

ITEM NO.30

COURT NO.11

SECTION XI-B

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Civil Appeal No(s). 15380/2025

P.C. HARY & ORS.

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

GURUVAYOOR DEVASWOM MANAGING
COMMITTEE & ORS.

Respondent(s)

IA No. 229197/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

WITH

C.A. No. 15381/2025 (XI-B)

FOR APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS ON IA 229581/2026

Date : 08-10-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARAVIND KUMAR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIPUL M. PANCHOLI

For Appellant(s) : Mr. C. S. Vaidyanathan, Sr. Adv.
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For Respondent(s) : Mr. Abhilash M.R., Adv.
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**UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R**

IA No. 229197/2026

1. Heard the learned Senior Counsels assisted by the learned advocates appearing along with them.

2. The prayer sought for in the present application is similar and identical to the prayer that was sought for in IA No.269508/2025 which has been disposed of by this Court by Order dated 30.10.2025 by granting relief and observing as under:

“6. Upon hearing, we find that Udayasthamana Pooja was being performed on Vrishchikam Ekadasi since long. It is to observe that any ritual which is being performed at any place or site of worship as part of long-standing tradition, and has assumed religious significance, ought not be unsettled on the apprehension that there would be potential public inconvenience. The faith of the worshippers at large ought not to be put aside on the anvil of managerial and administrative concerns and must be given precedence and respect as far as possible. The Guruvayur temple has a rich religious historical background and a large number of devotees depose their faith in the deity. The temple has long run customs, practices and rituals, which if affected, might run scramble through the sentiments of the devotees/people.

7. It is to be noted that, the performance of the pooja by Acharyas is conducted for enhancing the divinity of deity. On special occasions such as Vrishchikam Ekadasi, inconvenience to public cannot be a ground to discontinue/alter the rituals/pooja to be performed on the said day for deity. Thus, at this juncture, for the purposes of interim relief, we are not convinced by the reasons stated by the respondents.

8. In this view of the matter, subject to final outcome of the appeal, by way of interim measure, we direct that Udayasthamana Pooja shall be continued in the manner as it was being performed as per the tradition of the temple on Vrishchikam Ekadasi without any change. In case the Thantri is of the view that Udayasthamana Pooja has also to be performed on 02.11.2025 as stated in the counter affidavit, he may do so. The Interlocutory Application is accordingly disposed of.”

3. In the light of the aforesaid order passed and subject to the final outcome of the appeal that is pending by way of interim relief, we direct that the *Udayasthamana Pooja* shall be continued in the manner as it was being performed as per the tradition/custom/practice of the temple on *Vrishchikam Ekadasi* falling on 21.11.2026 without any change.

4. However, we grant liberty to Devaswom Board and also Tantri that *Udayasthamana Pooja* can also be performed on 22.10.2026 as indicated in the revised *Panchangam*.

5. The application stands disposed of accordingly.

Hearing of the appeal is ordered to be expedited.

List on 03.12.2026.

(RASHI GUPTA)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(AVGV RAMU)
COURT MASTER (NSH)