

Executive Officers and the Endowments Act

Free study notes · 4 notes · 25 Oct 2026

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1. The Executive Officer under Section 29
2. EO grades and the department's officers
3. The Endowments Act 1987: framework
4. Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams under the Act

1 The Executive Officer under Section 29

Section 29 of the Endowments Act (Act 30 of 1987, as substituted by Act 33 of 2007) gives every charitable or religious institution an Executive Officer (EO): it says who appoints him, which institutions may do without one, his grades, the Hindu requirement, and his duties, from custody of jewels to the Bhakta Samajam.

Core facts

- **Section 29 = appointment and duties of the Executive Officer** (asked 2023 and 2026). The EO is defined in **S.2(13)** as the officer appointed under the Act.
- **Who appoints the EO (S.29(1)):**

Institution	Appointing authority
Annual income ₹1 crore or more	Government
Other institutions in the 6(a) and 6(b) lists	Commissioner
6(c) institution with income below ₹2 lakh	EO not necessary
Below ₹2 lakh but with substantial immovable property	Commissioner may still appoint, recording reasons

- **No EO, income above ₹2 lakh and below ₹25 lakh:** the **trustee**, the **Chairman of the Board of Trustees** or an **employee** of the institution, **authorised by the Commissioner**, acts as EO (asked 2023: an employee can act as EO under **S.29**).
- **Grouping:** the **Commissioner** may form several institutions into **one group** and appoint one EO for it (asked 2026).
- **Grades (S.29(2)):** **Grade I, II and III** EOs are all appointed by the **Commissioner**. Promotion quota for employees of institutions: **40% of Grade III** vacancies and **20% of Grade I and II** vacancies.
- **Senior officers as EO:** the **Government** may appoint a **Regional Joint Commissioner** as EO of any institution; the **Commissioner** may appoint a **Deputy Commissioner** or an **Assistant Commissioner** as EO, according to income.
- **Hindu requirement (S.29(3)):** the EO must **profess the Hindu religion**; he stops acting the moment he ceases to.
- **Pay (S.29(3)(d)):** the EO is a **Government servant**. Salary and pension are paid first from the **Consolidated Fund of the State** and then **recovered from the Endowments Administration Fund** (the **S.69 fund**, asked 2023).
- **Fixed deposits:** the EO may **never encash** fixed deposit receipts of a scheme or specific endowment (asked 2026).
- **TTD's EO** is appointed by the Government under **S.106**, not S.29 (see HC-EA-04).

Explained

Section 29 clause by clause.

Clause	What it says
29(1)	An EO for every institution; Government (₹1 crore+) or Commissioner appoints; cadre fixed by income; three provisos (authorised person, small institution with property, grouping)
29(2)	Number of EOs per grade fixed by Government; Commissioner appoints Grades I to III; 40% / 20% quota; RJC, DC or AC as EO
29(3)	EO must be a Hindu
29(3)(a)	EO carries out all lawful directions of the trustee
29(3)(b)	Five powers and duties, subject to Government restrictions
29(3)(c)	Prior approval of the trustee to file or defend a case
29(3)(d)	EO is a Government servant; pay from the Consolidated Fund, recovered from the EAF
29(3)(e)	EO fosters a Bhakta Samajam

The five duties in 29(3)(b).

1. **Custody** of all records, accounts, documents, **jewels**, valuables, money, funds and other properties.
2. **Income and expenditure**: see that income (rents, seva fees, donations, hundi) is properly collected and money is spent only as allowed.
3. **Litigation: sue and be sued** in the name of the institution. Cases pending when the Act began, conducted by someone else, are not disturbed.
4. **Bank and treasury**: deposit all money in the prescribed bank or treasury and **sign cheques**. Proviso: no encashment of fixed deposits of a scheme or **specific endowment**, under any circumstances.
5. **Emergency**: order any work provided in the budget, or any work he thinks **immediately necessary** to preserve the property or for the **service or safety of pilgrims**, and pay for it from the institution's funds. He must **report forthwith to the trustee** with reasons and obtain **approval**.

EO and trustee: who does what.

- The **trustee** (or Board) decides; the **EO** runs day-to-day administration and carries out the trustee's **lawful** decisions. The EO does **not** replace the trustee.
- To **institute or defend** a suit, the EO needs the trustee's **prior approval** (29(3)(c)), even though 29(3)(b)(iii) lets him sue and be sued.
- **Section 41**: the EO may **withhold** a trustee resolution that is against the Act, beyond the trustee's powers, an abuse of power, likely to cause financial loss or danger to life, health or safety, or likely to cause a riot or breach of peace. He places it back before the trustee **with a written note** and reports **at**

once to the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner. If the trustee passes no fresh resolution within **60 days**, that officer passes orders, which are **final and binding** on the trustee and the EO.

