



KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY SEVENTH SESSION

**SRI MALAI MAHADESWARASWAMY KSHETHRA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025**

(LA Bill No. 69 of 2025)

(As passed by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly with Amendment)

A Bill further to amend Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy Kshethra Development Authority Act, 2013.

Whereas it is expedient to amend the Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy Kshethra Development Authority Act, 2013 (Karnataka Act No. 37 of 2013), for the purpose hereinafter appearing;

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the seventy sixth year of the Republic of India as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy Kshethra Development Authority (Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 2.- In the Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy Kshethra Development Authority Act, 2013 (Karnataka Act No. 37 of 2013) (hereinafter referred to as the Principal Act), in section 2,-

(i) after clause (c), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-

“(C-1) "Committee" means the District Level Committee and the State Level Monitoring Committee constituted under section 17A”.

(ii) after clause (h), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-

“(i) "Rules" means rules made under this Act”.

3. Amendment of section 3.- In the Principal Act, in section 3, in sub-section (4),-

(i) in clause (g), after the words “Public Works Department”, the words “or his representative not below the rank of Executive Engineer”, shall be inserted;

(ii) in clause (h), for the words “or his nominee” the words “or his representative not below the rank of Deputy Secretary to Government”, shall be substituted.

(iii) after clause (J-2), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-

“(J-3) One person who is nominated by the Government, having prominent knowledge of Hindu temple architecture mainly the form of Vishwakarma architecture and many varieties of style, designs of vigraha shastras and basic nature of temple”.

4. Amendment of section 8.- In the Principal Act, in section 8, in sub-section (2), after clause (b), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-

“(c) The Authority may approve a scheme for adoption of "C" category temples as notified under the provisions of the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997 (Karnataka Act No. 33 of 2001) and may specify necessary provisions for the said adoption”.

5. Amendment of section 10.- In the Principal Act, in section 10, for sub-section (1), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(1) The State Government shall appoint an officer from the cadre of Group-A Senior scale Officer of the Endowment Department as the Secretary of the Authority and a Group 'B' Officer of the Endowment Department as the Deputy Secretary of the Authority”.

6. Amendment of section 12.- In the Principal Act, in section 12, in sub-section (1), for the second proviso, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“Provided further that, the State Government shall appoint an Executive Engineer on deputation from the Public Works Department for maintenance of works taken up by the Authority and also, the State Government shall appoint an Account Officer not below the rank of Group 'A' Officer on deputation from the Karnataka State Audit and Accounts Department.

Provided also that, the Executive Engineer shall be responsible for the overall monitoring of progress review of repair works, policy decisions, introduction of new technology, Budget allocation, review of budget, co-ordination with all external agencies and random site inspection for quality check and issuances of No Objection Certificate to construction or renovations of the buildings coming under jurisdiction of the Authority.”

7. Insertion of new section 17-A.- In the Principal Act, after section 17, the following new section shall be inserted, namely:-

“ 17-A. District Level and State Level Monitoring Committee.- (1) There shall be constituted a District level committee and a State level Monitoring committee to review and submit the proposal regarding construction and maintenance of buildings, roads and tunnels, electricity supply and maintenance, water supply and sanitation, construction of recreation centre and libraries to provide necessary facilities to pilgrims and to provide safety to pilgrims within the jurisdiction of the Authority.

(2) The District level monitoring committee shall consist of the following members, namely:-

(a)	The Deputy Commissioner, Chamarajanagar district	Ex-officio Chairman
(b)	The Superintendent of Police, Chamarajanagar district	Ex-officio member
(c)	The Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Chamarajanagar district	Ex-officio member
(d)	The Deputy Conservator of forest Chamarajanagar District	Ex-officio member
(e)	The Jurisdictional Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Chamarajanagar District	Ex-officio member
(f)	The Assistant Commissioner, Kollegal Sub-Division	Ex-officio member
(g)	The Tahsildar, Hanur taluk	Ex-officio member
(h)	The Executive Officer, Taluk Panchayat, Hanur	Ex-officio member
(i)	The jurisdictional Assistant Director, Tourism Department	Ex-officio member
(j)	The Peethadhipathi of Sri Salurumath, Malai Mahadeswara Hills or his representative.	member
(k)	The jurisdictional Assistant Director, Town and Country Planning Department	Ex-officio member
(l)	The jurisdictional Panchayath Development officer, Mahadeswara Betta.	Ex-officio member
(m)	The Secretary of the Authority	Ex-officio member Secretary

(3) The District Level Monitoring Committee shall submit suitable proposals to the State Level Monitoring Committee for the works or proposals to be undertaken in respect of their Departments within the jurisdiction of the Authority.

