said, "Consumers can lodge complaints with the police if excess amount is collected without following the circular."

TAMILNADU STATE MARKETING CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
Office Address: No.2/15-A, Veppanapalli Via, Thalavipalli Vill, Samanthamalai Po, Krishnagiri Tk & Dt-635115.
E-Mail: dmtasmackrishnagiri@gmail.com

Online Tender is invited by the District Manager, TASMALTD, Krishnagiri District, For Grant of "Permission for the collection of Empty Carton Boxes and Paper Waste Materials generated from the Retail Vending Shops in Krishnagiri District."

Sl. No.	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1	Online Tender for the Grant of "Permission for the collection of Empty Carton Boxes and Paper Waste Materials generated from the Retail Vending Shops"	Roc No. 299/2026/ RV-3 Dated, 07.08.2026	10.08.2026 at 4.00 PM to 25.08.2026 upto 11.00 AM	15.08.2026 at 11.00 AM to 25.08.2026 upto 11.00 AM	25.08.2026 at 12.00 PM

The tender related documents can be downloaded, and the tender shall be submitted at <https://tntenders.gov.in/>.

Tender Inviting Authority / District Manager, Krishnagiri District.

TAMILNADU STATE MARKETING CORPORATION LTD,
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
Office Address: 5/B-1, SIPCOT Industrial Area, Pudukkottai, SULLAKKARI, VIRUDHUNAGAR-626 003. E-Mail: amavdutasmac@gmail.com.

Online Tender is invited by the District Manager, TASMALTD, Virudhunagar District, For Grant of "Permission for the collection of Empty Carton Boxes and Paper Waste Materials generated from the Retail Vending Shops in Virudhunagar District."

Sl. No.	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1.	Online Tender for the Grant of "Permission for the collection of Empty Carton Boxes and Paper Waste Materials generated from the Retail Vending Shops" in Virudhunagar District.	AS/653/2026 Dated, 06.08.2026	10.08.2026 at 4.00 PM to 25.08.2026 upto 11.00 AM	15.08.2026 at 11.00 AM to 25.08.2026 upto 11.00 AM	25.08.2026 at 4.00 PM

The tender related documents can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at <https://tntenders.gov.in/>.

Tender Inviting Authority / District Manager TASMALTD, Virudhunagar District.

TAMILNADU STATE MARKETING CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
Address: District Manager, Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation Ltd., Guduvu No.4 Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation, Angeripalayam Road, Tiruppur-641603. E-Mail: tiruppurstasmac@gmail.com

Online Tender is invited by the District Manager, TASMALTD, Tiruppur District, For Grant of "Permission for the collection of Empty Carton Boxes and Paper Waste Materials generated from the Retail Vending Shops in Tiruppur District."

Sl. No.	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1	Online Tender for the Grant of "Permission for the collection of Empty Carton Boxes and Paper Waste Materials generated from the Retail Vending Shops"	Ref. No.A3/652/2026 Dated, 07.08.2026	10.08.2026 at 4.00 PM to 25.08.2026 upto 11.00 AM	15.08.2026 at 11.00 AM to 25.08.2026 upto 11.00 AM	25.08.2026 at 4.00 PM

The tender related documents can be downloaded, and the tender shall be submitted at <https://tntenders.gov.in/>.

Tender Inviting Authority / District Manager, Tasmac Ltd, Tiruppur District.

TAMILNADU STATE MARKETING CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
Office Address: 83/6, Krishnapuram Road, Thummanurichi (Post), Namakkal-637003
E-Mail: dmtasmacnamakkal@gmail.com

Online Tender is invited by the District Manager, TASMALTD, Namakkal District, For Grant of "Permission for the collection of Empty Carton Boxes and Paper Waste Materials generated from the Retail Vending Shops in Namakkal District."

Sl. No.	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1	Online Tender for the Grant of "Permission for the collection of Empty Carton Boxes and Paper Waste Materials generated from the Retail Vending Shops"	167/B3/RV/2026 Dated, 07.08.2026	10.08.2026 at 4.00 PM to 25.08.2026 upto 11.00 AM	15.08.2026 at 11.00 AM to 25.08.2026 upto 11.00 AM	25.08.2026 at 4.00 PM

The tender related documents can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at <https://tntenders.gov.in/>.

Tender Inviting Authority / District Manager TASMALTD, Namakkal District

TAMILNADU STATE MARKETING CORPORATION LTD,
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
Office Address: 5/B-1, SIPCOT Industrial Area, Pudukkottai E-Mail: dmtasmacpdkt@gmail.com

Online Tender is invited by the District Manager, TASMALTD, Pudukkottai District, For Grant of "Permission for the collection of Empty Carton Boxes and Paper Waste Materials generated from the Retail Vending Shops in Pudukkottai District."