Section 29(3)(e): the Bhakta Samajam. The EO must foster faith, devotion and ethical conduct by helping devotees form a voluntary **Bhakta Samajam** attached to the institution, which organises **bhajans**, religious discourses and **Nagara Sankirtanams** in keeping with the temple's custom and usage. The Commissioner frames bye-laws for Bhakta Samajams with the Dharmika Parishad's approval.

Other sections that put duties on the EO.

Section	EO's role
S.35(1)	Income above ₹10 lakh : the EO appoints office-holders and servants, with prior permission of the competent authority (elsewhere the trustee does)
S.37(2)	Income above ₹10 lakh : the EO punishes office-holders and servants (fine, suspension, removal, dismissal)
S.38	Commissioner, DC or AC may direct the trustee or EO to act, and may punish directly if they do not
S.58(1)	The EO keeps regular accounts of receipts and payments (asked 2023)
S.61(1)	The EO rectifies the defects in the audit report within the time fixed and reports
S.83 (2023)	The EO (or AC or a higher officer) issues notice to an encroacher and orders eviction (see HC-EL notes)

Common traps

✗ "The Government appoints Grade I EOs." ✓ The **Commissioner** appoints Grades I, II and III; the Government appoints EOs only for ₹1 crore+ institutions and posts an RJC as EO.

✗ "20% of Grade III posts go to temple employees." ✓ **40%** for Grade III; **20%** for Grades I and II.

✗ "The Commissioner appoints an RJC as EO." ✓ The **Government** does; the Commissioner posts a **DC or AC**.

✗ "An EO may encash an FDR in an emergency." ✓ **Never**, under any circumstances.

✗ "The EO's salary comes from the Common Good Fund." ✓ Paid from the **Consolidated Fund**, recovered from the **Endowments Administration Fund (S.69)**.

✗ "Emergency spending needs the Commissioner's sanction first." ✓ The EO acts first and **reports forthwith to the trustee** for approval.

✗ "The EO can file a suit without anyone's leave." ✓ He needs the **trustee's prior approval (29(3)(c))**.

✗ "Section 110 gives emergency powers to every temple EO." ✓ S.110 is the **TTD** EO's extraordinary power; a temple EO's emergency power is **S.29(3)(b)(v)**.

Quick revision

- S.29 = appointment and duties of the EO; S.2(13) defines EO.
- ₹1 crore+ → Government appoints; other 6(a)/6(b) → Commissioner; 6(c) below ₹2 lakh → EO not needed.
- ₹2–25 lakh with no EO → trustee, Chairman or employee authorised by the Commissioner.
- Commissioner groups institutions under one EO.
- Grades I–III appointed by Commissioner; quota 40% (Grade III), 20% (Grades I, II).
- Government posts RJC as EO; Commissioner posts DC or AC.
- EO must be Hindu; is a Government servant; pay recovered from the S.69 fund.
- Duties: custody, collection, sue and be sued, bank deposit (no FDR encashment), emergency works (report to trustee).
- Trustee's prior approval to file or defend a case; S.41: EO may withhold a bad resolution (60 days).
- S.35 and S.37: above ₹10 lakh the EO appoints and punishes staff.

2 EO grades and the department's officers

The Endowments Department runs from the Government through the Commissioner, Regional Joint Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners down to the institution's Executive Officer; which officer controls a temple, and which grade of EO it gets, depends on its Section 6 income class.

Core facts

- **The ladder: Government** (Revenue (Endowments) Department, Minister for Endowments) → **Commissioner** → **Additional Commissioner** → **Regional Joint Commissioner** (region) → **Deputy Commissioner** (division) → **Assistant Commissioner** (sub-division) → **Executive Officer** (institution).
- **S.3:** the **Government** appoints the Commissioner, Additional Commissioner, RJs, DCs and ACs. All must **profess the Hindu religion**; their pay comes from the Consolidated Fund and is **recovered from the Endowments Administration Fund**.
- **S.5:** the Commissioner, with the Government's **prior approval**, divides the State into **regions** (RJC), **divisions** (DC) and **sub-divisions** (AC).
- **S.6:** the Commissioner publishes **five lists** by income, **6(a) to 6(e)** (asked 2023: classification is by **annual income**).