(4) The State Level Monitoring Committee shall consist of the following members, namely:-

(a)	The Principal Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (Muzrai)	Ex-officio Chairman
(b)	The Commissioner, Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowment Department	Ex-officio member

(c)	The Chief Engineer, Public Works Department	Ex-officio member
(d)	The Managing Director, Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Company.	Ex-officio member
(e)	The Chief Engineer, Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Board	Ex-officio member
(f)	The Deputy Commissioner, Chamarajanagar District	Ex-officio member
(g)	The superintendent of Police, Chamarajanagar District	Ex-officio member
(h)	The Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Chamarajanagar District	Ex-officio member
(i)	The Director, Tourism Department	Ex-officio member
(j)	The Director, Rural water supply Department, Bengaluru,	Ex-officio member
(j)	The Secretary of the Authority	Ex-officio member Secretary

(5) The State level Monitoring Committee shall scrutinize the proposals submitted by the District level Committee and recommend the Authority on all matters relating to the development of Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy Kshethra.

(6) The District level Committee and the State level Monitoring Committee shall meet at least once in three months at such place and at such time and shall adopt such procedure as may be prescribed.

8. Amendment of section 18.- In the Principal Act, in section 18, for sub-section (2), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(2) Subject to sub- section (1) of section 12 on and from the date of commencement of Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy Kshethra Development Authority (Amendment) Act, 2025 the management of the employees of the Temple shall vest in the Authority”.

9. Amendment of section 19.- In the Principal Act, in section 19, in sub-section (1), after clause (p), the following new clauses shall be inserted, namely:-

“(p-1) prohibition of ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice cream sticks, polystyrene (Thermocol) for decoration, plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers in the area of the Authority for avoiding the plastic pollution;

(p-2) ensuring availability of safe and secure water and sanitation facilities for all, throughout the year, in the area of the Authority”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**(As appended to at the time of introduction)**

It is considered necessary further to amend the Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy Kshethra Development Authority Act, 2013 (Karnataka Act No. 37 of 2013) to;-

- (i) strengthen the administrative framework and ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the Act;
- (ii) review and revise existing policy mechanisms in alignment with prevailing statutory and administrative norms;
- (iii) constitution of District and State-level Committees for the smooth functioning of the Authority; and
- (iv) streamline decision-making, better planning, enhance coordination, and ensure institutional accountability.

Hence the Bill.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

There is no extra expenditure involved in the proposed legislative measure.

RAMALINGA REDDY

Minister for Transport and Muzrai

K.R. MAHALAKSHMI

Secretary
Karnataka Legislative Council

ANNEXURE
EXTRACT OF THE SRI MALAI MAHADESWARASWAMY KSHETHRA DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY ACT, 2013

(KARNATAKA ACT NO.37 OF 2013)

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2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

- (a) "amenity" includes roads, streets, sub-ways, lighting, drainage, sanitation, electricity and water supply or other convenience, public works, market places, post office, bank, hospitals, dispensary, police station, fair price shop, milk booth, library, recreation centres, service stations of any public utility service authorised by the Authority or other facility; and such other amenity as the State Government may, by notification, specify;
- (b) "Authority" means Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy Kshethra Development Authority constituted under section 3;
- (c) "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Authority;
- (d) "Fund" means fund of the Authority;
- (e) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Authority appointed under section 10;
- (f) "Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy Kshethra" means and includes Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy temple and all the subsidiary temples attached thereto, in Malai Mahadeswara Hills, Kollegal taluk in Chamarajangaar district, the entire area of Malai Mahadeswara Hills and lands acquired by Government from time to time for development of Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy Kshethra and such other area declared by the State Government, by notification;
- (g) "member" means a member of the Authority;
- (h) "regulations" means regulations of the Authority made under section 38.

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3. Constitution of the Authority.- (4) The Authority shall consist of the following members namely:-

- (g) the Chief Engineer Communication and Building, Public Works Department;
- (h) the Secretary to Government, Finance Department; or his nominee
- (i) the Secretary to Government, in charge of Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments, Revenue Department;
- (j) The Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department (Muzarai) or his representative;
- (j-1) The Commissioner, Department of Religious and Charitable Endowment, Bangalore;
- (j-2) The Chief Priest, Sri Malai Mahadeshwaraswamy Temple;
- (k) the Deputy Commissioner, Chamarajanagar district;
- (l) the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayath, Chamarajanagar district;

- (m) the Director, Department of Archaeology and Museums, Mysore;
- (n) the Secretary of the Authority who shall be the Member – Secretary

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8. Powers of the Authority.- (1) The Authority shall have power generally to do anything that in its opinion is necessary to do to give effect to the intent and provisions of this Act, except such acts as are specifically laid in the Act to be performed by other authorities.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-section (1) the Authority shall have power,-

(a) to enter into and perform all such contracts as it may consider necessary or expedient for carrying out any of the purposes of this Act subject to such rules as may be prescribed and every contract shall be made on behalf of the Authority by the Secretary:

Provided that, a copy of every contract involving expenditure of rupees ten lakhs or more shall be sent to the State Government"; and

(b) to borrow any sum required for the purposes of this Act from time to time with the previous sanction of the State Government and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed in this behalf; A compliance report shall be submitted to the State Government in this behalf.

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10. Appointment of Secretary.- (1) The State Government shall appoint an officer belonging to Senior Scale of the Karnataka Administrative Services to be the Secretary of the Authority and Executive Officer of the Endowment Department to be the Deputy Secretary of the Authority

(2) The Secretary and other officers shall receive such salary and other allowances as the State Government may, from time to time, determine.