Sl. No.	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1.	Online Tender for the Grant of "Permission for the collection of Empty Carton Boxes and Paper Waste Materials generated from the Retail Vending Shops"	e-A3/794/2026 Dated, 07.08.2026	10.08.2026 at 4.00 PM to 25.08.2026 upto 11.00 AM	15.08.2026 at 11.00 AM to 25.08.2026 upto 11.00 AM	25.08.2026 at 5.00 PM

The tender related documents can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at <https://tntenders.gov.in/>.

Tender Inviting Authority / District Manager Add., i.e., TASMALTD, Pudukkottai District.

PONDICHERY BRANCH
58-60, Ravi Krishna Inn, Vellalar Street, Behind Gouber Market, Pondicherry-605001. Ph: 0413-2336812. Email: pondic@bankofbaroda.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
"APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]"
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s /Mortgagor/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below :-

NAME & ADDRESS OF BORROWER/S/ GUARANTOR/ MORTGAGOR S : (1). Mrs. Rani A, D/o. Angalan, residing at No.20, Mariamman Koil Street, Uthiravagipet, Villianur, Pudukcherry 605110. (2). Mrs. Bharathi, W/o. Pakkirisamy, residing at No.19 Muthalamman Koil Street, Pudu Nagar pet, Manapet Post, Pudukcherry 607402. (3). Mr. Pakkirisamy, S/o. Mr.Sundararajan, residing at Address 1: No.6, ECR, Pudukhunagarpet, Kattukuppam, Pudukcherry 605014, Address 2: No.19 Muthalamman Koil Street, Pudu Nagar pet, Manapet Post, Pudukcherry 607402. (4). Mrs. Bharathi, W/o. Pakkirisamy, residing at Address 1: No.6, ECR, Pudukhunagarpet, Kattukuppam, Pudukcherry 605014, Address 2: No.19 Muthalamman Koil Street, Pudu Nagar pet, Manapet Post, Pudukcherry 607402.

Ac No. 05640600052468, Rs.14,29,349.48/- plus interest and charges from 02.08.2026.
Total Dues as on 02.08.2026, Rs.14,29,349.48/-

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES WITH KNOWN ENCUMBRANCES, IF ANY:
The Mortgaged property is in the Name of Mrs. Bharathi, W/o. Pakkirisamy
Equitable Mortgage of the land and building situated at Pudukcherry R.D, Bahour Sub R.D, Bahour Community Panchayat, Village No.81, Manapet revenue village, Gopal nagar, the plot bearing No.11 measuring East West 20 feet, South North 50 feet an area of 1000 sq. feet comprised in Re survey no. 131/6A, Cadastre No.442-5/5 bounded follows :
Boundaries: East of Plot No.10, West of Plot No.12, North of 15 feet road, South of Iyyanar's plot.
The above said property is in the name of Mrs. Bharathi, W/o. Pakkirisamy.

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.13,50,000/- I EMD : Rs.1,35,000/- I BID INCREASE : Rs.10,000/-
Last date for EMD payment : 15-09-2026

Date & time of E-AUCTION 15.09.2026, 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.
with unlimited auto extension of 10 minutes each, till sale is concluded
Possession Type : Constructive I Property Inspection date & Time : 17.08.2026, 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer visit to the website link <https://www.bankofbaroda.bank.info-auction> and online auction portal Banknet.com. Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on Mobile: 9329611020 & 9515024578.
Date : 04.08.2026
Place : Pondicherry

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

TAMILNADU STATE MARKETING CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
Office Address: District Manager Office Tasmac Ltd., Palamalai Nagar, Sivagangal-630 561. E-Mail: amsivaganga@gmail.com

Online Tender is invited by the District Manager, TASMALTD, Sivagangal District, for grant of "Permission for the collection of Empty Carton Boxes and Paper Waste Materials generated from the Retail Vending Shops" in Sivagangal District.

Sl. No.	Description	Tender Reference No.	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1	Online Tender for the Grant of "Permission for the collection of Empty Carton Boxes and Paper Waste Materials generated from the Retail Vending Shops" in Sivagangal District	A2/713/2026 Dated, 07.08.2026	10.08.2026 at 4.00 PM to 25.08.2026 upto 11.00 AM	15.08.2026 at 11.00 AM to 25.08.2026 upto 11.00 AM	25.08.2026 at 4.00 PM

The tender related documents can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at <https://tntenders.gov.in/>.

Tender Inviting Authority / District Manager, Tasmac Ltd., Sivagangal District.

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