List	Act text (S.6)	Current limits (G.O.Ms.No.268, 12-11-2024)	Controlling officer
6(a)	Above ₹25 lakh	₹50 lakh and above	Commissioner
6(b)	₹2 lakh – ₹25 lakh	₹15 lakh – below ₹50 lakh	Deputy Commissioner
6(c)	Below ₹2 lakh	Below ₹15 lakh	Assistant Commissioner
6(d)	Mutts , any income	Same	Commissioner
6(e)	Dharmadayams , any income	Same	Commissioner

- **EO authorities (2026 key):**

Matter	Authority
Appoint EO Grades I, II, III	Commissioner
EO of a ₹1 crore+ institution	Government
Post an RJC as EO	Government
Post a DC or AC as EO	Commissioner
Group institutions under one EO	Commissioner
Transfer EOs	Commissioner

Matter	Authority
Draw and disburse EOs' salaries	Assistant Commissioner

- **Promotion quota: 20%** of vacancies in **Grade I** and **Grade II**, **40%** in **Grade III**, filled by employees of institutions (asked 2026: Grade I = **20%**).

Explained

The officers and their sections.

Officer	Section	Role
Commissioner	S.7, S.8	A corporation sole (sues and is sued in that name, with a seal); general superintendence and control of all institutions; direct charge of 6(a), 6(d), 6(e)
Additional Commissioner	S.8(3)	Powers as the Government fixes; budgets of ₹1 crore+ temples up to DC-cadre (2026 key)
Regional Joint Commissioner	S.9	Commissioner's functions in a region ; his orders count as the Commissioner's
Deputy Commissioner	S.10	Powers over the 6(b) list in his division; appoints boards of below ₹2 lakh temples (S.15)
Assistant Commissioner	S.11	Powers over the 6(c) list in his sub-division; DDO for EOs
Executive Officer	S.29	Runs one institution or a group

- **Delegation (S.8(4)–(5)):** the Commissioner may hand his powers to a DC or AC, except core ones (S.8(1), S.6 classification, S.15 boards and a few others).
- **Inspection (S.12):** any of these officers may inspect an institution's property and records, but the officer who enters a religious institution must be a **Hindu**, and must respect its customs (**S.13**).
- **Change of list:** if an institution's income stays above or below its slab for **three consecutive years**, the Commissioner moves it to the right list. Since **Act 36 of 2023** the Government may fix the slabs by **Gazette notification**, which it did by **G.O.Ms.No.268 (12-11-2024)**.

Qualifications of the Commissioner (S.4). One of: a person who is or was a **District Collector** (or of equal or higher rank); a member of the State's **Higher Judicial Service**; an advocate with **10 years** in the High Court or Supreme Court; or an **Additional Commissioner**. An **Assistant Commissioner** is recruited directly from advocates with **3 years'** High Court practice, or by promotion of superintendents or EOs of the prescribed grade.

EO grades and how a temple gets its EO.

- The **cadre** of an institution's EO depends on its income (S.29(1)). Small temples get a **Grade III** EO, bigger ones Grade II or Grade I; the largest are headed by an **Assistant, Deputy or Regional Joint Commissioner** posted as EO. The department speaks of "DC-cadre" or "JC-cadre" institutions in this sense.

- **Grade III EOs** are recruited by **APPSC** (this exam); **40%** of Grade III vacancies go to qualified institution employees by promotion; **20%** in the two higher grades.
- **Government servants:** EOs are Government employees whose service conditions the **Government** fixes (S.29(3)(d)); pay is drawn by the **Assistant Commissioner** and recovered from the **Endowments Administration Fund**.

Staff of the institutions (Ss.35–39).

Matter	Section	Authority
Fill vacancies in the sanctioned cadre	S.35(1)	Trustee , with prior permission of the competent authority; EO where income exceeds ₹10 lakh
Punish office-holders and servants	S.37	Trustee ; EO where income exceeds ₹10 lakh
Act when trustee or EO fails to punish	S.38	Commissioner, DC or AC
Transfer office-holders and servants between institutions	S.39	Commissioner (anywhere); DC or AC (within his area)

Who controls by Section 6 class (budgets and audit, for link).

- Budgets go to the **Commissioner** for 6(a) and 6(d), the **DC** for 6(b), the **AC** for 6(c) (S.57; details in the temple-finance notes).
- Audit reports go to the Commissioner for 6(a), 6(d), 6(e); the DC for 6(b); the AC for 6(c) (S.59).

