

ADMINISTRATION OF HINDU TEMPLES ACT

[Act No. * of Year
2020]

An Act for the administration of Hindu temples by devotees and to protect the properties and wealth of Hindu temples in the Union of India.

Whereas it is expedient that the provision should be made for improving the administration of Hindu temples; for protection of the wealth and properties belonging to the Deity/ies; for the promotion of temple arts, artforms; for religious education; for conservation of Hindu Heritage monuments and its reconstruction.

It is enacted as follows: -

Definitions:

- a. “Hindu temple” means a religious place where Hindu Deities are consecrated as idols and are worshipped by general public.
- b. “Committee” means a body of individuals registered under Section 1 of this Act. The Committee shall be accountable for the assets and finances of the Hindu temple, including the donations made to the temple and or its deity/ies.
- c. “Deity/ies” means any Hindu idol or substance that may be tangible or intangible in nature and is the object of Hindu religious and/or spiritual faith, that may or may not be representative of the traditional Hindu pantheon of gods/goddesses. Such a deity will be a juristic person.

1. Administration of each and all Hindu temples will now vest in a Committee which will be deemed to be registered under the Society Registration Act of 1860.

2. Management of Hindu temple’s administration, resources, assets and finances including donations shall be vested in the Committee alone.

3. The membership of the Committee will consist of people who profess Hindu religion and who are the devotees of the Deity/ies of the said temple.

3.a The members of the Committee shall be biological and legal persons in the eyes of law.

3.b The Committee itself shall be a legal person in the eyes of law and individual members shall be individually liable for civil and or criminal liabilities arising out of their conduct as members of the Committee.

3.c The constitution of the Committee would be regulated by this Act alone

4. The members of the Committee will have to meet and decide on the Memorandum of Association, Governing Council, Office bearers within 6 months from the date on which this Act comes into force.

4.a. In absence of the Committee fulfilling the conditions as per Section 3, the administration of the Hindu temple will vest in the District Collector till the time the said conditions are fulfilled.

4.b. The Committee shall be allowed to decide on its own, its work schedule and convention of meetings, but the same should also be in interests of the devotees and the good governance of the temple.

5. The Committees so constituted will have no right to alienate land or any other movable or immovable properties held in the name of the Deity/ies or used for the purpose of any rituals of the said temple.

6. All decisions of the Committee will be taken in name of the Deity/ies of the Hindu temple.

7. The Committee will have the authority to administer the temple as per the Memorandum of Association.

8. The Committee will be responsible for the conduct of all rituals and festivals as per the prevalent customs.

9. Committee will work for the social, cultural, educational upliftment of the devotees of the temple.

10. Committee will work for the conservation of Hindu Heritage monuments and work towards its revival and reconstruction.

11. Committee will promote temple arts, art forms, crafts, architecture and also promote Hindu religious education.

12. The Committee will have to call for a general body meeting of all members to discuss any complaint, including but not limited to corruption, dereliction of duty, acts of moral turpitude by the members of the Committee in the performance of their duties on any matter directly or indirectly connected with the temple or its administration.

13. All decisions of the Committee shall be undertaken by a process of voting, and the decision reached by the simple majority of the Committee members present and voting shall be deemed final.

14. A Governing council consisting of no more than ten percent of the membership of the Committee can be formed for day to day administration of the Hindu temple and for implementing the decisions of the Committee.

15. Committee shall elect members of the Governing Council from themselves every year. The Committee shall also have the powers to remove a Governing Council member before expiry of the one-year term.

16. In event that the Committee is unable to administer the temple, the Committee may entrust the administration of the temple to the Committee of another temple which is administered under the provisions of this Act, provided both the Committees ratify this decision by no less than half the total members present and voting.

17. Committee will be bound by the Right to Information Act, 2005

18. All the properties of the Hindu temple will be vested in the Deity or Deities and will remain so for perpetuity.

19. Any transfer of the properties belonging to the Deity made till date or made henceforth will be void, and the title deed will revert in name of the Hindu Deity.

20. This Act and its Provisions will override all other Acts including Society Registration Act