

## 2. Srimad Perarulala Ethiraja Ramanuja Jeeyar Swami V/S State of Tamil Nadu (1972 2 SCC 11)

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### Facts of the Case

In the case, religious leader Srimad Perarulala Ethiraja Ramanuja Jeeyar Swami challenged the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, arguing it violated Article 26 of the Indian Constitution by imposing restrictions on Hindu religious institutions' autonomy. The case highlighted the tension between state regulation and religious freedom, particularly in managing Hindu institutions in Tamil Nadu. Thus, The case involved a challenge to the constitutional validity of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959. This Act aimed to regulate and administer Hindu religious institutions and charitable endowments in the state of Tamil Nadu. The Supreme Court of India examined whether the Act infringed on the right to religious freedom under Article 26.

### Relevant Provisions

The case scrutinised the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, focusing on its regulations concerning Hindu religious institutions and charitable endowments in Tamil Nadu. The Supreme Court of India examined the Act's constitutionality and ultimately upheld it. The Court affirmed that while Article 26 of the Indian Constitution grants religious denominations autonomy in managing their affairs, the state has the authority to enact laws for regulating religious institutions in the interest of public order, morality, and health. Consequently, the Court determined that the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, did not infringe upon the right to religious freedom guaranteed under Article 26 of the Indian Constitution.

### Comments

The courts decision in this case marked a significant interpretation of the balance between religious freedom and state regulation of religious institutions in India. By

upholding the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, the Court affirmed the state's authority to intervene in religious matters to ensure public welfare and order. However, this decision also sparked debates regarding the extent of state intervention in religious affairs and its potential impact on the autonomy of religious denominations. Additionally, the case underscored the importance of considering the broader societal implementations of religious regulations while upholding constitutional principles of religious freedom.