Common traps

✗ "6(a) means income above ₹25 lakh." ✓ That is the Act's printed figure; under **G.O.Ms.No.268 (2024)** 6(a) is **₹50 lakh and above**, 6(b) **₹15–50 lakh**, 6(c) **below ₹15 lakh**.

✗ "Mutts are under the Deputy Commissioner." ✓ **6(d) mutts** and **6(e) dharmadayams** are under the **Commissioner**, whatever their income.

✗ "The Regional Joint Commissioner transfers EOs." ✓ The **Commissioner** does (2026 key).

✗ "The EO draws his own salary." ✓ The **Assistant Commissioner** is the drawing and disbursing officer.

✗ "The Commissioner appoints the Deputy Commissioners." ✓ The **Government** appoints all departmental officers under **S.3**.

✗ "The Commissioner divides the State into regions on his own." ✓ Only with the Government's **prior approval** (S.5).

✗ "Any officer may inspect a temple." ✓ The inspecting officer entering a religious institution must be a **Hindu** (S.12).

Quick revision

- Government → Commissioner → Addl. Commissioner → RJC → DC → AC → EO.
- S.3: Government appoints all officers; all Hindus; pay recovered from the EAF.
- S.5: regions (RJC), divisions (DC), sub-divisions (AC), with Government approval.
- S.6 lists: 6(a) Commissioner, 6(b) DC, 6(c) AC, 6(d) mutts and 6(e) dharmadayams Commissioner.
- G.O.Ms.No.268 (12-11-2024): ₹50 lakh+ / ₹15–50 lakh / below ₹15 lakh.
- Commissioner appoints Grades I–III, groups institutions, transfers EOs.
- Government posts RJC as EO; Commissioner posts DC or AC.
- AC draws and disburses EO salaries.
- Quota for institution employees: 20% (Grades I, II), 40% (Grade III).
- Above ₹10 lakh the EO appoints (S.35) and punishes (S.37) staff; S.39 transfers by Commissioner, DC or AC.

3 The Endowments Act 1987: framework

Act 30 of 1987, built on the Justice Challa Kondaiah Commission's report, governs every Hindu religious and charitable institution in Andhra Pradesh: it defines the institutions, sorts them by income, sets up trust boards, the Commissioner's department, the Dharmika Parishad and the Endowments Tribunal, abolishes hereditary rights, and rests on the State's power under Articles 25–26 to regulate the secular side of religion.

Core facts

- **Full name:** the **Andhra Pradesh Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments Act, 1987 (Act 30 of 1987)**, in force from **28-5-1987**.
- **Basis:** the **Justice Challa Kondaiah Commission** (asked 2023), which reported on **28-2-1986**. The 1987 Act **repealed** the **A.P. Act of 1966 (Act 17 of 1966)** and the **TTD Act of 1979**.
- **Main amendments:** **Act 33 of 2007** (Dharmika Parishad, Endowments Tribunal, new S.29); **Act 36 of 2023** (new S.83 on encroachments, Ss.84–86 omitted); **Act 26 of 2024** (bigger trust boards, a Brahmin trustee, in force **10-2-2025**).
- **Chapters to remember:** **III** administration (Ss.14–42), **V** mutts (Ss.47–55), **VII** budget, accounts and audit (Ss.57–64), **X** alienation and inams (Ss.75–82), **XI** encroachments (S.83), **XII** Tribunal inquiries (Ss.87–89), **XIV** TTD (Ss.95–131).
- **Key sections:** **S.6** classification; **S.15** Board of Trustees (asked 2023); **S.16** hereditary trusteeship abolished; **S.29** EO; **S.34** hereditary rights of archakas and mirasidars abolished; **S.144** shares in **hundi** and rusums abolished (asked 2023); **S.152 Dharmika Parishad** (asked 2023); **S.162 Endowments Tribunal**.
- **Dharmika Parishad:** **21** members; **Chairman = Minister for Endowments** (asked 2023); **Member Secretary = Commissioner**. It may **remove a Mathadhipati** (asked 2023).
- **Tribunal Chairman:** a judicial officer **not below the rank of District Judge** (asked 2023); **Member:** not below **Additional Commissioner**.
- **Code of conduct** for trustees, archakas and office-holders: framed by the **Commissioner** (2023 key).
- **Constitution:** **Article 25(2)(a)** lets the State regulate the economic and secular side of religious practice; **Article 26** gives denominations the right to manage their own religious affairs. The subject is in the **Concurrent List** (entry **28**).

Explained

How the law grew.

