



Idol in Temple Must be Treated as a Living Person

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Recently, the Madras [High Court](#) observed that an **idol is treated as a juristic personality in law** during a case involving the **closure of a temple for 10 years without customary pujas** due to a dispute between the communities **over the issue of [Untouchability](#)**.

- The court emphasised the responsibility of the administration to prevent the illegal closure of temples and ensure adherence to worship rights.
- The Court recognized the **idol in a temple can hold property and engage in legal actions**. A temple must remain open for worship and customary rituals.
- Considering the Idol's **Juristic personality**, the court exercised [parens patriae](#) jurisdiction to protect the rights of idols, ensuring daily dharmic rituals continued.
 - The Doctrine of **Parens Patriae**, which means "**parent of the nation**," is a legal principle that grants the state (judiciary) the inherent power and authority to act as the **guardian for those who are unable to care for themselves**.
- A **juristic person**, as defined in **Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee vs Som Nath Dass, 2000**, is a legally recognized entity with a legal personality, encompassing gods, corporations, rivers, and animals.

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