(3) The State Government may, from time to time, grant leave of absence for such period as it thinks fit to the Secretary.

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12. Employees of the Authority.- (1) Subject to such rules as may be prescribed, the Authority may appoint such number of employees as it may find necessary for effective implementation of the Act:

Provided that, until the State Government frame rules, under this Act, the method of recruitment and conditions of service of the employees including Archaks working in Sri. Malai Mahadeshwaraswamy Temple of Malai Mahadeshwara Kshethra Development authority shall be continued to be governed under the provisions of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997 (Karnataka Act 33 of 2001) and the rules made there under.

Provided further that, the State Government shall appoint an Advisor of Finance and Accounts not below the rank of Group 'A' Junior Scale Officer on deputation from the Karnataka State Accounts Department and other officers from other departments as may be necessary.

(2) The Advisor of Finance and Accounts shall work under the control of the Secretary. He shall ensure that financial rules are followed; and accounts are kept up to date, presenting a true and fair picture of the financial affairs of the Authority.

(3) The salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of the employees referred to in sub-section (1), shall be as may be prescribed.

(4) The Secretary shall be the appointing and disciplinary authority in respect of employees of the Authority and shall exercise general control and supervision over the employees of the Authority.

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17. Power of the Chairman to take decisions of the Authority in certain cases.- (1)

Where the Chairman is of the opinion that a matter is so urgent that it cannot wait for the Authority meeting under section 14 or for a Authority decision, by circulation under section 16, he may pass such orders as he may deem fit and it shall be implemented in the manner the decisions of the Authority are implemented under section 14 and 16.

(2) Every decision taken by the Chairman under this section shall be reported to the Authority at its next meeting for ratification.

(3) If the Authority disagrees with the decision of the Chairman the same shall be referred to the Government by the Secretary for suitable order.

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18. Provision with regard to the Movable and Immovable Properties of the Temple.-

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any, custom, usage or the provisions of any Law for the time being in force under which the Malai Mahadeshwaraswamy Temple is governed or the provisions of the Karnataka Hindu Religious institutions and charitable endowments Act, 1997 (Karnataka Act 33 of 2001), the ownership, administration and complete management of movable and immovable properties including jewellery and liabilities of the temple shall vest with the State Government from the date of commencement of Sri Malai Mahadeshwaraswamy Kshethra Development Authority (Amendment) Act, 2014 and shall be transferred to the authority thereafter.

(2) Subject to sub section(1) of Section 12 on and from the date of commencement of the Sri Malai Mahadeshwaraswamy kshethra Development Authority (Amendment) Act, 2014 the Management of the employees of the Temple shall vest in the Authority.

3) It shall be competent for the State Government, by order to make transitory provisions, if in the opinion of the State Government, it is expedient so to do.

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19. Preparation of developmental plan, its approval and execution.- (1) The Authority shall, as soon as may be, after its constitution prepare a plan for the development of Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy Kshethra into an international pilgrim, cultural and tourist centre and a centre for deliberation and propagation of the tenets of Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy and other subsidiary deities. The Development plan may include,-

(a) remantling Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy temple programmes for its maintenance and other temple attached to the presiding deity;

(b) proposals for acquiring land by acquisition or purchase, exchange or otherwise, which in the opinion of the Authority is necessary for execution of the development plan;

(c) putting up public parks, horticultural or zoological gardens, fountain gardens, artificial water falls, game parks, lakes with boating or other water games or such other tourist attractions;

(d) construction of choultries, lodging houses, cottages, hotels, restaurants and boarding houses to cater to different classes of tourists;

(e) construction of necessary chain of shops or shopping complexes;

(f) construction of prayer halls and meditation halls at strategic places;

(g) provision of amenities as defined in section 2;

(h) laying and relaying of all or any land including, construction and reconstruction of buildings;

(i) provision of drainage, electricity and water supply and sanitation;

(j) raising any land which the Authority may consider expedient to raise to facilitate its plan of action in general and better drainage in particular;

(k) forming open spaces for the better ventilation of the area comprised in the Malai Mahadeshwaraswamy Kshethra or in any adjoining area;

(l) the demolition of all buildings unfit for human habitation and not fitting into the developmental plan;

(m) the demolition of obstructive building or portions of buildings;

(n) the construction and reconstruction of buildings, their maintenance and preservation;

(o) the sale, letting or exchange of any property comprised in the scheme, subject to the provisions of section 29;

(p) provision of accommodation to the employees of the Authority;

(q) provision of facilities for communication and transport with parking facilities;

(r) such adjustments and agreements with the existing religious institutions in the geographical area of developmental plan which can be allowed to continue so long as they fit into the scheme of the developmental plan;

(s) any other matter for which in the opinion of the Authority, it is expedient and incidental to make provision with a view to develop and maintain Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy Kshethra as a cultural centre, place of pilgrimage and an international tourist centre and a centre for deliberation and to protect and develop other places of importance connected with Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy;

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