Year	Law
1843	East India Company withdraws from temple management (TTD goes to the Hathiramji Mahants)
1939	Hyderabad Endowments Regulations: Telangana area

Year	Law
1951	Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act (Act 19 of 1951) : Andhra area
1966	A.P. Act 17 of 1966 : one law for the whole State
1979	TTD Act, 1979
1986	Challa Kondaiah Commission reports (28-2-1986)
1987	Act 30 of 1987 replaces the 1966 and 1979 Acts

Definitions in Section 2 that are asked.

Clause	Term	Meaning
2(1)	Archaka	Includes a pujari, panda, archakatvam mirasidar or anyone who does puja; an EO is not an archaka (asked 2023)
2(5)	Charitable purpose	Relief of poverty or distress, education, medical relief, other public utility not solely religious
2(10)	Dharmadayam	Money collected by custom or trade usage for a charitable or religious purpose
2(11)	Dittam	Scale of daily dhupa, deepa, naivedya and other services and the articles needed
2(17)	Math	Religious institution headed by a person who teaches Hindu religion or philosophy
2(21)	Religious charity	A public charity associated with a Hindu festival or religious observance (asked 2023)
2(23)	Religious institution	A math, temple or specific endowment , including a brindavan or samadhi
2(25)	Specific endowment	Property given for a particular service or charity in an institution
2(29)	Trustee	Includes mathadhipati, mahant, dharmakarta, mutawalli and a Board of Trustees
2(30)	Hindu	Includes Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs

The Act does **not** apply to **wakfs** under the Wakf Act (S.1(3)).

Trust boards (Ss.14–28).

- **S.14**: the property **vests in the institution**; trustees only manage it.
- **S.15 (as amended by Act 26 of 2024)**:

Annual income	Board appointed by	Members
Above ₹20 crore	Government	17
₹5 crore – ₹20 crore	Government	13

Annual income	Board appointed by	Members
₹1 crore – ₹5 crore	Government	11
₹25 lakh – ₹1 crore	Dharmika Parishad	11
₹2 lakh – ₹25 lakh	Commissioner	9
Below ₹2 lakh	Deputy Commissioner	7

- The founder's family member and ex-officio members are counted **over and above** these numbers. The **archaka** (or chief archaka) is an **ex-officio member**; two members must be eminent philanthropists.
- **Representation (S.17)**: at least **one woman**; **50%** of seats (leaving out ex-officio members) for **SC, ST and BC**; **one Nayee Brahmin** (Act 15 of 2023); **one Brahmin** (Act 26 of 2024). Act 26 of 2024 raised every slab by **two** (15 → 17, 11 → 13, 9 → 11, 9 → 11, 7 → 9, 5 → 7).
- **Term: 2 years. Age**: at least **30**. **Oath** within **30 days** or the office is lost. **Chairman** elected within **60 days** (S.20). Absent from **3 consecutive** meetings → membership lost (S.21).
- **S.16: hereditary trusteeship abolished**; a founder or his qualified family member is still appointed (S.17).
- **S.19** lists disqualifications (insolvency, interest in a lease or contract, arrears, conviction for moral turpitude, being an employee or lawyer of the institution). **Act 12 of 2026** removes leprosy from the list, from a date to be notified.
- **S.28**: suspension, removal or dismissal of a trustee after notice. **S.135**: the Government may **supersede** a board; **S.137**: a **Specified Authority** runs the institution for up to **one year**.

The Dharmika Parishad (S.152).

- Inserted by **Act 33 of 2007** (definition S.2(10-A)). **21 members**: 4 official (Endowments **Minister** as Chairman, Revenue Principal Secretary or Secretary, **Commissioner** as Member Secretary, **TTD EO**) and 17 non-official (6 board chairmen, 2 Mathadhipatis, a retired High Court judge, Agama scholars, a chartered accountant and others).
- **Act 32 of 2021**: if the full Parishad is not constituted, the **four official members** act for it.
- **Powers**: appoints boards of **₹25 lakh–₹1 crore** temples; over **mutts** it removes a Mathadhipati (S.51; appeal to the High Court in **90 days**), fills temporary vacancies (S.52), recognises successors (Ss.53–54; nomination reported in **90 days**) and frames a **scheme** for a mismanaged mutt (S.55; committee of up to **5**; appeal in **60 days**).

The Endowments Tribunal (S.162).

- Set up by the Government (Act 33 of 2007); **Chairman** a judicial officer not below **District Judge**, **Member** not below **Additional Commissioner**.
- **S.87**: decides whether an institution is charitable or religious, whether property is endowment property or a specific endowment, who is the founder, and claims to honours or emoluments. **S.88**: appeal to the **High Court within 90 days**. **S.89**: compromise. **S.83(6)** (2023): appeal against an eviction order within **15 days**.

Mutts (Chapter V). A mutt is in list **6(d)** under the Commissioner. **S.48** keeps several Chapter III sections (trust boards, EO) away from mutts; **S.50** covers **pada-kanukas** (offerings to the Mathadhipati personally).

Archakas and hereditary rights.

- **S.34:** hereditary rights of **peda jiyyangar, chinna jiyyangar, mirasidars, archakas** and others **abolished**, with their emoluments. **Act 33 of 2007** added S.34(3): qualified members of archaka families continue in archakatvam, paid under a S.144 scheme. **Act 26 of 2020** added S.34(4): the **Sannidhi Yadavs** of TTD keep their hereditary rights.
- **S.36 (qualifications):** pass an archaka examination recognised by the Commissioner; no physical deformity or contagious disease; recite mantras clearly; good conduct; free of the **sapta vyasanans** (seven vices).
- **S.144:** shares in **hundi**, arati plate, ticket fees and other rusums **abolished**; after 2007 this applies only to institutions with income above **₹5 lakh**.

Offences.

- **S.147:** a trustee or EO who fails to keep the register (S.43), fails to furnish accounts, or obstructs an inspection may be **finned**; courts take cognizance only on the **Commissioner's written complaint**, before a magistrate **not below First Class**; the fine comes from the trustee's **own pocket**.
- **S.157:** trustees, board members, the EO and staff are **public servants**.
- Encroachment on endowment property is a cognizable offence after **Act 36 of 2023** (see HC-EL notes).

Constitutional basis.

- **Article 25(1):** freedom of conscience and religion, subject to public order, morality and health. **25(2)(a):** the State may regulate **economic, financial, political or other secular activity** linked to religion. **25(2)(b):** social reform and opening Hindu public temples to all. Its **Explanation II** counts Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists as Hindus, as S.2(30) does.
- **Article 26:** a denomination may (a) set up institutions, (b) manage **its own affairs in matters of religion**, (c) own property and (d) administer it **in accordance with law**.
- The Supreme Court upheld the 1987 Act: **Pannalal Bansilal Pitti (1996)** on abolishing hereditary trusteeship, and **A.S. Narayana Deekshitulu (1996)** on abolishing hereditary archakatvam. Appointing an archaka is a **secular act**; what he does in worship is religious and stays protected.

Common traps

✗ "The 1987 Act came from the Justice Reddy or Dhar Commission." ✓ **Justice Challa Kondaiah Commission** (report 28-2-1986).

✗ "The Commissioner chairs the Dharmika Parishad." ✓ The **Minister for Endowments** chairs; the Commissioner is **Member Secretary**.

✗ "The Dharmika Parishad has 15 members." ✓ **21** (4 official, 17 non-official).

✗ "The Tribunal is headed by the Commissioner." ✓ By a judicial officer **not below District Judge**.

✗ "Boards of ₹25 lakh–₹1 crore temples are named by the Government." ✓ By the **Dharmika Parishad**.

✗ "The top trust board still has 15 members." ✓ **17** since **Act 26 of 2024** (10-2-2025).

X "'Religious charity' means any public charity at any festival." ✓ One linked to a **Hindu festival** or religious observance.

X "An archaka includes the EO." ✓ It includes pujari, panda and archakatvam mirasidar, **not** the EO.

X "Section 144 deals with resumption of inams." ✓ S.144 abolishes **shares in hundi and rusums**; inams are **S.77**.

X "Article 26 bars the State from managing temple property." ✓ Denominations administer property **in accordance with law**; the State may regulate the secular side.

Quick revision

- Act 30 of 1987, in force 28-5-1987; Challa Kondaiah Commission; repealed Act 17 of 1966 and the TTD Act 1979.
- Amendments: 33/2007 (Parishad, Tribunal, S.29), 36/2023 (S.83), 26/2024 (boards +2, Brahmin trustee).
- S.15 boards: 17 / 13 / 11 by Government; 11 by Parishad; 9 by Commissioner; 7 by DC.
- Board: one woman, 50% SC/ST/BC, one Nayee Brahmin, one Brahmin; 2-year term; age 30; oath in 30 days.
- S.16 hereditary trusteeship, S.34 hereditary archaka rights, S.144 hundi shares: abolished.
- S.152 Dharmika Parishad: 21 members, Minister chairs, Commissioner member-secretary; removes Mathadhipatis.
- S.162 Tribunal: Chairman of District Judge rank; S.88 appeal to the High Court in 90 days.
- Archaka = pujari, panda, mirasidar; religious charity = linked to a Hindu festival; Hindu includes Buddhist, Jain, Sikh.
- S.147 fines on Commissioner's complaint; S.157 trustees and EO are public servants.
- Articles 25(2)(a) and 26; Pannalal Bansilal Pitti and Narayana Deekshitulu (1996) upheld the Act.

4 Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams under the Act

TTD, the temples of the First Schedule and the institutions of the Second Schedule treated as one religious institution, is governed by Chapter XIV (Sections 95–131) of the Endowments Act: a Government-appointed Board of up to 29 members sets policy, an Executive Committee administers, and the Executive Officer, of District Collector rank, is its chief administrative officer.

Core facts

- **S.2(28):** TTD = the temples in the **First Schedule** with their endowments and properties + the educational and other institutions in the **Second Schedule**, together **one religious institution**.
- **Chapter XIV = Sections 95 to 131** apply specially to TTD; the rest of the Act applies subject to them (S.95).
- **History: Mahants of the Hathiramji Mutt** ran Tirumala from **1843 to 1933**; then the **TTD Act of 1932** (Madras Act XIX of 1933); the **TTD Act, 1979**; then **Act 30 of 1987**.
- **Board (S.96):** up to **29 members including the Chairman** (raised from **19** by **Act 1 of 2020**). Ex-officio: the **Revenue (Endowments) Secretary or Principal Secretary**, the **Commissioner of Endowments**, the **TUDA Chairman**; the **EO** is ex-officio **Member Secretary**. Also **3 MLAs**, **one SC member**, **one woman**, one philanthropist. All must be **Hindus**.
- **Executive Committee (S.97-A):** Board **Chairman** presides; **Commissioner** ex-officio member; **EO** Member Secretary; **5** Board members nominated by the Government.
- **Special invitees (Act 1 of 2023):** up to **5** to the Board (S.97-C) and up to **50** to TTD for pilgrim welfare (S.97-D); **no vote**.
- **EO of TTD:** appointed by the **Government (S.106)**; must be of **District Collector** rank (**S.107**); term **3 years**, eligible for **one more (S.108)**; he is the **chief administrative officer** of TTD (**S.109**, asked 2023).
- **Extraordinary powers (S.110):** initiated by the **EO** (asked 2023), reported to the Executive Committee.
- **Suits:** the **EO** represents TTD in suits and legal proceedings (asked 2023).
- **TTD budget** is sanctioned by the **Government** (asked 2026).

Explained

From the Mahants to the 1987 Act.

Year	Event
Pallava to Vijayanagara times	Kings endow the temple; Krishnadevaraya visits Tirumala several times
1843	East India Company gives management to the Hathiramji Mutt Mahants
1932–33	TTD Act (Madras Act XIX of 1933): a committee with a paid Commissioner appointed by the Madras Government

Year	Event
1951, 1966	TTD comes under the Madras Act of 1951, then the A.P. Act of 1966
1979	A separate TTD Act, 1979
1987	Act 30 of 1987 repeals it; TTD gets Chapter XIV
1991	Act 26 of 1990 creates the Executive Committee (Ss.97-A, 97-B)

The Board and the Committee.

Body	Section	Make-up	Job
TTD Board	S.96, S.97	Up to 29 incl. Chairman	Policy ; reviews pilgrim facilities and welfare
Executive Committee	S.97-A, S.97-B	Chairman + Commissioner + EO + 5	Administration vests in it; fixes fees for archana and sevas; fixes the dittam ; may delegate to the EO
Special invitees	S.97-C, S.97-D	≤5 (Board), ≤50 (TTD)	Advice only; no vote; term = Board's

- **Terms and rules for members (Ss.98-105):** Sections **18 and 19** (qualifications, disqualifications) apply; term **2 years** at the Government's pleasure; **no salary**, only honorarium and allowances; resignation in writing **to the EO**; absence from **3 consecutive** meetings without the Chairman's leave ends membership; the Government may suspend or remove a member.
- **TTD Board vs ordinary boards:** ordinary temple boards follow **S.15** (17, 13, 11, 9, 7 members); TTD follows **S.96**.

The EO and the senior officers (Ss.106-110).

Post	Qualification (S.107)
Executive Officer	Is or was a District Collector , or of a rank not lower
Joint Executive Officer	Is or was a Joint Collector , or of a rank not lower
Special Grade Deputy EO	At least 3 years as Deputy EO in TTD
Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer, Chief Engineer, Chief Vigilance and Security Officer	As prescribed

- **S.106:** the **Government** appoints all of them; they must be **Hindus**, are **full-time**, and are paid from **TTD funds**.
- **S.108:** EO and JEO hold office for **3 years** and may be reappointed for **another term**.
- **S.109:** the EO is the **chief administrative officer**, under the Executive Committee's guidance and control; he keeps the property records, arranges **collection of offerings** in the First Schedule temples, and may delegate to the **JEO** or **Special Grade Deputy EO**.
- **S.110:** in an emergency the EO may order work **not provided in the budget** to protect TTD property or for the service and safety of pilgrims, paid from TTD funds, and must report **at once to the Executive**

Committee.**Money, institutions and Tirumala (Ss.111–131).**

Section	Provision
S.111	TTD fund: hundi, donations and all receipts; kept in banks, treasury or approved securities
S.112	Hindu Dharma Prachara Parishad
S.113	Sri Venkateswara Sishtachara Vidya Samstha (Vedic and shastra learning)
S.114	Civic administration of the Tirumala hills , by the EO in the notified area; begging, liquor, meat, gambling and touting can be banned
S.115	Government may take over or transfer Second Schedule institutions
S.116	Budget: EO prepares, Executive Committee and Board approve, Government sanctions
S.117	Accounts and audit, by an auditor the Government appoints
S.118	Encroachment: amended S.83 applies
S.120	Appeals: against the EO or JEO to the Executive Committee , then to the Government , each within 90 days
S.121, S.122	Government revision; review within 90 days
S.123	Pre-emption: TTD may buy property on the Tirumala hills offered for sale, at the same price
S.124	Oath of Board and Committee members, administered by the EO
S.125	Administration report within 3 months of the year's end
S.126	Meetings: Chairman presides, the Commissioner in his absence
S.129	Suits by or against TTD; the EO represents it
S.131	Annual inspection by an officer senior to the EO , nominated by the Government

TTD in the rest of the Act.

- The **TTD EO** is one of the four official members of the **Dharmika Parishad** (S.152).
- **Sannidhi Yadavs** of TTD keep their hereditary rights (**S.34(4)**, Act 26 of 2020).
- **Act 30 of 2021:** TTD pays **₹40 crore** a year to the **Common Good Fund** and **₹5 crore** to the archakas' **welfare fund** (S.161), each raised **10% every five years**.

Common traps

✗ "The TTD Board has 19 members." ✓ Up to **29** including the Chairman, since **Act 1 of 2020**.

✗ "The TTD EO is appointed by the Commissioner under S.29." ✓ By the **Government** under **S.106**.

✗ "The TTD EO chairs the Board." ✓ He is the ex-officio **Member Secretary**; the **Chairman** chairs.

✗ "The Commissioner sanctions TTD's budget." ✓ The **Government** does.

✗ "Special invitees vote in Board meetings." ✓ They **advise only**; no vote.

✗ "The Executive Committee is chaired by the EO." ✓ By the **Board Chairman**; the EO is Member Secretary.

✗ "TTD's EO must be of Joint Collector rank." ✓ **District Collector** rank; the **JEO** is of Joint Collector rank.

✗ "Section 110 powers belong to the Commissioner." ✓ To the **TTD EO**.

✗ "The Mahants ran TTD until independence." ✓ From **1843 to 1933**.

Quick revision

- S.2(28): First Schedule temples + Second Schedule institutions = one religious institution.
- Chapter XIV = Ss.95–131.
- Mahants of Hathiramji Mutt 1843–1933; TTD Act 1932 (Madras Act XIX of 1933); TTD Act 1979; Act 30 of 1987.
- Board: up to 29 incl. Chairman (Act 1 of 2020); Commissioner, Revenue Secretary, TUDA Chairman ex-officio; EO Member Secretary.
- Executive Committee: Chairman, Commissioner, EO, 5 members; fixes fees and dittam.
- Special invitees: ≤5 to Board, ≤50 to TTD; no vote (Act 1 of 2023).
- EO: Government appoints (S.106), Collector rank (S.107), 3 years + one more (S.108), chief administrative officer (S.109).
- S.110 emergency works by the EO, reported to the Committee.
- Budget sanctioned by Government; appeals EO → Committee → Government, 90 days each.
- S.123 pre-emption on Tirumala hills; S.131 annual inspection by an officer senior to the EO.